

FINAL WORDS

ANOTHER REMINDER OF APRIL BREAKFAST DATE: If you haven't read earlier in the newsletter this is our last reminder that our April Breakfast is on the 17th, one week later than normal due to this year's Good Friday date.

EASIER YET TO BREAKFAST RSVP: If CPBC has an email address for you, you should be now receiving an electronic reminder about the next month's breakfast in a format that makes it very fast to respond. All you have to do is click on the link reservations@cpbcfresno.org. You can also choose to now use "PayPal" to take care of your breakfast cost on-line or download a reservation form. All pre-paid members are reminded that it is appreciated and requested that you also call or email your monthly plans to attend. Since CP&BC is charged for each reservation made, it is helpful and fiscally prudent to have an accurate count of those planning to attend. Those making reservations and not attending will be held responsible for the cost of the breakfast. See the insert for more information.

THANKS TO SPONSORS: The CP&BC thanks our sponsors for the year: Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Mgt. Services; Big De Farms & Cattle/Dan Souza; DiBuduo & DeFendis Insurance; Dowling, Aaron & Keeler, Inc., Attorneys at Law; Electric Motor Shop; Frank A. Borges & Associates; Gary McKeighan Insurance; Jay Chapel/Wayne Gomes; Me-N-Ed's Pizzerias; Mike & Marybeth Hogan; Pardini's Catering & Banquets; QUALI-T-RUCK Services, Inc; Sheridan & Dorothy Loyd; Sierra West Warehouse, Inc; Tom McGowan/ Automated Office Systems; and, Whitehurst Sullivan Burns & Blair Funeral Home/Don Cardell. **Please consider becoming a sponsor now** to help pay the cost of printing and mailing nine issues to nearly 400 Catholics. If your interest and budget will allow we would appreciate a donation of up to \$200 since this helps defray the cost of one issue. Please contact Pat Ogle at 278-6134 to become a sponsor.

CARTOON CREATIVITY:

By Joseph Garcia



"HOW ABOUT IF I DRAW YOU A BRIDGE!"

Catholic Professional & Business Club of the Fresno Diocese

Volume 12 Number 7

Newsletter

April 2009

Choosing To Do What Is Right Is the Message

By JoEllen Strait



(CPBC March speaker Mike Koelzer invited one of his nine children to accompany him to Fresno)

Mike Koelzer, a pro-life pharmacist from the Midwest, shared his fascinating and often moving story at our March breakfast. Mike has 12 brothers and sisters, is married to his college sweetheart, and has nine children. Originally planning on being a pharmacist like his father, he took a year off from his studies and attended the Redemptorist Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Realizing that his dream was to go home and get married, he decided to return to pharmacy school and graduated from Purdue University in 1991. At that time he went to work with his father at their family-owned pharmacy.

After working in the pharmacy for five years, he received a call from his cousin asking him if he knew that birth control pills could cause abortion. Not knowing if this was true, he did some research and found that the third method of action of the pills was to decrease the likelihood of implantation. Shocked that he had been selling these for five years, unaware of how they worked, he put together a plan on how to proceed. He prepared an outline to use when approaching the subject with his dad that included items such as why they should stop selling birth control pills, how faith issues enter into it, and what this would do to their business. Mike was already part owner and president of the business, and thought his dad would go along with him. However, his dad's response was "I'll think about it". After a few weeks, his dad left him an envelope listing 24 items on why Mike's point of view was wrong. Feeling totally lost, he knew he had two options, either quit the store or keep doing what he knew was wrong. He asked direction from God, but heard nothing.

Over the next few years Mike continued to pray for direction, and continued working. He addressed what was wrong with his dad's 24 items, made sure the science on the issue was correct, and at the same time realized the beauty of life through the church. Eventually he got the strong sense that something had to be done soon, and he knew he was going to stop selling the pills. God was telling him you can't use evil to bring about good. When Mike told his dad his decision his dad said he didn't agree with him, but he trusted him. Three days before Mike stopped selling the pills, his dad suffered from memory loss and never returned to the pharmacy again. If Mike had waited any longer, he never would have heard his dad say he trusted him.

Things stayed pretty quiet since that day in 2002. However, in 2008, he received calls from the Washington Post and ABC. To Mike this was a sign that

Finally, Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense finally gave up the ghost after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, she spilled a bit in her lap, and was awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was proceeded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion, his daughter, Responsibility, and his son, Reason. He is survived by two stepbrothers, My Rights and Ima Whiner. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone."

