Center for Faith & Learning
Dinner 3: Winter 2019

*The Screwtape Letters: Chapters 1, 2, 25, 27*
(with historical context and commentary)

Leading Questions:

1. Letter 1: “Uncle Screwtape” Mentors “Nephew Wormwood” to “fuddle” Patient (believer) away from Enemy (God)!
   Explore the challenges and responsibilities being both a mentor and a Scholar...an Uncle and a Nephew....a Mentor, a Scholar?

2. Letter 2: Screwtape convinces Wormwood that the new believers are perhaps the most vulnerable and easy to win over. One example: “It occurs when lovers have got married and begin the real task of learning to live together. In every department of life it marks the transition from dreaming aspiration to laborious doing”.
   The “Enemy” God is Freedom and “he leaves them (Patient) to do it on their own”. This is opportunity for Wormwood. Screwtape convinces Wormwood that the core of vulnerability is a lack of deep humility...

   Explore the initial experience and emotion of conversion/insight/spiritual growth with the days/years following....from dreaming to aspiration to real living. Is this a credit-balance with the Enemy?

3. Letter 25: Screwtape teaches Wormwood to tempt with novelty, trends, and movements and CHANGE. CHANGE is a distraction for the Patient and distances the PATIENT from The Enemy
   Life is fast, trends, and fashions are tempting....is this true today of opportunities and apps for enlightenment spiritual growth?

4. Letter 27: Screwtape teaches Wormwood about the role of Prayer and the habit of obedience and that the Enemy leaves “room for free will and choosing “Love”. Screwtape teaches Wormwood to “deceive the whole human race all the time... it is most important to cut every generation off from others so as not to learn from the wisdom of elders”.

   Being in the “present” is important and learning from elders and the young although complex is wise.

   Who are our wisdom Elders and Young who invite us into intergenerational conversation and journey with us to mature spiritual growth and faith?