

# Catholic Professional & Business Club of the Fresno Diocese

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 6

MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER

## JOE CONDIT By JoEllen Strait



Joe Condit, a 29-year old entrepreneur from Cincinnati, shared his fascinating story at our February breakfast. In addition to talking about his experiences, he also wanted to talk about “motivation”, so he started out by asking us to think about whether our “glass is half full or half empty”.

Joe is one of six children from a large Catholic family. He graduated from Miami University in Ohio in 2005 and had one goal – to be a millionaire by 30. Not long after that, he ran into his first brush with business ethics. His general manager where he was working basically asked him to overcharge some customers and, much to his regret, he did.

One day Joe received a call from his long time best friend and was told they had an investor for their business opportunity. So, at age 24, he received a half million dollars to start his first company. His company grew and Joe was caught up in the whole social, material life style, which did not include praying or attending church. He recalled driving to work one morning (hung over) and thinking that he could not live like this, and for the first time in three years he really prayed. Five minutes later he found out his company had a buyout offer for nine times its worth. But even after getting that news, Joe didn't pray anymore or attend church. A month away from the buyout, he found out that his company's parent group was raided by the FBI for allegedly running a \$2.8 billion Ponzi scheme. Joe had no knowledge of what was going on, but lost everything – money, condo, cars. He was broke, in debt, and could face legal charges.

Joe ended up moving in with his father, which was the best thing that could have happened to him since it forced him to go to church. This was a very painful time, but he started praying and began feeling fulfilled and happy. He went from being at the brink of having wealth beyond his wildest dreams to losing everything. It was a perfect plan by God. The experience taught him detachment. He realized God doesn't require success, but wants fidelity, which leads to success.

Joe is very much back on his feet now, owning the Condit group, which has five companies. He is most proud of CMG Booking, which he started to streamline the process for making Catholic speakers available to groups. The first person

*Continued on page 6*

## **March 11 – Rev. Msgr. Myron Cotta**



Plan on joining us at our March breakfast to hear Reverend Msgr. Myron J. Cotta, our Diocesan Administrator and Moderator Of The Curia, update us on the search for a new Bishop and other important news of our diocese. Please see the insert for more information. Be sure to make your reservations early for our March 11th breakfast!

## **PASTOR PROFILE - REV. MSGR. PATRICK MCCORMICK, V.F.**

By Donald Cardell

For the past twenty years we have seen Msgr. Pat McCormick celebrating weekly Mass at St. Ann's Chapel on the Campus of San Joaquin Memorial. We also see him as the Master of Ceremonies for special Masses during the year i.e., the Chrism Mass, Ordination of Priests and Deacons and clergy funerals.

Msgr. was born and raised in Taft, California where he and his twin brother went to school. His father was Catholic and his mother was a Southern Baptist. In the fourth grade, Msgr. began to think about becoming a priest, by the eighth grade he was still feeling that the religious life was possibly his calling. He continued his education at California State University Fresno with a major in music. While attending the University he was working part time at a 7-11 Store. One night he was held up at gun point and this near death experience had a real impact on his future life. After receiving his Bachelor's Degree in music, he thought he would apply for a teaching job in elementary school. At this same time he talked with Fr. Sergio P. Negro from St. Paul Newman Center to discuss his interest in the priesthood. Fr. Negro suggested that he enroll in the Seminary at St. John Camarillo to see if after a year this was his calling. After a year in the Seminary, Msgr. Pat knew he had made the right choice. Msgr. was also greatly influenced by Fr. Patrick McHugh in Taft.

In 1972, he studied Gregorian Chant at Abbye de Solesmes for three months in France. In 1974 Cardinal Timothy Manning ordained Deacon Patrick McCormick and he was assigned to St. Joseph's in Los Banos in the summer of 1974. At this time Bishop Hugh A. Donohoe told Deacon McCormick that there was a possibility that he could be ordained in Rome by Pope Paul VI. After speaking with his family, they agreed this would be a once in a lifetime opportunity. He was ordained a priest at the Vatican in Rome on June 29, 1975 by Pope Paul VI. Fr. Pat celebrated his first Mass at his home parish in Taft and his first assignment was at the Shrine of St. Therese in Fresno. In 1978 he was assigned to the Catholic University in Washington D.C. in Liturgy and Music Departments. His next assignment in 1980 was St. Anthony of Padua in

*Continued on page 6*



## Why do Media Pick on the Catholic Church?

Personal Perspective

By Lanny Larson

*Lanny Larson is editor of University Communications at California State University, Fresno and a member of St. Paul Newman Center. He welcomes e-mail at lannylarson@att.net.*

"Why do media pick on the Catholic church?" I'm asked that as both a recovering journalist and a cradle Catholic – albeit with time out because of "questions." I share the concern, and I've concluded there are many answers, including:

