



CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Catholic Professional & Business Club
Diocese of Fresno

Established: 1997

CP&BC Board

2013-2016

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March 11 Speaker – Mike Koelzer (R. Ph.)

Profiled by Tom Lang



Our March 11th speaker is Mike Koelzer, the Catholic Pro-Life pharmacist who has been featured on ABC World News with Charles Gibson and in The Washington Post after stopping the sale of all contraceptives in his third-generation family-owned pharmacy.

After taking a year off from pharmacy studies to discern a potential calling to the priesthood at the Redemptorist Seminary in St. Louis, MO, Mike returned to continue

his pharmacy studies at Purdue University. He graduated from pharmacy school in 1991 and joined his father at their family-owned pharmacy. Mike married his college sweetheart that same year.

After nearly five years working in the pharmacy with his father, Mike was surprised to find out from a friend that birth control pills could act as abortifacients, which means that they can cause an abortion after conception. After much scientific research, prayer, and studying the Catholic Church's stance on the evils of contraception, Mike decided to approach his father with this information to see if his dad would agree to stop selling contraceptives. The response Mike received from his father was a disappointing "no." But that is only the beginning to his amazing story — one that would catch national attention and shake the country.

Today, Mike encourages people to make right choices when they are faced with challenges in their own careers and personal lives. He challenges us to become the person God is calling us to be, no matter the cost. Mike lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan with his wife, Margaret and ten children.

What's Inside?

- Did you miss last month's speaker?
- Book Review
- Business Person of the Month

- March Prayer
- Upcoming Events
- And More

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Speaker Recap

Daniel “Rudy” Ruettiger

By Pauline Smoke



CP&BC thanks all of our members, donors and special sponsors for making Rudy's appearance possible.

The February meeting of the CP&BC came to order to sounds of the Notre Dame fight song. After abbreviated opening procedures, chants of “Rudy! Rudy! Rudy!” rang out as Daniel “Rudy” Ruettiger—whose struggles to become part of the Notre Dame football team inspired the movie Rudy—stepped to the microphone.

Most people know the movie's narrative: Rudy grew up in a large Catholic family as devoted to Notre Dame's “Fighting Irish” as to the Church. He was determined to play football at Notre, but poverty, blue collar culture, and poor grades due to dyslexia stood in his way.

Adding details omitted in the film, Rudy told the audience that the first time he was judged on what he could do—rather than what he couldn't—was in the Navy. A drill instructor who recognized his passion and the discipline he had learned at home put him in a leadership role. When he finally got to Holy Cross Junior College and Notre Dame, Rudy fulfilled his dream by relying on prayer, brutally hard work, and mentors who helped him turn obstacles into opportunities. A teammate suggested that Rudy pitch his story to Hollywood, but it took ten years of persistent effort before the movie made it to theaters. It's now considered one of the most inspiring sports films of all time.

Rudy believes good leaders ask, “What do you know?” Great leaders ask, “What's your passion?” Amen, and go Irish!

Prayer Research & Submission By Mary Borges



Prayer to Saint Lazarus Patron of the Poor and the Sick.

Dear patron and assistant of the poor and sick.
With this prayer I request your assistance, and
with the aid of the Holy Spirit may the
Lord always protect me during sickness or in
health.

Saint Lazarus give me the strength to overcome all
the temptations on earth.
Amen.

Lazarus, the friend of Jesus, the brother of Martha
and Mary, was the one of whom the Jews said,
“See how much he loved him.” In their sight Jesus
raised his friend Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus'
feast day is March 27, which is the same day as
Easter this year.

Easter Sunday

March 27, 2016 from Catholic Online

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. It is celebrated on Sunday, and marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, the last day of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday), and is the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.

As we know from the Gospels, Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day following his crucifixion, which would be Sunday. His resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death. It is the singular event which proves that those who trust in God and accept Christ will be raised from the dead. Since Easter represents the fulfilment of God's promises to mankind, it is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar...

