



CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Catholic Professional & Business Club
Diocese of Fresno

Established: 1997

CP&BC Board

2013-2015

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October 9th Speaker — Luke Spehar

Profiled by Tom Lang

CP&BC Fresno's October 9th, 2015 speaker is actually a Catholic singer. Twin Cities native, Luke Spehar, crafts Catholic folk music with his intricate finger-picking guitar style and raw lyrics that draw the listener deeper into the dynamic journey of life lived in the light of God's love and create a unique space for prayer and reflection.



Luke grew up in a small rural community north of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, and began writing songs at the age of sixteen. He composed all of the music on his debut album, *Be Still*, before he graduated high school. *Be Still* chronicles his triumphs and struggles in his Catholic faith throughout high school. He continued to write music throughout his college years, a time he devoted to discerning a potential call to the Catholic priesthood. The songs from his second album, *No Other Way*, were born during this challenging time of growth and reflection through adoration and philosophical formation.

Following seminary, Luke felt drawn and inspired to use his gift of music to participate in the New Evangelization. Since then, he has performed for audiences in churches, cafes, and university auditoriums; for youth groups, colleges, and for U.S. military events. In 2012, Luke was honored to open for Grammy Award-winning musician Ben Harper on tour in both the U.S. and Canada.

In September 2014, Luke released his much-anticipated third album, *All Is Gift!*, co-produced by Ben Harper and Sheldon Gomberg. In January 2015, he married Elizabeth Yetzer, and together, they are traveling the country sharing *All Is Gift!*

What's Inside?

- Did you miss last month's speaker?
- Book Review
- Business Person of the Month
- October Prayer
- Upcoming Events
- And More

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Speaker Recap

By Pauline Smoke

How does Bear Woznick—champion tandem surfer, private pilot, long distance bicyclist, Harley rider, and Ninja black belt—begin and end his day? In prayer, reading, and reflection. You see, he is also a novitiate oblate of the Benedictine Monastery of Oahu, host of EWTN Radio’s “Deep Adventure,” and much more. He prays the Liturgy of the Hours, and reads from The Imitation of Christ and the Catechism of the Catholic Church (one paragraph per day), because, “Readers are leaders, and we need to be prepared when we’re called to defend our faith.”

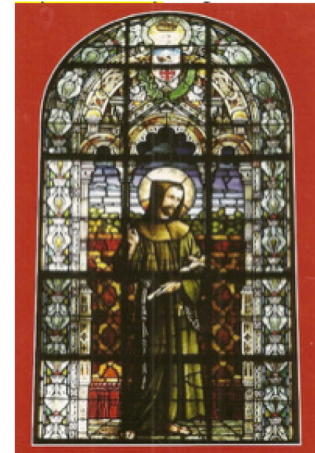
Bear envisions Jesus as a “bouncer,” a “linebacker,” or as riding a Harley with his gang, “The Apostles.” These images fit his focus on Jesus’ challenging words in Luke 12:51: “Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.” Accordingly, Bear’s rosary and black belt hang from the same hook in the entrance to his home, and he calls Catholics “the Navy SEALs of Christianity”—proud to proclaim the faith, even in the face of great personal risk.

Bear believes we are all called to continual conversion, and that Christ’s gift of complete “self-donation” offers us an “overabundance of grace.” He compares the effort to find and serve God to a surfer who wipes out on a big wave. If he’s lucky, the surfer will hit bottom, enabling him to push off and swim toward the surface. Swimming becomes harder as he approaches the surface, but faith will sustain him until he reaches the goal.



Prayer Research & Submission

By Mary Borges



St. Francis of Assisi – Feast Day October 4

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.



Business Person of the Month

Cruz Avila, Executive Director of Poverello House



Cruz Avila, Executive Director for Poverello House since September 2013, manages a \$2.2 million budget, 27 employees, Naomi’s House, The Men’s Resident Rehabilitation program — a temporary overnight shelter for men and women — and collaborates with other agencies to provide access to mental health counseling and housing. Cruz’s professional experience has focused on organization management in non-profits, community development, and social services including managing the statewide Residential Services for Housing with Heart and working in the Riverside County Office of Education

as a Resource Manager and Counselor.

Born in Fresno and raised in Sanger, his parents, who worked in the agriculture industry, taught him and his siblings the value of hard work, a good education, and strong moral values. Already in possession of a Bachelor of Science in Human Services and a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership, he is working on a Master of Arts in Counseling for a Marriage and Family Therapy License. Cruz is married to Vanessa Ramirez-Avila, News Anchor/Executive Producer Telemundo 51, and has two step daughters.

