



CATHOLIC BREAKFAST CLUB

Catholic Professional & Business Club
Diocese of Fresno

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

CP&BC Board

2025-2026

- Most Rev. Joseph Brennan
- Very Rev. Salvador Gonzalez, Jr. Vicar
General/Moderator of the Curia
- Father Michael Cox, Spiritual Director
- Timothy Dodd – President
- Tom Lang – Vice President
- Ed Quintana – Treasurer
- Dave Borboa – Secretary
- Susan Birmingham
- Brian Cameron
- Karen Bosch Cobb
- Denise Correia
- Tony Drew
- RosaMaria Henry
- Larry Holody
- Ranae Holody
- Chandler Marquez
- Lucina Myers
- Toni Porter
- Ana Paula Redditt
- Rafael Rodarte
- Cheryl Sarkisian
- Donna Shepherd
- Norma Williams
- Mary T. Borges - Emeritus, Co-Founder
- Don Cardell - Emeritus
- Tom Ferdinandi – Emeritus
- John Houlihan - Emeritus
- Rev. Bill Lucido - Emeritus
- Sally Lauritzen – Emeritus
- Pat Ogle - Emeritus

- Rafael Rodarte - Webmaster*
- Karen Bosch Cobb - Newsletter Editor*
karen.boschcobb@icloud.com
- Norma Williams - Newsletter Contributor*
- David Borboa – Copy Editor*
- Cheryl Sarkisian – Membership Directory Editor*
- Lucina Myers – Prayer Network*



March 13th Nancy Charles

Nancy Charles is truly a gem—warm, joyful, and full of life. From the moment you meet her, her kindness and bubbly personality shine through, and it is impossible not to feel at ease. That joy, however, was hard-won, forged through a remarkable journey of mercy and grace that she will share with us on March 13th at the Catholic Breakfast Club.

Traveling from Sacramento, Nancy offers a powerful witness of transformation. After more than 15 years marked by addiction, sexual confusion, and deep spiritual captivity—including pursuing gender transition—God intervened at the brink of despair. Before any medical harm was done, Christ drew her back to truth, healing, and the fullness of life in His Church.

Today, Nancy serves as Director of Operations for Eternal Christendom, a Catholic apostolate and media organization dedicated to restoring beauty, reverence, and fidelity to the timeless teachings of the Catholic faith.

Honored with the 2025 Catholic Champion Award, her life radiates the freedom, joy, and dignity found in Christ through the loving intercession of Our Lady.

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!

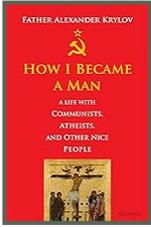
What's Inside?

- Diocesan Events
- March Prayer
- February Member of the Month

- February Recap
- Book Review
- And More...

Like / Follow Us





How I Became a Man: A Life with Communists, Atheists and Other Nice People
By Fr. Alexander Krylov

Ignatius Press San Francisco, 2022
164 pages paperbound

By John Kasaian

Here is an intriguing question: what was it like being a young boy growing up in the twilight of the Soviet Union? Even more intriguing, what would it be like with no priests, no sacraments, no churches, not even a liturgical calendar--where the Catholic community existed only in hushed whispers and in the memory of the elderly?

Now imagine being a boy growing into adulthood in that world? Such is the world Fr. Krylov grew up in where faith in God lives on where God is outlawed.

This is an unexpectedly humorous book, courageous, joyous, and ironic—a world seen through the eyes of a child with an inspired sense of human goodness.

What got my attention was the realization that, without Confirmation classes, the experience of an American student in today's secular schools is not all that much different from the experiences of young students in the old Soviet Union.

This is a delightful, thin little book that is well worth reading. You can pick up your own copy at Cotters.