The Easter date is movable and always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Easter in the Roman Catholic Church is always on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Meetings

- April 8
- May 13
- June 10

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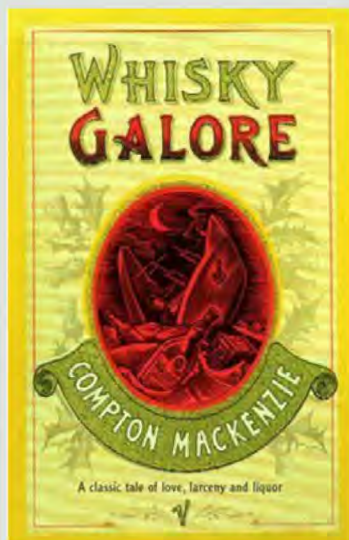
Contact Denise Correia
vavi@cns4u.com

Book Review

by John Kasaian

Whisky Galore
by Compton Mackenzie
266 pages, hardbound
Birlinn Ltd., Edinburgh
2012

The story may sound familiar as the book was first published in 1947 and released as a movie in 1949 where it became a classic in the genre of British comedy films.



It is hilarious story of the Hebridean Islands off the coast of Scotland during WWII, when supplies of Scotch Whisky were redirected to fuel the war effort and for the islanders, there was none — None — until a ship laden with liquor ran aground and the islanders did their best to relieve the scuttled ship of its cargo.

This is a classic comic novel full of memorable characters, situational humor, and historic vignettes of the home front, but what I found fascinating was the author, Compton Mackenzie, a Catholic convert from a British theater family, who not only identified with the Church of Rome, but also with the Scottish surname of his ancestors. If reinventing oneself as a Scottish Catholic wasn't enough of an accomplishment, Mackenzie spent WWI as Her Majesty's master spy in Greece. At the end of the war, he published his memoirs in the tradition of most British Officers, and it was widely received until the clouds of WWII formed and someone in the British Government decided that writing about how British Intelligence did business should be kept a secret. So the book was pulled and Mackenzie prosecuted.

An interesting quirk is that many of the real life operatives Mackenzie wrote about reappeared in the Ian Fleming James Bond novels in the 1950's and 60's. "M" "Q," and the rest were originally identified by Compton Mackenzie in Greek islands during the Great War (World War I)! Whisky Galore is an entertaining, fast moving novel perfect for a few evenings by the fire or in honor of St. Patrick, who was, of course, Irish, not Scottish!

You can order your copy from Cotter's Religious Goods



Pastor Profile

**Father Craig
Plunkett, Divine
Mercy, Clovis**

Fr. Craig was an only child born in Bakersfield. Neither of his parents were

religious, but at seven his stepmother encouraged him in the Catholic faith. In Junior High, Valley Fever kept him out of school and almost took his life. While ill and as an Altar Boy he always felt blessed to have priests in his life. He attended Our Lady of Guadalupe Junior High and Garces Memorial, graduating in 1966. He majored in Agriculture Science at Bakersfield Junior College and received a Bachelor's in Animal Science from Cal Poly, in 1971. After graduation, Fr. Craig worked for a diversified Farming and Livestock operation for one year and then for thirty years in Agricultural Chemical Sales, covering Bakersfield to Merced.

As a layperson at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, he was involved in neighborhood prayer groups. Marty and Angelia Jelacich encouraged him to consider the priesthood. In 2001, Craig entered St. Meinrad School of Theology, a Benedictine School in Indiana. He received his M.A. Degree and Masters of Divinity in 2006, and on May 27, 2006 he was ordained a priest for our Diocese. His first assignment was at St. Philip the Apostle in Bakersfield as Associate Pastor. On May 9, 2009, Bishop John T. Steinbock commissioned him to acquire property and build a new church in the east part of Clovis with seating for 1500. He also serves as the spiritual advisor for the CP&BC.

Father Craig has always loved listening to and reading Sacred Scripture. When asked his favorite scripture, he chose Luke 15:11-32, the story of the Prodigal Son. He has a great love for Sacred Art, Music, and Architecture. He often recalls his experience at St. Anthony's Retreat Center, which he compares to the Apostles spending time with Jesus, listening and learning, and sharing the Eucharist. As a priest he feels blessed to give the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, and sharing the Eucharist.

Fr. Craig enjoys all sports, especially pro and college football, women's softball, March Madness Basketball, the pro golf tournaments, and rodeo.

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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, 2016 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, 2016 is the deadline to reserve ad space. December 31, 2016 is the deadline for ad artwork. It is too late for the 2016 directory, but it is not too early to think about the 2017 directory.

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.

Publisher:

Uhuru Network, LLC