

IBC Newsletter

Friends,

It is fall in late September. The Cubs are falling into the playoffs, and the Boston Red Sox are hopeful. High school, college and professional football are under way. And young people are back in school.

Our scripture reading for this month is cited by Sam Sawyer, S.J. as the opening of his editorial in the October issue of *America*. The passage is from the book of Habakkuk, and I encourage you to read the whole book, three pages. The lament is about violence that is such a part of our nightly news, and we discover again that *plus ça change, plus c'est meme* chosen—the more things change, the more they stay the same.

There is also an excellent article by William Treanor and Amy Uelmen, “A Tradition of Inclusion, D.E.I. and the mission of Jesuit universities.”

I also encourage those of you who have been with us since the Woodstock Business Conference days to look at one of James Conner’s inspirations. Read in the August issue of *America*, “Bernard Lonergan: The (second) English-speaking Doctor of the Church?” by James T. Keane. I recommend it because it is Lonergan’s decision-making model that we implore monthly: Be attentive, be intelligent, be reasonable, and be responsible.

Our article this month is a review for Jim Ferrell’s new book, *You and We: A Relational Rethinking of Work, Life, and Leadership*.

Enough reading?

Enjoy the fall and the beauty of the changing season!

Pray for our new Pope Leo, for those families affected by violence, for the Church, and for peace and the end of violence around the world, and for our democracy! And Happy Halloween!

Pax,

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:

Habakkuk 1:1-5

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?
Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?
Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

Look at the nations, and see!
Be astonished! Be astounded!
For a work is being done in your days
that you would not believe if you were told.

ARTICLES

["How a relational approach to leadership works,"](#)

Fast Company, September 17, 2025.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Be attentive: How do you see leadership? Jim Ferrell makes a case for seeing relationally? What are your thoughts on the case he makes?

Be intelligent: What are your thoughts on his five levels of relation, Division, Subtraction, Addition, Multiplication, and Compounding?

Be reasonable: Have you embraced thinking in four dimensions? Have you tried or seen new ideas emerge from his process of “compress, converge, emerge”?

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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