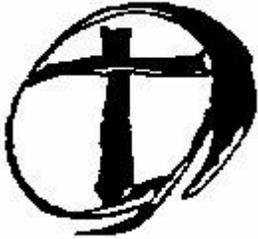


Catholic Professional and Business Breakfast Club



May
2012

Next meeting June 12, 2012

Mass 6:30 “old” St Stanislaus Church, 7th & J, then Doubletree 9th & K, come network 7:00 am, breakfast and speaker 7:30.

Reservations: cheerst@pacbell.net, gerbele2@yahoo.com, Cathy Hearst (209) 968-8086

Speaker: Jose Hernandez, astronaut

A Few Words from Our President

Here we are at our last meeting of the season. The current Board Members and myself have been working very hard behind the scenes for our Catholic Professional & Business Club members. Hopefully you'll find these changes all very positive.

Our June speaker, Jose Hernandez is very dynamic, and will captivate everyone. He came from humble beginnings and reached for the stars. His story as a NASA astronaut on Apollo 17 is only part of his many and continued accomplishments. You won't want to miss.

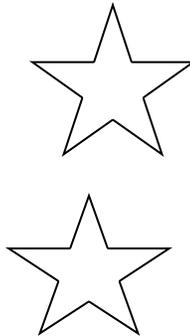
Also please take time to tour our new website at www.cpbpc-modesto.org and let us know what you think. We're always open to improvement. While you're at it please take the time to renew your membership for next year.

Now easier than ever online if you prefer. **For all Fast Track members that join or renew before September 2012 you'll receive 2 FREE guest breakfast passes, a \$30 value!**

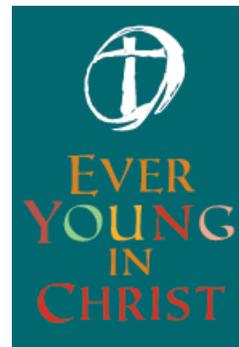
Thanks for your fellowship see you Tuesday, June 12, 2012.

Executive

Board *The CPBC Executive Board meets the fourth Tuesday of every month, at First Cal, 3224 McHenry Ave. Plans are developed for future meetings. Guests are welcome at the 7 a.m. session. Contact George Erbele, gerbele2@yahoo.com if interested in serving on the board*



Condolences to member Eric Hardee on the death of his wife JoAnn.



A word from our spiritual director, Father Sam

Perhaps like many of you, I am frustrated with the same-sex marriage debate that continues to pervade our public discourse. I am frustrated with having to talk about this “controversial” issue in any serious terms because it seems self-evident that two men or two women, no matter how much desire, public support, or surgery, are not capable, and could never be capable, of loving one another in the same way as one man and one woman can in a self-giving, life-long committed relationship for the good of the individuals, *children*, and society. I do not want to seem in anyway uncompassionate to those individuals and families who struggle with the issue of same-sex attraction. On the contrary, I pray for the sincere desire to follow Our Lord Jesus and love others as He loves me, a poor sinner. My frustration is not necessarily with people, although I am greatly disappointed in the leadership of our country. I am more frustrated with false ideas that have led many of our brothers and sisters to promote, accept, and act out behaviors that are clearly contrary to natural law and Divine Revelation. I realize same-sex marriage is not an easy topic to discuss, but it has become so prevalent in the media that I would be negligent in my duty as a shepherd of souls and a fellow follower of Christ if I did not make an earnest effort to offer the truth in regards to the issue.

At the beginning of May, President Obama publicly endorsed same-sex marriage and gave false hope to those who wrongly think marriage between two persons of the same-sex is a “right” like the historical struggle for racial or gender equality. The president, following the lead of the media executives, has done a great disservice by promoting the idea that someday homosexuality, more appropriately referred as “same-sex attraction,” will be accepted as normal and healthy. The president rather than showing any compassion and real love for those who struggle with same-sex attraction, decided, perhaps for political reasons, to perpetuate the big lie that acting out on homosexual desires is going to lead a person to real and lasting joy. In the month of May, we celebrate Mother’s Day and should be honoring the gift of motherhood. However, any talk of marriage between two members of the same sex is a mockery of the beauty of God’s plan for the human family. Same-sex marriage clearly undermines the natural roles of mother and father.

