



# CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Catholic Professional & Business Club  
Diocese of Fresno

Established: 1997

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2013-2015

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## February Speaker - David John Casper



Profiled by Tom Lang

CP&BC Fresno's February 2014 speaker is David John Casper — born February 2, 1952 in Bemidji, Minnesota — a retired American football player who now travels the U.S. speaking on faith, sports and business. He was a prominent NFL offensive lineman and tight end nicknamed “The Ghost.” Today, Dave assists business owners with financial planning and consultation work.

Dave spent his first three years of high school at St. Edward Central Catholic High school in Elgin, Illinois. His final year of high school was at Chilton High School in Chilton, Wisconsin, and he played collegiate football at the University of Notre Dame, where he earned Honorable Mention All-America as a tackle in 1972. In 1973, he was named an All-American tight end. He earned his bachelor's degree in economics in 1974; he was also the captain of the Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society for Economics. He was drafted in the second round of the 1974 NFL draft by the Oakland Raiders.

Casper caught the first touchdown of Super Bowl XI, a 32-14 Raiders victory over the Minnesota Vikings. As a Raider, Casper was selected to four straight Pro Bowls (1976-1979).

Casper finished his pro career with 378 receptions, 5,216 yards, and 52 touchdowns. In 2002, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He was the 13th Raider to be inducted.

## What's Inside?

- Did you miss last month's speaker?
- Book Review “What Were the Crusades?”
- Who's the Business Person of the Month?
- February Prayer
- Upcoming Events
- And More

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## Meeting Recap

By Katherine Andes

KATHY@ANDESANDASSOCIATES.COM

Our December meeting lived up to its reputation for fun, fellowship, and sweet treats from Santa Al. Everyone was asked to help Catholic Charities. This year the need was for warm coats and blankets, and at the

end, there was a generous pile of both for old and young.

A special check was presented to Catholic Charities by area high school students. Nicholas Ferdinandi - San Joaquin Memorial High School, Megan Haney - Clovis West, and Lindsie Hiatt - Clovis North headed the More Than Meals Campaign raising over \$4,000 to assist in food purchases for Catholic Charities clients. Nick Ferdinandi stated, "I have discovered one common lesson: it doesn't take much to make a big impact in people's lives. For example, Catholic Charities can purchase four boxes of cereal for \$1.00. Money raised can do so much more through these charitable organizations. A little money raised buys a lot of food and a little time spent playing ball with a child or telling ghost stories shows people there is hope alive in this world. This lesson has increased my desire to continue making a difference in my community throughout my life." Kelly Lilles, ED of Catholic Charities expressed her thanks.

During the meeting, a special thanks was given to Bishop Armando Ochoa; our spiritual advisor, Father Tim Cardoso; founders Frank and Mary Borges; our president Tom Ferdinandi; our cheerleader-in-chief Monsignor Myron Cotta; and our awesome caterer, Pardini's.

After breakfast, each table answered with laughter and enthusiasm a questionnaire about cherished family traditions. Emcee Tom Lang visited tables for stories. My favorite was about the sneaky mom who put numbers on the gifts under the tree, so the kiddies wouldn't be tempted to shake or open their gifts.

## Prayer to St. Blaise or Blase for protection, particularly from afflictions of the throat.



O glorious Saint Blaise, who by thy martyrdom didst leave to the Church a precious witness to the faith, obtain of us the grace to preserve within ourselves this divine gift, and to defend, without human respect, both by word

and example, the truth of that same faith, which is so wickedly attacked and slandered in these our times. Thou who didst miraculously restore a little child when it was at the point of death by reason of an affliction of the throat, grant us thy mighty protection in like misfortunes; and, above all, obtain for us the grace of Christian mortification together with a faithful observance of the precepts of the Church, which may keep us from offending Almighty God.

Amen.

## Business Person of the Month



### Kelly Lilles

My name is Kelly Lilles, and I have been with Catholic Charities, Diocese of Fresno (CCDOF) since 2007, coming on as the Development Director and then moving into my current role as Executive Director. I have been married to my husband Paul Lilles for 24 years, and we have three sons, Devin, Connor and Grant. My family means everything to me, and it brings me great comfort to have their support of my

commitment and work here at CCDOF. Our mission here at CCDOF is to respect the presence of God among us; we serve, advocate for and empower those in need. Although food and clothing are our main focus, CCDOF provides a service called the Representative Payee Program that helps our clients, who are unable to do so themselves, pay their monthly bills; we also provide a Senior Companion Program that consists of seniors helping seniors. Please feel free to come down and see us anytime for a tour or to volunteer. 559-375-2217 or klilles@ccdof.org.

## Upcoming Events

### Breakfast Meetings

Save the Dates!

