

Catholic Professional & Business Club of the Fresno Diocese

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 4

DECEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

RICK MAYA, DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

By JoEllen Strait



Although born and raised in the Bay Area and now living in Sacramento, Rick Maya actually bought his first home and started his family right here in Fresno. A product of Catholic schools, Rick now works for the Diocese of Sacramento overseeing their high risk schools. He began his career in the banking industry as a Branch Manager for Wells Fargo when he was 23 and still a full-time student. As Rick put it, he got leadership experience at a young age, made a lot of mistakes, and took his lumps and learned! After a few years,

Rick switched to Bank of America. He worked his way up and moved several times within California. His last years with Bank of America he was in charge of public relations and philanthropy. He realized he had a knack for this kind of work because of his work experience, and also because of his faith. He came to understand the impact that non-profits made.

At the end of 2007, after praying and soul-searching, Rick decided to leave the banking industry and get involved with non-profits. He became CEO of an organization for public charter schools In Sacramento. He saw it as a huge challenge and learned a lot. Even when the going was rough, Rick decided to stay because he felt the schools needed to be protected. However, eventually he saw things that were questionable and was asked to look the other way – but Rick did the right thing and reported them.

After the publicity surrounding the story had subsided, Rick received many calls of support, but what he needed was a job. He went on many interviews and found that potential employers always admitted he had done the right thing, but still would not hire him. Rick became frustrated, angry, and scared, but never trusted God enough to give Him his problems....then one day he did.

On his way to an interview, he received a call from the Diocese of Sacramento wanting him to be a consultant on some of their schools that were in trouble. He didn't want to get back into education, but when his interview fell through he took it as a sign. The next meeting he had with the diocese changed his life. Of all the opportunities he was pursuing, the one he least expected occurred when he turned everything over to God. All his previous experience and various jobs were preparation for what he is doing now.

Rick took on a challenge, took a beating, and now the work he is doing today is the most important of his life. At the end of the day he is doing God's work.

December 10 – Annual Christmas Networking Social

Plan on joining us at our December breakfast for our annual Christmas Networking Social. In addition to time for networking there will be special "icebreakers", singing led by a surprise choral group, and most importantly a message on the "reason for the season"! See the insert for more breakfast information and be sure to make your reservations early for our December 10th breakfast!

VISIT OUR NEW WEBPAGE

Last month you heard from Rod Silver of ARTCO as our Businessperson of the Month, and we announced the Catholic Professional & Business Club was going to get a complete "make-over" of our webpage, thanks to Rod and his staff at ARTCO. The remake is now finished and we encourage you to take a look at www.cpbcfresno.org. We're always looking for ways to make the webpage user friendly, so if you have any suggestions, use the "contact us" link. Thanks once more to Rod and ARTCO...the web address again, is www.cpbcfresno.org.



KNXT December Programming Highlights



- Feasts & Seasons of the Church**

Sunday 10:00 am

Joanna Bogle explains the various feasts that lead up to the Advent and Lenten seasons.

- Advent Reflections**

Monday, 9:00 pm; Wednesday, 7:00 am

- Paint This**

Thursdays 1:30 pm; Fridays, 10:30 am; Saturdays, 3:30 pm

Paint along with Jerry Yarnell as he provides personal instruction in creating a masterpiece in this new revamped version of his show.

"FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

By CP&BC Spiritual Advisor – Msgr. Las Byrne



I do believe, as we get older, that we often get into a pensive mood and wander back to the days of our youth. I thank the good Lord for giving me parents who taught me about the love of God and His wonderful creation of all things good. It is a source of sadness too that today many parents leave the task to others. I remember walking across the green fields to my school and how each season gave us a glimpse of the beauty of God. What a delight it was when the snow drops faded and we saw "the burst of golden daffodils fluttering and dancing in the breeze" as Wordsworth so eloquently wrote in his poem "The Daffodils." Another poem comes easily to me that we learned in grammar school reflecting the beauty of the Lord – it is Alfred Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees" in which he writes:

"I think that I shall never see, a poem lovely as a tree, a tree that looks at God all day, and lifts her leafy arms to pray.
Poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree!"

I suppose with these fleeting memories I am building a base to get back to celebrating the coming Christmas celebration of Him who gave rise to all of this. What a delight it was then to spend hours visiting the crib in Church. We honor Him in a more mature way in the present age. We get past the glitter to try and make our faith more relevant. We reflect on Mary and her 'Yes' to the angel's message – her resolution in faith, surely knowing she would be laughed at by the populace – we also hear the voices of the Inn Keepers – "There is no room in the Inn." We pray that we will not say the same thing and take every effort to make room for Him.