- Before we knew what ecumenical meant, Catholics disrespected other belief systems – formal or personal – doubtless making some enemies for "the one, true Church".
- Some folks think Christians and Catholics are separate entities and some of those folks become journalists.
- Priest scandals, the church's reaction and church members' resulting crisis of confidence have brought ridicule and abiding suspicion, intensifying scrutiny of the most routine church news.
- Church Leadership is mostly old, white and exclusively male, so why wouldn't it be out of touch with today's world and with many of its members?
- The Roman Catholic Church is the biggest, oldest Christian denomination (itself the world's biggest religion), and therefore a natural institution for journalistic attention.
- The church is the subject of popular books and movies about intriguing real and imaginary that attract widespread interest – another natural attractant to a journalist.

Misunderstanding and misrepresentation of the Catholic Church have been around for centuries. What's disappointing is that today's journalists are – or should be – better informed. And yet – is it laziness, dislike, ineptitude? – we've seen these recently:

- A reporter wondered why Federal Judge John M. Roll had been at Mass on a Saturday before being fatally wounded in Tucson. Mass on anything but Sunday didn't compute.
- Masses celebrated for those Tucson dead who were Catholic were – in some cases – labeled church or funeral services and never identified by denomination. I assume we'd all have guessed Catholic if the church's name – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – was disclosed.
- Stories about a "confession app" for wireless communications devices made it sound like a super convenient sacrament, but instead it's a guide to examination of conscience.

Few journalists are Catholic "experts." Journalists come from their own faith traditions, so they may simply be unaware. Some may carry righteous resentment for Catholics' past "superiority" or feel the need to "avenge" those harmed by the church. More likely, any perceived "slights" are not intentional.

**Continued on page 6**

**BOOK REVIEW - By John Kasaian**

*Supremacy and Survival*

*By Stephanie Mann*

*Scepter Publishers, New York*

*Paper (\$17.95), 167 pages*



Spanning two thousand years, Catholic History is rich and vibrant deserving books that can do the subject justice. Few things are as lifeless as dull history books. With His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI's recent "State" visit to the UK, I thought I'd read up on the English Reformation and Stephanie Mann's *Supremacy and Survival* caught my attention.

As Hilaire Belloc noted nearly 100 years ago, the real history of the English Reformation has been sentenced to obscurity by historians who draw all their research from the later sources who, incidentally were of the faith opposing the Catholic Church and loyal to the monarchy. On the other hand, Stephanie Mann's book explores the English Reformation from two different angles and draws on resources ignored by earlier authors. I think this makes for a far more objective view.

The first deals with Supremacy. King Henry the VIII's realization, based upon his own growing belief, that he could govern the Church to suit his own political needs. Opposition to his rule was treason, nothing more nor less. The second angle is that of survival of the faith and people, peasants and nobles who were faithful to the Catholic Church and Rome, and how that faithfulness was tested and ground conceded until at last the weight of time obliterated all but minute remains of Catholicism left in the UK. A great deal of this history rings true today as I look at current events and the problems within the Church and Society. In our own country, politicians (just like the British nobility during Moore's time) have defined Church teachings to foster their own political agendas.

Liturgical changes "in the spirit" of Vatican 2 but not in the substance have instituted reforms which duplicate the reforms sought by the Protestants of Olde England to diminish the Catholic essence of the Mass. This is most alarming since Cardinal John Fisher entered martyrdom opposing these very same "popular improvements." So devastating was the English Reformation and its whitewashing by historians that Mann pursues the issue of Catholicism in England through Cardinal John Newman and the literary fruits of the Oxford movement to Frank Sheed and Maisie Ward's stellar apologetics and up to the present day.

It's a great read!

### **PASTOR PROFILE** *(Continued from page 3)*

Fresno. In 1984 he became the new Director of the Office of Worship and was in residence at St. John's Cathedral in Fresno. He became the Rector of St. John's in 1986. In 1991 he was the director of St. John's Vianney House and assigned to San Joaquin Memorial High School. Later he was assigned to St. Mary Queen of the Apostles in 1994, and in 2004 he was assigned to St. Patrick's in Merced, and Pastor Administrator of Parishes in LeGrande and Planada.

Msgr. is an accomplished pianist and organist. His hobbies include going to the movies, plays, theater and travelling. One of his favorite scripture passages is Isaiah 25:6 "On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine- the best of meats and the finest of wines."

### **PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE** *(Continued from page 4)*

We can, though, politely complain when we see something in the news that sparks our Catholic antennae. If several point out an error or distortion, journalists are more likely to learn, becoming better equipped to accurately enlighten their audience.

