

## Monthly Newsletter

Friends,

Winter greetings! It is Martin Luther King Day as I write, and it is one degree outside and feels like 20 below. I just finished shoveling snow. And the Bears lost last night! Gotta love winter in the Midwest!

This is the month of Valentine's Day, and, in the following week, Lent starts. Love and suffering! So, let's do love in February and hold the suffering for March and April. Our scripture reading focuses on "God is love."

Our provocative article this month caught me by surprise and should speak to all who are in or saving for retirement. Good grist for conversation!

Winter is a good time to curl up with a book and read. So, this month I have several recommendations. The first is by the first author from the Ignatian Wisdom Fellows program. It is for folks who, while they are reading, may have in the background a recording of the blues. Cleveland Tyson has written a novella titled *God's Juke Joint*, and in 96 pages he constructs the history of the blues, one geographic area with its artists at a time, starting in the Mississippi Delta. The set up: it is God's juke joint and ol' Satan wants a piece. (\$2.99 on Amazon/Kindle \$0.00 if Kindle unlimited and \$9.99 in paperback) The 96 pages flew by and reminded me of the short story *The Devil and Daniel Webster* by Stephen St. Vincent Benet.

For more serious reading, I suggest two books—titled *An Ignatian Reader: Contemporary Writings on St. Ignatius of Loyola*, Volumes I and II, published respectively in 2008 and 2025. They are collections of great articles on Ignatius and Ignatian spirituality, mission and ministry, written by Jesuits, lay men and women, scholars and practitioners.

Pray for our new 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! And where you can, "abide in love" and have a happy Valentine'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 John 4:15-19

God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

## ARTICLE

### ["The 401\(k\) Is Tearing Society Apart,"](#)

by Nate Bernhard, *Commonweal*, January 11, 2026



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

**Be attentive:** What was your first reaction to the title of the article and why?

**Be intelligent:** What are your thoughts and reactions to the article and case presented?

**Be reasonable:** Can and should the recommendations be implemented? What obstacles do you see? How does this article impact your retirement plans?

**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.*

