

Monthly Newsletter

Friends,

It is a beautiful summer-like day in Chicago. I am late writing this assignment because I am recovering from a successful neck operation. But sometimes a delay allows for other insights. And so, I changed the readings based on my Memorial Day dinner with my son and his wife and two 13-year-old identical twin boys and their nine-year-old brother. They joined us for burgers and brats and dogs. I watched the boys—who had just ended their school year on Friday—hold dinner-table negotiations with their mother, and then their father, and then with each other about summer activities, new schools in the fall, summer reading, sports, and movies. I was practicing patience with the boys and teenage attitudes. Thus, I chose this month's article, "When the Negotiation Table Is the Dinner Table" by Leigh Thompson. With summer approaching, I thought this would be a timely article for folks or at least bring back memories from your families.

For my book recommendation, first a serious but readable ethics book: *The 5 Questions for Ethical Decisions: How to Succeed Without Selling Your Soul* by David W. Miller with Susan Richardson. David has been the founding director of the faith-and-work initiative at Princeton University. He presents "an ethical violin" model that I really like. My second recommendation, a summer book, is *American Rambler: Walking the Trail of Johnny Appleseed* by Isaac Fitzgerald. It was my Memorial Day weekend read. And again, delaying my writing allowed me to read an excellent review of the book in the *Wall Street Journal* on May 27. I suggest you read the review. There were numerous reasons I was attracted to the book; it involves a folk hero, and I like reading historic pilgrimage stories about a geography I will be traveling this summer. I finished the book, and I liked it with reservation. But Isaac Fitzgerald is what Steve Martin might say is "a wild and crazy guy" with an interesting background and a capacity for friendship.

Enjoy the summer, appreciate the young, and make love possible wherever you can. Remember, we are a people called to live the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love! And remember Fathers on Father'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:

1 Thessalonians 2:10-13

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

["When the Negotiation Table is the Dinner Table"](#)

KelloggInsight, April 1, 2026.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Be attentive: How do you assess your negotiation skills at work and at home?

Be intelligent: Share your best stories about successful and failed negotiations at work and at home.

Be reasonable: How did you react to the suggestions of Leigh Thompson? Do you have any family “negotiations” to navigate this summer? What are your hopes and expectations as outcomes?

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.

