



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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April 14 Chéri Ballinger

Our April 14th speaker, Chéri Ballinger, began her career in film after being discovered as a young girl and cast in the 1998 remake of the iconic Walt Disney classic “The Parent Trap.”

After suffering a severe traumatic brain injury that stopped everything and resulted in four+ years of recovery, she is now back to work in the industry as a film producer.

Chéri’s story reminds us that every day of life is a beautiful gift, and that we all have the ability to overcome all odds against us with God’s help. She is one of the executive producers of the recently released feature film “Roe v Wade,” starring Jon Voight, which has enjoyed tremendous press and critical acclaim.

She is currently working on several upcoming high-profile productions with the desire to have her name and talent associated with films that reflect her passion for life and storytelling. Her motto is: "Be the Light."

Please Note: Due to the scheduled remodeling of Pardini’s Banquet facility, CP&BC’s April breakfast will be held across the street at Hotel Piccadilly’s Crown Room. Thank you for your understanding.

CP&BC can use your help

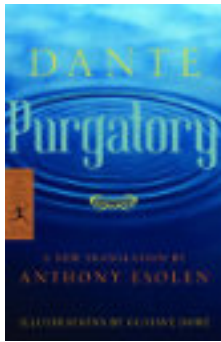
- We are looking for a Treasurer (and board member) to begin our new fiscal year in July 2023. QuickBooks experience is desirable. Please contact Tim Dodd or Tom Lang if interested or if you have questions.
- If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact Tim Dodd at timothy.dodd@lpl.com
- If you are interested in assisting with the newsletter, please contact karen.boschcobb@netptc.net

What’s Inside?

- March Recap
- Diocesan Events
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Purgatory

By Dante Alighieri

A new translation by Anthony Esolen
 Illustrated by Gustav Dore
 Modern Library, New York 2004
 497 pages, paperback

By John Kasaian

Here we have the second volume of Dante's "Divine Comedy: Purgatory."

Dante has been rescued from the dark forest by Virgil, who, having guided Dante through the many circles of Inferno now rises to Purgatory where the mood of the occupant shades (bodyless spirits) shifts from hopelessness to anticipation, and from despair to elation.

The hardships suffered are joyfully suffered because of the anticipated cleansing and eventual elevation to Paradise. Exactly how these shades do this without bodies is pretty much left to the imagination, but unlike in the "Inferno" where there is no hope, "Purgatory" is full of hymns.

Like the "Inferno," Dante meets shades he knew in life, and they explain their sinful shortcomings which landed them temporarily shy of Paradise.

Virgil, Dante's guide and protector, leaves to return to Limbo when Dante's pined-for lover, the beautiful Beatrice, who had passed away leaving Dante in a deep spiritual malaise, appears.

Now there is nowhere for Dante to go but up (heh-heh!). Cotter Religious Goods may be able to order Anthony Esolen's translation of "The Divine Comedy" for you and it would be well worth it. "The Divine Comedy" is a love story, a history, a fascinating treatise on Scripture, a study of politics, family, and faith. In short, a book about all of us.

March Business Person of the Month – Susan Birmingham



Born in Selma and raised on a farm in Caruthers, Susan's father was a farmer, her mother a registered nurse. In her day, a girl often became a secretary, nurse, or teacher. But Susan married and had children young at a young age which required raising a family while going to college. She prepared for the nursing program at Fresno City College, but it was severely impacted, so she entered the Respiratory Therapy program. She graduated and got a job at Valley Medical Center. After three years her love of caring for sick children encouraged her to apply at Valley Children's, where she remained for 35 years. She also obtained a degree in business at Fresno State and a master's at Fresno Pacific.

More important is her religious history. Growing up her family was Methodist, but she always wanted to be Catholic. Once retired and living in northeast Fresno, she heard the beautiful bells that drew her to Holy Spirit Church, and for once there was nothing to stop her. Susan says, "What a joy to be Catholic and to worship together with someone I love."

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:

Thursday, March 30, 2023, 6:30 PM

Right to Life's Annual Educational Dessert

Location: St. Paul Newman Center

Thursday, March 30, 2023, 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Eucharistic Revival: Adoration and Mercy

Location: St. Joseph Church, Firebaugh

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Holy Week Retreat

Location: St. Anthony Retreat Center, Three Rivers



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



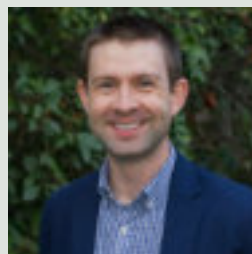
April Prayers Easter

Dear brothers and sisters, Easter does not work magic. Just as the Israelites found the desert awaiting them on the far side of the Red Sea, so the Church, after the resurrection, always finds history filled with joy and hope, grief, and anguish. And yet, this history is changed, it is marked by a new and eternal covenant, it is truly open to the future. For this reason, saved by hope, let us continue our pilgrimage, bearing in our hearts the song that is ancient and yet ever new: “Let us sing to the Lord: glorious his triumph!”

Pope Benedict XVI, 2010



March Speaker Recap



John Gerardi

By Norma Williams

March breakfast speaker, John Gerardi, is well-known to CP&BC members, having served as 2018-20 president.

John prefaced his talk with remarks about what it means to be human. Answering the question, “Who is our neighbor?” John responds, “Everybody!” There should be no hesitation within families or marriages when responding to the right things to do.

As Executive Director of Right to Life of Central California, he discussed the current status of abortion. There were many misconceptions about Roe v. Wade, John says, but overturning it and making it a state decision, often results in extreme and aggressive positions, allowing it whenever a mother is considered in danger -- which could be interpreted as with any pregnancy.

One of seven nations with the most liberal abortion policy, the U.S. has come a long way from when politicians spoke of abortion as legal, safe, and rare. Pharmacies may dispense medications to cause miscarriage, and pills may now be shipped through the mail to be taken at home. Here in Fresno, Fulton Street Planned Parenthood has been the recipient of a recent million dollars in government money.

John co-founded Obria Medical Clinic, a nonprofit, fully-licensed and staffed facility at Fresno and Barstow Streets, featuring well-woman care, health education, prenatal care, pregnancy options, STD and pregnancy testing. No one is turned away, and Medi-Cal and private insurances are accepted.

In addition, John hosts “The John Gerardi Show” and “Right to Life Radio” on Powertalk 96.7 KALZ. He is a graduate of Notre Dame University and Notre Dame Law School.

Upcoming Events

- April 14, 2023, Hotel Piccadilly's Crown Room
- May 12, 2023 Site TBD
- June 9, 2023 Site TBD

Pope's Worldwide Prayer

April - For a culture of peace and non-violence



We pray for the spread of peace and nonviolence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

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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 \$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.

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 or by calling Denise Correia at 559-434-2722 or by visiting the website 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 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 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 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 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. 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