TO: IBC AND MICAH PARTICIPANTS
FROM: MONSIGNOR RICHARD LIDDY
SUBJECT: PERSPECTIVES ON JOB LOSS
DATE: MARCH 2018

- 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: Jeremiah 1:4-12**

The word of the Lord came to me thus: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. “Ah, Lord God!” I said, “I know not how to speak; I am too young.” But the Lord answered me, Say not, “I am too young.” To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord. Then the Lord extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying; See I place my words in your mouth! This day I set you over nations and over kingdoms, To root up and to tear down, to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant. The word of the Lord came to me with the question: What do you see, Jeremiah? “I see a branch of the watching-tree,” I replied. Then the Lord said to me: Well have you seen, for I am watching to fulfill my word. (The Old Testament of the *New American Bible*, © 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C.)

• **Quiet Reflection: 5 minutes followed by sharing insights**

• **Article:** “School of Jock,” *Sports Illustrated*, February 21, 2018

What does a veteran coach do when he loses his job? If you’re the endlessly curious Tom Crean, you set out on a year-long journey to learn from the best minds in sports. Read more from Sports Illustrated here.


• **Questions to initiate discussion:**

  - **Be Attentive:** Recall an experience where you lost a job, or a promotion or failed or have had to terminate, downsize someone? What did you or they think, and what were the feelings?
  - **Be Intelligent:** How did you or they react and/or respond? Was it public? Did it have consequences beyond self to family? Who accompanied you on this journey through failure?
  - **Be Reasonable:** What strategies did you or they enact? What was your or their level of security, personally or financially? Was there suffering and sacrifice? What role did friends and acquaintances play?
• **Be Responsible:** What did you learn? What changes did you or they make to come out on the other side of failure? Was the experience tragic or redemptive? This Lent, are you seeing the movement from Good Friday through Saturday and the “descent into hell” and finally the resurrection? How will this conversation today impact you as you move into your work, family, and community this New Year?

• **Closing Prayer: Thomas Merton *Thoughts in Solitude***

> My Lord, God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have the desire in all that I am doing. I hope I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

> 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