TO: IBC AND MICAH PARTICIPANTS
FROM: MONSIGNOR RICHARD LIDDY
SUBJECT: SOCIAL DEMOCRACY
DATE: MAY 2019

• 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 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: Acts 4:32-37

  Life of the Christians

  The community of believers were of one heart and one mind. None of them ever claimed anything as his own; rather, everything was held in common. With power the apostles
bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great respect was paid to them all; nor was there anyone needy among them, for all who owned property or houses sold them and donated the proceeds. They used to lay them at the feet of the apostles to be distributed to everyone according to his need. There was a certain Levite from Cyprus named Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (meaning “son of encouragement”). He sold a farm that he owned and made a donation of the money, laying it at the apostles’ feet.

The Jerusalem Bible Reader’s Edition

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

- **Article:** The Birth of Social Democracy, From Karl Marx to Eduard Bernstein, by Gary Dorrien. Read more [here](#) from Commonweal magazine.

- **Questions to Initiate Discussion:**

  **Be Attentive:** When you saw the title of the article, what were your first reactions?

  **Be Intelligent:** What surprised you in the article?

  **Be Reasonable:** After reading the article and understanding the author’s perspective, what questions did it raise for you? What are the attractions and strengths of social democracy? What are its weaknesses? What insights could it bring to our contemporary debates?

  **Be Responsible:** As we think about our business and our politics, was this historical sketch helpful for your thinking and for the leadership conversations you might listen to as we approach the 2020 elections?

  **How will this 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 I 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.