



# CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Catholic Professional & Business Club  
Diocese of Fresno

Established: 1997 Co-Founders Frank and Mary Borges

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2015-2017

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## John Gerardi, Executive Director Right to Life of Central California

Profiled by Tom Lang

John will be speaking at our breakfast on Friday, April 7. John grew up in Clovis and is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame (Class of 2010) and Notre Dame Law School (2013). At Notre Dame, John met his lovely wife, Holly, and they were married in 2013. They have two daughters: Madeleine (21 months) and Sophia (3 months).



John's father, Dr. Joe Gerardi, is the head of orthopedics at Valley Children's Hospital, and his mother, Dr. Sharon Gerardi, is a dermatologist at Kaiser.

John has been involved with Right to Life of Central California since he was 14 years old, participating in Right to Life's educational youth group. Those experiences helped shaped his views about the central importance of life issues, leading him to continue his involvement in the pro-life movement in college and beyond.

At Notre Dame, John studied the Classics (Latin, Greek) and Philosophy, and served as the president of Notre Dame Right to Life, one of the largest pro-life student organizations in America. In law school, John focused his coursework on jurisprudence, bioethics, and religious liberty, and wrote his final paper on the history of abortion law in the United States.

After two years of practicing law at a civil litigation firm in Massachusetts, John took and passed the California Bar exam in July 2015, and began working as the legislative director for California Family Council in Fresno.

John was hired to serve as the executive director of Right to Life in September of 2016. He looks forward to many years of leading Right to Life in its mission of educating churches and youth, outreach to those considering or suffering from abortion, and engaging the broader culture. **Don't forget to mark your calendar for April 7—this month's meeting is a week early because April 14 is Good Friday.**

## What's Inside?

- Did you miss last month's meeting?
- Business Person of the Month
- Book Review

- April Prayer
- Upcoming Events
- And More

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## Speaker Recap

### Dick and Martha Lyles

By Norma Williams



L to R, Tom Lang, Martha and Dick Lyles, Father Craig Plunkett

“Why you?” Sister Lucia was asked about the 1917 Fatima apparitions. She replied, “Because it was necessary!” She expressed disappointment, however, that it often appeared the world had not heard the message.

March speakers Dick and Martha Lyles of Southern California reminded us that we still have hope from the consolation of Mary 100 years ago.

Dick is CEO of Origin Entertainment which has won 16 international awards and will begin shooting a new film on Fatima in Portugal this May, with projected release in October. Dick disagrees with those who say we live in a post-Christian era, rather stating it is anti-Christian, especially anti-Catholic. He believes there are historical parallels between Portugal at the time of the apparitions and today’s hyper-fragmented America. Many Hollywood actors seem to regard Christian films as they would have pornographic ones in the past.

There is a deep hunger to discover if we are on track with where God wants us to be to serve his purpose. We should look for opportunities to help mainstream Catholicism in our culture.

Originally from Pueblo, Colorado, Dick and Martha co-authored Answer Your Call: Reclaim God’s Purpose for Faith, Family and Work. Married 47 years, they have suffered their share of catastrophes: a life-threatening coma for him, breast cancer for her, and complete loss of their home by fire.

A former naval officer and business consultant, Dick hosts an EWTN Saturday morning radio show, and Martha writes inspirational columns for the Huffington Post.

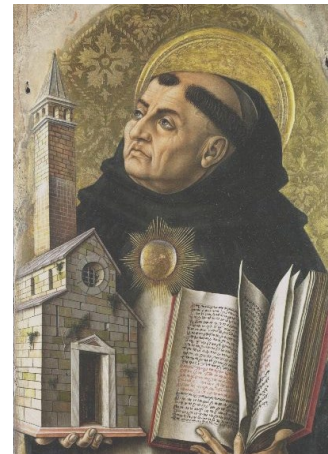
## Business Person of the Month: Carlos Flores, RN

Carlos is the Trauma Coordinator for Valley Children’s Hospital and is a Faith Community Nurse with Raphael Health Ministry at OLPH. As part of his position with Valley Children’s, Carlos has developed a wide spectrum injury prevention and professional outreach program in Central California. Since 2003, his projects have reached over 150,000 families and professional groups. His advocacy for children continues through media work and outreach. He provides monthly child safety segments on KSEE 24 Central Valley Today and has pending projects with KNXT Channel 49. He participates in community partnerships, is involved in legislative education, and a vast network of community service organizations including Catholic ministries. Carlos was commissioned for lay ecclesial ministry leadership in May 2014 and has over 40 years of Catholic ministry background in a variety of parishes. One such program is “Be Not Afraid” a program addressing Catholic teen depression and suicide prevention that has reached over 1500 Catholic youth in the Diocese of Fresno. He may be reached at cflores@valleychildrens.org



## Prayer Research & Submission

### By Mary Borges



St. Thomas Aquinas

Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas

O Angelic Doctor St. Thomas, prince of theologians and model of philosophers, bright ornament of the Christian world and light of the Church; O heavenly patron of all Catholic schools, who didst learn wisdom without guile and dost communicate it without envy, intercede for us with the Son of God, Wisdom itself, that the spirit of wisdom may descend upon us, and enable us to understand clearly that which thou hast taught, and fulfill it by imitating thy deeds; to become partakers of that doctrine and virtue which caused thee to shine like the sun on earth; and at last to rejoice with thee forever in their most sweet fruits in heaven, together praising the Divine Wisdom for all eternity. Amen.

