



# CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Catholic Professional & Business Club  
Diocese of Fresno

Established: 1997 Co-Founders Frank and Mary T. Borges

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2022-2023

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## October 13th Valerie Staples

Our October 13th breakfast speaker, Valerie Staples, is a cradle Catholic and native Southern Californian who felt very close to God during her childhood. But as a teen she began to take her faith for granted like so many of us do. At one point she was even a self-professed "Cafeteria

Catholic".

This would all change when Valerie had her Catholic Faith challenged by a friend who was a self-proclaimed "fundamentalist" and "bible scholar." Not just Valerie, but she and her two sisters were each challenged by well-meaning friends who wanted them to leave the Catholic Church of their youth. It was during this time their father introduced them to the science of apologetics. It was then that Valerie fell in love with her Catholic faith all over again. It would only be a few years later when Valerie would meet and marry one of the most famous modern Catholic apologists in the United States, Tim Staples.

The rest, as they say, is history!

Valerie has been a guest speaker with "Magnificat," is a regular speaker with MOM's Ministries in Southern California and is a full-time homeschooling mother of seven, one of whom is autistic. Valerie has a degree in Liberal Arts, and is a student of philosophy and theology. She has been a facilitator with ENDOW (Education on the Nature and Dignity of Women) study groups and was the Director of Goretta Girls for six years (a San Diego based Catholic fellowship ministry for teens). She is also a Director of Marketing with Legal Shield Services and was Ambassador Secretary with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Orange County.

As anyone who knows Valerie would tell you, she has a passion for sharing her Catholic Faith. And when you join us on October 13th, you'll discover just how inspiring and contagious Valerie's passion truly is.

### CP&BC needs your help

- CP&BC hosts Membership Weekend on October 7 and 8. We can use your help. Contact Tim Dodd at the email below.
- We are looking for a Treasurer (who will also be a board member). QuickBooks experience is desirable. Please contact Tim Dodd if interested or if you have questions. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact Tim Dodd at [timothy.dodd@lpl.com](mailto:timothy.dodd@lpl.com)
- We need parish ambassadors for these parishes. Please contact Tim Dodd. If one of these is your parish, he can explain your easy duties. St. Anthony of Padua, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Our Lady of the Sierra, Our Lady of Victory, Sacred Heart, Shrine of St. Therese, St. Alphonsus, St. Anthony Claret, St. Helen, St. Joachim, St. Joseph, St. Lucy, St. Mary, St. Patrick, St. Brigid, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and St. Ann.
- Follow us on Instagram "@cpbcfresno"

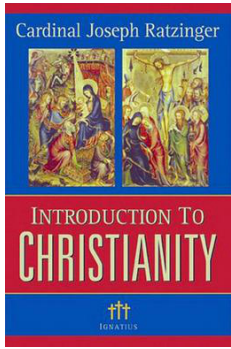
### What's Inside?

- September Recap
- Diocesan Events
- October Prayer

- A Book Review
- Business Person of the Month
- And More...

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# Introduction to Christianity

By John Kasaian

By Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger  
(Pope Benedict XVI)  
379 pages, paperbound  
Ignatius Press, San Francisco

By John Kasaian

It would seem that anyone who is anyone among Catholic theologians has tackled the subject of the Apostles Creed at one time or another, and of the books on the subject I've read, I haven't had much success with the exception of Fr. Ronald Knox's excellent "The Creed in Slow Motion," which was reviewed here some time ago. That is, until now.

Cardinal Ratzinger's "Introduction to Christianity" takes Fr. Knox's "The Creed in Slow Motion" to the next level, which makes it, along with Creed, rewarding to read. The

excellent translation from German, by Foster and Miller, is easily understandable.

What I really enjoyed about "Introduction to Christianity" is how Ratzinger breaks down each element of the Apostles Creed into pertinent topics that contemplate and answer to modern sensibilities within the Introduction: I Believe, and the three parts of the book, God, Christ, and The Spirit and The Church.

Just as in preparing for Confession, where we spend time contemplating our failings during the distractions of everyday living, I think it's equally profitable to contemplate the foundational beliefs in response to the distractions imposed on us by the whims of modern times.

You can pick up your copy at Cotter's Religious Goods,

## September Business Person of the Month – Kurt Neuhaus



Kurt Neuhaus was born in Stockton and has lived in Fresno all of his life. One of his first memories is his older sister going to kindergarten at the Shrine of St. Therese. This is when they lived out by Barstow and Maroa. They then moved to a house right across the street from Our Lady of Victory School. He attended all his grammar school years there, then was blessed to be able to attend San Joaquin Memorial. He went straight to Fresno State after high school and graduated with a B.S. in Accounting. Not really buddying up to the accounting folks, he went to work for the County of Fresno at the computer services division. He eventually left there and did put his degree to work at the Fresno County Auditor-Controller's Office. From there, he moved on to the Fresno County Superior Court. He retired in 2013 and now spends his life as a Deacon for the Diocese of Fresno.

