



# CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Catholic Professional & Business Club  
Diocese of Fresno

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

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2020-2021

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## June 11 — Bug Hall

**Profiled by Tom Lang**

Our final speaker before our summer break will be Zooming in to our June 11th breakfast meeting from his home in Toledo, Ohio.

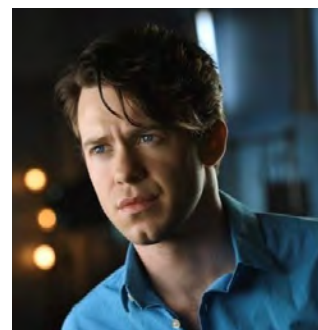
At the age of eight, Bug Hall went from living in a one-room duplex with his mother, stepfather, and three siblings to starring as Alfalfa in Steven Spielberg's "The Little Rascals." From a rundown Fort Worth suburb to the neon lights of Hollywood. From a school play ground to A-list parties and fame, where who you are is what you are, truth is relative, and the only rule is "don't let the paparazzi find out." A chance meeting with an exorcist would begin Bug's long road to the Truth ... Incarnate.

Beginning with the idea that hitting his mark was Bug's main job for nearly 30 years and how that relates to the classical definition of sin as "missing the mark," Bug makes the point that God uses the events of our lives to prepare our hearts for Himself. For his talk with CP&BC, he will touch briefly on his experience growing up in Hollywood, his initial conversion to the Catholic faith, and how he spent years trying to reconcile his new faith with his career. Unable to do that in the current climate within the entertainment industry, Bug finally decided to give up his success and leave Hollywood to pursue a life of simplicity, because the only real success in this life is a life well lived with Christ at its absolute center.

Bug spent his childhood making movies and T.V. shows for every major studio and network. During that time, he experienced continued abuse by various predators in Hollywood. In his pre-teens he fell into the use of alcohol and drugs as a means of escape, but after the death of a close friend in his early twenties, Bug decided to get sober. After his sobriety he continued to work as an actor, while also focusing on writing. His scripts were picked up for development by major studios, but the development process on one particular project led to a chance encounter with a Catholic priest, who also happened to be an exorcist. A contentious conversation about human nature, objective truth, and the existence of God quickly became a moment of extraordinary grace. Bug converted to Catholicism that very night.

After nearly 30 years in the entertainment industry starring in more than 50 T.V. shows and films, Bug quit his company and asked to be released from his Netflix show. He saw clearly that running the Hollywood rat race was just another wide gate and crooked path. He left Hollywood to follow Christ's example of simplicity and live an authentically Catholic life, so as to run the only race that matters — and enter the narrow gate of salvation.

**Visit [cpbcfresno.org](http://cpbcfresno.org) to make your reservations. Current CP&BC Fresno members will be emailed the Zoom meeting ID and password once we receive your RSVP. If you miss the meeting, members may request access to the online recording for up to a month after the meeting date. You must be a current member. Send your request to [speakers@cpbcfresno.org](mailto:speakers@cpbcfresno.org).**



## What's Inside?

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## Book Review

By John Kasaian

**Roman Workbenches, a short treatise on benches from Pompeii, Herculaneum, and the Holy Roman Empire**

by Christopher Schwarz

Lost Art Press

57 pages Hardbound, 2017

Ft. Mitchel, KY

This is the year honoring St. Joseph. Though little is written about him in the New Testament, he is one of the most popular of patron saints – as well he should be.

One of the things that we know about St Joseph is that he was a carpenter, but what did carpenters do in Judea during Roman times? Woodworking, of course, but what did they make, and how did they make it – especially a village carpenter like St. Joseph?

Unlike today's specialized trades like cabinet makers, framers, roofers, finish carpenters, etc., a village carpenter in the first century would have been equivalent to a blacksmith only working with wood instead of iron – whatever needed making, he'd make. There was no Crazy Bernie or Overstock.com back then.

Like the blacksmith, carpentry was a highly skilled and profitable occupation. That changes the popular narrative of the Holy Family as being impoverished, doesn't it?

Consider the tools of the carpenter's trade. Unlike what you can pick up on sale during Father's Day at Lowes, carpenters (like blacksmiths) made many of their own tools; however, even those tools couldn't be made without very basic steel tools to make them. Considering steel for a saw – two thousand years before the Bessemer converter, steel was a scarce and costly commodity; a carpenter's tool kit, therefore represented a sizable investment.

For any woodworker, contemporary or ancient, one of the most important tools is a workbench – a sturdy immovable surface to hold stock firm so it can be sawn, planed, joined, etc. Knowing how a workbench was used should give insight to the carpenters who used them, and we hope, a tiny glimpse into the vocation of St. Joseph.

This brings us to Christopher Schwarz's entertaining book, "Roman Workbenches." After observing pictures of woodworking benches from 79 AD, when Mt Vesuvius entombed the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, Schwarz was intrigued by these workbenches that appeared more like benches one would find in a garden than the massive tables seen in woodshops today.



June 2021: Month of the Sacred Heart

## Prayer to the Sacred Heart

O most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing,  
I adore you, I love you and will a lively sorrow for my sins.

