



CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Catholic Professional & Business Club
Diocese of Fresno

Established: 1997

CP&BC Board

2013-2015

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December Meeting - Santa Al



Our December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party! Holiday attire is encouraged. Please bring an unwrapped warm blanket, jacket or sweater as a Christmas present for a needy child or adult for distribution through Catholic Charities.

This year, "Santa Al" will be on hand to complement our traditional Christmas theme and fun networking program. We'll also hear a special Christmas message from our club's Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Timothy Cardoso, and

Kelly Lilles, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Fresno Diocese will give us insight into the current needs of our needy neighbors in Fresno and will share important information about how CP&BC members can help with the Mission of Catholic Charities in particular.

This is always a well-attended event, so be sure to register early!

Catholic Charities - Donations

What we really need this year are blankets, socks, jackets and items to keep people warm during the cold winter months and would prefer these donations over toys. I would like to thank the Catholic Professional Business Club for their continued support of Catholic Charities and all that they do for our clients. We are seeing an increase in service to those in need and have been serving over 100 plus families per day. Without the help of our donors it would be very difficult to keep up this pace. We are so blessed to have the support of our CP&BC friends, may God bless you all and Merry Christmas to you and yours!

- Kelly Lilles

What's Inside?

- Did you miss last month's speaker?
- Book Review "The Battle Ground ..."
- Who's the Business Person of the Month?
- December Prayer
- Events to look forward to!
- And More

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Speaker Recap - Katherine Andes

KATHY@ANDESANDASSOCIATES.COM

Our November speaker, Tom Carroll, did not disappoint the crowd. Carroll, who hails from Visalia, is a former officer with the Clandestine Service of the CIA. He spent years under cover in the Middle East. While living in Istanbul, Turkey, he and his wife converted to Catholicism within six months of moving there.

He told our group, "I was raised a Baptist, but if you go to Turkey and see all the ancient churches that date back to early Christianity, it affects you. You can make an argument that the Catholic Church is wrong about this or that doctrine, but you can't make the argument that all of the ancient churches were wrong."

Carroll presented a historical and realistic assessment of the situation in the Middle East. He doesn't put on rose-colored glasses, but he also doesn't overlook the good things. He pointed out some interesting facts like, in the 1980s, Bethlehem was 50% Christian, today it's 5%. Another interesting fact is that Syria is 39% Christian and that Bashar Al Asad protects them. If he falls, the Christians will likely be persecuted as were, and still are, after Saddam Hussein's fall.

Carroll believes that some hope may lie in the current development of Turkey, where a "neo-Ottoman" consensus appears to be emerging. The results are a secular state that is pro free-enterprise, with a broader view of the Middle East. Some Muslims, whose families had historically been Christian, are converting back to Christianity and they are not being persecuted. Former church properties are being given back, Christian churches are being restored, and more openly Christian politicians are running for and being elected to office. None of the preceding are perfect or of pure intent, but they are there nonetheless and Carroll sees them as openings for a better Middle East.

During the question and answer period, Carroll recommended a book entitled *How Civilizations Die: (And Why Islam is Dying Too)* by David P. Goldman. Carroll said it was a "brilliant" book. It tells how some important Muslim countries have an extremely low birthrate and the ramifications for the future.

Also during the Q&A, a question was asked about his view of Benghazi. He said that he doesn't know what happened, but he found it illuminating that up to 30,000 Libyan protestors in Benghazi marched against the militias that had murdered the Americans, turning them over to authorities, and causing them to flee. That is a large proportion of the population of Benghazi that was involved in the protests.

Carroll also brought some ancient artifacts for us to touch and examine after the meeting. A Canaanite oil lamp from 800 B.C.; a more advanced Greek oil lamp from 300 B.C.; and, an Armenian bridal wash basin from the early 1900s. He did ask us to "be careful" when handling them. We were.

