

Catholic Professional & Business Club of the Fresno Diocese

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MAY 2011 NEWSLETTER



THOMAS O'TOOLE By JoEllen Strait

"Cathletics", the connection between faith and sports, was the topic of our April breakfast speaker, Thomas O'Toole. Tom is the author of the book *Champions of Faith: Catholic Sports Heroes Tell Their Stories*. Using examples from both his book and life in sports, Tom talked about the unique connection between the life of a dedicated athlete and that of a devout Christian. Tom was born in Chicago and grew up in a devout Catholic family with five brothers and two sisters. He majored in English at the University of Notre Dame and made the varsity tennis team as a walk-on. He later became the sports editor of Notre Dame's Scholastic magazine.

During his talk, Tom shared numerous anecdotes, quotes, and stories from and about several famous sports figures, providing insights into these individuals. He started off with an interesting quote from Lou Holtz, the former Notre Dame football coach, that humorously links sports and faith – "I don't think God really cares who wins a game, but I think His Mother does!"

Tom also cited the Bible several times, particularly St. Paul and references that he makes in Corinthians likening faith to sports, specifically pointing out the derivation of "discipline" and "disciple" is very close. "Run to win," St. Paul advises (I Cor. 9:24).

Tom mentioned that not a lot of Catholic athletes talk publicly about sports and religion. Protestants are more apt to point out the connection by saying things during a post-game interview such as "Jesus saved me and we won the game", etc. Catholics tend to be more reluctant to put themselves out there as role models and we look at sports more as a whole – not a platform to talk about Christ. We tend to take a more "sacramental" view, similar to that of the Eucharist. Sports, like the Eucharist, involves elements that are both real and symbolic.

As a sports fan, we can also model Christianity. Most teams have a home court advantage because of their fan presence, but what if the influence of fans comes from fans that aren't physically at the game? Knute Rockne, another former Notre Dame coach, converted to Catholicism while coaching and actually stopped playing other Catholic schools to avoid "conflicting"

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MAY 13 – LISA HENDEY



Plan on joining us at our May breakfast to hear Lisa Hendey, local author of the book, *The Handbook for Catholic Moms*, and the founder and editor of CatholicMom.com. Lisa is also a free lance writer whose articles have appeared in the National Catholic Register, Our Sunday Visitor, Faith and Family Magazine, Canticle Magazine, Grapevine Magazine and Kids' Ark Magazine. Please see the insert for more information. Be sure to make your reservations early for our May 13th breakfast!

PASTOR PROFILE – FR. ROD L CRAIG By Donald Cardell

It was truly an honor to do the pastor profile this month on Fr. Rod Craig. When I think back on the days when my kids went to San Joaquin Memorial it always brings back great memories of Fr. Rod. He was their religion teacher and later chaplain. A lot of time has passed in those 30 years but he was always a favorite.

Fr. Rod was born in Wasco, CA to Thomas and Dona Mae Craig. He grew up along with his three younger brothers, Lance, Dick and Brice. The early gifts Rod received growing up were the strong religious roots from his grandmothers. His maternal grandmother was very active in the Catholic Church. His other grandmother was a Sunday school teacher and pianist at the Methodist Church; and he went to many events in the Methodist Church. At an early age he had an "ecumenical feel". His family always had great concern for the poor and needy. All through his childhood he knew he wanted to be a priest, he went to daily Mass and he was an altar boy. The Mass was all in Latin at that time but he knew all the prayers by heart. In his sophomore year in high school he went to the local seminary in Fresno, Ryan Preparatory. This is where he solidified his interest in the Liturgy. After high school he went to the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio where he was a Religious Studies Major. After graduation from Josephinum, Rod was granted permission to attend Theological College at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C.

Fr. Tom Kleinhans was the vocation director for the Diocese of Fresno. He knew that Rod wanted to teach after he was ordained but he told Rod that it was unlikely due to the shortage of priests. He told Rod that he would be needed in parish life. However, the hand of God was at work and Fr. Rod was able to join the faculty at San Joaquin Memorial High

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BOOK REVIEW - By John Kasaian

Mary Mother of the Son, Volume 1

Modern Myths and Ancient Truth

By Mark P. Shea

Published by Catholic Answers

San Diego, 2009

Paper, 159 pages



This is the first volume in Mark Shea's excellent trilogy, *Mary Mother of the Son*. It is a voyage of discovery as the gracious Mark Shea takes us along on his journey to the Catholic faith, in which he tackles one of the biggest impasses evangelicals interested in the Catholic Church come up against - The Blessed Virgin Mary. This is an impressive piece of scholarship, but it isn't dry and brittle. This first volume deals with modern myths propagated about Mary as opposed to the ancient truths which were well known by the early Church. Shea neatly deals with each objection our protestant brothers raise regarding the primacy of Mary with both faultless scholarship and humor and so would be an excellent resource for Protestants, but I found the volume of great interest not only for refuting the often bitter attacks on the Blessed Mother, but for the history not only of the Church, but of the detractors of the Blessed Virgin. This is an absolutely fascinating book and the remaining volumes look to be just as good. Hey, it even has an Imprimatur!

