

Monthly Newsletter

Friends,

Holiday greetings and best wishes for the New Year! I write eight days before Christmas, and my Christmas spirit was jump started by 15 inches of snow in December for the first time in a number of years. While the snow might not last, it did its magic for me. I have slowed down to enjoy the Advent season and all the surprises and beauty it can bring. This is a season of savoring and appreciating the gifts of our faith, the reality of the Incarnation and the value of family and friends, both alive and deceased. My friend Jack Shea says two important pieces of this season are wonder and spirits of the past visiting our memories when we have open moments.

But this letter leads us into the new year with two themes. The first is from the scripture passage in which Jesus, quoting Isaiah, articulates his and our mission. The second is explored in an article on "Ways to Kindle Creativity." So, as you move into the new year, focus on your work and life mission and on kindling creativity in service of mission. Notice it! Draw attention to it! And reward it!

When we stayed on the grounds of Ignatius's home in Loyola, Spain, I met a British pilgrim who recommended an older book by Gerard W. Hughes titled *God of Surprises*. I bought a third edition, and I particularly recommend it for those of us who are baby boomers and want to enter a rich "way of proceeding." The book is described on the back cover with this quote from *The Church Times*: "Characterized throughout by practical wisdom and humanity, deep thoughts and light touches, and a very sympathetic style of teaching... This is a book to own and use and work into one's life" So read on!

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

Pax,

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:

Luke 4:16-22

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the
captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph's son?”

ARTICLE

[“Take 5: Ways to Kindle Workplace Creativity,”](#)

KelloggInsight, December 1, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Be attentive: A new year, time to be creative! What drew your attention in this article?

Be intelligent: Do you see these suggestions applying in your life and in your workplace?

Be reasonable: Can you implement any of them in your life or in your organization? Any obstacles?

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.