Business Person of the Month

Efrain Santos

Efrain Santos has been a banker for Bank of the West for almost 8 years now. He started his banking career in 2004 in San Diego with U.S. Bank and became their top banker in the area within 18 months. In January 2006 he took a position with Bank of the West where he was able to excel in real estate lending & small business development. He transferred to his Fresno location in March 2007 after getting married to his lovely wife. They have since had 3 children of their own & opened their home as foster parents for Fresno County. As a local banker in Fresno, Efrain takes pride in his relational approach to helping businesses find the necessary solutions for their company and is changing the negative reputation that bankers have made over the last few years. He has now become one of the top producing bankers for Bank of the West in the Fresno area.

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Meetings

Save the Dates!

- December 13th
- February 14th
- March 14th

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

Book Review **By John Kasaian**

The Battle Ground, Syria and Palestine, the Seed Plot of Religion

By Hilaire Belloc

291 pages, paper bound.

Ignatius Press, San Francisco

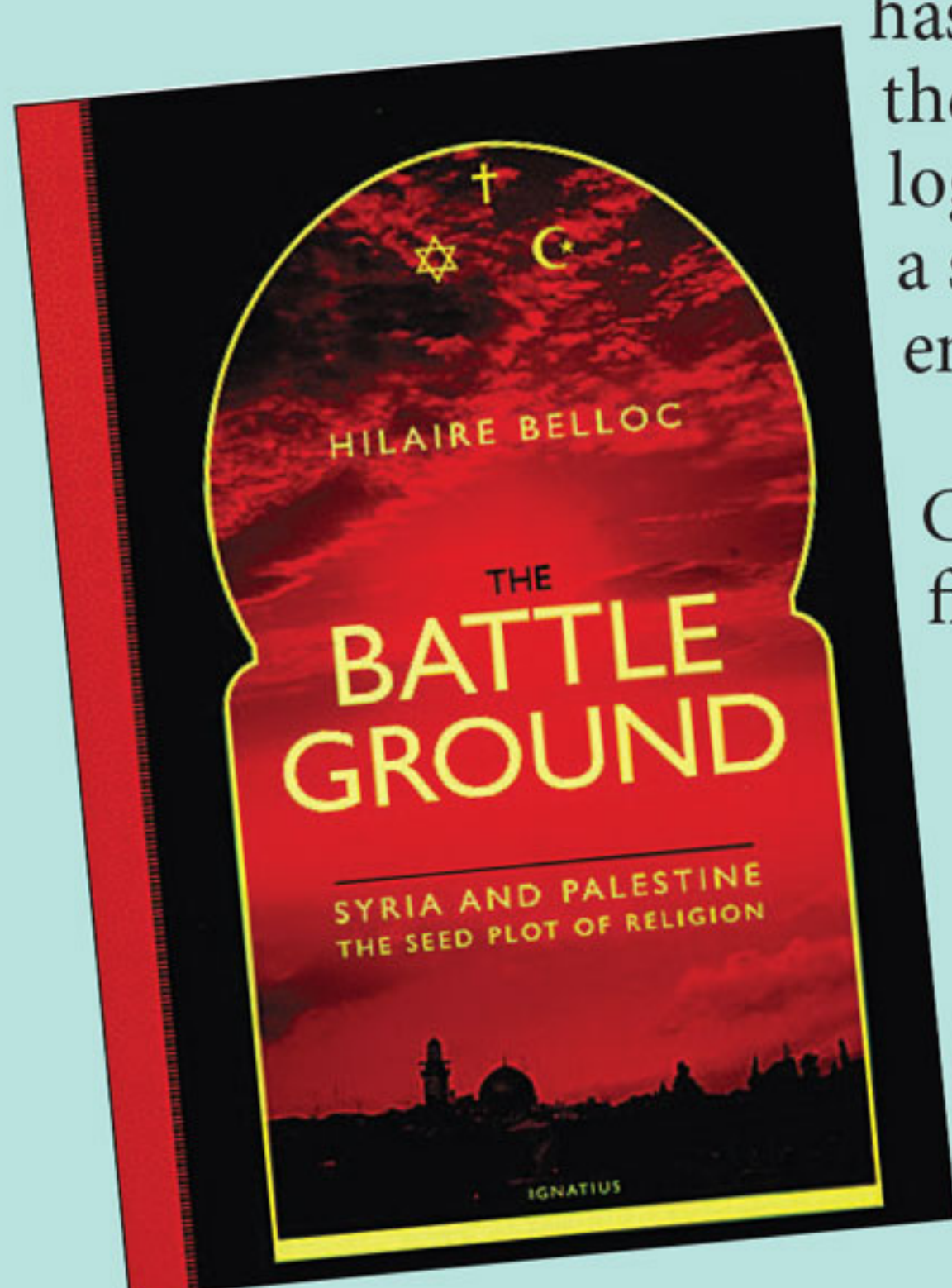
The Battle Ground was written in 1938 at a time when there were very many battle grounds around the globe which Belloc could have written about so at first glance it seems rather odd that he'd select Syria as a topic then, but in view of what's happening in the middle east now it offers a splendid narrative---in a style not unlike James Michener (or maybe Michener's style should be considered not unlike Belloc's?) Of what was and what still is going on in Syria and why religion plays such a large part in it.