If you are interested in the history of your faith (and you should be) this trilogy, along with Jimmy Akin's *The Fathers Know Best* are incredible resources. They'll make excellent gifts for Protestants interested in Catholicism but most important, read them for yourself for a good look at the one true Church - you'll be treated to an all too rare look at the bride of Christ in her radiant beauty.

Editor's Note: Our club received the following email last month and wanted to share it with the membership - and also add our thanks to John for the outstanding book reviews he provides each month.

I am the author of "Supremacy and Survival: How Catholics Endured the English Reformation." Please pass along my thanks to John Kasaian for the excellent review of my book in your March newsletter! I am glad that he enjoyed and benefitted from reading "Supremacy and Survival"--as the groups of former Anglicans prepare to join the Catholic Church in England, especially, in the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, this history is timely indeed. Best regards.
Stephanie A. Mann

rites and privileges

Personal Perspective

By Lanny Larson



– Lanny Larson is an editor at California State University, Fresno. Comments and ideas for future columns welcome at lannylarson@att.net.

What do you think about our Holy Thursday “Washing of the Feet?” Do you think about it? Some parishes don’t do it at all. Some wash hands. Some do the whole deal. I’ve never really thought much about it until our men’s group at St. Paul Newman Center jumped Holy Thursday (we’ve been hand washers) by a couple of weeks. John Prandini, director of family life ministries, invited us to wash each other’s feet.

You can imagine the jokes as we paired off, me with a man about my age whom I know only from the group. I poured water over each foot, massaged (furtively, nothing weird) and dried. He did the same for me. It was an amazing experience. Humbling, yes, to be at another’s feet performing a simple ablution. Calming and centering to have my own foot tended to so tenderly. It was also spiritually exhilarating. I hadn’t counted on that.

I’m not exactly a deep spiritual thinker, but suddenly I better appreciated
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O’TOOLE - *Continued from page 2*

praying from Catholics on the opposing team! Although current Notre Dame players and coaches don’t acknowledge it as openly as Lou Holtz did, St. Mary is still Notre Dame’s #1 fan, and actually the #1 fan of any athlete.

The connection between sports and faith is a good one. Sports can inspire people and also bring people into faith. Lou Holtz said that he prayed to be a football player at Notre Dame and God answered his prayer by letting him be coach. This showed him that God answers prayers even though it may not be in the way or time that we’d like. Tara Lipinski won a skating gold medal when she was 15 – she is devoted to St. Therese (The Little Flower). Alberto Salazar realized that faith was more important than running. During a race he thought he could not finish, God told him to start running, so he prayed the rosary and won the race. He said that “God would run for him”. As a side note, Tom thinks that the rosary is the perfect prayer for long distance running!

Tom started a blog, “Fighting Irish Thomas,” which has been praised for its Catholic candor and humor. Check out the website www.fightingirishthomas.com to read more about sports and the Catholic faith.

FR. CRAIG - *Continued*

School in 1978 and remained on the faculty first as teacher to juniors and seniors in religion and later as chaplain until 1984. Bishop Donahoe ordained Rod to the Diaconate in November of 1976 in Washington, D.C. and ordained him to the Priesthood in Wasco, California on May 21, 1977.

Fr. Rod's first assignment as a priest was to Our Lady of Victory in Fresno. While there Eleanor Daigle and Bill Kitchen encouraged him. Fr. Rod is grateful to these two wise and generous people who took him under their wings. He also learned a great deal from the Holy Cross Sisters and the Christian Brothers who taught at San Joaquin Memorial. To sum it up in Fr. Rod's own words, "I think my vocation story is not so much how I got the call as to how I have remained." We have truly been blessed by his 34 years as a priest in our Diocese. God bless you Fr. Rod. Presently Fr. Rod Craig is a Parochial Vicar in Visalia.

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE - *Continued*

the meaning of that Last Supper washing -- how we serve others and how we're connected to earthly reality (and temptations) by our feet, but we operate above in the unknown. Talk about illumination of the Word! Because I was anticipating knee surgery, I reasoned that the knee is part of the leg and connected to my feet. Therefore it was a personal -- grounding -- blessing and preparation for an unknown journey.

Previously washing of feet was one of those things you hear as a kid, think "Yuck" and move on -- another ritual of a church rife with rites. Every week, we participate in a slew of them within the Mass. We know all the prayers by heart; when to sit, stand and kneel; when to speak aloud. We sometimes start our responses even before the presider's call is issued; know when to raise our hands and bow our heads; and most of the songs, word for word and note for note. But do we think about it or is it habitual, reflexive? Heck, sometimes I'm thinking of what to fix for dinner, working on the Jumble word puzzle clue that stumped me or -- if I'm really lucky -- remembering the previous day's men's group. I'd like to think I'm multitasking, but I don't remember that being part of the Baltimore Catechism. (Of course I'm fully focused on every homily, Father.)

