



BALANCING **FAITH & WORK** PROGRAM  
RENEW INTERNATIONAL



## **CENTER FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES**

**TO: IBC AND MICAH PARTICIPANTS**  
**SUBJECT: ELECTIONS AND MORAL RHETORIC**  
**DATE: FEBRUARY 2024**

### **February 2024 Meeting**

#### **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:

- integrate faith, family, and professional life,
- develop a corporate culture that is reflective of their religious faith and values, and
- exercise a beneficial influence upon society at large.

The chapters, grounded in the Roman Catholic tradition, welcome believers who are open to and respectful of one another's religious traditions. They are committed to the conviction that ethics and values grow out of one's religious heritage.

#### **Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1-11 - The Temptation**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,

saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**Quiet reflection:** Five minutes followed by sharing insights.

**Article:** [“It’s Election Season. Here Comes the Morally Charged Language”](#)

1. **Be Attentive:** Listen to the “morally charged language” in the media as we move through the primary season. Make connections between the scripture readings and the three temptations for bread/money/the needs of the flesh, power, and reputation versus public service and good governance.
  - Alternative: You might consider having a conversation about the business temptations you have faced in your careers and the lessons learned.
2. **Be Intelligent:** How are you filtering the barrage of messaging?
3. **Be Reasonable:** How do you cope? How are you evaluating the morally charged language and, finally, are you able to contribute to good civil dialogue?
4. **Be Responsible:** What were key insights that surfaced in today’s discussion? Any food for further 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:** Personal Prayer of Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

Grant me, O Lord, to see everything now with new eyes;  
to discern and test the spirits that help me read the signs of the times;  
to relish the things that are yours, and to communicate them to others.  
Give me the clarity of understanding that you gave Ignatius.

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!