TO: IBC AND MICAH PARTICIPANTS
FROM: MONSIGNOR RICHARD LIDDY
SUBJECT: JANUARY 2018

- Welcome and Self-Introductions
- Ignatian 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 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 Ignatian Business Chapters, grounded in the Roman Catholic tradition, welcomes believers who are open to and respectful of one another’s religious
tradition. The chapters are committed to the conviction that ethics and values grow out of one’s religious heritage.

- **Scripture Reading: Luke 4:14-22. Beginning of Preaching**

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and his reputation spread throughout the region. He was teaching in their synagogues, and all were loud in praise. He came to Nazareth where he had been reared and entering the synagogue on the Sabbath as he was in the habit of doing, he stood up to do the reading. When the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, he unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

“The spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and release to prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord.”

Rolling up the scroll he gave it back to the assistant and sat down. All in the synagogue had their eyes fixed on him. Then he began by saying to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” All who were present spoke favorably of him; they marveled at the appealing discourse which came from his lips. They also asked, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”

- **The Light Shines in the Darkness**

*In the long ago age of Christmas innocence when it always snowed gently in a starry and windless night, my parents would hustle my sisters and me into the back seat of the car.*

*We would drive slowly, snow crunching under cold tires, into the neighborhood of the rich to see the “lights.”*

*Reindeer and wise men, sleighs and shepherds, elves and Mary, angels and carolers, Santa Claus and Baby Jesus were lit up on lawns so night passengers in slow moving cars could gawk through frosted windows and say, “Look at that one!”*

*Once when we returned from the “lights,” I saw another light.*

*No razzle-dazzle, no blinking on and off, no glitz, no “Oh, wow!”*
In the window of our second floor flat the lit tree glowed in the surrounding darkness, in simple contrast.

It carried me away.

I ran up the stairs to get close to the revelation, only to find its moment of glory had passed.

Just a pine tree shedding needles on the rug.

But it has done its Christmas work.

The darkness would never be the same.

- John Shea, SEEING HALOES: Christmas Poems to Open the Heart

- **Quiet Reflection 5 minutes followed by sharing insights**

- **Article: A Liberation from Poverty in the Context of Redemption, By Monika Hellwig,**

This article by Monika Hellwig, professor of theology at Georgetown University, discusses the liberation from poverty as a urgent concern, especially for third world countries. Read more about this great conflict within the Church and in the secular societies.


- **Questions to initiate discussion:**

  **Be Attentive:** As you reflect on the last year, how are you engaging in the ongoing work of redemption that Monica Hellwig describes? How are you dispelling fear, breaking down prejudices, etc.?

  **Be Intelligent:** What are the implications of Monica Hellwig’s understanding of sin? As you have aged and developed, when did you begin to see sin not just in a personal context but in the social context that is described in this article?
**Be Reasonable:** How are we making choices between the way of darkness and the way of light? This question by Monica Hellwig mirrors the Spiritual Exercise of the Two Standards. As organizational leaders, when you reflect on your work environment, do you use a sin-and-grace lens to discern the good and the unfinished work of redemption, (sin)?

**Be Responsible:** As you look to 2018 through the lens of sin and grace, how will your leadership be affected? How will you facilitate or cooperate with the Spirit to move situations from sin to grace? How does this article impact your personal and institutional use of power? How will this conversation today impact you as you move into your work, family, and community this New Year?

**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.