

Catholic Professional & Business Club of the Fresno Diocese

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 9

JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

JASON JONES By JoEllen Strait



A militant atheist until 7 years ago, raised by a family of scientologists, and a high school dropout, Jason Jones shared his incredible story of how he became a pro-life champion, movie producer and political activist. His journey began when, 2 days before his 17th birthday, he found out his girl-friend was pregnant. Upon hearing the news, he dropped out of school and joined the Army.

While still in basic training, he learned his girl-friend's father forced her to get an abortion. Jason's first reaction was to have someone call the police, since this man had killed his baby – he did not know that abortion was legal. He felt betrayed and promised his girl-friend that he would end abortion. Jason started by going door to door talking to people about abortion. He had never heard of "Right to Life". At one point he was told by Dr. Keyes that all he had to do was pray – and Jason's reaction was to think the guy was a jerk! Finally coming around, his prayer was "God, if you exist you must hate abortion"!

Jason has come a long way since then. In 2007, he was one of the producers of the movie *Bella*. Then, in 2008, he moved to Ohio and started a political action committee. Jason, who is now Catholic, believes that we are destroying our culture through art – people imitate art, and as Catholics we must stand up to the culture of death in our society. A shining example of this is the star of *Bella*, Eduardo Verastegui, who Jason described as the "Brad Pitt" of Latin America. After becoming a huge pop star at the age of 19, he started to feel ashamed of the work he was doing. He began refusing to do projects that were offensive to women, turning down over \$30 million in job offers.

The filmmaker's goal of *Bella* was for those involved to learn the name of one baby who was saved by the film, and it has been an amazing success. Within six months, they received 76 letters about babies who had been saved. And in the 3 years since its release, they have confirmed over 300 women who chose life! *Bella* won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival and demonstrates the power of art. As strange as it sounds, Jason believes that Hollywood is pro-life. The pain of abortion is so evident in movies; abortion destroys women and destroys our culture. Our greatest political tragedy is that the pro-life flag is not planted equally in both political parties.

JUNE 11 – BISHOP JOHN T. STEINBOCK



Plan on joining us at our June breakfast to hear Bishop John T. Steinbock, the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Fresno, present his annual “State of the Diocese” message. See the insert for some of the Bishop’s thoughts from a March 2010 Pastoral Letter on our struggle against sin. Be sure to make your reservations for our June 11th breakfast!



KNXT
Catholic Television

Channel 49 Fresno
Channel 38 Bakersfield

KNXT Highlights

Our Vision for the Future

June Programming

*Solemnity of Corpus Christi Mass & Processional
with Pope Benedict XVI,
June 3, 10:00 am*

*Corpus Christi Benediction & Procession from
the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
June 6, 3:00 pm*

*LIVE On The Air, Tune-in as Msgrs Perry & Scott
answer your questions about the faith LIVE
Wednesday June 9, 7:30 pm
Call (559) 488-7440 to ask any question about
the faith, can be anonymous. June topic: TBA*

*Vigil for Priests with Pope Benedict XVI
June 10, 9:00 am, LIVE*

*Holy Mass for the Conclusion of the Year for
Priests with Pope Benedict XVI
June 11, 3:00 pm*

*Classic Cinema with Fr. Ricardo
Saturdays (8:00 pm)*

**Math On Call will not be airing again until
September due to summer school schedules*

See all of our June specials online at: <http://knxt.tv>

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BUSINESS PERSON OF THE MONTH
WILLIAM J. KEELER, JR.
Dowling, Aaron & Keeler, Inc.



Our May Business Person-of-the-Month was Bill Keeler, an attorney with Dowling, Aaron & Keeler in Fresno. Bill is a member of Holy Spirit Parish and is also a charter member of the CP&BC Board. Bill joined Dowling, Aaron & Keeler 20 years ago and specializes in estate and trust litigation. He has tried cases up and down the west coast, in addition to having taught estate planning at California State University, Fresno. A full service law firm, Dowling, Aaron & Keeler is probably the largest estate and litigation firm in the valley. Additional information can be found on the company website at www.daklaw.com.

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.

YOU NEED TO TELL US YOU ARE COMING TO THE BREAKFAST

Over 120 members and guests enjoyed our May speaker, Jason Jones, and his reflection on fighting abortion from Hollywood and around the world. However, several attendees had to wait to be seated as some members forgot to RSVP that they were going to attend. Please help us avoid this in the future by phoning or emailing your plans to attend our breakfasts. Even though we never turn anyone away, it is simply not fair that those who do RSVP must stand around while extra tables and place settings are added. All members have the opportunity to respond up until just one day prior to each Friday breakfast. PLEASE DO SO and thank you!



BOOK REVIEW

By John Kasaian

The Four Cardinal Virtues

By Josef Pieper

University of Notre Dame Press, 2007

206 pages, paperbound



It is interesting how both resilient and fragile one's soul can be. Dealing with death, even violent sudden death, or a catastrophic illness where death looms ominously upon a loved one is surmountable - fatal of course, and never completely does such tragedy heal (I think the shrinks used the word "closure") but I've seen even the most weak and timid pick up the pieces and get on with life, bolstered by their Catholic Faith. As Christians, we have Hope, and as Fr Groeschel has commented several times, even self proclaimed atheists have Hope (but Hope in what exactly? The poor atheist hasn't a clue!) And yet there is also the "Dark Night of The Soul" which the great mystic St. John of The Cross has written upon - something far more dangerous to one's soul than catastrophic illness and physical death. This point was brought home recently by a colleague who lives in another diocese. This gentleman was active in Lay Ministry until he and his bride suffered a series of tragedies, which being devout Catholics they would have taken heart in God's love and pressed on no matter how difficult, if not for misplaced compassion from their own parish.

