



# CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Catholic Professional & Business Club  
Diocese of Fresno

Established: 1997

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2013-2015

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## May 8 Speaker – Fr. Christopher Alar



Profiled by Tom Lang

Fr. Christopher Alar, MIC, lives and works on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, home of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, where he serves as “Fr. Joseph, MIC,” the director of the Association of Marian Helpers.

Before becoming a priest, Fr. Chris received his BS in industrial engineering and an MBA from the University of Michigan.

After working several years at a Fortune 500 company, he began his own consulting company in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2000. After answering the Lord’s call, he attended Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, for his philosophy studies and earned his Masters of Divinity from Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut.

Over the past several years he has been mentored by the world’s leading experts in Divine Mercy, and he has spoken at over one hundred parishes to date.

## What’s Inside?

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

- May Prayer
- Upcoming Events
- And More

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## Speaker Recap

### By Pauline Smoke

According to genealogical research conducted by her daughter, Mona Faulkner's family is "Catholic all the way back to God." Faulkner's father tried to teach his seven children the relationship between

the Gospel message and daily life, while her mother taught them to, "Say your prayers, and ask God for help." This foundation of faith-based values has supported the Fresno Diocese's Superintendent of Catholic Schools through many difficult situations.

Faulkner believes that teaching children about faith is central to Catholic education, because faith helps students develop a "Catholic conscience" that goes beyond required community service to true concern for those around them. This — even more than a strong work ethic and rigorous academic training — is what makes Catholic school graduates so valuable to their communities. Faulkner also stresses that graduates need to "know how to lead, even if they don't want to lead."

Since Faulkner laments that the dwindling availability of religious faculty members is having a profound impact on Catholic school budgets, she is exploring ways to increase funding for the salaries of lay teachers and administrators, who often earn 15-30% less than their public school counterparts.

On the student side, Faulkner says that "we ignore the middle class at our peril." Fortunately, a "Good Angel Fund" is being established to help such families cope with first-year expenses, thus allowing them time to adjust their budgets to make Catholic education a priority. Of course, it won't hurt if they also say their prayers and ask God for help.

## Prayer Research and Submission

### By Donna Measell, Vice President



Hail Mary of Gold is a Roman Catholic Marian prayer attributed to Saint Gertrude the Great (1256-1302). According to Saint Gertrude, the Virgin Mary stated that: "At the hour when the soul which has thus greeted me quits the body I'll appear to them in such splendid beauty that they'll taste, to their great consolation, something of the joys of Paradise".

Hail, Mary, White Lily of the Glorious and always-serene Trinity. Hail brilliant Rose of the Garden of heavenly delights; O you, by whom God wanted to be born and by whose milk the King of Heaven wanted to be nourished! Nourish our souls with effusions of divine grace.

Amen!

## Business Person of the Month

### Tom Lang



After moving with his family from Minneapolis, Minnesota to Fresno in 1979, Tom founded Aquarius Aquarium in 1980 with his future wife, Aletha, whom he met at Fresno State. Their company has given them extensive experience in designing aquariums for the optimal care of freshwater and marine fish as well as other aquatic animals. In 2000, Tom and Aletha founded the nonprofit 501(c)(3) Aquarius Aquarium INSTITUTE to develop educational outreach programs about our aquatic world for

San Joaquin Valley classrooms. Their faith has led them to the development of Aquarius Aquarium Institute's Fresno Aquarium project at Herndon Avenue and Freeway 99 because they believe that our entire region will benefit greatly from having this institution in our own backyard. The Aquarium will feature both local and worldwide aquatic exhibits. Tom and Aletha have two grown children and two grandsons.

## Upcoming Events

### Breakfast Meetings

- June 12th
- September 11th
- October 9th

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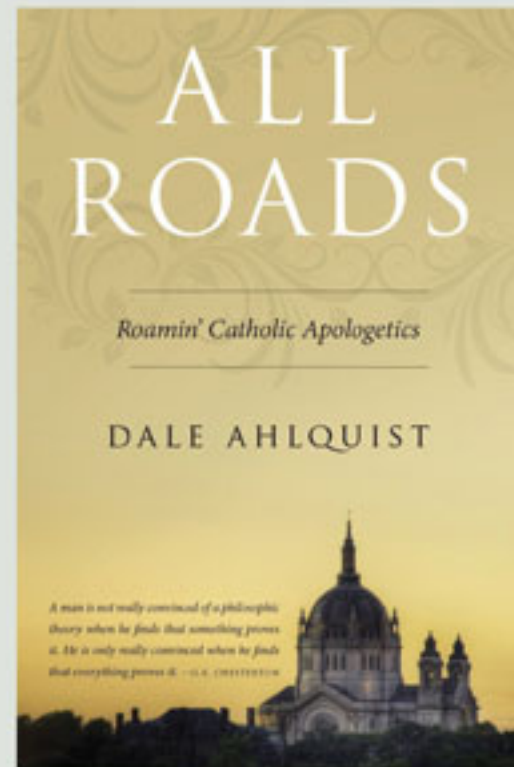
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## Book Review

By John Kasaian

**All Roads: Roamin' Catholic Apologetics**  
by Dale Ahlquist  
248 pages,  
paperbound  
ACS Books, 2014



Here's a delightful, inspiring collection of fifty-six easily digestible chapters by author, excellent Catholic apologist, and convert from the Baptist church, Dale Ahlquist. Dale also spearheaded the American Chesterton Society and the rebirth of interest in G.K. Chesterton, whose cause for sainthood for his formidable successes as a Catholic apologist in the early 20th century has been recently opened. This isn't so much a "how to" book on apologetics as it is a personal memoir and that is this book's beauty — it reveals the humanity of people from other faiths in their quest for the one true church; this approach is quite a departure for many Catholics stuck with an "us" versus "them" mentality.

The issues Mr. Ahlquist deals with are explored with brutal honesty and yet treated in good humor. This is a fun book to read. Pick up a copy and accompany this gentle soul as he travels a path leading to, where else? Rome!

Cotter's Religious Goods can fix you up with your own copy.

## Board Profile

Adolfo "Al" Aguila

Originally from Montecito Heights, nestled between downtown Los Angeles and Dodgers Stadium, I was accepted into Fresno State in 2009. Since arriving in Fresno I necessarily started a new life not having any friends or family and thinking to myself what have I gotten into? I soon found a group of friends in the



Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity where our main ideals were having the best grades on campus, living a balanced life, and positioning ourselves to graduate. In May 2014, I received my Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Sports Administration and a certificate in Sports and Entertainment Facility Management. With my dream being to eventually work in Major League Baseball, I was offered a full time position in January as an Account Executive with the Fresno Grizzlies after being one of the most successful part-time inside sales execs in 2014. I now find myself at the stepping-stone of my career assisting our business to maintain mutual and beneficial relationships with companies, organizations, and individuals throughout the Central Valley.

My involvements with the Catholic Church go back as kid attending Spanish Mass with my family, and now I attend at the Newman Center. I'm thankful for having the opportunity of being a part of the Catholic Professional & Business Club while serving on the Board of Directors. I am looking forward to this year, continuing to grow my relationships with the rest of you, and meeting those whom I have not had the opportunity to meet yet.

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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. The 2014-15 edition will be coming soon!

**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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