I offer you this poor heart of mine.

Make me humble, patient, pure, and wholly obedient to your will.

Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you.

Protect me in the midst of danger; comfort me in my afflictions;  
give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs,  
your blessings on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death.

Within your heart I place my every care.

In every need let me come to you with humble trust saying,

Heart of Jesus, help me.

Amen.



Drawing up plans, Schwarz constructed three benches from pictures found in Pompeii, Herculaneum, and a later bench from 1505 which features a built-in end vise.

Surprisingly, these low benches were less fatiguing as they allowed for working on wood while seated, and sawing while kneeling, both features which make my lumbar challenged back take interest. "Roman Workbenches" is both a journey of discovery and time travel, as Schwarz takes the fortunate reader along with him across two thousand years, giving us a glimpse of the carpentry trade as practiced by St Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

You could see if Cotter's Religious Goods or you can get a free download from Lost Art Press at <https://lostartpress.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/roman-workbenches-1.pdf>

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Contact Denise Correia  
vavi@cns4u.com

## Become Part of Our Prayer Network Today!

Prayers when you and your loved ones need them the most!  
It's amazing, simply join the CP&BC Prayer Network,  
call or email your requests, and our network will pray for you.

To join, contact [Sally salauritz@att.net](mailto:Sally.salauritz@att.net) or 559-439-8378



## CP&BC Membership

By Karen Bosch Cobb

Each of us has a story about why we became and remained a member of the Catholic Professional & Business Club of the Diocese of Fresno. Over the years, those stories have been enriched by the meetings at breakfasts with friends, family, and business acquaintances. We have all probably had the experience of seeing someone at a breakfast whom we have known in our profession or business for years, and yet had no idea they were a Catholic—then after the meeting that relationship became deeper, richer, more trusting. And, just as important, we have heard some amazing speakers, made new friends, been inspired by colleagues, and found people with whom to do business.

After a year without in-person meetings, we appreciate even more the importance of in-person meetings with friends and colleagues, plus the opportunity to make new connections and to hear about and grow in our Faith.

We are pleased to report that CP&BC leadership is in discussions with Pardini's about reopening. This will of course be done in accordance with local health rules. We plan to livestream and record our speakers via Zoom this fall so members may make their own decisions regarding joining us at our in-person breakfasts.

**Watch for the renewal form to arrive in your mailbox soon. Dues are \$48 and are due June 30, 2021. Please renew today!**

## Speaker Recap – Ms. Cheryl Sarkisian

By Norma Williams

“See whatever you do as a ministry and each person as a child of God. Be a good listener, be just and charitable.” Those are characteristics May Zoom speaker Cheryl Sarkisian strives to exercise daily in her position as Diocese of Fresno Chancellor for the past year and as Safe Environmental Coordinator since 2012.

In the latter position, Cheryl receives calls related to protection of children and adults, hears stories, takes them to the Bishop, reports to law enforcement, and refers complaints for internal investigation. A diocesan review board makes recommendations to the Bishop for final decision.

Cheryl's role as Chancellor involves being the official diocesan archivist (record keeper), secretary to the Bishop's cabinet, receiving and disseminating daily updates from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

A cradle Catholic, Cheryl experienced a spiritual rebirth in her thirties. Turning points involved the loss of her home in a fire and seeing Saint Pope John Paul II. Cheryl has been deeply influenced by the writings of Scott Hahn.

The Diocese of Fresno consists of about 1.4 million Catholics with records going back to about 1870. It was first part of the Diocese of Los Angeles, then Monterey; Fresno, becoming the Diocese of Fresno in 1967. The Covid pandemic affected diocesan and parish finances, often resulting in staff reductions, but a positive was that it forced focus on essentials. Many pastors became very creative in keeping their parishes alive and well.

Asked what the laity can do, besides supporting the church financially, Cheryl reminded us that prayer is a major weapon, and since volunteerism is down, to step up in one's parish.

Cheryl spoke briefly of her two powerful and spiritual short walk Caminos. She hopes to do a full one when she retires in about three years.

She reported that Bishop Brennan is a pleasure to work with, being a joyful person who brightens every day.

**Cheryl can be reached by e-mail at the Diocese of Fresno website.**



## Upcoming Events

- No meetings in July and August
- September 10, 2021

## Pope's Worldwide Prayer May Intention

### The Beauty of Marriage

Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness, and patience.

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**CP&BC Membership Dues:** Annual dues are \$48 per person and are due June 30, 2021. The deadline for the 2022 Membership Directory is December 31, 2021. For more information contact John Kanaley at 315-243-6597. The 2021 directory is underway.

**Reservations:** Reservations are required for all breakfast meetings, held at Pardini's, and can be made by calling Denise Correia 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:** For the 2022 Membership directory, ad space starts at \$50. December 15, 2021 is the deadline to reserve ad space for the 2022 Directory. December 31, 2021 is the deadline for ad artwork. More directory advertising 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) 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. CP&BC also thanks Uhuru Network, LLC 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.

## **Publisher:**

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