The book devotes quite a bit of the first part to the harsh physical geography of Syria and is recollected throughout the rest of the book---it is an excellent description and important in understanding why and how the economic, political and religious potential of the region developed the way it did.

Belloc explains how Egypt, Assyria, Persia, Greece, Israel and Rome in turn "tilled" the soil in the desert, so to speak, and how the seeds of Christianity were sown leading to a victory until the sand dunes of the desert representative of Islam once more despoiled the land.

This is an insightful book, especially now that the US has been rattling its sabers in the direction of Syria. Throw a log on the fire, get comfy with a snifter of warmed cognac and enjoy.

Cotter's Religious Supply can fix you up with a copy.



Pastor/Parish Profile

Deacon Bill Lucido



Profiled by Don Cardell

Deacon Bill Lucido was born in Quantico, VA, and grew up in San Diego. He attended Sacred Heart Academy

in Ocean Beach and graduated from University of San Diego High School. After two years at the University of San Diego, he transferred to Fresno State College and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics in 1970. He earned his pilot's wing from the United State Air Force and spent 30 years in the California Air National Guard. After retiring from the Guard, he served for 11 years as Director of Development, Director of Communication, and editor of the Central California Catholic Life for the Diocese of Fresno. In 2003 he began studies toward ordination as a permanent deacon. He was ordained a deacon by Cardinal Roger Mahony on January 15, 2011. As a Deacon he was assigned to serve at Saint Paul Catholic Newman Center by Msgr. Myron Cotta, the Diocesan Administrator. Deacon Bill has been a member of St. Paul Catholic Newman Center since 1970. He met his wife, Betsy, at the University of San Diego and they were married June 6, 1964. They have four daughters and nine grandchildren.

Prayer To Obtain Favors

HAIL and blessed be the hour and moment in which the son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother.

Amen.

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**CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL
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DIOCESE OF FRESNO**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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](tel:559.999.9153) or Katherine Andes at [559.309.2940](tel:559.309.2940).

Reservations: Reservations are required for all breakfast meetings, held at Pardini's, and can be made by calling Denise Correia at [559.434.2722](tel: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](tel: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.

Mission Statement:

As Catholic professional and business men and women, we are called to live our Christian ethics not only on Sundays, but throughout our daily lives at home and at work.

Our goal in the Catholic Professional & Business Club shall be to incorporate and uphold our beliefs in every aspect of our daily lives, and to gather to share with others who seek a more ethical business environment.

Each of us shall strive to achieve a commingling of our ethical obligations and our professional obligations in demonstration of the fact that ethics and business need not be mutually exclusive terms.

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