

November Newsletter

Friends,

It is late October, and nature is in full color. It is a beautiful fall day, the Bears have a bye, and Halloween looms! So, I write! And from out of the contested state of Pennsylvania and the City of Reading arrived, via IBC coordinator Tom Danks (of the two-article theory) the readings for this month. They focus on DEI in business and its application in Jesuit Catholic schools. Both are really good articles for an inter-sector conversation—business and education.

Knowing that most of your meetings will occur after the election, I thought this topic might be less political and more value based. But if our groups are safe places, you might need to debrief on the election and its aftermath.

I will be in Spain and Rome during the election and, I hope, its peaceful aftermath. I will be with the Ignatian Wisdom Fellows doing (by bus) the Camino Ignaciano. This will be a very different experience for me as an election junkie. Maybe, in a future letter, there will be some reporting from Europe.

My book recommendation for this month crosses sectors. If you have people ages 10 to 25 in your family, workplace, or community, David Yeager's new book is worth the read: 10 to 25: The Science of Motivating Young People. The lengthy subtitle is, A Groundbreaking Approach to Leading the Next Generation—And Making Your Own Life Easier. It would be a good Christmas gift for parents and grandparents as a tool and strategy for listening to a new generation, because the young are navigating a world very different from that of the last century.

Finally, November is the occasion for the great American holiday, Thanksgiving. The holiday is about gratitude. It is about family, neighbors, and love and reconciliation, and it is about the harvest and the care for the earth. It is a time of thanksgiving for our country, creation, and our Creator. Drink deeply of the spirit of Thanksgiving and let gratitude shine!

Happy Thanksgiving!

AMDG,
John Fontana



MISSION

The Mission of the Ignatian Business Chapters is to establish and lead a national and international network of business executives to explore their respective religious traditions in order to help the individual executives

- integrate faith, family, and professional life,
- develop a corporate culture that is reflective of their religious faith and values, and
- exercise a beneficial influence upon society at large.

The chapters, grounded in the Roman Catholic tradition, welcome believers who are open to and respectful of one another's religious traditions. They are committed to the conviction that ethics and values grow out of one's religious heritage.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Daniel 2:19-23

Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night, and Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel said: Blessed be the name of God from age to age, for wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons, deposes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him. To you, O God of my ancestors, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and power, and have now revealed to me what we asked of you, for you have revealed to us what the king ordered."

ARTICLES

["The backlash against diversity, equity and inclusion in business is in full force – but myths obscure the real value of DEI,"](#)

by Adia Harvey Wingfield, *The Conversation.com*, April 11, 2024.

["A Catholic alternative to diversity, equity, and inclusion in education,"](#)

by Christopher J. Devron, S.J., *America: The Jesuit Review*, May 14, 2024.



REFLECTION

Reflection Questions

Be attentive: One article sets the context; the other articulates an institutional application. What aroused your curiosity, and why?

Be intelligent: What has been your experience of DEI, personally and within an organization?

Be reasonable: As leaders, we are “signal senders” at work, at home, and in our communities. How and where do you express your views on DEI? Do you leverage your influence?

Be responsible: What were key insights that surfaced in today’s discussion? Any food for further contemplation? Any action steps? What are the implications for you at work, in your community, and at home? Leverage the conversation for good!



CLOSING PRAYER

Personal Prayer of Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

Grant me, O Lord, to see everything now with new eyes;
to discern and test the spirits that help me read the signs of the times;
to relish the things that are yours, and to communicate them to others.
Give me the clarity of understanding that you gave Ignatius.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen!

The scripture passage is taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Catholic Edition, copyright © 1989, 1993 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