We all mean well, so let us make a serious effort to express our faith and love not only in our word but also in action. Questions we might ask ourselves:

1. Do we ever play the role of the Inn Keeper – accept some but reject others?
2. Do our rude actions and questions tell us we don't want to be bothered?
3. Do we ever invite a lonely person to share a meal?
4. Do we ever take serious time with family and discuss our blessings and love?

Christmas is the traditional Season for giving – a loving smile, or phone call, or a little of our time would be a wonderful gift.

PS. Our good friend Bishop John is still in intensive care as I put these words together. What a marvelous example of what a good Bishop should be. Our prayers are surely rising to Heaven. God Bless and a Happy Christmas.

BUSINESS PERSON OF THE MONTH - KATHRYN WEAKLAND



Our business person for the month of November was Kathryn Weakland, Director of Development/Communications for the Poverello House. Located in downtown Fresno, the Poverello House primarily feeds the poor, homeless, and hungry. In addition, they also operate a medical and dental clinic at no cost to the patients, and serve as a day shelter providing bathrooms, shower, laundry, and even a place where the homeless can receive mail.

Kathryn told us they have seen an increase in the number of families they serve. Right now, with the approaching holiday season, their biggest need is for turkeys, and their goal is 2,500 of them! The Poverello House accepts monetary donations as well as food. You can see a copy of their November wish list on their website at www.poverellohouse.org. The list is updated every month, so please check back often and support Kathryn and the fantastic work she and the Poverello House do for our community.

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.

BOOK REVIEW By John Kasaiian

A Crisis of Saints

By Fr. George W. Rutler

The Crossroads Publishing Company, New York. Paper, 205 pages



Fr. George Rutler is an entertaining writer but he is also a very deep writer - as such he is the perfect remedy for the dummed down pseudo intellectualism trotted out by secular academia and post-Vatican 2 liturgists. What makes Fr. Rutler's prose worth exploring is that while he is witty and intelligent, he is also very well versed in human behavior as well as the conflicts we all face. Conflicts handily dismissed (or camouflaged) by secularists and yet these same conflicts keep boomeranging back at us. In *A Crisis of Saints* the conflict is the vanishing idea of saintliness: what it means and why it is important and what is not being done to foster it by people who should know better.

To this end, Fr. Rutler makes arguments so sharp that all opposition is sliced and diced when confronted. It is very much like reading a modern version of a sword cane wielding GK Chesterton. With a division into six parts, *A Crisis of Saints* takes on six topics:

- Catholic Truth - from Invention to Reality
- Gospel Faith - from Understanding to Knowing
- God Our Father - from Knowing to Being Known
- Rome - from Universalism to the Church Universal
- Sacred Liturgy - from Reform to Renewal
- Catholic Writing - Medium and Message

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PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

By William Whitehurst

Around 30 years ago, the Knights of Columbus decided to sponsor "Baskets for the Needy, Christmas Program". Charley Olano took on the task! Charley, a salaried iron worker with a tremendous Christian heart, raised his family in Catholic Schools. All of them received a college degree, and became successfully good people just like Charley and his wife.

Getting back to the Knights of Columbus "Baskets for the Needy, Christmas Program"...Charley started small with a \$50.00 fund from the Knights, and he eventually built it up to feed hundreds every year. Each basket was full of turkey and all the trimmings that the average family thoroughly enjoyed during the Christmas Season. Charley accepted donations from families, corporations, and markets. Some wholesale dealers donated huge amounts of food, others sold Charley below the wholesale prices for food. One by one, volunteers encouraged by Charley's enthusiasm joined in with him in donating time, food, and money to enlarge the project. Over 50 volunteers have joined and the numbers continue to grow. When Christmas was over, he was busy as ever hustling food for the next year's baskets.

One of Charley's sons is a dentist living on the east coast. Last year he sent Charley a check for \$5,000! A fellow Knight wrote his five children asking them to donate money to the project instead of sending their parents Christmas presents, Charley received \$850 from the five children. Christmas Eve, Charley sets up a regular production line in an unused Catholic building and sorts all of the goodies to the size of the family in need. This is a real mass production! Charley is an ordinary man; he is not wealthy but he is a devout Christian....a man really unknown in the community and underrated, but he is a doer! A man who makes a difference, a true Christian.

Santa Claus wears a red suit and has a white beard and is beloved the whole world over. Take a minute and give a big hug and a lot of love and thanks to Charley and his wife, two people who know how and show all of us the true meaning of the Christmas Spirit. God Bless the Olanos, their family, and all of the Olano-like people throughout the world!

www.cpbcfresno.org

By Visiting Our Local CP&BC Website You Can:

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

CP&BC thanks Rod Silver and ARTCO for maintaining our website!