- February 14th
- March 14th
- April 11th

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



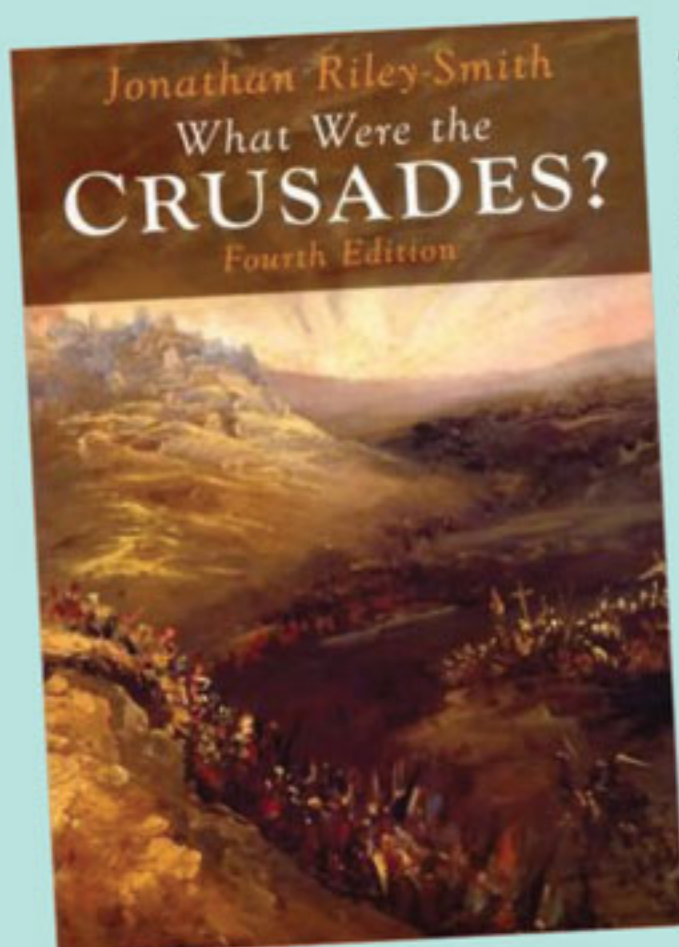
## Book Review By John Kasaian

**What Were the Crusades? 4th Edition**  
 By Jonathan Riley-Smith  
 Ignatius Press, San Francisco 2009  
 117 pages, paperback

I enjoy Church History but this little book took me by surprise as it does not take sides but is rather a dispassionate look at what is considered to be a Crusade and how they were conducted. I was treated to bits of the preaching of St Bernard of Clairvaux which aroused the passions of the populace, but this book presented through the dispassionate eyes of a scholar--- not a bad thing. In fact it is what makes this book so interesting, in particular the fine points of the Just War principles defined by Augustine and Aquinas. What makes this relevant today is the comparison of Just War with the very strange excuses given for much of the military adventurism going on today.

Another point worthy of attention is who exactly were the crusaders? There were military orders, but most crusaders were comprised of the young and old (mostly old) male and female (yes, female) not-so-commoners of the day, bound by an oath, the exact wording often changing, but the crusaders freely agreed for the oath to be binding until the objectives of the oath were achieved.

Yet another point covered was the cost of the Crusades and how revenues were raised---and you thought taxes are oppressive today! With little to offer as recompense for the taxes, indulgences were offered, and it is easy to see how the burdens of over taxation and rather sketchy ideas for indulgences played into the hands of the Protestants seeking to divide the Church.



This is a really interesting book and while it sounds sleep inducing, it is not. It brings to mind questions as relevant in today's mid-eastern drama as they were in the times of Popes Urban, Calixtus II, Eugenius III, Innocents III & IV, and Gregory VIII.

You can purchase a copy at Cotter's Religious Goods.

## Pastor/Parish Profile



**Rev. Monsignor John Griesbach**  
 by Don Cardell

Monsignor John Griesbach was born in Tulare, California as one of six children: two brothers, Tom and Bill; and, three sisters, Marmie, Donna, and Beth.

He grew up in a strong Catholic family where there were priests frequently in their home. So from an early age, young John was interested in religious life and had a great admiration for the clergy. One of his favorite memories was of Monsignor Jim Maloney taking him and his brother, Tom, for a plane ride over the family home. Down below, a parent said, "I think Monsignor Maloney just dive bombed our house with the boys!"

John's family had a lumber business, and John grew up learning all aspects of the business from cutting trees in the forest all the way to selling the lumber in the lumberyard.

John was baptized October 8, 1950 at St. Aloysius in Tulare, had his First Communion in 1957, and was confirmed in 1962. He attended St. Aloysius School (Tulare), Ryan Seminary (Fresno), St. John's Camarillo Theology Studies (Menlo Park), the American College (Belgium), and was ordained in 1976. His served in parishes in Tulare, Fresno, and Kern counties, was a Vice Rector at American College in Belgium, and is presently the Director of St. Anthony Retreat Center, Three Rivers, CA.

Monsignor's hobbies are fishing and oil painting. He is noted for his landscapes, and he has painted many scenes of the Central Valley, the Sierras, and the state's coastline. He says that "Painting landscapes captures the deep spirituality he feels reflected in the natural world." Sports are also of great interest to him. He enjoyed competing in softball until an injury made it impossible to continue.

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**CP&BC Membership Dues:** Annual dues are \$45.00 per person. A membership application form is available on our website at [www.cpbcfresno.org](http://www.cpbcfresno.org). For more information contact Denise Correia at [559.999.9153](tel:559.999.9153) or David Austin at [559.473.9667](tel:559.473.9667).

**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](http://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 2015 Membership Directory! Ad space starts at only \$50. Contact Denise Correia at [directory@cpbcfresno.org](mailto:directory@cpbcfresno.org) for more information. Deadline for ads in the January 2015 publication is December 1, 2014.

**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](mailto: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](http://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.

## **Publisher:**

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