



CATHOLIC BREAKFAST CLUB

Catholic Professional & Business Club
Diocese of Fresno

Established: 1997 Co-Founders Frank and Mary T. Borges

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2025-2026

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karen.boschcobb@icloud.com
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February 13th Mark McElrath

Our Friday, February 13, 2026, our breakfast speaker is Mark McElrath. He is the Executive Director of Santiago Retreat Center, Santiago Catholic Trade School, and Santiago Catholic Business Clubs in Orange County.

An educator, speaker, and Catholic leader, Mark is widely respected for his practical, people-centered approach to formation, mentorship, and culture-building. Drawing on a background in hospitality and executive leadership, he works closely with schools, families, and institutions to address vocation, responsibility, and the formation of young men and women in today’s challenging cultural environment. He is known for his clarity, pastoral realism, and ability to connect Catholic principles to everyday life and leadership.

Mark has been married to his wife Drucilla for more than four decades. They are parents of two adult daughters, grandparents of 12, and carry a deep appreciation for faith, family, and formation shaped by real life experience.

His talk, Catholic Formation of Young People in a Culture of Distraction and Disengagement, will offer concrete insights for parents and Catholic professionals seeking practical tools to help the next generation grow in faith, discipline, and purpose.

CP&BC needs your help.

We need parish ambassadors for these parishes: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Our Lady of the Sierra, Our Lady of Victory, Sacred Heart, Shrine of St. Therese, St. Alphonsus, St. Anthony Claret, St. Helen, St. Joachim, St. Joseph, St. Lucy, St. Mary, St. Patrick, St. Brigid, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and St. Ann. Please contact Tim Dodd if one of these is your parish so that he can explain your easy duties.

If you haven’t renewed your membership for our club year 2025-2026, it’s not too late. <https://www.cpbcfresno.org/membership>. We welcome you!

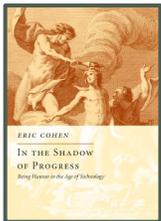
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In The Shadow of Progress:
Being Human in the Age of Technology

By Eric Cohen

Encounter Books, New York 2008
181 pages, hardbound
\$21.95

By John Kasaian

Here is an important look on bioethics through a Judeo-Christian lens. Mercifully, there aren't any complicated words or, for that matter, complicated issues. Cohen doesn't vilify medical science but discusses issues calmly and fairly. Issues such as Bioethics in wartime, embryonic and stem cell research, the new movement towards Eugenics, faith, family, and ultimately, death. These are heavy topics, but Cohen is such a talented writer that even a schmutz such as I can get the gist of wisdom being offered, that as complicated as technology is, we have God as our benchmark.

I found the final chapter In Whose Image Shall We Die, was the one that sticks in my mind. Cohen discusses the deaths of Jacob, the Biblical

Patriarch, Socrates, Camus' myth of Sisyphus, Benjamin Franklin, and Jesus. The reader is tasked to find whose death modern men would best relate:

Jacob dies naturally, predictably, and surrounded by his many grandchildren. He knows his fate is linked to those he leaves behind and summoned his strength to let them know it. He isn't shuffled off to a place of prolonged suffering and dementia.

Socrates is at the end of his career as a renowned philosopher, the cup of Hemlock is welcomed as a way of leaving before he succumbs to mediocrity and the inevitable loss of notoriety. For Socrates, his success wasn't the result of a divine mission

Sisyphus' death finds himself sentenced to be rolling a boulder up a hill only to have it roll back down. and he is forced to roll it back up, over and over for eternity.

Franklin operates under the belief that man will ultimately defeat death, given the time, and the technology, and regrets dying before the technology is available.

Jesus on the other hand, goes to Jerusalem to meet his death on the cross, fulfilling the will of God for our redemption.

In "The Shadow of Progress" is both insightful and entertaining, perfect for a winter's night. You can order a copy from Cotter's Religious Supply.