Pastor Profile

By Don Cardell

Rev. Msgr. John Griesbach Three Rivers, Ca
Director St. Anthony Retreat Center
43816 Sierra Dr. + PO Box 249
Three Rivers, Ca 93721-0249
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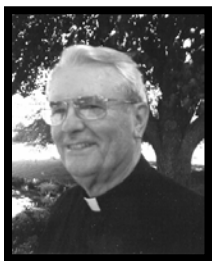
Weekend Masses: Sunday - 9am St. Clair Mission, Three Rivers
Weekday Masses: Tuesday through Saturday - 7:30am St. Anthony Retreat



Msgr. John Griesbach was born in Tulare as one of six children; two brothers, Tom and Bill; and three sisters, Marmie, Donna and Beth. Msgr. grew up in a strong Catholic family where there were priests frequently in their home. So from an early age John was interested in religious life and had great admiration for the clergy. One of his favorite memories was of Msgr. Jim Maloney taking John and Tom for a plane ride over the family home with their folks saying "I think Msgr. Maloney just dive bombed our house with the boys!" John's family had a lumber business and John grew up learning all aspects of the business from cutting trees in the forest all the way to selling the lumber in the lumber yard. John was baptized October 8, 1950 at St. Aloysius in Tulare; had his First Communion in 1957 and was confirmed in 1962. He attended St. Aloysius School in Tulare, Ryan Seminary in Fresno, St. John's Camarillo Theology Studies at St. Patrick's Menlo Park and the American College in Belgium. He was ordained to the Priesthood in 1976 at St. Aloysius. Among his assignments have included: 1976-1978 Sacred Heart, Fresno; 1978-1979 Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bakersfield; 1979-1984 Graces Memorial High School, Chaplain and Religious Chair; 1984-1989 Vocations Office, Diocese of Fresno for Bishop Madera; 1989-1992 Vice Rector - American College, Belgium; 1992- 2003 Pastor - St. Patrick's, Kerman; March 2002 Elevated to Monsignor but prefers to be called "Father"; and, 2003 - Present, St. Anthony's Retreat Center Director. Msgr.'s hobbies are fishing and oil painting. He is noted for his landscapes and he has painted many scenes of the Central Valley, the Sierras and the state's coastline. He says that "painting landscapes captures the deep spirituality he feels reflected in the natural world." Sports are also of great interest to him. He enjoyed competing in soft ball until an injury made it impossible to continue.

“Food for Thought”

By CPBC Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Las Byrne



At this time of uncertainty, we have reason to turn our doubts into hope and to renew our faith in the knowledge that Jesus proved His divinity by His Resurrection and giving credence to His claim that, “*He was the Son of God*” – we have reason to *REJOICE* and to restore our confidence in all that He has revealed to us. Now we know that He is in charge. We know He loves us and that He is aware of what is going on in our lives and we recall that He told us we would have our own crosses to bear on

our journey back to Him.

Now in a mundane way, it might not be that easy to believe in the Resurrection, but we have very good reasons for doing so. Many of us received the Faith from God through our good parents and many good friends in our community – we accepted that faith because we trusted them. But as we grew up we came to know that there were other reasons for holding on to that faith – that Faith is not something you take like fish oil because it is good for you – Faith and reason go hand in hand. We believe in the Resurrection now – because all the evidence is overwhelming – just read the Gospel accounts, the appearances of Jesus after the Resurrection to the Apostles – to St Paul – to the five hundred.

So in the Spirit of our occasional doubts – Jesus is the Hope for all of us. He gives meaning to our existence – it is He that is our comfort in depression and good times – in sickness and health and so during the joyous season let our faith be renewed and let us joyfully respond with one Alleluia and accept the Peace the Lord alone can give.” May the Good Lord help us to a fullness of Faith...*God bless!*

Personal Perspective by William Whitehurst

Here is a pertinent obituary I pass on to you...author unknown. Common Sense is such a rare commodity in today’s world, especially in Washington D.C.

“Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend by the name of Common Sense who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such value lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, and that life isn’t always fair.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don’t spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not kids, are in charge). His health began to rapidly deteriorate when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teen suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

the Holy Spirit wanted the story to come out. To this day he has had no lawsuits, only a few complaints, lost about 4% of his business, and none of his staff left. One of the most important lessons he learned from this was to give encouragement – sometimes just one person can change things. After all, it was just one call from his cousin many years ago that set this in motion.

