

September Newsletter

Friends,

It is mid-August, and the DNC is meeting in Chicago. This month, we are returning to our Jesuit theological roots in the work of Bernard Lonergan, S.J. and exploring communication, a culminating function of theology. And I have been captivated by the voices of joy and hope each night of the DNC and the subtle gospel message of "Be not afraid"! In the dog days of summer it was good to hear a football coach—amid my memories of hot double sessions in August on a rocky field in HoHoKus, New Jersey—say we are moving forward. So, vote your conscience, but do exercise your democratic right and Christian responsibility to vote, up and down the ballot, on November 5 if not sooner!

Tom Danks, our Scranton coordinator, one of the original recruits of Jim Connor, S.J. when he was organizing the Woodstock Business Conference in the early 90s, instigated this month's articles. Tom believes we have a process that hides under a bushel and ought to be shared more widely. As we begin a new academic year, let us reflect on IBC as a place for connecting faith and work in conversations that create space for leaders to be reflective, supported, and challenged to adapt to the signs of the times and build the kingdom at work, at home, and in our communities. Simply living our IBC mission statement!

My book recommendation dovetails with our theme and extends it. One of the village managers I work with recommended this book by saying to our group, "Fontana will love this book!" The book is *The Creative Act: A Way of Being* by Rick Rubin, and indeed I do. In a world where "Doing" dominates, any way we can cultivate "Being" in ourselves and others is worth the effort if one aspires to be a "contemplative in action"!

Engage the transitions of starting a new school year and the changing of seasons!

Carpe Diem!

Our Lady of the Way, Pray for us!

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:

1 Peter 4:7-11—Mutual Charity

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

ARTICLES

[“The Jesuit roots of the synod's ‘conversations in the spirit’”](#)

by Colleen Dulle, *America: The Jesuit Review*, July 30, 2024.

[“A new faith and a new mission,”](#)

by Cardinal Michael Czerny, S.J., *Thinking Faith: The online journal of the Jesuits in Britain*, June 27, 2024.



REFLECTION

Reflection Questions

Be attentive: What was your reaction to “the Canadian method” for discernment as a process, described in the first article. What are its possibilities in churches, families, and our businesses? The second article introduces the view of Bernard Lonergan, S.J. that theology and faith seeks expression through communication. To quote Lonergan in *Method in Ministry*, “Finally there are adaptations needed to make full and proper use of diverse media of communication that are available at any place and time.” IBC is a method of communication around the faith-and-work conversation. How has that been working for you and the group?

Be intelligent: How do we examine our methods of communication in our organizations, including our churches, and our personal lives given social media and other current technology?

Be reasonable: How are we adapting our messages at home, at work, and in our communities and Church?

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!

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