This Lent we should consider ways to try to reverse this situation. We can try better to understand others' beliefs, look for ways we're alike and seek common ground. We can attend interfaith presentations, visit other places of worship, Google info (a risk, but usually there are multiple sources) or drag out that comparative religion text we haven't opened since college. We can ask our parishes for programs that build ecumenical knowledge and understanding.

Especially as news builds about religion's place in our modern world, we must demand more accurate information from media so the Catholic Church – and her role in global change – is clearly and correctly understood and disseminated.

### **JOE CONDIT** *(Continued from page 2)*

to call him was our own Frank Borges. Joe told us that both Frank and Mary have been a huge inspiration for him. Actually, he has turned down every group that has asked him to speak personally, except for Tom Lang, who contacted him to speak at our breakfast. All fees for his speaking go to a scholarship program to help groups pay for speakers. And Joe told us he will always help out our CP&BC.

Joe concluded by bringing us back to his first ethical business dilemma of overcharging customers. After some research, he sent checks to all those he had overcharged. Joe proved it is never too late to make things right, and you're never too young or too old to follow your dream. The question "Is your glass half full or half empty?" should really be "How much of your glass is filled with Christ?"

## BUSINESS PERSON OF THE MONTH- BILL LUCIDO



Bill Lucido was our Business Person of the Month for February. Bill is a past president of our club and also a newly ordained Deacon (as of January 15) for our diocese. Bill has been a member of St. Paul Newman Center for 41 years and worked for the Diocese of Fresno for 11 years. Bill said he often gets asked "What can Deacons do?", when the question really should be "What are Deacons supposed to do?". A Deacon's duties include: Liturgy (baptisms, marriages, funerals); Word (proclaiming the Gospel); and Charity. Although Deacons are ordained for service to the diocese, Bill has been assigned to the Newman Center, and his own ministry includes hospital and homebound visits. Congratulations Bill!

## ROSARIES AT THE FEBRUARY BREAKFAST

Our February speaker, Joe Condit, likes to highlight various speakers every time he himself is asked to talk. So, at our February breakfast, he distributed cloth rosaries from the Rosary Army to all those attending. The Rosary Army is a Catholic charity dedicated to evangelizing our faith through promoting praying the Rosary. They do this through public speaking engagements and their website, [www.RosaryArmy.com](http://www.RosaryArmy.com).

**KNXT**

Celebrating our



Catholic Television

Streaming LIVE on the Internet at: [www.KNXT.tv](http://www.KNXT.tv)

### KNXT March Programming Highlights

- **California's Gold with Huell Howser**  
Sundays 4:30 pm; Fridays 5:30 pm  
Join Huell Howser as he travels around California collecting stories and history from the people he meets and the places he visits.
- **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
- **Our Vision for the Future**  
Sundays 6:00 pm; Wednesdays 8:30 pm; Fridays 11:30 am  
Jim Grant hosts the new season of *Our Vision for the Future* with topics including Catechesis, Ministry and Vocations.

## FINAL WORDS

**CP&BC Membership:** 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](http://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!**

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, March 11 – Rev. Msgr. Myron J. Cotta**

---

At our March breakfast, Our Diocesan Administrator, Reverend Monsignor Myron J. Cotta, will speak about his new assignment and duties following the death of Bishop John Steinbock while still in office. Although the details have been published on the Diocese of Fresno's website, Msgr. Cotta will offer our club his personal perspective as the Church follows its prescribed 4-step process for the selection of a new bishop, concluding with the final decision by the Holy Father in Rome. (Informally, we have been told that it may take up to a year for the Diocesan Bishop of Fresno to be selected.) This talk will give our members a rare glimpse into a fascinating tradition that involves prayerful recommendations from our U.S. bishops, but is ultimately under the sole purview of Pope Benedict XVI.

---

**Future Speakers**

April 8 – Tom O'Toole - Author of "Champions of Faith: Catholic Sports Heroes Tell Their Stories"  
May 13 – Lisa Hendey – Fresno Author of "The Handbook for Catholic Moms"

---

**Meetings Scheduled**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** [correiadenise@yahoo.com](mailto:correiadenise@yahoo.com)

**Reservations Online** – [www.cpbcfresno.org](http://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.

---





# Catholic Professional & Business Club

Post Office Box 9454 - Fresno, California, 93792-9454

Diocese of Fresno

## Membership Renewal / Application 2010 / 2011

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 ; or
- Enclosed is my Business Card for Advertising in the Annual Directory with my check for \$50
- Enclosed is my check for (9) Pre-paid Breakfasts (save \$2/breakfast) for \$90
- I will pay online using my credit card with Paypal @ [www.cpbcfresno.org](http://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](mailto:membership@cpbcfresno.org)  
or call Jeff Lauritzen @ 559.288.7280 or visit us online @ [www.cpbcfresno.org](http://www.cpbcfresno.org)

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