



# CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Catholic Professional & Business Club  
Diocese of Fresno

Established: 1997 Co-Founders Frank and Mary Borges

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2017-2019

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## November 9—Robert J. Hutchinson

Profiled by Tom Lang

For the past 30 years, Robert J. Hutchinson has worked as a full-time professional writer. He has won numerous awards from the Catholic Press Association and Associated Church Press and has contributed essays and syndicated columns to such outlets as Fox News, TheBlaze, Catholic Exchange, “Christianity Today,” Human Events, the “National Catholic Register,” “Catholic Digest,” “Our Sunday Visitor,” and many more.

An avid traveler, Robert is also the former managing editor of “Hawaii Magazine” and the former Hawaii Bureau Chief for “The Hollywood Reporter.” He has appeared on many Catholic and secular radio shows.

Raised in the Pacific Northwest, Robert attended a Jesuit high school and university, earned an undergraduate degree in philosophy, moved to Israel in his early 20s to learn Hebrew, and earned a graduate degree in New Testament Studies. He specializes in New Testament studies, current events and business.

In his recent talks and books, Robert demonstrates how recent discoveries in archaeology and New Testament studies are challenging many of the older ideas about Jesus of Nazareth and early Christianity that have dominated academic scholarship for more than a century.

As a result of his lifelong research on Jesus, Robert advocates that the unusual philosophical ideas found in the Bible provided the intellectual foundation for western civilization in addition to the development of experimental science.



### Become Part of Our Prayer Network Today!

Prayers when you and your loved ones need them the most!  
It's amazing, simply join the CP&BC Prayer Network,  
call or email your requests, and our network will pray for you.

To join, contact Sally  
[salauritz@att.net](mailto:salauritz@att.net)  
or 559-439-8378

## What's Inside?

- Did you miss our last meeting?
- Book Review
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- November Prayer
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## Speaker Recap Mel Kennedy

By John Gerardi

Our October speaker for the Catholic Professional and Business Club of Fresno was Mel Kennedy. Mel is a Catholic recording artist and “musicianary” who uses her musical ability to help spread the faith to audiences throughout the country.

Mel spoke with us about her graduate work in theology, including her visit to Rome, and how music has inspired her throughout her faith journey. We were also treated to her beautiful performances of “Amazing Grace,” the traditional Irish farewell blessing (“May the road rise to meet you...”), and other beautiful songs with a delightful ukulele accompaniment.

We are so grateful to Mel for sharing her message with us!



**John Gerardi, CP&BC President,  
and Mel Kennedy**

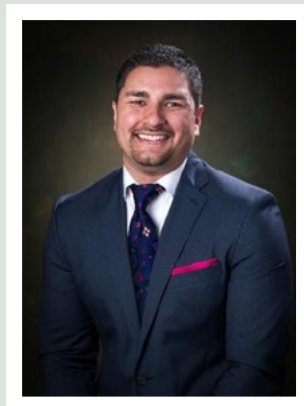


## Business Person of the Month Cruz Avila

Cruz Avila’s family upbringing, his education, and his career choice reflects Cruz’s dedication to serving others to better their lives by teaching and modeling life skills.

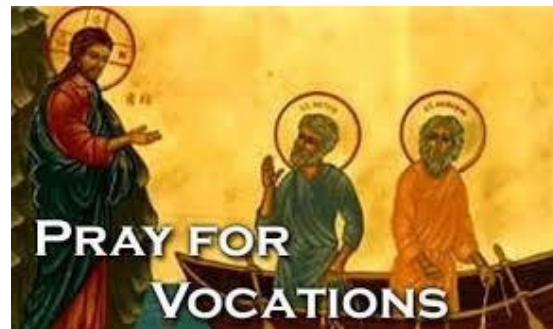
Since September 2018 he has been the CEO for the Poverello House, which includes managing a three million dollar budget, 37 employees, Naomi’s House, the Men’s Resident Rehabilitation program, a temporary overnight shelter for men and women, and collaborating with other agencies to provide clients with access to mental health counseling and housing. Cruz’s professional experience has focused on organization management in non-profits, community development, and social services. He was a Manager of Residential Services for Housing with Heart, and in Riverside he served as a Resource Manager and Counselor including providing family counseling regarding drug and alcohol abuse, and domestic violence.

