

# CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS CLUB OF MODESTO

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

February 2013

**Don't forget to join us on March 12 when our speaker will be Theresa Deisher, PhD. "The Commoditization and Trafficking of Human Beings for Biomedical Research and Commercial Products."**

Mass 6:30 at St Stanislaus Church, 7th & J St. Meeting at the Doubletree, 9th and K. Networking 7:15 Breakfast and speaker 7:30. Reservations: online at [cpbc-Modesto.org](http://cpbc-Modesto.org), [cheerst@pacbell.net](mailto:cheerst@pacbell.net), [gerbele2@yahoo.com](mailto:gerbele2@yahoo.com), Cathy Hearst (209) 968-8086

## A word from our President



**Dr. Theresa Deisher's** career has focused on discovering and developing new therapies for grievous human illness. Dr. Deisher obtained her PhD in Cellular and Molecular Physiology from Stanford University and has spent over 19 years in commercial biotechnology, working with such illustrious companies as Genentech, Repligen, ZymoGenetics, Immunex and Amgen, prior to founding AVM Biotechnology and Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute. AVM Biotechnology is the marquee prolife biotech company worldwide, certifying that it does not use morally illicit material in any process.

Dr. Deisher is an inventor on 22 issued US patents, and her discoveries have led to clinical trials of FGF18 for osteoarthritis and cartilage repair,

and for Factor XIII for surgical bleeding. Dr. Deisher was the first person to discover adult cardiac derived stem cells, and has been a champion of adult stem cell research, both professionally and privately two decades. Dr. Deisher is a plaintiff in the US federal lawsuit to prohibit use of federal tax payer dollars for embryo destructive research. She is a frequent lecturer on the stem cell issues delving into topics such as ; research, clinical progress, policy, economics and ethics. She provides a breath of fresh air with a common sense approach which allows lay audiences to readily grasp the issues. Dr. Deisher has appeared on numerous radio shows including EWTN's Catholic Answers, televised debates, and live on "The World Over Live" with Raymond Arroyo.

**I believe Dr. Deisher's talk will be one of our greatest of the year, (and we have had some very good National Speakers this season). Bring a friend, neighbor, family member, fellow parishioner, co-worker, and/or fellow Christian and register early for this most revealing and interesting presentation.**

**The Catholic Professional & Business Club allows each of us to let our Catholic faith shine as we boldly share in our work places and communities. We can change our world, 1 person, 1 invitation at a time.**

**Our February speaker, Vera Faith Lord, was wonderful. Her message of compassion for the victims of "Post-Abortion Syndrome", and how this affects so many women, (43% >age 45yrs), who have chosen abortion believing that was their only option, only to find out that they are caught in a living nightmare that can't be discussed in the open. They thus rarely receive a healing over the tragedy that they have experienced, often leading to suicide, migraines, relationship issues, etc.**

*God Bless  
George Erbele*



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

- [St. Stanislaus School's Late Night Catechism Production, April 12](#)
- [Catholic Daughters Luncheon/Fashion Show April 27](#)

Check your local bulletins for [Parish Missions](#) and [Reconciliation Services](#)



**From our spiritual director, Father Sam**

"Remember, man, you are dust and to dust you will return."

The above words, one of the two admonitions used at the distribution of ashes, are a stark reminder of the fragility of our human existence. The season of Lent is a time, proposed by the Church, for each of us to humbly, yet courageously, confront this reality of our present condition. We take seriously the weakness, fragmentation, and temporality of our earthly existence. If we ever hope to escape decomposition, returning to ashes, which is the result of sin, we need to first realize that by ourselves we do not possess the power to overcome the inevitability of death. When we truly acknowledge our powerlessness in the face of forces beyond our control, we come to a deeper awareness of our desperate need of salvation. In doing so, we are more ready to let go of our self-reliance and fully accept God's gracious offer of eternal life. Only in an intimate relationship with His son, our Lord Jesus Christ, are we able to overcome the decay of the physical realm. With the numerous and varied distractions present in our daily lives, we can be lulled into a sense of security. Absent of any "major catastrophe," we can easily forget our total dependence on God as the source of our lives. Therefore, we are in need, every day in fact, of coming face to face with our limits. We have to confront the fact that without Christ we are nothing and our earthly lives, including all our accomplishments, our possessions, and even our human relationships are mere dust when compared with our destiny of being in union with the all-powerful, all-loving Holy Trinity. We can only really live free, transcending the limits of our present lives, if we are in Christ and allow Christ to live in us. In

Christ, we receive the fulfillment of our destiny, and our humanity then can transcend the finitude of sensual experience.

The paradox of the Christian life is that we have to die in order to really live. This means we need allow ourselves to die to self in order to live in Christ. The question we each are confronted with is do I die a death opened to the life eternal, a death with Christ, or do we die without Him returning to ashes? Lent is a particular time that we prepare ourselves to share fully in Christ's suffering and death. The road to true freedom, the path of salvation, is the way of the Cross. In practicing self-denial, we are readying ourselves to die with Christ and give ourselves more fully to God. In dying with Jesus, we face the inevitability of our death in a new way with new invincible power.

The lenten observances of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us come to a greater awareness of our need for salvation by surrendering our self-reliance and letting go of created things that give us the illusion of being fulfilled. We can only be truly fulfilled in Christ. Lenten fasts and penances help us see how dependent we have become on created things that distract us and cause us to lose focus on God, who is the source of creation and the only source of power over death. By giving up comforts, the soothing of sensual pleasures, we are more open to realize our real desire for "God alone" (Ps. 62). In struggling against behaviors and attitudes we have used to escape the pain of our present circumstances, we experience our lack of self control and, therefore, the need for God's power in our lives. This awareness of our need of God is acutely recognized when faced with our limitations, our weaknesses, our failures, and our sins. Rather than letting the reality of our condition, which many choose to ignore through worldly distractions and comforts, make us feel a sense of hopelessness, we offer our limitations as a way to die with Christ and, through this death of self, we then can experience the transforming power of new life in the resurrection of Christ.

Let us courageously and steadfastly continue our sojourn in the desert with our dear Lord Jesus accompanying Him in His passion and death. We ready ourselves to die with Him in order for us to rise again victorious over the limits of our sinfulness, the limits of death and decay. If we make good use of this time of Lent, we can stand more faithfully with our Blessed Mother at the foot of the Cross offering ourselves more fully in unity with the one sacrifice of Christ. May God bless your lenten season.

In Christ,

Fr. Sam West  
Catholic Professional Business Club of Modesto  
Chaplain

