TO: WBC AND MICAH PARTICIPANTS
FROM: MONSIGNOR RICHARD LIDDY
SUBJECT: THE UNIQUE OFFERINGS OF CATHOLIC BUSINESS SCHOOLS
DATE: DECEMBER 2017

- Welcome and Self-Introductions
- Woodstock Business Conference Mission Statement
  - The Mission of the Woodstock Business Conference is to establish and lead a national and international network of business executives to explore their respective religious traditions in order to assist the individual executives:
    - To integrate faith, family and professional life,
    - To develop a corporate culture that is reflective of their religious faith and values and
    - To exercise a beneficial influence upon society at large
  - The Conference, grounded in the Roman Catholic tradition, welcomes believers who are open to and respectful of one another’s religious tradition. It is committed to the conviction that ethics and values grow out of one’s religious heritage.
- Scripture Reading Isaiah 42: 1-9 The Servant of the Lord

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased. Upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench. Until he established justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who
spreads out the earth with its crops, who gives breathe to its people and spirit to
those who walk on it: I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice, I
have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the
people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring our
prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

I am the Lord, this is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to
idols. See the earlier things have come to pass, new ones I now foretell; before
they spring into being, I announce them to you.

● *The Song of Mary* *(Luke 1: 46-55)* --

**SEEING HALOES, Christmas Poems to Open the Heart by John Shea**

*When I listen to Mary’s Magnificat,*
*I feel she takes my hand and leads me ahead*
at a path I cannot see.
*Then she looks back, checking my willingness to be led,*
Making sure I am not pulling back in fear.
*Although she does not say so, her smile tells me*
She is happy we are traveling together and still more---
*She cannot wait to show me our destination.*
*Our journey is a descent inward and down.*
*We pull away from the social traffic, from the competitions of the outer world,*
*From the fray whose fights define me, from the noise that smothers the whispering*
*spirit,*
I leave reluctantly. *This is the world I know.*
She closes her eyes and I, her follower, do the same.
We enter the inner landscape of the body.
*Every sensation is allowed. Every pleasure and pain embraced.*
We float in the rivers of my veins. *Then another chamber opens.*
We are on the balcony of the mind, watching the dance of thought and feeling.
*Everything is moving, and I could linger in the unfolding dramas.*
*But she is a step ahead, urging me forward.*
“We are almost there,” she says, “Where?” I ask.
She does not look at me. *Her pace has quickened.*
“The soul,” she says.
Suddenly we are in the center where nothing is separate.
The umbilical cord to God is uncut, and divine life flows into us.
Turning our lowliness into largeness, magnifying the life we are rejoicing in.
*And everything that is drives toward everything else that is.*
We rest in holy communion.
“So this is the other side of fear,” I say.
“Mercy,” she says, and the word expands, filling space and time
*until everything is pregnant.*
And I know now how we keep ourselves from this fullness—
how proud thoughts scatter us, how riches bring us to famine,
how ruling over others keeps us from service,
how from generation to generation we seek but cannot find
the promises that burnt in the bones of Abraham and Sarah.
I look around. Mary is gone. Her work is done.
She has been called to guide another listener of her song.
Only the memory of her voice keeps me aware
that with every breath I am giving birth.
How much more we are than we know!

- Quiet Reflection 5 minutes followed by sharing insights

- Article: Can Catholic Business Schools be both different and
better than their Elite Secular Counterparts? By William
Byron SJ, August 15, 2017

This article by William Byron SJ, discusses the unique offerings that Catholic business schools
offer in comparison to other state institutions. Read more from American Magazine to find out
what sets these Catholic classrooms apart from the others.

Link: https://www.americamagazine.org/arts-culture/2017/08/15/how-catholic-business-schools-can-do-better-harvard

- Questions to initiate discussion:

Be Attentive: As you began reading Bill Byron’s article and his case for Catholic Business
Education how did you react to his description of Harvard Business School and the explicit role
of competition versus collaboration or cooperation?

Be Intelligent: Last month I asked, Do you see Ignatius as a management hero? Why? What
insights from Bill Byron’s article caught your attention? Do you appreciate the tension Ignatius
and Bill Byron create in their attention to the Two Standards and their underlying values
expressed by “The three steps to genuine success are poverty as opposed to riches; insults or
contempt as opposed to honor of this world; humility as opposed to pride.”

Be Reasonable: Identify our defenses against poverty, insults, and humility, and the allure of
riches, worldly acclaim, and pride? Does the Two Standards make us uncomfortable? Yet does
it allow us to have a place to stand not to be swept up in the pursuit of idols? Bill introduces us
to the concept of “humbition”, your thoughts?
**Be Responsible:** How do we hold/carry the values of justice from our first reading and mercy and connectedness from our Christmas poem, “humbition” from our article into our business and organizational lives this Advent season? How will this conversation today impact you as you move into your work and as we move into the Advent season?

**Closing Prayer: St. Francis Peace Prayer**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;  
Where there is hatred let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And, where there is sadness, joy;  
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand,  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And that it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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