



# CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Catholic Professional & Business Club  
Diocese of Fresno

Established: 1997

## CP&BC Board

2013-2015

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## May Speaker - Noel Irwin Hentschel



Profiled by Tom Lang

Noel Irwin Hentschel is Chairman, CEO and co-Founder of AmericanTours International (ATI), America's largest privately held, American-owned, inbound/outbound tourism and marketing organization. Serving one-million visitors annually, ATI is headquartered in Los Angeles and Orlando with regional offices in Miami, New York, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Honolulu and Beijing.

One of California's largest woman-owned businesses, ATI is one of the nation's largest tour operators for foreigners visiting the United States. Hentschel served as advisor to seven Secretaries of Commerce, both Republican and Democrat. She is currently serving as Deputy Secretary General of the World Tourism Cities Federation headquartered in Beijing. She is active in strengthening America's international relations by working with government leaders in China, Cuba, Vietnam, Jordan and Israel.

Inspired by Mother Teresa, Hentschel established The Noel Foundation in 1988 to help those most in need around the world. Hentschel is a Franciscan-Mariologist, well versed on the Blessed Virgin Mother, Christology, Moral Theology, Spiritual Warfare and Comparative World Religions of Christianity Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Daoism. She is a pioneer opening doors with governments, businesses and ministries in China, Cuba, Vietnam, Jordan and Israel.

"I am looking forward to returning to my hometown of Fresno to share my recent amazing experiences in China and all the holy hidden treasures I discovered there from Inner Mongolia to Shanghai," says Hentschel. "Prayer leads to grace; grace inspires light; light offers clarity; clarity brings truth and humility; and, truth and humility affirms "Trust in God for love, peace and eternal life."

## What's Inside?

- Did you miss last month's speaker?
- Board Member Bio - Mara Erlach
- Who's the Business Person of the Month?
- May Prayer
- Upcoming Events
- And More

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## Speaker Recap

By Katherine Andes

Dr. Derry Connolly's life took a dramatic turn when his Harvard-bound daughter announced she wanted to go to Franciscan University of Steubenville. Connolly was appalled. How could he brag about his daughter going to a third-rate school in Ohio?

But soon he found himself on a campus tour with nothing to do. He went to Mass twice that day and each mass was packed. He calculated 1000 students were going to daily mass. Impressive. Later, Connolly went to Adoration and God told him to build a similar university in San Diego. Connolly thought that was interesting, said okay to God, and then forgot about it.

He went home and began reading the Bible daily for an hour. Later, he remembered God's request to begin a university. He had no money and no clue how to begin. Connolly determined that media was the biggest influence on young people and that our culture needed good Catholics in the field of media. Thus his new university would focus on filmmaking and media.

Opened about eight years ago, John Paul The Great University offers a BS in Communications Media, a BS in Business, in MA Biblical Theology (online), and an MBA in Film Producing. Currently, they have 160 on-campus students and 80 online. Their graduates get jobs in three main areas: industrial media for corporations; film and television; and, Catholic apostolates.

During the Q&A period, Connolly was asked if there were any Father Robert Barron types in his school. Connolly said there were several. His students are on-fire for Christ, bright, articulate, and eager. I would add that after attending his university, they will also be prepared.

## Business Person of the Month



**Jim Flanagan**

I was born in the City of San Francisco, baptized in the original Mission Dolores founded by Fr. Junipero Serra, attended St. Monica's grammar school in San Francisco, Mount Carmel in Redwood City, and Serra High School in San Mateo. As an undergrad I studied at Stanford (active in Newman Club), two years on active duty in the Marine Corps, then back to Stanford for Law School.

I came to Fresno in 1962 and was active in many secular and church activities and organizations. Catholic activity included serving as a board member at St. Anthony's Retreat Center during its Franciscan days, Parish Council President at St. John's Cathedral and St. Helen's, President of the Fresno Serra Club, and Knights of Columbus, PGK and PFN. Professionally, I was an attorney for 44 years, and now I am working for the Fresno Chamber of Commerce. As you can see, the tie through my life has been the influence of St. Francis.



For 40 days after His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples. Then He asked His apostles to follow him to a hillside outside Jerusalem. When they arrived there, Jesus told them, "All power in heaven and on earth has

been given to Me. Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, of all people who speak in every language, all over the world. Tell them that I died for them and arose from the dead to save them from their sins, so they can live forever in heaven with Me.

"Tell all the people to believe that I am God's only Son, the one whom God sent into the world. When you make disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Jesus then raised His hands and blessed His disciples. As He blessed them, He parted from them and was taken up into the clouds! He went up into heaven where He sits now at the right hand of God the Father. After Jesus had gone into heaven, two angels appeared beside the apostles. They told them that Jesus would return in the same way as they saw Him go into heaven. Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem, to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

## Upcoming Events

### Breakfast Meetings

Save the Dates!