Cruz Avila was born and raised in Sanger, California. His parents, who worked in the agriculture industry, taught him and his brother the value of hard work, a good education, and strong moral values. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Services, a Master of Art degree in Organizational Leadership, and is working towards completing his Master of Art in Counseling for completion of his Marriage and Family Therapy License (MFT). In his spare time, Cruz likes to do anything outdoors, especially soccer and spending time with his beautiful wife, Tanya, and beautiful daughter, Tatiana.



## Prayer Research and Submission By Mary Borges

### A Prayer for Vocations



God our Father, in baptism you call your people by name and make us one family in your Church. We praise you for your goodness; we thank you for your gifts.

Father, bless your Church with love. Raise up in the Diocese of Fresno good and holy families: loving husbands and wives, devoted parents and children.

Raise up from our families dedicated and generous leaders who will serve as priests and religious for your people. Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen them that they may serve your people following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer our prayer. Amen.

Written by: Rev. Msgr. Patrick McCormick

Edited by: Rev. Dan Avila

## Upcoming Events

- November 9—Breakfast Meeting
- December 14—Breakfast Meeting
- January—No Meeting

Interested in sponsoring  
the newsletter?

Contact Denise Correia  
vavi@cns4u.com



## Book Review

By John Kasaian

**The Fragility of Order,  
Catholic Reflections on  
Turbulent Times**  
By George Weigel  
Ignatius Press, San Francisco  
2018  
223 pages hardcover

No institution seems less orderly right now than the Catholic Church, which is the

topic of this important book by George Weigel.

A compilation of essays written over the course of the past two decades, I found this volume provided a poignant timeline leading up to the suffering which the Church is currently experiencing, which, by all rights, should have been the great new awakening prophesied by St. John Paul II.

George Weigel provides a context by drawing on history, philosophy, diplomacy, economy, and humanism from the end of the 19th century to the current times.

In addition to the history recap, I found Weigel's revisiting of more recent issues—Pope Benedict XVI's brilliant Regensburg speech, the heretical German Bishops, Africa's embrace of Catholicism, and the sabotage of the 2013 - 2014 - 2015 Synods on Marriage and Family—illuminating.

This is an excellent book, and being a collection of essays, it is easy to pick up, read, and ponder if you're short on time. Cotter's Religious Supply can fix you up with a copy.

## New Board Member Profile Kirk Whitney



Kirk Whitney is one of the CP&BC's new board members. He is a native of Fresno and attended St. John's Elementary School. Kirk earned a degree in Home Economics, a Teaching Credential from Fresno State, and an Administrative Services Credential from Fresno Pacific University.

He spent 30 years with the Fresno Unified School District serving in a variety of positions. These included work as an interpreter, classroom teacher, High School Vice Principal, and manager with several district departments. When he retired in 2011, he was the Master Schedule Manager for the District's middle and high schools.

During this time, Kirk and his wife, Debbie raised their three children, Ian, Robin, and Damian. They were parishioners at the Saint Paul Newman Center and currently are members of St. Anthony of Padua Parish. They have participated in the parish's Little Rock Bible Study group since its inception in 2010.

They currently live with their daughter, her husband, and their three grandchildren. In addition to cooking for this combined family of seven, Kirk indulges in hobbies like photography, writing, and travel.

After attending several times as a guest over the years, Kirk Whitney joined the CP&BC in 2018 to, as he told us, "Broaden my interaction with others in Fresno's Catholic Community."

## Pope's Intention for November: Universal

In Service of Peace  
That the language of love and dialogue may  
always prevail over the language of conflict.

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**CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL  
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DIOCESE OF FRESNO**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**CP&BC Membership Dues:** Annual dues are \$45 per person and were due June 30, 2018. A membership application form is available on our website at [www.cpbcfresno.org](http://www.cpbcfresno.org). The deadline is December 31, 2018 to be included in the 2019 directory. For more information contact John Kanaley at 315-243-6597.

**Reservations:** Reservations are required for all breakfast meetings, held at Pardini's, and can be made by calling Lourdes Sanchez at 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 starts at 7:20 a.m. and concludes at 8:30 a.m. The breakfast cost is \$17 for members and \$22 for non-members. An annual discounted cost of \$120 is available to members that prepay for the year; this is a savings of \$33. Reservations are still required for prepays.

**Membership Directory for 2019:** Ad space starts at \$50. Send an email to [directory@cpbcfresno.org](mailto:directory@cpbcfresno.org) for more information. December 15, 2018 is the deadline to reserve ad space. December 31, 2018 is the deadline for ad artwork. More directory information is available at [www.cpbcfresno.org](http://www.cpbcfresno.org).

**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) 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 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:**

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