Hearing the thoughts of other men, washing and being washed, hearing the Gospel words about one small rite incorporated into Church teaching and practice made me want to learn more about the rituals. Now's a good time, too, as our parishes help us learn about the "new" Mass with echoes of past rituals. That simple Saturday group taught me that all these rites are a privilege. And they deserve more of my attention and appreciation.



Business Person-of-the-Month Sister Mary Clennon, CSC

Sister Mary Clennon, CSC, Director of the Holy Cross Clinic and Center for Women, was our April Business Person of the Month. Both the clinic and center are sponsored by St. Agnes. The Holy Cross Clinic opened in the Poverello House in 1982 and has had a dental clinic since 1989. The Center for Women was established in 1984. It currently serves approximately 25 women per day, many of whom are homeless. The center is not an overnight shelter, but provides many services such as food, clothing, laundry and shower facilities, and educational and job training assistance. To learn more, please visit the following websites: <http://www.samc.com/UMAP.asp?ID=16> and <http://www.samc.com/UMAP.asp?ID=10>.

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KNXT May Programming Highlights

- **KNXT 25th Anniversary Telethon – Dedicated to Bishop John T. Steinbock**
May 1st through 4th
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- **The Sunday Mass from St. Anne's Chapel**
Sundays 7:30 am and 5:00 pm
- **The Sunday Mass in Spanish**
Sundays 12:00 pm
- **The Sunday Mass in Portuguese**
Sundays 7:30 pm
- **LIVE on the Air: Confirmation: Is it Lost on Our Teens?**
Wednesdays 7:30 pm
Hosted by Msgr. Perry & Msgr. Scott

FINAL WORDS

CP&BC Membership: CP&BC's annual dues are \$45.00 per person and the cost of each breakfast is \$12.00 for members. Anyone joining now gets an added bonus of having their membership paid through June 2012! A membership form is included in this month's insert. For more information call Jeff Lauritzen at 559.288.7280.

Prayer Network: CP&BC has a "prayer network" to be used 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; 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

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



CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS CLUB OF FRESNO

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Membership Renewal / Application 2011/ 2012

The Catholic Professional & Business Club of Fresno is a membership based organization that traditionally meets on the second Friday of each month excluding January, July & August. Annual membership dues include a monthly newsletter subscription and listing in the Club's Membership Directory of fellow professionals.

CP&BC strives to obtain outstanding speakers in their professional field with a message to encourage and motivate members to live an ethical and exemplary Catholic lifestyle in their business and in their environment.

- Renewal** (Name only unless there are corrections to last year's information)
 New Member

NAME: _____ PARISH: _____

OCCUPATION: _____ COMPANY: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE (Work): _____ (Home): _____ (Cell): _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ I PREFER PAPERLESS CORRESPONDENCE BY EMAIL

- Enclosed is my check for the \$45 annual membership payable to Fresno CPBC ;
 Enclosed is my Business Card for Advertising in the Annual Directory (additional \$50)
 Enclosed is my check for (9) Pre-paid Breakfasts (save \$2/breakfast) (additional \$90)
 I will pay online using my credit card with Paypal @ www.cpbcfresno.org
 My Company may advertise in the Annual CPBC Directory. Contact: _____
 Please do not publish my Personal Information in the Directory.

**Please Mail this form & your check to: Fresno CP&BC
P.O. Box 9454, Fresno, CA 93792**

For additional information: you may e-mail: membership@cpbcfresno.org
or call Jeff Lauritzen @ 559.288.7280 or visit us online @ www.cpbcfresno.org

"FAITH - ETHICS - AND BUSINESS - NEED NOT BE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE"

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, May 13 – Lisa Hendey

Particularly appropriate since May is both Mother's Day and St. Mary's month, our May breakfast speaker will be Lisa Hendey, local author of the book *The Handbook for Catholic Moms*, and the founder and editor of CatholicMom.com, a website that focuses on the Catholic faith, Catholic parenting and family life, and Catholic cultural topics. The site features columns by over ninety contributing columnists and is home to a Catholic Book Club featuring monthly fiction, non-fiction and children's selections by Catholic authors. Lisa heads a home based web design business and in addition to her work with CatholicMom.com, she is also employed by St. Anthony of Padua parish as webmaster for the parish web site. As a freelance writer, Lisa is a regular contributor to Catholic Exchange, Catholic Online, The Integrated Catholic Life and Catholic.net and countless other Internet publishers. Her articles have appeared in the *National Catholic Register*, *Our Sunday Visitor*, *Faith and Family Magazine*, *Canticle Magazine*, *Grapevine Magazine* and *Kids' Ark Magazine*. Lisa, her husband, and two sons live in Fresno and are members of St. Anthony of Padua parish.

Future Breakfast Dates

June 10
July – August – No Breakfasts
September 9

Meetings Schedule

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

Reservations – Several Options!

Deadline is Wednesday Noon of Breakfast Week

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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.
