



CENTER FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES

TO: IBC AND MICAH PARTICIPANTS

FROM: MONSIGNOR RICHARD LIDDY

SUBJECT: STRANGE GODS

DATE: MARCH 2020

MARCH 2020 MEETING

- **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** Exodus 20:1-6. The Ten Commandments

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them

or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

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- **Quiet reflection:** five minutes followed by sharing insights

Article: [Strange Gods | Commonweal Magazine](#)

Be Attentive: “Today, we live in a disenchanted world, devoid of divine or demonic spirits, devoid of mystery, a world with no ordered meaning. Or so the story goes.” Agree or disagree?

Be Intelligent: “There are two sides to our economy: a rationalized, disenchanted side and an enchanted side. In fact, these are really two sides of the same coin.” Agree or disagree?

Be Reasonable: “The holy has not disappeared but migrated from the church to the state and the market.” What implications do you see for yourself, your co-workers, and your family?

Be Responsible: “As Weber and Marx and the Bible intuit, however, avoiding idolatry is not simple.” What do you think? How do you feel? What were key meaningful points of view that surfaced in today’s discussion? Any food for 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: The Prayer of St. Ignatius

*Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not count the cost,
to fight and not heed the wounds,
to toil and not seek rest,
to labor and not ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.*

*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.*

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