February Member of the Month – Catholic Charities



Katie Fleener, Ph.D. serves as the Parish Life Coordinator & Executive Director at the St. Paul Catholic Newman Center. Her educational pursuits and professional career have spanned the private and public sectors, for-profit and non-profit industries, and two-year and four-year educational institutions. Prior to joining the Newman Center in 2024, Dr. Fleener held the roles of associate provost and dean for numerous colleges and universities offering a wide range of degrees and certificates. Her responsibilities spanned undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral level teaching, and program oversight. Katie has taught courses, led workshops, and published on psychology and organizational leadership topics for nearly two decades. In addition to her role at the Newman Center, Katie serves the Catholic K-12 sector as a member of the Fresno Catholic Schools Board of Limited Jurisdiction.

Katie and her husband, Ted, have called Fresno home since 1998. Together they have raised two children, Jacob and Kathryn, and recently welcomed a new daughter-in-law, Nicole, into their family.



Diocesan Events

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

Friday, March 13, 2026

Retrouvaille Weekend (Fresno)

More information: helpourmarriage.org 1-800-470-2230

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Igniting a Faith that Serves: Catholics at the Capitol

Location: Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Sacramento

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



March Prayer



Prayer to Saint Joseph

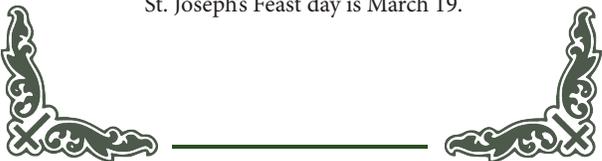
Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.

Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me.

St. Joseph's Feast day is March 19.



February Recap



Mark McElrath

By Norma Williams

Until two and a half years ago, Michigan and Ohio had the only US Catholic trade schools. Enter Santiago Catholic Trade School in Orange County, whose executive director, Mark McElrath, was February's breakfast speaker. Mark is also executive director of the Santiago Retreat Center. The idea of a school and retreat center grew out of the 1990s economic recession when five men refurbished an old house, then took over an unused RV park on 500 acres in the Santa Ana Mountains. It has 500 beds and houses 20,000 retreat participants each year.

Mark states there is a disconnect between high school and college men. Many never go or do not finish college, often with substantial student debt. Others cannot get jobs in their majors, yet there is high demand for trained trade workers. The Santiago two year program includes agricultural management, general construction, and mechanical technology. Despite a \$28,000 tuition, most graduate debt free, helped in part by working during summer retreats and through donations. The school has excellent faculty with expertise in their fields.

Mark is concerned that young men today are not well-formed. Santiago men live in community, praying, studying (including theology), and learning a trade. They develop character, hospitality skills, conflict resolution, and many become altar servers. Half of their third semester is spent working at their trade, and the fourth semester is with mentors, which usually results in a job offer or a job referral.

"We need a well-trained Catholic electorate," Mark says. He referenced a Matthew Kelly study a few years ago which revealed that only seven percent of parishioners are engaged, attending Mass at least three times per month and involved in two activities. Half of those are over age 65. An institution such as Santiago is an investment in the future, both as Catholics and good citizens.

Mark asked three things of his audience: to pray, to refer young men to the program, and to donate.

Website: santiagotradeschool.com

Upcoming Events

- **March 13**, Pardini's
- **April 10**, Pardini's.
- **May 8**, Pardini's.

The Pope's Monthly Intentions March 2026 - For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

Ana Paula Redditt, Realtor – Realty Concepts
 Karen Bosch Cobb
 Bovino Vineyards & Winery/Dan Souza
 DiBuduo & Defendis Insurance/Mike Defendis
 Dodd Wealth Management
 J.D. Ostdiek Insurance Services, Inc

Jay Chapel/Wayne Gomes
 Larry Holody & Ranae Holody
 Mary T Borges in memory of
 Frank Borges
 McCaffrey Homes
 Me-n-Ed's Pizzerias

Pardini's Catering
 Tim Poland, Pro-Screens - Print Signs Graphics
 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
 Brian Traverso, BOLT Wealth Management
 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.

Printer:

FTB Print and Mail

Publisher:

Rodarte Productions