

# Catholic Professional Business Club of Merced

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009

## MONSIGNOR JOHN GRIESBACH – JANUARY SPEAKER

We welcome the new year and are blessed to begin 2009 with such an outstanding speaker, Monsignor John Griesbach, the director at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Three Rivers. He will be our featured speaker for our January 15<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting at St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 671 E. Yosemite Avenue, Merced. Tickets for the buffet luncheon catered by Fernando's Bistro are \$15.00 each. Reservations are highly recommended and may be made by calling Raylene at 723-4929. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon.



*Msgr. John Griesbach at the helm of the 4-wheel drive Bobcat known as the "Stretch Limo" ready to give tours of the youth center construction site.*

Msgr. Griesbach is a native of Tulare, CA and grew up with his five brothers and sisters on his family's sawmill and lumberyard, Lampe Lumber Company. He followed his brother Tom into Ryan Preparatory College, our diocesan minor seminary, in 1964, at the age of thirteen. After high school, he attended college seminary at St. John's College, Camarillo, CA. After graduation, he attended St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park and also the American College in Louvain, Belgium, where he finished his final two years of theological studies at the University of Louvain. One of the highlights of his European study years was to attend the ordination of Msgr. McCormick at St. Peter's in Rome by Pope Paul VI in June of 1975. Father John was ordained a priest in 1976, and for the next three years he worked as an associate pastor at Sacred Heart in Fresno, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Bakersfield. From 1979-84, he served as campus chaplain and religion department chair at Garces Memorial High School in Bakersfield. In 1984 he returned to Fresno to serve as diocesan vocation director. In 1989, he returned to Belgium for three years to serve as the vice rector of the American College, and during the summer months of those years, he attended the Masters Program in Spirituality at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Upon his return to the Diocese in 1992, he was assigned to "Little St. Patrick's" parish in Kerman, where he served as pastor until 2003. During those years he was named a monsignor, but like Father Pat, he prefers to be called Father John. In October of 2003, he became the first priest of the Diocese of Fresno to serve as director at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Three Rivers, and that's where he works today. Fr. John likes playing golf, loves to hike and fish, and in recent years, he has come to enjoy oil painting, especially California landscapes.

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## Membership Note

Membership in the Catholic Professional Business Club of Merced is open to all Christians. This organization offers its members and guests the opportunity each month to enjoy a meal and listen to a business professional share how their faith has been a part of their life and accomplishments. CPBC Annual memberships run from January through December of each year, with no monthly meetings in July, August and December.

Regular membership dues are just \$35.

Annual Membership Dues: \$135

Dues can be paid at any monthly meeting or by sending a check to the following:

CPBC  
PMB #183  
731 E. Yosemite Avenue

Suite B  
Merced, CA 95340

## Merged CPBC Board of Directors

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### PRESIDENT

Robert Tomasetti

#### VICE-PRESIDENT

Helen Amarant

#### SECRETARY

Jean Smith

#### TREASURER

Chris Winek

#### PAST PRESIDENT

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Mike Salvadori

Dave Santos

Reverend Mr. Joseph Smith

Father John looks forward to sharing his faith story with us. He will also provide our members and guests with an update on their investment, through contributions to Our Faith, Our Family, Our Future, in the construction of the new diocesan youth center in Three Rivers. Mark your calendars so you'll be with us on January 15th!

## EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR 2009

Congratulations to our new CPBC executive board for 2009! They will be installed at our January meeting on January 15th at St. Patrick's. We thank them for their commitment, dedication and willingness to serve our members. They are:

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:	Robert Tomasetti
Vice-President:	Helen Amarant
Secretary:	Jean Smith
Treasurer:	Chris Winek
Past President:	Brenda Feehan

## BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to announce the addition of three new board members, Kim Wilson, Patti Houbein and Jose Delgadillo. They will strengthen our board as they share their time and talent for the good of our club and its members. We welcome them and ask God to bless them as they serve Him through service to His people.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you so much to those who have already responded so generously to our membership renewal letter sent out at the beginning of December. So far, we have 31 paid members for 2009, 20 at the regular membership rate and 11 at the annual membership rate. Our membership year extends from January to December each year. We offer two types of memberships:

Regular membership: \$35.00. This entitles you to receive the monthly newsletter and a membership directory.

Annual Membership: \$135.00. This entitles you to receive the monthly newsletter, a membership directory, and 10 CPBC monthly breakfasts or lunches.

You may join at any of our monthly meetings. If you have questions, simply stop by the membership table when you come to a meeting and one of our board members will be happy to help you.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

January 8	CPBC Board Meeting, Priests' Dining Room, St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 7:30 a.m.
January 15	CPBC Luncheon Meeting, St. Patrick's Parish Hall,

671 E. Yosemite Avenue, Merced, 12:00 noon  
Speaker: Msgr. John Griesbach, Director, St.  
Anthony's Retreat Center in Three Rivers

February 5 CPBC Board Meeting, Priests' Dining Room, ST.  
Patrick's Parish Hall, 7:30 a.m.

February 19 CPBC Luncheon Meeting, New Bethany  
Retirement Home, Los Banos, 12:00 noon  
Speaker: Larry Holody, Financial Consultant,  
Fresno CPBC member

## SPIRITUAL READING SUGGESTION

**Book:** Moments of Grace, Inspiring Stories from Well-Known  
Catholics  
**Authors:** Al Kresta and Nick Thomm  
**Publisher:** Servant Books  
**Price:** \$14.99

God isn't content to remain at a distance from us. As these stories reveal, God is on the street, at our side, ready to step in, hoping to be invited. For this book, Catholic radio host Al Kresta conducted interviews with well-known Catholics, asking them to identify a particular event when God broke through to them. Sometimes God showed up in surprising ways, sometimes in the slow unfolding of a situation, but he always showed up. These moving, personal stories will encourage you to recognize that God will always be there for you as well.

## HOLY HUMOR

On these cold, foggy days, a little humor can often lift our spirits. Listed below are some tongue in cheek definitions that Catholics will readily understand and appreciate.

**BULLETIN:** Parish information that is read during the homily; Catholic air conditioning

**INCENSE:** Holy Smoke!

**JONAH:** The original "Jaws" story

**JUSTICE:** When kids have kids of their own

**CHOIR:** Group of people whose singing allows the rest of us to lip-sync.

**PROCESSION:** The ceremonial formation at the beginning of Mass, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

**RECESSIONAL:** The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of Mass, led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** The last song at Mass, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

**RELICS:** People who have been going to Mass for so long, they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.

**USHERS:** The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

**MAGI:** The most famous trio to attend a baby shower

**AMEN:** The only part of a prayer that everybody knows.

## Deaneries of Fresno

The Diocese of Fresno is divided into five Deaneries or areas within which are comprised the various parishes. Each deanery has an elected dean who represents the bishop in the particular area, presides over deanery meetings and gives input to the bishop regarding the needs of the People of God in the deanery.

### MERCED/MARIPOSA DEANERY

Dean: Reverend  
Harvey Fonseca, V.F.

Atwater  
St. Anthony

Chowchilla  
St. Columba

Dos Palos  
Sacred Heart

Firebaugh  
St. Joseph

Gustine  
Our Lady of Miracles

Hilmar  
Holy Rosary

Le Grand  
Our Lady of Lourdes

Livingston  
St. Jude Thaddeus

Los Banos  
St. Joseph

Mariposa  
St. Joseph

Planada  
Sacred Heart

Yosemite  
Our Lady of the Snows

Merced  
OLM / St. Patrick  
Sacred Heart