

CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS CLUB OF MODESTO

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

December 2012

Join us on January 8 when our speaker will be Sean Bloomfield.



Mass 6:30 at St Stanislaus Church, 7th & J St. Networking 7:00 at the Doubletree. Breakfast and speaker 7:15. Reservations: online at cpbc-Modesto.org, chearst@pacbell.net, gerbele2@yahoo.com, Cathy Hearst (209) 968-8086

A word from our President

We hope and pray that this Christmas season and beginning of a new year has been and will be filled with many blessings for you and your families.

We are starting off the 2013 year with a BIG BANG in regards to our lineup of speakers. First up; Sean Bloomfield, an award-winning filmmaker and good Catholic devoted to his faith and love for God. His latest documentary that he produced with the bestselling author Immaclee Ilibegiza, titled, "If We Had Only Listened" details the apparitions of Kibeho, Rwanda whose message is as appropriate to today as it was in the 90's.

Sean is flying in from Florida on Sunday, and we will be having a "no host" dinner Monday evening if anyone would like to talk and visit one-on-one with Sean. Tuesday morning will be a slight change up, as Sean will be showing about an hour of his film during breakfast. So plan on getting there early 7:00am because we're going to start at 7:15am. Remember to celebrate Mass with Father Sam at 6:30 am at the "J" Street St. Stanislaus Church.

The rest of our membership year is packed with powerful, dynamic, and interesting speakers. Please bring a guest to each and every meeting.

Happy New Year.

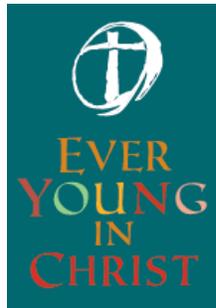
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

**Parish
and
School
News from
around
the city
and
county**

Congratulations to the Central Catholic High School Raider football team on winning their state championship game.

Mark your calendars for January 26, the Walk for Life West Coast.

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week starting January 27



**From our spiritual director, Father
Sam**

Most blessed Christmas to you all! *Glória in excélsis Deo et in terra pax homínibus bonae voluntátis* (Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will) for our Savior is born in Bethlehem!

The Church, in joyful expectation, has been preparing for 4 weeks to celebrate the arrival of the Prince of Peace, our true Light who dispels the darkness of a hostile world. We are joyful because God-is-with-us, and we are offered salvation from the power of sin and death. In the 3rd week of Advent, the Church celebrated what is known as *Gaudete* Sunday. This Sunday is called such because of the introit or entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is taken from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians Chapter 4, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." What I find interesting is St. Paul uses the imperative or command form of word rejoice. In other words, "gaudete" is better translated "you must rejoice." The apostle, therefore, sees the experience of joy as being entirely within our control and not contingent on our present circumstances; to be joyful is a conscious choice. How can this be the case when we assume, at least in our contemporary culture, joy (or happiness) is a subjective feeling based solely on how well we manage the physical world around us, most of which we do not have direct control anyway? Perhaps, we have been caught up in the idea it is only possible to be joyful if we control our external circumstances and strive to have pleasurable experiences. A person may feel if only their spouse or children would act or be a certain way, if only they could take a vacation, get past their health problems, get over the death of a loved one, make more money, or have more "fun" experiences, they could then be happy. However, consid-

ering what St. Paul is commanding, experiencing joy does not mean making everything in our lives conform to our liking, preference, or satisfy our immediate wants. On the contrary, we can choose to be joyful no matter how bad, awful, or chaotic the circumstances around us. Joy is a really an “inside job,” and, we can choose to be happy now. All we have to do is humbly submit ourselves to God and commit our whole lives to Him. This is what it means to live out the gift of Faith. The more we give ourselves to God by living out the gift of Faith, the greater the joy we will experience.

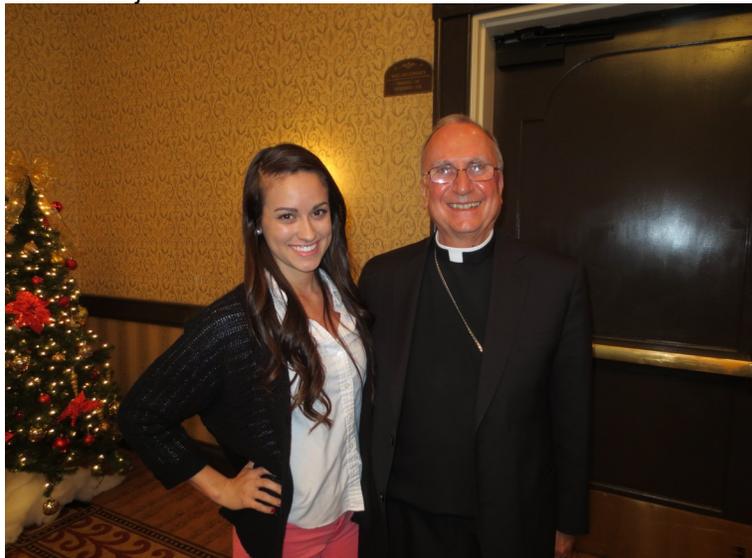
In my three years of serving as a priest, I have certainly experienced this simple principle. It seems the more I give myself to live out the gift of the priesthood of Christ, which was most undeservedly given to me, in spite of the demands, the frustrations, the fatigue, etc., the more joy I have experienced. For all of us, joy will be found only when we fulfill our duty, the reason we are created: to praise, reverence, and serve our most loving God. Living out our commitment means we faithful following His commands in all areas of our lives, praying often, even in spite of dryness and distractions, serving the needs of others, holding fast to the Truth as taught by the Church, and pursuing justice. With the help of our Blessed Mother, let us make a choice to live out our Catholic faith in order to carry out the command to rejoice! Let us join with the choirs of angels and sing with our whole hearts “*Glória in excélsis Deo et in terra pax homínibus bonae voluntátis!*”

In Christ,

Fr. Samuel West
Chaplain of the Catholic Professional and Business Club
Modesto, CA.



We were blessed to have as our speaker Bishop Stephen Blaire who talked about the Year of Faith and the words of the Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew at the opening Mass. He invited Aneesa Smith, one of our Central Catholic student guests (pictured here with him) to sing the National Anthem for us. She did a wonderful job.



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 mutu-