



**CENTER FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES**

**TO: WBC AND MICAH PARTICIPANTS**  
**FROM: MONSIGNOR RICHARD LIDDY**  
**SUBJECT: THE HUMAN CONNECTION**  
**DATE: SEPTEMBER 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: Philippians 2: 19-30 Paul's Assistants and Plans, Timothy & Epaphroditus**

- **Tomothy:**
- **I hope, in the Lord Jesus, to send Timothy to you very soon, that I may derive courage from learning how things go with you. I have no one quite like him for genuine interest in whatever concerns you. Everyone is busy seeking his own interests rather than those of Christ Jesus. You know from experience what**

Timothy's qualities are, how he was like a son at his father's side serving the gospel along with me. I hope to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. In fact I am confident in the Lord that I myself will be coming.

- Epaphroditus:
- I have decided, too, that I must send you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and comrade in arms, whom you sent to take care of my needs. He has been longing for all of you, and was distressed that you heard about his illness. He was, in fact sick to the point of death, but God took pity on him; not just on him, I should say, but on me, too, so as to spare me one sorrow after another. I have been especially eager to send him so that you may renew your joy on seeing him, and my own anxieties may be lessened. Welcome him joyously in the Lord and hold men like him in esteem, for he came near death for the sake of Christ's work. He risked his life in an effort to render me those services you could not render.
- Quiet Reflection 5 minutes followed by sharing insights

Article: "Is America Getting Lonelier" by E.J. Dionne Jr.

## **Is America Getting Lonelier**

**By E.J. Dionne Jr., August 6, 2017**

"Is America getting lonelier" by E.J. Dionne Jr. of the Washington Post, illustrates the social landscape we build for ourselves and how we continue to deepen the political isolation that we criticize. This makes us wonder if our society is causing us to think of our fellow citizens as distant strangers. Read more here from The Washington Post

Link: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/is-america-getting-lonelier/2017/08/06/411522a6-7933-11e7-8f39-eeb7d3a2d304\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.ec7632dbeca6](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/is-america-getting-lonelier/2017/08/06/411522a6-7933-11e7-8f39-eeb7d3a2d304_story.html?utm_term=.ec7632dbeca6)

Article: "Networking is Overrated" by Adam Grant

## **Networking is Overrated**

**By Adam Grant, August 24, 2017**

This article, “Networking is Overrated,” by Adam Grant of the New York Times, shows us that networking isn’t necessarily a powerful or useful tool when it comes to bettering ourselves. Grant says that it doesn’t help us build strong relationships, only meaningless connections. Fostering relationships is how we can build better connections. Read more here from the New York Times.

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/24/opinion/sunday/networking-connections-business.html>

## Questions to initiate discussion:

**Be Attentive:** While with technology we may be more connected, EJ Dionne taps into the deeper question of loneliness, so are of loneliness in yourself, in coworkers, in family or community?

Adam Grant taps into the role and value of networking what role has it played in your career, and the career of colleagues, friends, and family?

**Be Intelligent:** In our busyness and self-interest do we miss those struggling with loneliness? How did Adam Grant’s insight into the staying power of networking impact you?

**Be Reasonable:** Given our human limitations, are there ways in our work where we can connect with people at a less instrumental level and a more human level and express our genuine care, be about being “Timothy” for others? Where are you turning strangers into friends?

**Be Responsible:** Networking is an important skill in business. How do we utilize the skill and can it bring about friendships that are lasting and combat loneliness? Do you have stories about such friendships? How will this conversation today impact you as you move into your work and the last days of summer 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