



# CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Catholic Professional & Business Club  
Diocese of Fresno

Established: 1997

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2013-2015

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## June 12th Speaker – Dale Ahlquist

Profiled by Tom Lang

Our June 12th speaker is Dale Ahlquist, one of the most respected G.K. Chesterton scholars in the world. Dale is President of the American Chesterton Society, and publisher of its flagship publication, *Gilbert*. Dale is also the creator and host of the popular EWTN series *The Apostle of Common Sense*, and he is the author of three books on Chesterton including *G.K.*



*Chesterton: The Apostle of Common Sense*, *Common Sense 101: Lessons from G.K. Chesterton*, and *The Complete Thinker*. His books deliver Chestertonian perspectives on such topics as faith, education, love and marriage, and unpack the wisdom of Chesterton to explain why modern man has lost his ability to think clearly. He has also edited eight books of Chesterton's writings.

An internationally renowned speaker, Dale Ahlquist has given more than 600 lectures at men's conferences, diocesan events, and prestigious institutions including Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Notre Dame, Oxford, the Vatican Forum in Rome, and the House of Lords in London.

Dale has been interviewed by the New York Times, First Things, Catholic News Agency, Catholic Herald (U.K.), BBC News and BBC Radio, Zenit, Breitbart, The Independent (U.K.), Ignatius Insight, Catholic Answers Live!, Relevant Radio, Catholic World Report, and EWTN Radio.

Dale is also the co-founder of Chesterton Academy, a new high school in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which has been rated one of the "Top 50 Catholic Schools" in the nation by the Cardinal Newman Society. His pioneering work in classical integrated education has helped develop a curriculum that is capturing the minds of parents across the country.

## What's Inside?

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

- June Prayer
- Upcoming Events
- And More

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## Speaker Recap

### By Pauline Smoke

Pictured Left: Father Alar and Father Plunkett, Divine Mercy

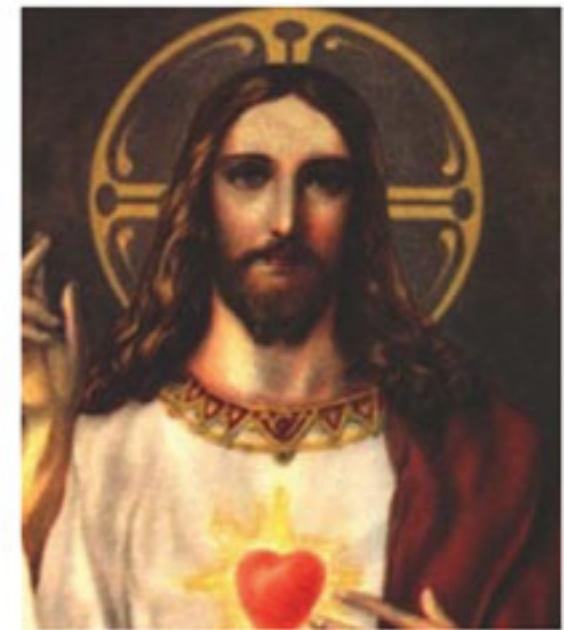
Christopher Alar was a successful businessman, but lapsed Catholic, when his car turned “on its own” — and completely against his will — into the parking lot of his local parish. Taking the hint, he tried twice to enter the church, but encountered locked doors. Inspired to make a third attempt, he found one open door, leading to the Eucharistic Adoration chapel. There — amidst a devotion he had never heard of before — he began to discover God’s infinite mercy, and his life changed. Ordained in May 2014, Fr. Alar, MIC, is now the director of the Association of Marian Helpers, headquartered at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

“We are called to be loving, not stupid,” was the surprisingly blunt remark at the core of Fr. Alar’s presentation to the CP&BC on May 8. His point was that forgiveness is distinct from reconciliation, and while we must forgive unconditionally, we need not forget the pain caused by sin. Reconciliation must be preceded by repentance and reformation. Holding sinners accountable for their actions — as God does in Purgatory — is a “work of mercy.”

Fr. Alar also admonished everyone to avoid subjective morality, and to “. . . be intolerant of what is contrary to God’s will . . . Opinions don’t matter. Only the truth matters.” And the truth is that, “Where sin abounds, God’s mercy abounds more.”

In June, KNXT will air an interview with Fr. Alar, who substituted for scheduled speaker Dr. Robert Stackpole, who was ill.

## Prayer Recommendation from Mary Borges, Co-Founder CP&BC



There are two things that must always be found together in the devotion to the Sacred Heart: Christ’s Heart of flesh and Christ’s love for us. True devotion to the Sacred Heart means devotion to the Divine Heart of Christ insofar as His Heart represents and recalls His love for us.

My God, I offer You all my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for the intentions for which He pleads and offers Himself in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, in thanksgiving for Your favors, in reparation for my sins, and in humble supplication for my temporal and eternal welfare, for the needs of our holy Mother the Church, for the conversion of sinners, and for the relief of the poor souls in purgatory.