December Member of the Month – Catholic Charities



MacKenzie Villalobos, Development Director, spoke on behalf of Catholic Charities, which was selected as our Christmas Charity. She spoke about the three Catholic Charities sites in Fresno, Bakersfield, and Merced. A new initiative this year is the "Giving Machine Fresno" which was at River Park in December and January and allowed you to walk away not with a candy bar or drink but the opportunity to purchase meals for the hungry, clothes for the needy, and medical necessities for those who will benefit from it the most. MacKenzie thanked CB&BC donors, many of whom have very generously supported Catholic Charities for a long time.



Diocesan Events

Sign up for the Diocese of Fresno weekly newsletter, published every Monday morning. <https://dioceseoffresno.org/newsletter>.

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Silent Directed Retreat

Location: St. Anthony Retreat Center, Three Rivers

Friday, February 6, 2026

Couples Retreat (Spanish)

Location: St. Anthony Retreat Center, Three Rivers

Friday, February 6, 2026

Men's Retreat

Location: St. Anthony Retreat Center, Three Rivers

Sunday, February 8, 2026 | 4:00 PM

World Marriage Day

Location: St. Charles Borromeo, Visalia

If your parish or Catholic organization is hosting an event open to all the Diocese of Fresno, we ask for you to notify us no less than six weeks before the event. We will gladly post this in our newsletter mailed to all CP&BC members. Contact Tim Dodd for more information (559) 860-9198.



PRAYER NETWORK

We pray to God daily in thanksgiving. Often our prayers are one of supplication for our loved ones or for ourselves. Jesus tells us:

“For where two or three are gathered together in my NAME, there am I in the midst of them.”

Please send your prayer requests to:
Lucina Myers, lucinamyers1@gmail.com or call 559-824-9160.

**Interested in sponsoring
the newsletter?**

Contact Karen Bosch Cobb
Karen.boschcobb@icloud.com



February Prayer

Pope Leo XIV Excerpt from January 1st



*Dear brothers and sisters,
happy New Year!*

... God, the good Creator, has always known Mary's heart and our hearts. By becoming man, he makes his heart known to us. The heart of Jesus, therefore, beats for every man and woman; for those who are ready to welcome him, like the shepherds, and for those who do not want him, like Herod.

His heart is not indifferent to those who have no heart for their neighbor: it beats for the righteous, so that they may persevere in their dedication, as well as for the unrighteous, so that they may change their lives and find peace.

The Savior comes into the world by being born of a woman.

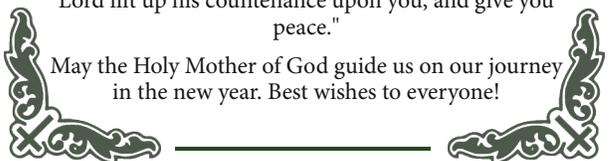
Let us pause to adore this event, which shines forth in Mary Most Holy and is reflected in every unborn child, revealing the divine image imprinted in our humanity.

On this World Day, let us all pray together for peace: first, among nations bloodied by conflict and suffering, but also within our homes, in families wounded by violence or pain.

Certain that Christ, our hope, is the sun of justice that never sets, let us confidently implore the intercession of Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

... "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."

May the Holy Mother of God guide us on our journey in the new year. Best wishes to everyone!



December Recap



Our Lady of Perpetual Help School Choir

By Karen Bosch Cobb

On December 12th, we were pleased to welcome back Mrs. Melita Mudri-Zubacz and the talented students of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help School Choir from Clovis. These young singers offered an exclusive program of traditional and sacred Christmas Carols for our club. Attendees were pleased to hear the music and see these dedicated and disciplined young people.



CP&BC Speaker Sponsorships

Our goal is to bring the best possible speakers to our monthly breakfast. Each year we have a mix of local, in state, and out of state speakers. Expenses include a stipend and/or travel expenses (auto, flight, and hotel.)

