Welcome and Self-Introductions

Ignation Business Chapters Mission Statement

- 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:
  - To integrate faith, family, and professional life,
  - To develop a corporate culture that is reflective of their religious faith and values
  - 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: Mark 2: 13-17, The call of Levi and the reason for eating with sinners

Jesus went out again beside the sea, the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”


• Quiet Reflection: 5 minutes followed by sharing insights

• Article: First Things: Economics as Ideology, by Richard H. Spady

A research professor of economics at Johns Hopkins University and senior research fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford, discusses the implications of practicing economics as a profession, a social science, or a self-affirming ideology. First Things is a publication of the Institute on Religion and Public Life.


• Questions to initiate discussion:

• Be Attentive: Economics plays an important role in contemporary life. Who in the group has studies economics? How has it impacted your decision-making?

• Be Intelligent: How did you respond to the contract of economics as ideology versus social science? As you observe and listen to the micro economic conversations in our firms/companies/organizations, what do you hear? And on the macro arena of business policy and politics and governmental decision-making, what role is economics playing?

• Be Reasonable: So when did economics replace theology as the “queen of the social sciences”? What are the value consequences of this shift? How does economics thinking impact how we relate to the poor, the less talented, the marginal, the sinners, etc.?
• **Be Responsible:** How do we keep economics in dialogue with theology? How do we express the Catholic Social Teaching value of common good so that it informs our economics and our social voice at work, at home, and in our communities? How will the conversation today impact you as you move into your work, family, and community?

• **Closing Prayer: Suscipe, St. Ignatius**

  *Take Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all U have and call my own. To you Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace that is enough for me. 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*