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Meetings

- November 13th
- December 11th
- January No Meeting

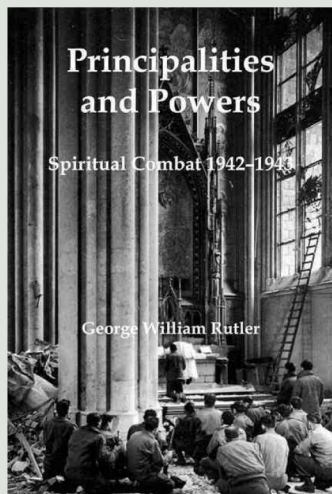
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vavi@cns4u.com

Book Review

By John Kasaian

Principalities and Powers: Spiritual Combat 1942-1943
by Fr. George William Rutler
St. Augustine's Press,
South Bend Indiana
172 pages hardback



Fr. Rutler was left a stack of newspapers, magazines (including *The Tablet*, before it got all wonky), and radio transcriptions by his friend and Historian Msgr. Florence Cohalan. The collection spanned the war years from June 1942 to June 1943. While there is no shortage of World War II history books, this book is one that I find fascinating, especially from a Catholic perspective in view of all the horrific news happening *right now*. This is a treasury of day-by-day reportage of evil and spiritual combat and the lives of the famous and not-so-famous in a world gone insane.

Reading WW II history always brings me back to the question of how both governments and society could fail so profoundly. Reading the reportage of the events in the chronology in which they were reported restores a bit of clarity in the fog of history as events build upon one another in all corners of the world to amass into the tragedy that was the war and how those same principalities and powers are still with us in today's pressing issues.

The history of the Roman Catholic Church and, in particular, the Vatican City State is exceptionally well documented through *The Tablet*, *L'Osservatore Romano*, and Vatican City Radio as well nationalist Catholic media defending the Reich in a war of words *against* the Holy See in both print and broadcast radio.

I recommend this book to any student of world affairs past, present, and future. Cotter Religious Goods can order you a copy.

Board Profile

By RosaMaria Henry

When Bishop John invited the Pastoral Center Staff to attend the first meeting of CP&BC, several staff members and I jumped at the opportunity. The speakers over the years have strengthened my faith as have the members of the Club. Each speaker has shared a different and very personal perspective of their faith journeys. The CP&BC has helped to expand the Catholic voice in the Central Valley in concert with KNXT-TV and proven to be an effective instrument for affirming our faith.



I stumbled into broadcasting over 30 years ago by answering a small ad in the Fresno Bee. My initial aspirations were to teach high school Spanish, but as we know God has a plan for each of us. So I was led to broadcasting for a purpose, which I realized after leaving Univision. I then found my way to the Chancery Office as Bishop Madera, Father Dave Duran, and Marv Harrison were laying the ground work for the launch of the diocesan television station, a Catholic voice for the Central Valley. I had often wondered why a Catholic over-the-air outreach did not exist. Well KNXT filled that void by following the scripture directive to spread the Gospel. The mission continues with inspiring programming locally produced and in affiliation with major Catholic networks.

Denise Correia graciously invited me to join the CP&BC Board last spring. I was honored to be asked and eager to contribute to the continuing outreach to our Catholic business community.

In retirement I've found new adventurers in volunteering at Newman Center, participating on the Boards of Healing Hope, and Three Rivers Retreat Center. As Bob and I celebrate fifteen years of marriage, we enjoy visiting children and grandchildren who live along the Coast from San Diego to Portland.

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**CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL
& BUSINESS CLUB
DIOCESE OF FRESNO**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CP&BC Membership Dues: Annual dues are \$45 per person. A membership application form is available on our website at www.cpbcfresno.org. The deadline is December 31, 2015 to be included in the directory. For more information contact Denise Correia at [559.999.9153](tel:559.999.9153).

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 starts at 7:20 a.m. and concludes at 8:30 a.m. The cost for each breakfast is \$15 for members and \$20 for guests.

Membership Directory: Ad space starts at \$50. Contact Al Aguila at directory@cpbcfresno.org for more information. December 15, 2015 is the deadline to reserve ad space. December 31, 2015 is the deadline for artwork.

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 our club. CP&BC thanks J. Colin Petersen of J - I.T. Outsource 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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