We have one level of Speaker Sponsorship for \$3,000. In recognition of this significant donation, we invite each sponsor to submit art work for a quarter page ad for the newsletter for a specific breakfast. At that same breakfast, the donor is invited to be our Member of the Month, and to provide table literature for the breakfast. Please note that Speaker Sponsorships are distinct from Directory Ads and Newsletter Ads

Upcoming Events

- February 13, Pardini's
- March 13, Pardini's
- April 10, Pardini's.

The Pope's Monthly Intentions February 2026 - For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

Ana Paula Redditt, Realtor – Realty Concepts
Karen Bosch Cobb
Bovino Vineyards & Winery/Dan Souza
Brian Treviso, BOLT Wealth Management
DiBuduo & Defendis Insurance/Mike Defendis
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Mary T Borges in memory of
Frank Borges
McCaffrey Homes

Me-n-Ed's Pizzerias
Pardini's Catering
Richard Machado, in memory of
Fred Machado
Right-to-Life, John Gerardi
Michael J Madrigal, DDS

Riki Donaghy, Donaghy Tax Consulting
Cheryl Sarkisian
Rob & Donna Shepherd
Sierra West Warehouse and Logistics
Whitehurst Sullivan Burns & Blair Funeral
Home/Don Cardell



**CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL
& BUSINESS CLUB
DIOCESE OF FRESNO**

P.O. Box 9454
Fresno, CA 93792-9454

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CP&BC Membership Dues: Annual dues are \$65 per person For more information email membership@cpbcfresno.org. To join online visit <https://www.cpbcfresno.org/membership>. There will be a convenience fee of 3.1% added to credit card purchases.

Reservations: Reservations are required for all breakfast meetings held at Pardini's and can be made by sending an email to reservations@cpbcfresno.org or by visiting the website <https://www.cpbcfresno.org/reservations>. Doors open at 7:00 a.m. for coffee and networking. The program starts at 7:15 a.m. and concludes at 8:30 a.m. The breakfast cost is \$30 for members and guests of members. We accept cash or check at the door. From our website <https://www.cpbcfresno.org/reservations> you may use a credit card. There will be a convenience fee of 3.1% added to credit card purchases. An option to attend via ZOOM is available with a requested link and password for members only. An annual discounted cost of \$240 (\$30 savings) is available to members that prepay annual breakfast. Prepaid members are also requested to make reservations.

Membership Directory: Ad space in the annual 2026 Membership Directory starts at \$75. The deadline for advertising reservations and artwork was December 31, 2025. For more directory information, email Cheryl Sarkisian at directory@cpbcfresno.org. To place an ad in the Directory <https://www.cpbcfresno.org/membership> and scroll to I would like the following AD in the Directory.

Prayer Network: CP&BC has a "prayer network" to be used for member prayer needs for themselves or loved ones. We have members already signed-up to pray for special needs submitted; however, anyone else is invited to also become part of the prayer network. Lucina Myers is the point person to whom requests can be made, and once they are received she will email or phone the network. Contact Lucina (lucinamyers1@gmail.com or 559-824-9160) to become part of the network or to submit a prayer request.

Website: Please be sure to visit <https://www.cpbcfresno.org> for all the latest information about our club. CP&BC thanks Samantha Mejia for the design and Rafael Rodarte for the maintenance of the website. CP&BC also thanks Rodarte Productions for their design and preparation of the newsletter.

Mission Statement:

As Catholic professional and business men and women, we are called to live our Christian ethics not only on Sundays, but throughout our daily lives at home and at work.

Our goal in the Catholic Professional & Business Club shall be to incorporate and uphold our beliefs in every aspect of our daily lives, and to gather to share with others who seek a more ethical business environment.

Each of us shall strive to achieve a commingling of our ethical obligations and our professional obligations in demonstration of the fact that ethics and business need not be mutually exclusive terms.

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