There is a type of Catholicism practiced that is a soft and fluffy Kum-bay-yah sort of affair. It is poison when the chips are down - absolute poison. Where my colleague and his bride needed strength, they received (from well meaning people in their parish) canned "Jesus Loves You" talks. When they finally wanted to talk about their pain to someone, there was no one to listen to them, but plenty of people were around to tell them "what Jesus said" in the "soft and fluffy" vernacular. So my colleague left the Lay Ministry and they both stopped attending Mass since (in their own words) they felt like hypocrites because they both harbored so much suppressed anger towards the people surrounding them in the pews. Talk about a Dark Night of The Soul! Do me a personal favor and keep them in your prayers, will you? God knows who they are.

Anyway this brings me to the book that is sitting on my desk, Josef Pieper's The Four Cardinal Virtues, which are (in case you've forgotten: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance.) These are not magic words although their real meanings have been obscured by secularized usage. To explain exactly what Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance mean in the Catholic sense would take - about 209 pages! Now what do the Cardinal Virtues of Pieper's book have to do with the above, terribly true story? This: Knowing exactly what the Cardinal Virtues are, and practicing them (and teaching your kids to

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BOOK REVIEW Continued

practice them) guides the reader through the obstacles of the “contemporary secular morality of hollow conventions” (I got that line from the back jacket of my copy) to teach us what Christian Virtues are and what they aren't, and especially how living these virtues positively affects our communities, our parishes, our families, and ultimately our own soul (now do you see the significance of the story at the start of this review?) What I find interesting is that out of the four Cardinal Virtues, three come quite naturally to most people and one will be painfully difficult. To “live” all these Virtues one must identify that wanting Virtue in their lives, but which one? It is not an easy task - you may initially think perhaps: “Temperance for I cannot pass up a Hostess Twinkie” or “Prudence, since I boogie up HWY 41 to Chukchansi Gold every Friday.” But I'd wager you'd be wrong - the true Cardinal Virtues run far deeper than the gentle discomforts of Kum-bay-yah Catholics. What appears to be a failing in Temperance might really be an issue with the Virtue of Justice, or what looks like a failing in Fortitude may actually be an issue with the Virtue of Prudence. Like the Cardinal Virtues themselves, attempting to truly live out Catholic Virtues will strike a chord deep within, reminding us of a past long forfeit (according to St. Pascal) and that is the very reason why Pieper's *The Four Cardinal Virtues* is so rewarding to read, ponder and act upon. You can pick up a copy of *The Four Cardinal Virtues* at The Holy Child Book Store on the Northwest corner of Palm and Bullard, right here in Fresno, CA.

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE By William Whitehurst

Someone came up with these very interesting figures. In 1909:

- Life expectancy was 47 years
- Only 14% of the homes had bath tubs
- Only 8% of the homes had a telephone
- There were only 8,000 cars, 144 miles of paved road and the maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower
- The average wage was 22 cents per hour, the average worker made \$200 and \$400 per year – a dentist \$2,500 per year
- More than 95% of all births took place in the home
- 90% of all doctors had no college education
- Sugar cost 4 cents a pound
- Women only washed their hair once a month
- Five leading causes of death were: 1) pneumonia; 2) tuberculosis; 3) diarrhea; 4) heart disease; 5) stroke
- The American Flag had 45 stars
- The population of Las Vegas was 30
- No Mother's Day or Father's Day
- 2 out of 10 couldn't read or write, only 6% had graduated from high school
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were over the counter at drug stores
- There were about 230 murders reported in the entire USA
- An ice cream cone, piece of pie, cup of coffee – all 5 cents

What will the next century bring? God Bless America!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By CP&BC Spiritual Advisor - Msgr. Las Byrne



We close out our year and I want to thank you all for your support and prayers, and especially for reading this column so faithfully. If you accidentally forgot to read Mr. Larson's column in the last newsletter, I would encourage you to do so. It had to do with eulogies at funeral Masses and his thoughts are certainly appropriate. Some are not appropriate at all and are an insult to all following the beautiful celebration of the Mass. Have a good summer and re-read some of the previous messages in our "Food for Thought." God Bless us all.

APRIL 30TH NEW MEMBER SOCIAL

Our new member social was a great success! A total of 45 new members, board members, guests, and spouses all had a great time getting acquainted while enjoying delicious treats at Piazza Del Pane. A big THANK YOU to all those members who contributed as sponsors to make this event possible!



FINAL WORDS

CCP&BC Membership Renewal: It's time to renew your membership in the Fresno Catholic Professional & Business Club for the upcoming 2010 – 2011 season. The annual dues are \$45.00 per person and the cost of each breakfast is \$12.00 for members. If you wish to pre-pay your breakfast for the full nine meeting months, the cost is \$90.00 (a savings of \$18.00). You can renew using the form included in this month's insert. For more information call Jeff Lauritzen at 559.288.7280.

Prayer Network: CP&BC has reinstated a "prayer network" that will be utilized for member prayer needs for themselves or loved ones. We have members already signed-up to pray for special needs submitted; however, anyone else is invited to also become part of the prayer network. Sally Lauritzen is the point person to whom requests can be made, and once they are received she will email or phone the network. Contact Sally (salauritz@att.net or 439-8378) to become part of the network or to submit a prayer request.

Membership Directories are available to all current and new members at each breakfast. Be sure to pick your copy up at the June 11th breakfast. **Thank you** to everyone who took out advertisements for our 2010 Membership Directory!

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 244-5609 to become a sponsor.

www.cpbcfresno.org

By Visiting Our Local CP&BC Website You Can:

- Obtain updated information
- Make reservations on-line by clicking on "Reservations" and then by clicking on "Make Reservations On-Line"
- Find links to other catholic organizations
- View previous newsletters