- June 13th
- September 12th

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

## Board Bio - Mara Erlach



A native of Santa Cruz County, Mara Erlach is the oldest of six children in a close-knit Catholic family whom she visits often. She has been in the Fresno area since 2006. A graduate of UC Davis School of Law, she practices estate planning and business law and is a parishioner at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in North Fresno.

Mara took the time to answer a few questions to help the CP&BC membership learn a little bit more about her.

### Why did you agree to be a member of the CP&BC Board?

My faith is very important to me and I jumped at the chance to help support a wonderful organization that promotes Catholic principles in business.

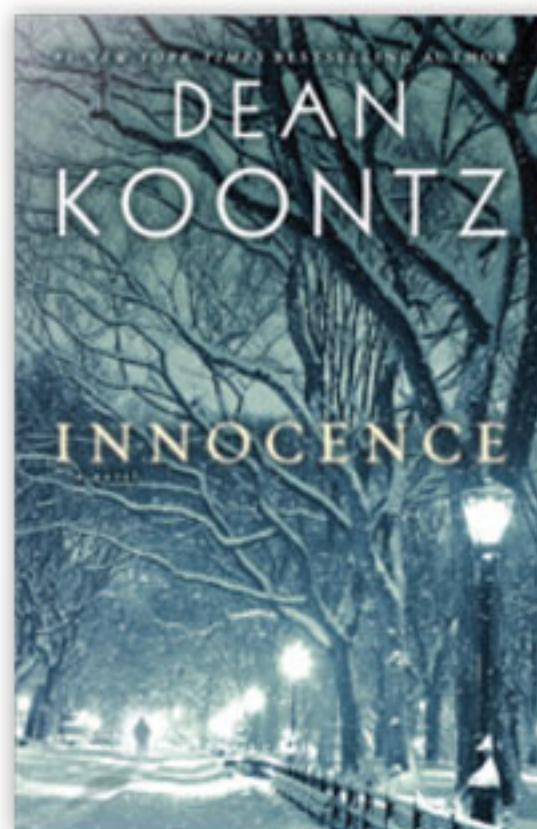
### What's important about being a Catholic in today's society?

As Catholics, we are called to love one another and to love and glorify God. It is so important to be a light in other people's lives. The members of this club consistently light the way for others, and I am proud and honored to carry on the traditions of our faith.

### What do most people not know about you that isn't too embarrassing to share?

I am an avid kick boxer, and I grew up speaking French and English at home.

## Book Review By John Kasaian



**Innocence**  
By Dean Koontz  
Bantam Books, New York  
2014  
338 pages hardcover  
\$28.00

Catholic flavored fiction is a rarity these days, which is what makes Dean Koontz a treat in the absence of such masters as Graham Greene, Flannery O'Connor, GK Chesterton, and Georges Bernanos who could write mainstream fiction from

a Catholic perspective without putting off a secular readership.

In *Innocence*, Koontz takes us to New York where an innocent child, Addison Goodheart, hides because he knows he will be killed on sight—but why? A step father figure in the same situation takes the child in, and they live in tunnels under the metropolis, emerging—concealed by ski masks—only on nights when New York is shut down by snow drifts from a municipal snow plow strike. When the boy grows up, through a chance encounter he meets a Goth girl who cannot stand to be touched; a bizarre relationship grows between the girl, who refuses physical contact, and the boy, who refuses to expose his face. The oddness of this situation is reminiscent of Dean Koontz's *Odd Thomas* series, but while *Odd Thomas* has a lot of humor, *Innocence* lacks comic relief. Instead it takes a deep look at sin and innocence. A revealing passage was when Goodheart is sneaking down the fire escape past the window of an apartment where a man has just returned with a stack of X rated videos from which a horrific invisible (to all but Goodheart) creature materializes and completely consumes the man.

Before Koontz's conversion he wrote some pretty sleazy books, and this one scene serves as a touching "mea culpa" and reminder of the power of the media. This thick, entertaining book and easy read is not religion and certainly not scriptural, but the themes will have you contemplating sin and evil, and how terribly dangerous it is to be truly innocent.

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P.O. Box 9454  
Fresno, CA 93792-9454

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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:** It's time to start planning for the 2015 Membership Directory! Ad space starts at only \$50. Contact Denise Correia at [directory@cpbcfresno.org](mailto:directory@cpbcfresno.org) for more information. Deadline for ads in the January 2015 publication is December 1, 2014.

**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 the club. CP&BC thanks Rod Silver of ARTCO 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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