All CPBC please note!!! Our April breakfast is one week later due to Good Friday’s schedule on our usual second Friday of the month meeting date. So, please update your April calendar and join us on **Friday, April 17th!!** See you on the 17th!!!!

April 17th – Eric Scheske



Join the CP&BC on April 17th (yes, this is one week later due to Good Friday falling on normal breakfast date) when attorney and writer Eric Scheske joins us from Michigan. When he’s not raising money for his Catholic school and earning money for his family, Scheske spends time with his children, writes articles and columns, and blogs. Writing topics include: “*The Goodness of Getting Your Knuckles Slapped: Why We Need Catholic Schools*”; “*Volunteerism: When Can You Say No? When Must You Say Yes?*”; “*Beer Me in the Pews: Beer, Wine, and Catholic Culture*”; and, “*Fiber Optic Spirituality: How to Benefit Spiritually from All the New Electronic Gadgets*”. Here is how Scheske has reflected on his conversion while obtaining his law degree at Notre Dame. “Though I was a Lutheran, I didn’t mind attending Notre Dame. I’d heard that its Catholicism was watered down and that non-Catholics could attend without feeling out-of-place. At Notre Dame, I met intelligent and good Catholics. I remember a young man named Andy—handsome, intelligent, good bass guitar player. He was quiet and always looked calm and content. He wasn’t obsessed with grades or his career. He was always kindly and enjoyable to talk with. A person simply felt good after being with him. For some reason, I intuited that the two—his goodness and Catholicism—weren’t a mere coincidence. Although I can’t say that Andy was a reason I converted, the existence of someone like Andy made the eventual conversion more inviting.” See the insert for more background on our next CP&BC speaker. Be sure to make your reservations now for our April 17th breakfast!

Book Review

By John Kasaian

The Catholic Church and Conversion

G.K. Chesterton

Ignatius Press

Paperback

141 pages

“The Church is a house with a hundred gates; and no two men enter exactly at the same angle.”--- GK Chesterton

Gilbert Keith Chesterton is still one of the most eloquent of Catholic writers and his books are pure enjoyment for anyone who has taken the time to read them. This wasn't always the case. Young G.K. Chesterton wasn't always an eloquent Catholic writer, in fact for much of his life he was simply an eloquent writer who didn't know how “Catholic” he had become.

While most literary powerhouses from Britain are products of Oxford and Cambridge, GKC attended an art school for a short period before calling it quits. His quest in art was one of Truth and after a series of published critiques of art exhibitions he became a journalist on London's famed Fleet Street, questing not for news or scandal (does this sound like MSN?) but once again, Truth.

He wrote on a myriad of subjects and met many high society movers and shakers and in the process discovered that Victorian criticism of the Catholic Church was unfounded. It struck him that if the Church wasn't the “Whore of Rome” it was touted as being, then what exactly was it? His inquiry eventually leads to his conversion from agnosticism.

Now this isn't a conversion story with a great deal of flash and bang. No being knocked off a horse or anything like that. Many conversion stories featuring pyrotechnics I find torturous to read because finding one's way in faith I think is extremely difficult to put into words.

Perhaps I'm too sarcastic, but a writer (or anyone) claiming to have “found God” leads me to think that the writer very likely constructed a “God” to find, and that would be a grave error. That Chesterton doesn't go in for that kind of rubric is what makes His conversion story so interesting. It reads like a picaresque adventure, which is to say, filled with excitement---and isn't that the way we should all look at our relationship with God?

You can find The Catholic Church and Conversion at The Holy Child Bookstore on the Northwest corner of Palm and Bullard.

49er Highlights

Catholic Television *Changing Lives*

By Laurie Patterson



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BUSINESS PROFILE:

The President and CEO of Central California Almond Growers Association, Michael Kelley, was our March Business Person of the Month. This cooperative has 452 members and is the largest almond huller and sheller in the world. It includes an area from Pixley to Merced that stretches across the valley. A parishioner at St. Anthony's, Michael told us that he's been on a journey his entire life and that he feels very blessed he has been able to overcome the many obstacles he has encountered.

Editor's Note: You could be our Business Profile for a future edition by placing your business card in the fishbowl at the check-in table.

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