



# CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Catholic Professional & Business Club  
Diocese of Fresno

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

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2019-2020

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## October 9—Kendra Von Esh

Profiled by Tom Lang

Our October 9th speaker, Kendra Von Esh, will be Zooming into our 8:00 a.m. meeting from Chicago, Illinois.

Kendra is a former Corporate Executive who thought she had it all—money, prestige, power, and was caught up in the “me” culture. She devoured all the pleasures this world had to offer but nothing satisfied her desire to “Find Something More.” Her life was filled with stress, anxiety, and thoughts of never being good enough. She had bought into the lie that life is not supposed to be peaceful and loving, but stressful and difficult. Her attitude was to party hard because life is short.

Kendra was a confirmed Catholic – but learned nothing about the Faith. As a child she only went to Mass on Christmas and Easter. Her family never spoke about religion or God, and the world raised her. When she moved out on her own, she was not going to a church of any kind for decades.

Then God found her on Easter in 2013, flipped her reality upside down, and transformed her life.

Kendra’s transformation was so miraculous that she left her Executive Career to inspire others to deepen their relationship with God as a Catholic Speaker, Radio Host, Author, Podcaster, Social Media personality, and YouTuber.

Today, she speaks about how her relationship with God, the supernatural sacramental graces of the Faith, and gifts of the Holy Spirit which have changed everything in her life. She brings people hope as she speaks about her entire journey and the miracles from God that impact priests and clergy, women, men, young adults, and business leaders alike.

Kendra has been featured on Shalom World TV, Radio Maria, EWTN, Relevant Radio, Living Bread Network, Catholic Vitamins, Breadbox Media, Young Catholics Respond, Catholic Marketing Network, and Bear Wozniak Adventures—just to name a few.

**Visit [cpbcfresno.org](http://cpbcfresno.org) to make your reservations. Current CP&BC Fresno members will be emailed the Zoom meeting ID and password once we receive your RSVP.**



### 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:Sally.salauritz@att.net) or 559-439-8378

### What’s Inside?

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# Book Review

By John Kasaian

Fire Bombers in Action | By Barry D. Smith

Motorbooks International Publishers | Osceola, WI, 1995

96 pages, paperback

One of the coolest sights

in Fresno is seen from the triangular island at the intersection of N. Chestnut and Dakota, on the departure end of runway 29 R at Fresno Air Terminal. There you can watch the huge, heavily laden, colorful aircraft loaded with crimson Bentonite thundering



overhead, laboriously gaining altitude in order to attack a forest fire somewhere in the Sierra Nevada.

The world of aerial firefighting, the aircraft and crews, tactics, and life at air attack bases are the subjects of Barry D. Smith's book, illustrated with exciting, full color action photos, which make this book a favorite of mine, stirring the imagination especially because much of the photography was shot in California.

Fire Bombers in Action is more than just a curiosity because the hazardous work these flight and ground crews undertake is instrumental in preserving our forests, our homes, and our property in ways we cannot really appreciate without an understanding of how they operate.

May we gaze prayerfully and gratefully at these beautiful planes when we see them overhead flying to fight the fires.

Prayer to Saint Florian—Patron Saint of Firefighters and Floods

## Firefighter's Prayer

Oh, Almighty God,  
whose great power and  
eternal wisdom embraces  
the universe,  
watch over all Firefighters.  
Protect them from harm in  
the performance of their  
duty to  
fight fire, save lives, and  
preserve property.



We pray, help them to keep  
our homes and all buildings  
safe day and night. We

recommend them to Your  
loving care because their duty is dangerous. Grant them Your  
unending strength and courage in their daily assignments.  
Dear God, protect these brave persons.  
Grant them Your Almighty protection and unite them safely  
with their families after duty has ended.

Amen.

May God bless everyone who is serving on any of the  
teams fighting the fires and keeping us, our property,  
and our animals safe in the fires in the foothills and  
mountains.

