

CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS CLUB OF MODESTO

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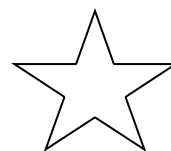
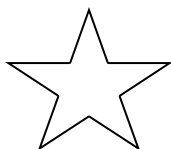
April 2013

Mark your calendars for our next meeting May 14. Our speaker will be Lisa Hendey .

Lisa M. Hendey is the founder and editor of CatholicMom.com and the bestselling author of [The Handbook for Catholic Moms](#) and [A Book of Saints for Catholic Moms](#). She hosts the weekly "Catholic Moments" podcast and Catholic Mom television show. Hendey is a technology contributor for EWTN's SonRise Morning Show and a regular guest on Relevant Radio's On Call afternoon show.

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, cheerst@pacbell.net, gerbele2@yahoo.com, Cathy Hearst (209)

We need a few good men and women who are committed to making our club the best it can be. Are you willing to help? We will be having elections to add to our board and need your help. Please prayerfully consider making this two year commitment . It involves ten board meetings per year in addition to our regular meetings.



From our spiritual director, Father Sam

He has Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia! He has truly risen Alleluia, Alleluia! My dear friends in Christ, Happy Easter to you all!

After I received the text notifying me of "white smoke!," I rushed to the nearest television to then wait for almost an hour before knowing who the Holy Spirit had chosen to be our next Holy Father. When it was announced, I, like many others, did not know anything about the Cardinal from Buenos Aires, Jorge Mario Bergoglio. But the more I heard about our newly elected pope, the more excited I became and started to reflect on how our Lord Jesus was leading His bride, the Church, with this decision. Prompted, by the selection of the name Francis and the initial news reports of Cardinal Bergoglio's love for the poor, I started to think that the Holy Spirit wanted me, and perhaps the rest of the Church, to more deeply consider the need to imitate the poverty of Christ as a way to evangelize our hyper-sensual, materialistic world. We live in a world focused so much on the acquisition of material goods and the experience of sensual pleasure that the spiritual life, the practice of the Faith, is in serious jeopardy and considered irrelevant by a majority of people today. Besides interfering with the worship and obedience which is owed to God, worldly pursuits also blind us from seeing the real needs of our brothers and sisters, particularly the needs of the poorest of the poor. Material wealth and comforts can endanger and undermine the gift of faith. The amount of time and energy dedicated to the pursuit of material goods prevents a person from spending time in prayer, creates a false sense of security (pride), and distracts from the needs of others. For us to better show the true meaning of the Kingdom of God to a materialistic and sensually focused world, we should always try to live humbly a "spirit of poverty" in imitation of Christ.

To help us imitate Christ's poverty, we consider carefully His earthly ministry. In addition to remembering our Lord's preaching on loving those who are poor, we can reflect on how at His death on the Cross our dear Jesus possessed nothing of His own, not even His tunic! He had complete reliance on Father for everything. But, what about the poverty of the Risen Christ? Is there such a thing? Well, if a virtue is good and necessary for us to grow in the likeness to Christ in our earthly pilgrimage, then that same virtue would still be part of us, albeit, perfected, in our resurrected life. Our Risen Jesus manifested clearly a detachment from the worldly in His various appearances after His resurrection. He was able to change His appearance, disappear before the eyes of His disciples, enter locked rooms, etc. to show us that the new life brought about by His resurrection, to which we are called and for which He suffered and died, transcends the limits of the physical world. In our new life with Christ, we are then freed from the constraints of the physical world and, therefore, not dependent on created things. When we practice a spirit of poverty in our earthly pilgrimage, we are preparing for what it will be like in heaven - free from anxieties and the distractions of material goods.

Having a spirit of poverty is essentially being indifferent to created good, yet, at the same time, always being grateful for the gifts we have received from God. In imitation of our Lord's poverty, we are called to detach from the things of the physical world by not wanting any created thing, but desiring only God alone (Ps. 62). In our practice of poverty, although we are not dependent on created things for our happiness, we are still aware of the material needs of others and should want to help them in any way we are able. We are actually more attuned to the needs of the poor because we are in solidarity with them in spirit. We are generous with others because the Lord is generous with us, and we give to others in order for them to experience Christ's tender love. The practice of a spirit of poverty, and living in solidarity with the poor, includes resisting spending money on things we really don't need, living simply,

and being generous with our treasure.

John Paul II, in his encyclical letter to priests called *Pastores Dabo Vobis* writes, "On the subject of evangelical poverty, the synod fathers gave a concise yet important description, presenting it as "the subjection of all goods to the supreme good of God and his kingdom.(81) In reality, only the person who contemplates and lives the mystery of God as the one and supreme good, as the true and definitive treasure, can understand and practice poverty, which is certainly not a matter of despising or rejecting material goods but of a loving and responsible use of these goods and at the same time an ability to renounce them with great interior freedom - that is, with reference to God and his plan."

Therefore, my brothers and sisters in Christ let us live the new life that Jesus has won for us in the Resurrection! Let us be free from material goods and reliant only God's goodness! We ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to help grow in love with her Son Jesus through our solidarity with and love of the poor. By practicing a spirit of poverty in our daily lives, we will help, in our own small way, evangelize the world to better see the priority of the spiritual life, the centrality of Faith. God bless you all.

In Christ,

Fr. Sam West

Chaplain
Catholic Professional And Business Club
Modesto, California

Parish and School News from around the city and county

Central Catholic High School Open House – April 30 – begins at 5:30 with a family barbeque – meet teachers and coaches

Catholic Social Service Guild is sponsoring a TableScape Luncheon, at St. Joseph's on May 1. Tickets available from Guild members

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas is also having a luncheon, on April 27, at The Elks, on Charity Way in north Modesto



Were you there at our March and April meetings? We had wonderful speakers each month. In March we were educated by Theresa Deisher, PhD on how many vaccines and other products, including cosmetics, use aborted fetal stem cells. We also heard statistics on the increase of Autism which started when vaccines containing fetal stem cells began to be used. She had handouts showing possible alternatives. She e-mailed me the day after the meeting with the information that the autism rate has increased to 1 in 50.



In April we heard from Joe Condit about how he manages to walk with the Lord while managing several businesses. We also heard how his faith helped sustain him through the trials of having a business investigated by the FBI when a partner involved them in a Ponzi scheme. It was inspiring to hear him talk about taking a sabbatical this summer to discern what the Lord wants him to do next.



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*

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.