



BALANCING **FAITH & WORK** PROGRAM
RENEW INTERNATIONAL



CENTER FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES

TO: IBC AND MICAH PARTICIPANTS

SUBJECT: “ORA ET LABORA”

DATE: MARCH 2024

March 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: Luke 2:25-35 Presentation in the Temple

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Quiet reflection: Five minutes followed by sharing insights.

Article: [“Taming the Demon,”](#) *Commonweal*, February 2, 2019

1. **Be Attentive:** In switching from the Ignatian tradition to the Benedictine tradition of “Ora et Labora” (prayer and work), how did you see values operative in the author and the abbot?
2. **Be Intelligent:** Reflect on the significant decisions made by the abbot and the monks involved in the various works.
3. **Be Reasonable:** How does the Benedictine spirit of work encounter your engagement with work? Any changes now? What about as you retire?
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!