## Upcoming Events

- May 12
- June 9

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vavi@cns4u.com

## Book Review

By John Kasian

### The Noonday Devil

By Jean-Charles Nault, OSB  
Ignatius, San Francisco  
2015 \$16.95  
205 pages, paperback

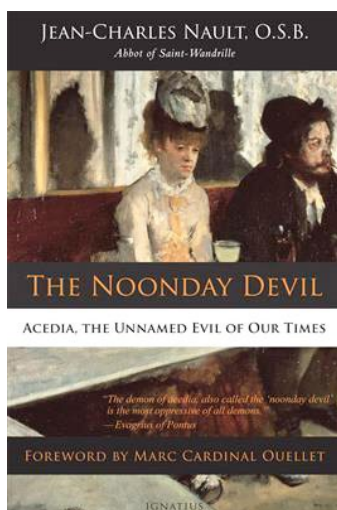
The subject of this book is the sin of acedia, which is little known today although it is at the root of many other better known sins. This book tracks acedia from Evagrius of Pontus (of the third generation of the Desert Fathers,) down through John Cassian, Benedict of Nursia, Gregory the Great, Hugh of Saint Victor, St. Thomas Aquinas, to William of Ockham. So from a single paperback book you get a whole lot of important names to drop, impressing your friends and acquaintances to no end.

Better yet, this book is a window upon a sinfulness that is manifest in the current social infatuation with modernity. Evagrius was made aware of a particular temptation that worried the monks who, after the Edict of Milan in 313, went into the desert to live a life of prayer and solitude. During the day, the monks would suffer from a phenomenon known as acedia, or more popularly “The Noonday Devil.” The symptoms being listless, lacking perseverance, a poverty of spiritual energy, etc.

Today, people ascribe it to midlife crisis, sloth, bitterness, discouragement, mediocrity, melancholy, and other unhappy things. In fact, most scholars today would describe acedia as sloth (if they were even aware of the word acedia) but that isn't the end of it. Acedia is the mother of many sins that spring from her, the most ubiquitous probably being nihilism, but there are many more.

Why don't we hear about acedia much? That is due to the writings of William of Ockham, who should have known better. Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI recognized the sin of acedia as a serious detriment to people of all walks of life, and Abbot Jean-Charles Nault, OSB, has written a delightful guide to help the reader identify and avoid this “unnamed evil of our times.”

Cotter Religious Goods can get you a copy.



## Give the Bible the Same Place in Daily Life as your Cell Phone From Vatican Radio

by Linda Bordoni

Speaking to the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square following his weekly Angelus blessing, the Pope urged those present to give the Bible the same place in daily life as cell phones and asked: “What would happen if we turned back when we forget it, if we opened it more times a day, if we read the message of God contained in the Bible the way we read messages on our cell phones?”

The Bible, he explained, contains the Word of God, the most effective tool in fighting evil and keeping us close to God.

Clearly, Francis said, the comparison between the Bible and the cell phone is paradoxical, but it induces us to reflect.

“If we always carried God's Word in our hearts, no temptation would distance us from the Father, and no obstacle would take us off the path towards good,” he said.

He pointed out that ... the Gospel of Matthew tells of Jesus's forty days in the desert, and of how he was tempted by the devil.

With his temptations, the Pope said, Satan wanted to divert Jesus from the path of obedience and humbleness — because he knew that this was the way to conquer evil — and he wanted him to take the false shortcut towards glory and success.

“But the devil's poisonous darts are all ‘blocked’ by Jesus with the shield provided by God's Word,” he said, pointing out that Jesus never uses his own words but only God's Word, and thus, filled with the force of the Holy Spirit, he victoriously crosses the desert.

Pope Francis invited all Christians to follow in Jesus' footsteps during the forty days of Lent and to confront the spiritual battle against evil with the strength of God's Word.

“That's why, he said, it is necessary to become familiar with the Bible: read it often, reflect upon it, assimilate it. The Bible contains the Word of God which is always topical and effective,” he said.

Inviting the faithful to carry a pocket-sized Gospel at all times, the Pope concluded with the words: “Don't forget what would happen if we treated the Bible as we treat our cell phone, always with us, always close to us!”

Repost from Diocese of Fresno website.

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**CP&BC Membership Dues:** Annual dues are \$45 per person. A membership application form is available on our website at [www.cpbcfresno.org](http://www.cpbcfresno.org). The deadline was December 31, 2016 to be included in the upcoming directory. For more information contact John Kanaley at [315-243-6597](tel:315-243-6597).

**Reservations:** Reservations are required for all breakfast meetings, held at Pardini's, and can be made by calling Lourdes Sanchez at 559-434-2722 or by visiting [www.cpbcfresno.org](http://www.cpbcfresno.org) then click on the reservation link. Doors open at 7 a.m. for coffee and networking. The program starts at 7:20 a.m. and concludes at 8:30 a.m. The breakfast cost is \$17 for members and \$22 for non-members. An annual discounted cost of \$120 is available to members that prepay for the year; this is a savings of \$33. Reservations are still required for prepays.

**Membership Directory:** Ad space starts at \$50. Contact Al Aguila at [directory@cpbcfresno.org](mailto:directory@cpbcfresno.org) for more information. December 15, 2016 was the deadline to reserve ad space. December 31, 2016 was the deadline for ad artwork. More directory advertising information is available at [www.cpbcfresno.org](http://www.cpbcfresno.org).

**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. Sally Lauritzen is the point person to whom requests can be made, and once they are received she will email or phone the network. Contact Sally ([salauritz@att.net](mailto:salauritz@att.net) or [559.439.8378](tel:559.439.8378)) to become part of the network or to submit a prayer request.

**Website:** Please be sure to visit [www.cpbcfresno.org](http://www.cpbcfresno.org) for all the latest information about our club. CP&BC thanks J. Colin Petersen of J - I.T. Outsource for the design and maintenance of the website.

## **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.

## **Publisher:**

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