

CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS CLUB OF MODESTO

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

November 2013

A word from our President

Members and Friends of the Modesto Catholic Professional and Business Club, In October we were blessed to have Brian Kravec with us. I believe that everyone present was awed by Brian's words of his journey in faith throughout his personal and professional life. We look forward to hearing from one of our own members, Nick Blom. He's a former Stanislaus County Supervisor, local farmer, member of many church and community organizations and has served on many of their boards. Nick and his wife, Els, recently were recognized by the Diocese of Stockton as recipients of the Bishop's Award for their lifetime of service to the Catholic church. Come early to network with other club members.

Our new adjustments to the menu and seating arrangements surely made breakfast service run smoothly in October. Also, all are welcome to join us for our board meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 7-8AM, at Catholic Charities in downtown Modesto.

I also want to thank Fr. Sam for offering Mass at 6:30AM, just prior to the meeting at St. Stanislaus, 709 J St. It's a great way to start the day.

Mass: 6:30 at St Stanislaus Church, 7th & J St.;

Networking 7 am

Breakfast and Speaker 7:15 AM at the Old Mill Café, 600 9th St. in downtown Modesto.



Follow us on [@CPBCM Modesto](https://twitter.com/CPBCM Modesto)

We look forward to seeing all of you on November 12th!

Cathy Pietanza

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.

Congratulations and welcome to our newest board members Ben Grimes and Cameron Menezes.

From our spiritual director, Father Sam

In September's article, I decided to take a look into the soul's journey to union with God as guided by the wisdom of the saints. To briefly review, there are 3 classic stages through which a soul passes to achieve total fulfillment in God. In the previous article, I offered a few points on the first stage called *the purgative way*. In this stage, the person begins the journey by a firm renunciation of all sin and makes the effort to detach from worldly pursuits and pleasures. This stage is characterized by an initial feeling of consolation as the soul actively undertakes the journey through the practices of attending Mass often, humbly going to the Sacrament of Confession, daily prayer, and penances. Along with the active phase in the purgative stage, there is also a passive phase in which God works in secret, "behind-the-scenes" as it were, on purifying the soul's attachments. This is often done through feelings of desolation. If a person, who is consistently practicing the Faith, including the frequent reception of the Sacraments, daily prayer, penances, and avoidance of all sin, has the feeling of emptiness, dryness, lack of peace and absence of joy (spiritual darkness), then this is a strong indication God is now working on the soul in the passive phase of the 1st stage. It is important that at this point of the journey the person does not abandon the practices although they are not feeling the same consolations as they did when they first began. Many people give up when the road becomes narrow, rough, and dark. If they persevere in prayer as our Lord Jesus encouraged in a recent Gospel (Luke 18 8:1-8), then they will reach the next stage referred to as *the illuminative way*. In this stage, the soul makes progress in the journey by avoiding any and all mortal sins and having greater success in detaching from worldly things. The stage is called *the illuminative way* because at this point the person's mind and heart become more and more enlightened with the practice of virtue, the 4 Cardinal Virtues, which are prudence, temperance, justice, and fortitude, and the Theological Virtues, which are faith, hope, and charity. There is also a greater desire for total union with Christ. In *the illuminative way*, charitable acts begin to increase within the person's life as they look beyond oneself to the other in service. The prayer that is most often associated with this stage is meditation (see: Catechism of the Catholic Church #2705). The practice of prayer includes meditating on the mysteries of the rosary, attending silent retreats, and spending time in Lectio Divina/reading scriptures, etc. There should be a greater desire for silence in prayer and a greater attentive-

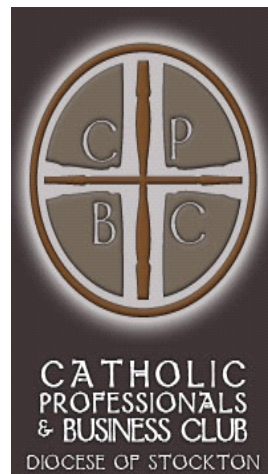
ness to personal integrity of word and action and the intentions of acts performed. It is not uncommon that this stage lasts for many years after one passes from *the purgative stage*. Quite often there is a series of great desolations and consolations. St. John of the Cross says that during this stage a person can occupy their mind with God with much greater ease and joy than in the later part of *the purgative way*. Nevertheless, there are still purifications to encounter in this stage, though usually with occasional dryness, boredom, trials, and darkness in prayer (see: CCC#2729). Many times during this stage one experiences external suffering (persecution from others, detraction, loss), which God permits and which fortifies one's faith. The person should slowly persevere through them with constancy in prayer.¹ Even when we don't feel like praying, or especially when we don't feel like praying, this is the time to really pray from our hearts. Like the penitent tax collector who "stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed," we cry out in all humility "O God, be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:9-14). We continually to beg God for the only thing that really matters for our happiness and that is total union with Him.

Let us also ask for the support of the Virgin Mary, our mother, as we continue on our journey to union with God. May the Good Lord pour out His blessings on you and your family.

In Christ,

Rev. Samuel West
Chaplain

¹http://www.catholicadultfaith.com/documents/The_Stages_of_Spiritual_Growth.pdf



Central Catholic High School will host 8th Grade Day on Friday, November 15, from 9 a.m.-1:00 p.m. All eighth grade students in public and private schools are invited to attend. The day will include a rally, a lunchtime dance, visits to the classrooms and a free pizza lunch. Please contact Jodi Tybor at 524-9611 or tybor@cchsca.org

United Samaritans "A Legacy of Hope" Dinner and Auction, November 16, Call Kathy Hobby, 668 4853

Catholic Social Services Breakfast at Applebee's November 16, Call Pixie Kinser, 578 4338

Dinner with the Bishop

Featuring honored guest,
The Most Reverend Bishop Stephen E. Blaire
Modesto Center Plaza, 1000 L St., Modesto
November 16, 2013
5:00 p.m. Silent Auction Review
5:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and silent auction
6:30 p.m. Dinner
9:30 p.m. Dance

Tickets: \$50 per person

For tickets and sponsorship, contact Miller B. Go at (209) 404-4204

Tickets are also available at
Great Smiles Dental office, 3219 McHenry Ave., Modesto, CA 95350

Presented by **Families for Vocation and Healing Ministry**
www.fvhm.org

All proceeds will benefit the Vocation Ministry of the Diocese of Stockton

"No Limits", CCHS Fine Arts Production, Gallo Centre for the Arts, November 19-20

Italian Crab Fest at Central Catholic High School

Central Catholic High School will host its famous Italian Crab Fest Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 23, at 200 S. Carpenter Road, in Modesto. The evening will start at 5:30 with complimentary wine and cheese tasting followed by a delicious dinner of crab, Italian pasta, green salad and rolls. Dancing will start immediately after dinner. Tickets are \$45 per person. Call 209- 529-0881 for to reserve your spot.

Parish and School News from around the city and county

Holiday of Cheer

Our Lady of Fatima Ladies Holiday Luncheon.

Saturday, November 23, 2013, 12 o'clock noon, New Hall (Granger side)

Luncheon, entertainment, fellowship!

Fair Trade items and YLI baked goods will be available to purchase

Make your reservation today! Seating is limited! Call the Parish Center Office 524-7421. Tables for 8 are available!



Executive Board *The CPBC*

Executive Board meets the fourth Tuesday of every month, at Catholic Charities, 12th & D. Plans are developed for future meetings. Guests are welcome at the 7 a.m. session. Contact Cathy Pietanza, CPBC Modesto Diocese of Stockton <cpbcmodesto@gmail.com>; if interested in serving on the board.