## Diocesan Event Corner

If your parish or Catholic organization is hosting an event open to all the Diocese of Fresno, we ask for you to notify us no less than six weeks before the event. We will gladly post this in our newsletter mailed to all CP&BC members. Contact Tim Dodd for more information (559) 860-9198:

**Friday, September 29, 2023**

The Diocese of Fresno's Annual Blue Mass

Location: St. John's Cathedral, Fresno

**Friday, October 13, 2023**

Diocesan Congress and Youth Day

Location: Visalia Convention Center, Visalia

**Saturday, October 21, 2023, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Couples Retreat

Location: Please view the flyer for location details

We encourage you to sign up for the Diocese of Fresno weekly newsletter. Which is published every Monday morning.  
<https://dioceseoffresno.org/newsletter>

### Stay Connected with Prayers!



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**, or update your email address contact Sally Lauritzen  
salauritz@att.net or 559-439-8378.

### Interested in sponsoring the newsletter?

Contact Denise Correia  
vavi@cns4u.com



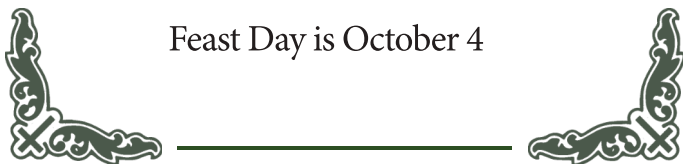
## October Prayer

St. Francis of Assisi



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; and it is in dying that we  
are born to eternal life. Amen.

Feast Day is October 4



## June Speaker Recap



### John Johnson

By Norma Williams

A lay Catholic businessman and educator, John has worked ten years for the Diocese of Sacramento. He is executive director and podcast host of the Albertus Magnus Institute nonprofit which offers online coursework in the Great Books. He has founded four education, technology, real estate, and food companies. He has served the church in seminarian formation, as a youth and young adult director, and as a catechist.

John discussed the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. All other virtues fall under these. Virtue is a latent power that needs to be activated. Acquiring these requires cultivating habits, which he defines as being at work in the soul. One must first become self-aware in order to rightly order one's habits. Achieving good habits and overcoming bad ones both require hard work and learning to "swing to opposite fence" to try to reach a mean.

Conforming to Christ should be our end desire, John states. God is always eager to supply grace. Mary and Joseph should be our models in virtue.

John often speaks domestically and internationally at colleges, retreats, and religious events. He earned a degree in philosophy from St. Mary's College and a Masters in Theology from the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology where his work focused on the beatific epistemology of St. Thomas Aquinas.

<https://magnusinstitute.org>

## Upcoming Events

- **October 7 and 8**, CP&BC Membership Weekend in Parishes
- **October 13, 2023** Pardini's
- **November 10**, Pardini's
- **December 9**, Pardini's



## The Pope's Monthly Intentions October 2023 - For the Synod

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

## Thanks to Our Sponsors

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

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**CP&BC Membership Dues:** Annual dues are \$55 per person and are due August 31, 2023. The deadline for the 2024 Membership Directory is December 31, 2023. For more information contact Denise Correia at 559-999-9153 or email [membership@cpbcfresno.org](mailto:membership@cpbcfresno.org).

**Reservations:** Reservations are required for all breakfast meetings held at Pardini's or Hotel Piccadilly's and can be made by sending an email to [reservations@cpbcfresno.org](mailto:reservations@cpbcfresno.org) or by calling Denise Correia at 559-434-2722 or by visiting the website [www.cpbcfresno.org](http://www.cpbcfresno.org) then click on reservation link. Doors open at 7:00 a.m. for coffee and networking.

The program starts at 7:15 a.m. and concludes at 8:30 a.m. The breakfast cost is \$25 for members and their guests and \$30 for non-members. An option to attend via ZOOM is available with a requested link and password for members only. An annual discounted cost of \$175 (\$50 savings) is available to members that prepay annual breakfast. Prepaid members are also requested to make reservations.

**Membership Directory:** Ad space in the annual 2023 Membership Directory starts at \$60. The deadline for advertising reservations and artwork is December 31, 2023. For more directory information, email [directory@cpbcfresno.org](mailto:directory@cpbcfresno.org) or call Denise Correia at 559-434-2722.

**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 Christopher Erk of TrevNet for the design and maintenance of the website. CP&BC also thanks Rodarte Productions for their design and preparation of the newsletter.

## **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:**

Rodarte Productions