## Annual Membership Drive

By Don Cardell, Chair, CP&BC Parish Ambassadors

Calling All Catholics in Business! The Catholic Professional & Business Club (CP&BC) is conducting our annual membership drive...a little differently this year...as with most things. We will not be able to join you after Mass, however, we want to extend an invitation to those of you who are interested in being motivated through inspirational speakers (right now via Zoom - hopefully soon in person) networking with

a community of professionals, receiving ethical confirmations, and associating with like-minded Catholics in the business world, to become a member of our Club. How Do I Become A Member? Log Onto [cpbcfresno.org](http://cpbcfresno.org) and click the "Membership" tab.



## Upcoming Events

- November 13, 2020
- December 11, 2020
- January—no meeting

Interested in sponsoring  
the newsletter?

Contact Denise Correia  
[vavi@cns4u.com](mailto:vavi@cns4u.com)

## Business Person of the Month—Dr. Ronald E. Smith



Dr. Ronald E. Smith is the president of Sterling & Smith Funeral Home; a family owned and operated funeral home that operates in Fresno, Tulare, and Dinuba California. Dr. Smith has an MBA from Cornell University and a Doctor of Education degree

from Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Smith is a licensed funeral director and Certified Funeral Celebrant.

Dr. Smith is active in the local community. He is currently on the Board of the Tulare Rotary Club, Tulare Prayer Breakfast Committee, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias, St. Rita’s Catholic Church Parish Dinner Dance Committee, the Sloane Stephens Foundation, the Fresno Pacific University Biblical Seminary Committee and Board of Trustees.

Dr. Smith was given a Bible on July 2, 2002, and he has been writing, reflecting, and sharing the Word ever since. His ministry is a written one, and he speaks to people mostly in his capacity as a Funeral Director while preaching the word wherever he is invited. Dr. Smith is Catholic and attends St. Alphonsus Church in Fresno and St. Rita’s Catholic Church in Tulare. He is a First-Degree Knights of Columbus.

## September Zoom Presentation Speaker Recap—Elvis Grbac

By Norma Williams



“I had let my Father down; I know what the Prodigal Son felt like,” reported September speaker Elvis Grbac. Following a parish mission and years of lapsed confession, Elvis knew he had changed spiritually and began serious reflection on life’s meaning, with the Virgin Mary as his guiding light. The son of Croatian immigrants, he has become very involved in the Ohio Catholic community, serves on the pastoral council at Church of the Holy Angels, teaches youth catechesis, is pursuing a master’s in theology at St. Mary’s Seminary, and is discerning the diaconate. Since 2010 he has found time to coach football for St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland.

Elvis played basketball and football at St. Joseph’s High School in Ohio, which famously produced a number of outstanding athletes. He had a record-setting career as a University of Michigan quarterback before being drafted by the San Francisco 49ers in 1993, which won Super Bowl XXIX. Four seasons followed with the Kansas City Chiefs, and then the Baltimore Ravens before opting for early retirement in 2001. He earned a B.A. in communications from the University of Michigan.

Elvis discussed challenges that were overcome by faith, hard work, and perseverance. He emphasizes the importance of a positive mindset to succeed in any and all aspects of life. In the 20 years since retirement, he has grown as a father as well as in his relationship with Christ, giving witness and reaching out to others experiencing divisions in family life and society. He urges habitual Bible reading, concentrating on one message or one word and applying it to daily life, keeping in mind Jesus’ question in John 13:12: “Do you realize what I have done for you?”

### Pope’s Worldwide Prayer October Intention

The Laity’s Mission in the Church

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

### Thanks to Our Sponsors

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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 \$48 per person and were due June 30, 2020. The deadline for the 2021 Membership Directory is December 31, 2020. For more information contact John Kanaley at 315-243-6597. The 2020 directory is underway.

**Reservations:** Reservations are required for all breakfast meetings, held at Pardini's, and can be made by calling Denise Correia 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 \$135 is available for members that prepay for the year. Reservations are still required for prepays.

**Membership Directory:** For the 2021 Membership directory, ad space starts at \$50. December 15, 2020 is the deadline to reserve ad space for the 2021 Directory. December 31, 2020 is the deadline for ad artwork. More directory advertising 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. CP&BC also thanks Uhuru Network, LLC 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:**

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