



CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS CLUB DIOCESE OF FRESNO

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER - Dan DeMatte



From Columbus, Ohio

CP&BC Fresno is proud to welcome Dan DeMatte as the kick-off speaker for our 2013/2014 year! Dan is a motivational speaker who has realized that there is truly no dream worth living for other than the dream of heaven. He preaches the GOOD News, not the mediocre news, or the 'I-hope-this-isn't-too-big-of-an-inconvenience' news. Dan knows that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only message worth living for, and worth dying for.

Dan witnessed to his radical lifestyle when he starred on A&E's hit reality TV show, *God or the Girl*. The show captured Dan's intense discernment process between the priesthood and

the married life, along with three other men. In his discernment, Dan carried an 80lb cross on a 22 mile pilgrimage in order to better unite himself to the cross of Christ – the center of all vocations and the core of the Christian life. After discerning his call for three years, he heard the Lord calling him to the married life – God through the Girl as he puts it. Dan is happily married to Amber Marie and together they have three beautiful children: Sophia Therese, Giovanni Francis and Gemma Therese.

As a speaker and evangelist, Dan is very engaging, and gets the audience involved. His goal is to encourage all people to reject Sin and Satan, and to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a fearless and radical way. He believes that every person is called to be a saint. He believes that this world is in need of an intense renewal. He believes that the renewal begins with you!

What's Inside?

- Did you miss last month's speaker?
- Book Review "The Ear of the Heart"
- Who's the Business Person of the Month?
- September Prayer
- Events to Look Forward to!
- & More

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Diocesan Update - Katherine Andes

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While Bishop Armando Ochoa was at the June meeting with the U.S. Bishops, Msgr. Myron J. Cotta, V.G., wrapped up our 2012–2013 year with an informative State of the Diocese talk at our June CP&BC meeting.

Msgr. Cotta began with a meditation on the pierced Sacred Heart of Jesus as June is dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart. He challenged us to never forget Christ during our workday saying, “Are we really keeping in mind that everything we’re doing is for the glory of God? Truly, are we ‘servant leaders’ keeping Jesus in mind?”

We were also all happy to hear that the new Bishop of El Paso will be installed in July. We will now have Bishop Ochoa all to ourselves!

Bishop has been spending a lot of time with the youth of our Diocese during the Confirmation season. He reminds them they are special, talented, and unique. Next on his schedule are visits to the mission churches. He really wants to know the Diocese.

Further, Msgr. Cotta commented on the earlier presentation of Fr. Craig Plunkett, who updated us on the new church project which is named after the Divine Mercy. \$100,000 was raised rather quickly and then with additional contributions, including the original donated property from Bishop Steinbock, they currently have a bank account northwards of \$700,000. A building committee has been formed and they were in attendance at our June meeting. You could see their enthusiasm and pride in this venture. We also have the formation of another new parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, in Bakersfield under the direction of Msgr. Perry Kavookjian.

Msgr. Cotta continued to share that this upcoming year will be thin in terms of ordinations. In fact, no new priests will be ordained next year. Plus, we are anticipating the retirement of four priests about a year from now. Fr. Blessing is one of the priests who will be retiring this fall. Our newly ordained, Fr. Bert Mello, is assigned to St. Anthony of Padua Church, here, in Fresno. Father Dan Avila, our Vocation Director, says the Bishop has accepted five more candidates to enter the seminary. Also, we are blessed with priests from outside the U.S. who come to assist us. The Diocese is working to restructure the orientation program for these foreign priests.

The Santa Teresita Youth Conference Center in Three Rivers has completed Phases 1 and 2. This is a tremendous gift for our youth in the Diocese. At the dedication ceremonies, in May, the Bishop blessed the facility, even the swimming pool!

Other news included the assignment of new Deans for each Deanery within the Diocese who will act as Advisers to the Bishop. New Rectors have been appointed to our two Catholic high schools: Msgr. Rob Wenzinger has been appointed Rector to San Joaquin Memorial and Msgr. Perry Kavookjian to Garces Memorial in Bakersfield. We have the recent appointment of Rosie Hernandez as our new Director of the Office of Ministries.

Business Person of the Month



Rev. Craig Plunkett

Where ever two or more are gathered....

In May of 2009, then Bishop John T. Steinbock commissioned Fr. Craig to acquire property and build a new church in east Clovis with a seating capacity of 1,500. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, and some hard work by Fr. Craig and his committee of dedicated parishioners, this new church will soon become a reality.

On June 1, 2012, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simmerman offered their home to be used as the church rectory. On July 18, 2012, the original property that was selected for the church was sold to the Fresno Flood Control District, with the proceeds of that sales opening escrow in October 2012 for the purchase of ten acres on the corner of Ashlan & Thompson Avenues.

With the continual growth and support of the community and congregation, the building of the new church and parish is progressing nicely. Currently, mass is offered every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at Clovis East High School in the multipurpose room.

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Meetings

Save the Dates!