CP&BC BOARD MEMBER – JESS SALDANA

By Jess Saldana



I was born in 1941 in Fresno, California and lived in Calwa. I attended Calwa Elementary School, Sequoia Jr. High School and Roosevelt High School for two years. In 1957 our family moved from Calwa to the area of Cedar and Shields where I finished high school and was in the first graduating class of McLane High School in 1960. While living in Calwa, I attended St. Anthony Claret Catholic Church. My wife and I were married in 1967 at Saint John Cathedral. We have two sons who graduated from Santa Clara University and continue to live in Santa Clara. We attend Saint Helens Church.

My wife and I have our independent Real Estate and Property Management business. I am a Realtor with a Brokers License and my wife is a Realtor and a California Certified Property Manager. Prior to becoming involved in Real Estate my first career was as a Police Officer with the City of Fresno, and my wife was a high school counselor with Fresno Unified School District. I like horses and I have raised drop foul fillies and have ridden to the mission at San Juan Bautista on two different occasions, which took 3 days, and even rode in the rodeo parade. I like to take black and white photographs, develop and mount them.

I have been involved with the community as a member of the Cultural Arts Rotary Club of Fresno, am a present board of director member with the Fresno County Economic Opportunity Commission, am a past member of the board of directors for the United Health Centers, and was on the Fresno Grand Jury in 1992. I am a past president (1996-1997) of the Fresno Association of Realtors.

My faith embraces my everyday challenges of life whether it may be positive or negative. I have a large sign next to my office desk that says "Good Morning Jess, This is God! I will be handling all your problems today. I will not need your help: So, have a good day." How can I not trust God? To be a Catholic in today's society is to continue digging ones heels to remain loyal to God and his word of truth and not give in to the many temptations that today's society offers.

I agreed to be a member of the CPBC board because I was asked to join. All boards need help in many ways and what a better way to be more connected with other Catholics on a regular basis. I want peace in my life and to give thanks to God every day. One personal goal is to become a grandfather and to share my time with my grandchildren. Another goal is to go on a pleasure trip to Rome with my wife, two sons and their significant others. As a police officer I was always taking notes in my note book to write my report at a later time. I have broken the habit of taking notes, but now I take notes on paper napkins, gas or grocery receipts and even ticket stubs. Old habits are hard to break. If any of you have ever seen the T.V. program "COPS" then all I can say is "Been there, Done that!!

BOOK REVIEW Continued from page 5

This is not a book to be treated lightly, any more than a really good filet mignon would be treated with ketchup and mayonnaise. It is far too important for that. Fr. Rutler's observations, carefully gleaned from the past 40 years of Church history, will surprise Catholics seeking reaffirming truths in a poorly fabricated, fashion driven excuse for culture. Like a rallying speech by General Patton, or Knute Rockne, *A Crisis of Saints* is not a maudlin namby-pamby kind of book, but rather a Bowery brawl of a good read.

Six winter nights worth of subjects await you - a whole week with a day off to contemplate on it all and what sainthood means not only to the Church, but to the world. So turn off the reality TV (there hasn't been a saint on secular television since Simon Templar anyway) and pick up a copy.

FINAL WORDS

CP&BC Membership Renewal: There's still time to renew your membership in the Fresno Catholic Professional & Business Club for the 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). 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.

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

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.

FUTURE CP&BC PROGRAMS
Pardini's – Van Ness Blvd. & Shaw – 7:00 to 8:30 a.m.
(Before Breakfast Is Served Enjoy Coffee & Networking)

Friday, December 10 – Christmas Social

Merry Christmas

The CP&BC December meeting will be our annual Christmas Networking Social. CP&BC promises the same fun program as in past December breakfasts. There will be time for networking with special "icebreakers", singing led by a surprise choral group, and most importantly a message on the "reason for the season"! All members should reserve seats early for this popular holiday event!



Future Programs

January – No breakfast
February 11, 2011 – Joe Condit, Entrepreneur and Catholic Speaker Promoter

Meetings Scheduled

2nd Fridays of the month except January, July & August - \$12 for Members / \$15 for Non-Members.
Reservations (434-2722) Deadline is Thursday Noon of Breakfast Week.

Reservations – Several Options!

Deadline is Thursday Noon of Breakfast Week

Phone – 434-2722
E-mail: correiaadenise@yahoo.com
Reservations Online – www.cpbcfresno.org
Click on « Reservations » / Can pay with PayPal

Mail Reservations with Payments to: CP&BC
P.O. Box 9454 Fresno, CA 93792
Please note that CP&BC also requests that Pre-Paid Members
call each month to confirm their attendance.



Please join us in helping Catholic Charities collect unwrapped toys and/or cash donations for their annual Toys for Tots Drive. Toys are being distributed to those less fortunate in the Fresno County area. Boys and girls between the ages of 0-12 will be presented with a toy that you have so generously chosen for them.

Please bring this unwrapped toy and/or cash donation to our next December meeting. Any questions.. please contact Jody Hudson at judson@cc dof.org or call 237-0851 ext. 1122

Thank you for truly making the difference in a child's life this holiday season.

