

January Newsletter

Friends,

Well, I hope you had an enchanting Christmas holiday and especially a chance to contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation! I write before Christmas. I just missed by a month the start of the Jubilee Year in Rome on December 24, 2024, but hope to be in Rome next November with Cohort 2 of the Ignatian Wisdom Fellows, God willing.

The theme of this epistle is the Jubilee Year. Some background: the Catholic Church marks the 2025th year anniversary of the Incarnation of the Lord. The theme for 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope."

The goals of the year:

- Restore a climate of hope and trust
- Provide opportunities for reconciliation, prayer, and receiving sacraments
- Strengthen relationship with Jesus Christ
- Cancel debts to give people a fresh start.

Catholics are encouraged to make pilgrimages during the year to Rome or to other sacred sites. (Indulgences can be obtained). And the Papal Bull is entitled "Spes non confundit" for the Latin scholars—for the rest of us, Hope does not disappoint.

The biblical roots of the jubilee year are in the book of Leviticus, and our reading for this month is from Leviticus 25. It plays with the theme of fair pricing.

Our article for the month deals with ethical decision making in an age of ESG. I also included a follow-up to last month's article by Harry Kraemer from December 2023 on the importance of retreats. Harry's latest missive is from his December 2024 retreat.

My reading recommendation picks up on my opening remark on enchantment and is a book titled *Living in Wonder: Finding Mystery and Meaning in a Secular Age*. Rod Dreher writes out of the Orthodox tradition and brings the richness of our Eastern brethren.

Welcome in the New Year, reconnect with your groups for good conversations and contemplation! And I wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

AMDG or, as Telly would say, "Keep the faith, baby!"

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:

Leviticus 25:8-18. The Year of Jubilee

You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the day of atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you: you shall not sow, or reap the aftergrowth, or harvest the unpruned vines. For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you: you shall eat only what the field itself produces.

In this year of jubilee you shall return, every one of you, to your property. When you make a sale to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor, you shall not cheat one another. When you buy from your neighbor, you shall pay only for the number of years since the jubilee; the seller shall charge you only for the remaining crop years. If the years are more, you shall increase the price, and if the years are fewer, you shall diminish the price; for it is a certain number of harvests that are being sold to you. You shall not cheat one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the Lord your God. You shall observe my statutes and faithfully keep my ordinances, so that you may live on the land securely.

ARTICLES

[“Becoming a leader of conscience”](#)

by Theodore Kinni. Strategy+business, August 2, 2021.

[“My three most important days of the year once again”](#)

by Harry Kraemer. Harrykraemer.org, December 9, 2024.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Be attentive: In the ESG environment, are you noticing the two levels of ethical decision-making that Theodore Kinni points out?

Be intelligent: Of the two levels, which do you notice most in your organization and in business?

Be reasonable: Of these two levels, where do you encounter the greatest challenge or conflict? Any stories or cases?

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.

