

CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS CLUB OF MODESTO

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

January 2014

A word from our President

Members and Friends of the Modesto Catholic Professional and Business Club, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you! In December, we enjoyed hearing from another one of our own members, Deacon José Reyes. His stories of his experience in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was fascinating. We should all remember to follow the message he shared from the Pope's homily, "*Go/without fear/ to serve!*" In January, we are privileged to hear from our own Bishop Stephen Blaire. I believe the Bishop will reference Pope Francis' new document, *Joy of the Gospel, The: Evangelii Gaudium* where he calls upon the Church and the world with encouragement to begin the next chapter of evangelization, for which we are all called. This dynamic document is written in the plain, everyday language for which the pope has become famous, but it may take a bit of time to read due to its length. To download a free copy, click here in the Vatican website. http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium_en.html

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.

Remember that Mass is offered at 6:30 AM by Fr. Sam 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 @CPBCModersto

May you have a blessed 2014! We look forward to seeing all of you on January 14th!

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.



From our spiritual director, Father Sam

Very Blessed and Holy New Year to you and your families!

At the beginning of every new year, I get excited about the possibility of making what I consider necessary changes in my life. I imagine that I am not the only one. Many of us make sincere resolutions to eat healthier, exercise more, or finally begin some long-desired “personal enrichment” activity, for example learning to cook or garden.

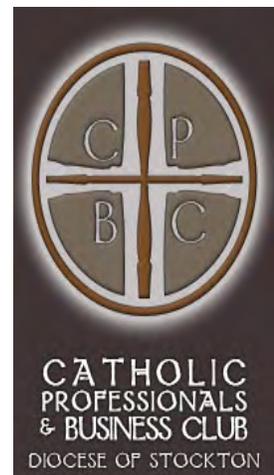
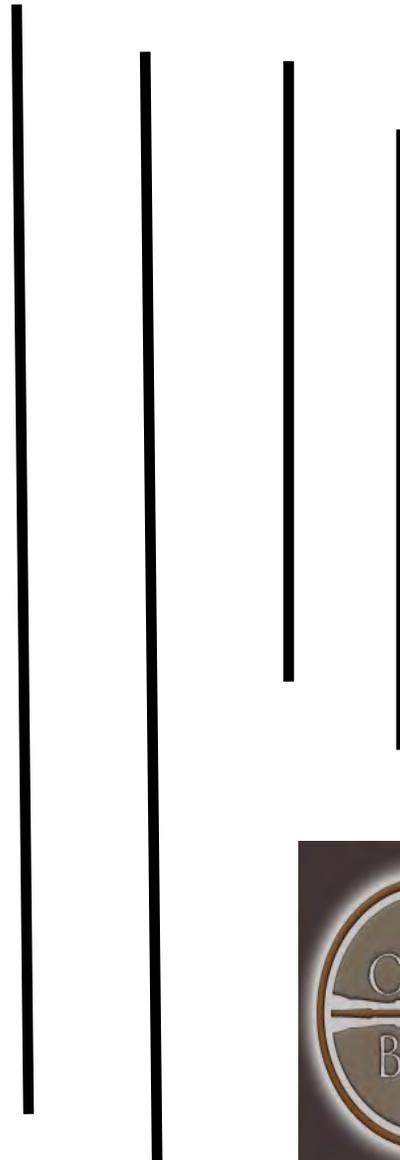
Well, this year I am doing something different. I am giving up on making any resolutions, with one exception. When I think about it honestly, the only necessary change I should make, which is the only one that really counts for eternal life, is to *completely submit to God’s will in all things*. Surrender to God’s will, and everything else in my life will fall into place. At the end of chapter 6 of Matthew’s Gospel, our Lord Jesus instructs us not to be anxious about our bodily needs. Our Lord says, “But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides (Mt. 6:33). Seeking the Kingdom of God is simply to desire to do God’s will in every area of our lives. If we submit to our loving God, any other necessary changes we should be making “will be given besides.”

So, how is “seeking the Kingdom of God” to be done? Well, the way I see it is to simply “give up” my will, my plans, and my schemes and let God direct me completely. This means resolving not to rely on my own ideas and efforts in my priestly ministry. I think this includes not trying to “figure out” new and exciting pastoral initiatives to get more people to come to Mass, to get the youth more interested in their Faith, or to get more people to the CPBC meetings for example. These desires are good, but, in the end, like any other human-powered endeavor often prove to be contingent, superficial, fleeting, and limiting. All that matters is God’s will, and, by do it faithfully, we grow in love of God and neighbor. If we seek to please God by joyfully doing His will, we become effective in sharing the Gospel. We are able to offer a truly authentic witness of Christ to others.

Don’t get me wrong. It is not that I don’t care anymore. In fact, I care very much, and, ironically, this can become a problem. I can get so worked up and anxious about how things should be and too concerned about the results that I tend to lose focus on the only relationship that matters, my relationship with Christ, the Word made flesh!

So, I am giving up! Perhaps, “surrender” is a better,

more positive term. I am putting up the white flag and joining the winning side, Christ’s side. With the help of the Blessed Virgin, I pray I can surrender my will and do only what Jesus wants. I desire to do “whatever He tells” me (Jn. 2:5). I know that this road at times will be annoying, frustrating, confusing, lonely, etc. because it goes against my will, and perhaps the will of others, but HE is the ONLY WAY! Happy New Year!



Mark your calendars:

Walk for Life West Coast January 25

Our Lady of Fatima parish Crab Feed—February 1
\$40/person.

Father John Silva Education Foundation Crab Feed
February 7 \$45 Adults, \$20 children

Central Catholic High School BASH – February 22,
2014 at the Doubletree.

*National Catholic Schools Week
40th Anniversary*

**“Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith,
Knowledge and Service.”
January 26-February 1, 2014**

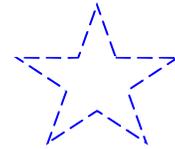
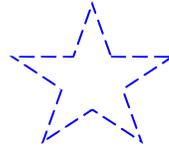
Save the date: December 6, 2014

Matthew Kelly

St. Stanislaus

More info to follow

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



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 <cpbcmoesto@gmail.com>; if interested in serving on the board.

