

IBC Newsletter

Friends,

It is late October, and the leaves are in full color—autumn beauty! But this is the November Letter, a harvest letter. In putting this month's topics and letter together, I have been surprised by what threads have appeared or been put in my path. This morning, in Richard Rohr's *Daily Meditations*, this passage appeared:

"Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman (1899-1981) offers a vision of life as a shared harvest. He reminds us that our lives are part of a communal process of sowing, ripening, and reaping together. This is the season of gathering in, the season of the harvest of nature."

So, with the drop in temperature, gather in your folks at work, at home, and in your communities.

Considering families gathering around the Thanksgiving table, I found a terrific article on empathy that has application at home and at work. In the article, the author uses the metaphor of a rowing crew and as an additional reading, *America* magazine had a moving article about a Nativity School (grades 5 to 8) in Newburgh, N.Y. founded on rowing. Our scripture reading reminds us in this holiday season that "The spirit of God has given us is no cowardly spirit, but rather one that makes us strong, loving and wise."

Gather this month in your IBC groups and share your wisdom!

Closing with another piece that caught my eye. This was an obituary for Jonathan Lear, a philosophy professor and psychologist at the University of Chicago. His book that caught my attention is titled *Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation*. It is the story of the Crow Nation and their last great chief, Plenty Coups, after the obliteration of the buffalo. Given our times, this has been a worthwhile look at history and coping with change.

Pray for our new Pope Leo, for those families affected by violence, for immigrants and refugees, for the Church, for peace and the end of violence around the world, and for our democracy! Gather them in and have a happy Thanksgiving!

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:

2 Timothy 1:6-9

For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace.

ARTICLES

[“Empathy: The glue we need to fix a fractured world,”](#)

by Amy Emmert, strategy+business, October 20, 2020.

[“Meet the Catholic middle school students rowing toward a brighter future,”](#)

by Kevin Clarke, America: The Jesuit Review, October 9, 2025.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Be attentive: Did Professor Zaki's definitions or descriptions of empathy resonate with you? How and why?

Be intelligent: Who are the glue people in your organization, at home, and in your community engagement? Describe their glue.

Be reasonable: What were your reactions to the results of Project Aristotle? Do you believe; "that a business is like a crew team. In order to be competitive as a unit, it is critical that everyone be rowing together"?

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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