- September 13th
- October 11th
- November 8th
- December 13th

Contact us for more info!
(559)434-2722
Reservations@cpbcfresno.org

Book Review By John Kasaian

The Ear of the Heart
Mother Dolores Hart, OSB and Richard DeNeut
 455 pages, hardbound
 Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 2013

My daughter Claire and I attended a book signing by Mother Dolores Hart at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Fresno, which was sponsored by KNXT television station. All I knew was that my daughter had an interest in drama at San Joaquin Memorial and Dolores Hart had been a very successful actress opposite Elvis Presley before leaving Hollywood to enter a monastery. Also, I saw an interview on EWTN with Fr. Benedict Groeschel, who discussed the importance of being in the prayers of a religious contemplative. The problem of course, is one seldom knows of a religious contemplative to ask---they're all in monasteries.

It so happened that at the time I'd just written the Poor Claires with a request to photograph some subjects and had been most graciously turned down by the Mother Superior since my subjects were cloistered.

However, at least I had made the acquaintance of a contemplative religious which is a rare thing in itself. Therefore, I asked her to remember my family and I in her prayers and I have no doubt we've been greatly blessed because of her.

It is difficult to understand how and why anyone would seek to live cloistered within a monastery, much less a Hollywood star like Dolores Hart and therein is the attraction of this memoir.

That and Mother Dolores Hart is one of the coolest people I have had the pleasure to meet. At the book signing we were treated to the award winning HBO documentary *God Is The Bigger Elvis* as an introduction (it is available on YouTube). Do a search and you'll see why I found Dolores Hart so enchanting. After the lights turned back on she gave her talk, she entertained questions, posed for photographs, and signed copies of her book. It was a delightful, enchanting evening.

The story of her dysfunctional family and nurturing, colorful grandparents is all too familiar, but her life takes an unusual turn when as a small child she is sent to a Catholic school because her grandmother feared for her crossing a set of streetcar tracks every day. By a fortuitous mishap, she ends up in a catechism class and becomes a Catholic which, in a special way unites her to her Catholic classmates who seemed to enjoy stronger, more stable families than the one her own parents were able to provide. This stability was something she desired, but seldom possessed until "making it" in Hollywood. Mother Hart's Hollywood (and Broadway stage) stories are alone worthy of a book. I found her adventures and accounts of the constellation of stars she worked with absolutely riveting. Her desire for a contemplative monastic life, the difficulties of adjusting to that life, and later being charged with making her foundation's 1,500 year old discernment process more understanding for modern women is entertaining as well as inspirational.

If you enjoy sinking into a big thick hard cover book that will fill you with "Eureka!" moments, don't miss getting your own copy of "The Ear of the Heart."

Pastor/Parish Profile



Fr. Bert Mello

Profiled by Don Cardell

Please join me in welcoming Fr. Bert Mello to our parish of St. Anthony of Padua.

Father Bert Mello was born on June 14, 1953 (Flag Day!), and baptized into the Catholic Church on the 4 Anthony Catholic Church, where he also received his First Communion and Confirmation.

He has one sibling, Lena. Fr. Bert attended St. Anthony's Catholic School in Atwater, CA. for 8 years, and then attended Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School in Merced, CA. and was part of the last graduating class in 1971.

Fr. Bert attended Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Oregon. He held various leadership offices during his years there, including Academic Chair, Cultural Chair, Theology Banker, Peace and Social Justice Chair, and then culminating with being elected the Chair of Theology, which also led to his being the Chair of the Pastoral Council for student government, in his last year of school. He graduated on May 11, 2013, and was ordained a Catholic priest on June 1, 2013 by Bishop Armando Ochoa, 5 Diocese of Fresno.

His calling to the priesthood involved specific encounters with the Person of Jesus Christ, especially in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Fr. Bert enjoys baseball, football, swimming, basketball and tennis; but really enjoys his daily walks. His favorite sports teams include the San Francisco 49ers and Giants; San Jose Sharks and the Sacramento Kings. His favorite Scripture is John 6:53-59; which features Jesus saying "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him". St. Anthony of Padua is Fr. Bert's first assignment, and he is currently a Chaplain for different groups; including the Knights of Columbus parish Council at St. Anthony of Padua; the Knights of Columbus Assembly Council of Fresno and the Legion of Mary at St. Anthony's. He will also

For Religious Vocations

Father, you call all who believe in you to grow perfect in love by following in the footsteps of Christ your Son. May those whom you have chosen to serve you as a religious provide by their way of life a convincing sign of your kingdom for the Church and the whole world.

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CP&BC Membership Renewals Due: It's time to renew your CP&BC membership for the 2013-14 year. Annual dues are \$45.00 per person. A membership application form is available on our website at www.cpbcfresno.org. For more information contact Denise Correia at 559.999.9153 or Kathy Andes at membership@cpbcfresno.org.

Reservations: Reservations are required for all breakfast meetings, held at Pardini's, and can be made by calling Denise Correia at 559.434.2722 or by visiting www.cpbcfresno.org then click on the reservation link. Doors open at 7 a.m. for coffee and networking. The program concludes at 8:30 a.m. The cost for each breakfast is \$15 for members and \$20 for guests.

Membership Directory: It's time to start planning for the 2014 Membership Directory! Ad space starts at only \$50. Contact Denise Correia at directory@cpbcfresno.org for more information. Deadline for ads in the January 2014 publication is December 1, 2013.

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 559.439.8378) to become part of the network or to submit a prayer request.

Website: Please be sure to visit www.cpbcfresno.org for all the latest information about the club. CP&BC thanks Rod Silver of ARTCO for the design and maintenance of the website.

CP&BC Board:

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