Many of our fellow citizens are not living in the real-world. The notion that a person can use their sexual gift in any way they feel at the time they want, as long as it does not violate current human law, is pure fantasy, the stuff of Hollywood make-believe. Finding real joy in acting out on sexual desires, whether heterosexual or homosexual, outside of a happy and holy marriage is a lie that will continue to lead many of our dear brothers and sisters to emptiness, shame, and pain. If our leaders were honest and really cared for us, they would be leading us to be more united with one another and encourage the virtue of chastity (the right use of the sexual gift according to one’s state in life) in order for us to grow in goodness, truth, and love.

A person only has to take an honest look at reality and think for themselves to see that same-sex marriage makes no sense. We cannot simply accept thoughtlessly what appears to be a concerted campaign by the popular media with sit-coms like “Modern Family” to change public perception. What we see in natural law (how new human life comes in the world), in the history of civilized cultures, and, of course, what God has revealed, shows that marriage is without a doubt between one man and one woman. No matter how many people say differently this truth cannot be changed in anyway ever. Even if every person on earth (100% of the people) supported same-sex marriage, a true happy and holy marriage can only ever happen between one man and one woman.

For those men and women called to a holy and happy marriage, they are naturally and supernaturally equipped (capable) of sacrificing themselves for the good of the other and the good of children. This is done by offering their unique gifts to one another. The woman has certain gifts – her womanhood and femininity – which she freely offers to her husband to complete his

joy. And, the man for his part offers his gifts of masculinity to complete his wife's joy. In offering their gifts to one another in the marital embrace, the married couple, with God's grace, are able to bring new life to one another and, if God wills, new human life into the world. Therefore, two men or two women are not able no matter how much they try or desire to complete the joy of one another and bring new life in the same way as husband and wife are called to do. This is part of God's plan and the sooner we accept it, the more united and freer we will be.

However, this does not mean in any way that marriage is the ONLY way to have our joy completed. Jesus clearly tells us that His friends are called to a complete and total joy (John 15:9-17). So, all people, no matter what their sexual orientation, are called and invited into an intimate friendship with Jesus. When we follow Jesus' commandment to love one another (ultimately this love means wanting the other person to get to heaven), we remain in His love and our joy is complete. He commands each of us to love one another as He loves us. This means that we are willing to give ourselves (self-giving love) and give up our personal desires, including our sexual desire, for the good of one another.

Because our culture is hyper-sexualized (obsessed with sex), many people think that the only way to have real joy is by having sex. Many have reduced the gift of love to simply sexual pleasure. True joy is born, not of the sexual act itself, but of a gift of self, as shown by Christ's giving Himself on the Cross for us, and living in accord to God's plan for each us. Jesus tells and shows us that the greatest love that any person could ever experience does not involve sex at all. Real love means laying down your life for your friends (John 15:9-17). This means that two people, no matter what gender, can truly love each other and experience great joy, the joy beyond this world, without giving into sexual desires. Actually, any acting out of sexual desire outside of the natural and supernatural bond of marriage will only pervert and destroy self-giving love. The joy, which comes from self-giving love, is only possible when we follow His commandments and our love is centered in Christ. Therefore, two men or two women can sincerely, deeply love one another without expressing that love in sexual acts. So, for people with same-sex attraction, same-sex marriage is completely unnecessary and actually harmful for them, preventing them from living out the real love to which they are called.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for each one us and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in the way to all Truth. God Bless you and your families.

In Christ,

Rev. Samuel West
Chaplain

Mission Statement

"As Catholic professional business men and women, we are called to live our Christian ethics not only on Sunday, but throughout our daily lives at home and at work."

Our goal in the Catholic Professional and Business Club, an unincorporated association (CP&BC), shall be to gather to share with others who seek a more ethical business environment.

Each of us shall strive to achieve a co-mingling of our ethical and professional obligations, in demonstration of the fact that ethics and business need not be mutually exclusive terms.