From Meditation from EWTN.com/devotionals

## Business Person of the Month

### Mike Kelley



Mike is the President and CEO of Central California Almond Growers Association, which is the largest sheller of almonds in the world. Each year they crack-out 100,000,000 pounds of almond meats in a 90-day period. The Association operates at two sites: one in Sanger and three near Kerman. Mike has been in his position for the last ten years and has found it to be a rewarding experience in providing superior almond shelling services to the four hundred owner members and creating a good

place to work for their employees. Mike is originally from California’s Imperial Valley where his family farmed thirty-five hundred acres of cotton, wheat, and alfalfa in the north end of this productive agricultural region. He is a 1987 graduate of the University of Southern California and began his career working as a gin manager for Producers Cotton Oil Company and later as the Western Director of Field Services for the National Cotton Board. As a businessman his focus is to put God first in every situation and to lead by Christ’s example.

## Upcoming Events

### Breakfast Meetings

- September 11th
- October 9th
- November 13th
- December 11th

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[directory@cpbcfresno.org](mailto:directory@cpbcfresno.org)

## Pastor/Parish Profile

By Dr. Madrigal, Parish Ambassador

### Fr. Robert Borges, Pastor Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Fr. Robert is the youngest of two boys and two girls in the family of Richard and Mary Borges of Tulare. (No relation to our founding father, Frank!) He studied at UC Davis and attended graduate school at North



Carolina State, later teaching agricultural economics at Kansas State University in Manhattan. There he found his vocation to be a priest, and he attended Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

He was ordained a priest at St. Anthony of Padua, May 22, 2004, then served as a deacon during the summer of 2003 at St. Joseph Church in Los Banos. He became associate pastor at OLPH in Clovis in June 2004, was appointed administrator in January 2007, and pastor in October 2007. Currently he serves with Fr. Adrian Kim, Deacon Gary Stevens, and Fr. Craig Plunkett, who leads Divine Mercy parish.

Besides running the parish community, he also supports the parish elementary school and St. Martha's Pantry, where food is provided on Monday and Saturday 9 a.m. to noon and on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Fr. Robert is a member of the San Joaquin Memorial High School Board of Directors. He is Vicar for Priests for the Diocese of Fresno, chairing the Priestly Life Committee and facilitating continuing education, spiritual growth, and personal well being of the Presbyterate.

Fr. Robert's hobbies include his dog, Bosco, a black Labrador who loves playing with him and the parish community! Other hobbies include scuba diving, skiing, jogging, movies, and being spiritual director on pilgrimages. He attended World Youth Day in Cologne, Sydney, Madrid; and, with the Shrine of Italy has led groups to the Holy Land. He also has an extensive collection of relics which are available for veneration on feast days. You will see Fr. Robert crafting macramé rosaries, many times making them while walking with his dog or on a trip. We appreciate his support of our club not only with his attendance, but in support of our membership drive.

## Board Profile

### Steve Weakland

Wyoming native Steve Weakland was raised on a cattle ranch and has been active in the church since childhood. Like most young Catholics, he became an altar server shortly after First Holy Communion. He remembers assisting priests perform graveside funeral services in the frigid Wyoming winters where his only protection from the snow and wind was a thin altar robe.



Weakland, an avid athlete as a child, turned a passion for sports into a career. After graduating from the University of Wyoming with a degree in Broadcast Journalism, he worked in the athletic departments at UW and the University of Alaska Anchorage before moving to Fresno. In 1999 he was hired as Assistant Athletics Director at Fresno State, a position he held until 2011 when he became the Director of Corporate Communications for the San Francisco 49ers.

On his first day of work at Fresno State he met the love of his life, Kathryn. They were married in 2001 and became active in the Newman Center. Their son, Tyler, attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help and San Joaquin Memorial High School. The Weakland Family has been active in many service and leadership roles for Poverello House, Catholic Charities, CP&BC, OLPH School, SJM, and the Newman Center.

His service to the church continued in the summer of 2013 when he became the development director at San Joaquin Memorial High School, where he oversees all fundraising efforts. SJM recently raised money for thirteen facility projects, started the Campos International Boarding Academy, improved campus technology, and increased the number of endowed scholarships and financial aid. In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf, fishing, and quality time with family and friends.

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**CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL  
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DIOCESE OF FRESNO**

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**CP&BC Membership Dues:** Annual dues are \$45.00 per person. A membership application form is available on our website at [www.cpbcfresno.org](http://www.cpbcfresno.org). For more information contact Denise Correia at [559.999.9153](tel:559.999.9153) or David Austin at [559.473.9667](tel:559.473.9667).

**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](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 cost for each breakfast is \$15 for members and \$20 for guests.

**Membership Directory:** The deadline for advertising in the 2014-15 Directory has passed but it's never too late to start thinking about next year. Ad space starts at only \$50. Contact Denise Correia at [directory@cpbcfresno.org](mailto:directory@cpbcfresno.org) for more information.

**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](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](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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