

Monthly Newsletter

Friends,

It is 76 degrees in Chicago, and the wind is blowing out at Wrigley! So, baseball comes center stage with *The Perfect Game* by David Hart and a turn, in the season of graduations, with an invitation for you to reflect on your education in light of Bishop Robert Barron's *Recovering the University's Soul*. There are two sets of questions for your reflection.

Our scripture reading is the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles and invites our reflection on how we are living into "the reign of God."

In my work with suburban police departments, last Friday I heard two police chiefs talk about the erosion of educational and work standards in the hiring process to accommodate the level of candidates to meet their staffing requirements. I noticed on my drive to and from Saginaw, Michigan (a drive I have made each spring for 35 years to teach in a lay ministry program for the diocese) the proliferation of casinos and cannabis dispensaries. Drug use is a problem for police because drug testing eliminates many candidates.

I look at sports betting, and a Cubs baseball game that once came to me free on WGN is now a Comcast subscription up charge. Is the perfect pastoral game of baseball losing the motivation that fostered our faith, hope, and love for the game and for our teams? So, there should be good grist for the conversation of university education and baseball. I can almost hear the voice of James Earle Jones, "Baseball..." in *The Field of Dreams*.

So, for your baseball and summer reading, *Perfect Eloquence: An Appreciation of Vin Scully* by Tom Hoffarth (see the National Catholic Reporter review, "Perfect Eloquence' Enshrines Vin Scully in Baseball Canon" by John Miller, \$16.50 on Amazon) Confession: My first baseball game was at Ebbetts Field!



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Now for your scholarly reading as a Jesuit follow-up to Robert Barron's article on the university. Michael Garanzini, SJ and James McCartin, editors of *The Catholic University as a Social Project: Reflections on Jesuit and Catholic Higher Education*. This book is a mission-centered exploration of Jesuit higher education, and each essay illuminates various dimensions of Jesuit education at its best in mission and as responding to the signs of the times and the direction of the Jesuit General. This book speaks to the need to attend to the development of the person and the common good in the educational process to produce value-centered leaders.

"This volume highlights the tension between tradition and transformation, calling on Jesuit institutions to approach the future with clear eyes and a sense of responsibility to work toward a better world."

Enjoy the "lusty month of May"! Make love possible wherever you can. Remember, we are a people called to live the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love! And remember mothers on Mother's Day!

AMDG,

John Fontana



MISSION

The mission of *Faith @ Work* is to establish and lead a 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 communities, 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:

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-9.

Jesus' final instructions

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

ARTICLE

["A Perfect Game"](#) by David Bentley Hart. *First Things*, August 1, 2010.

["Recovering the University's Soul"](#) by Bishop Robert Barron. *First Things*, April 13, 2026.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Be attentive: So how did your college/university education process compare with Bishop Barron's presentation? And/or, how did you like David Hart's presentation of the perfect game?

Be intelligent: In your post high school education, what was the relationship between an instrumental approach and contemplation? What role did contemplation play? And/or, how does baseball, as "the perfect game" foster contemplation?

Be reasonable: As you have aged, how have the seeds of contemplation and the role of leisure developed in your life? And/or, since baseball "is a hard tutelage in the biblical virtues of faith, hope, and love," how does it express itself in your life?

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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