

Catholic Professionals' Group

OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1: ISSUE 4

*Health Care &
The Human Person: Have
We Lost Our Perspective?*
WITH SHEILA LIAUGMINAS
OF RELEVANT RADIO &
A PANEL OF
HEALTHCARE EXPERTS

**SAT., OCT. 26, 2013
6:00 - 10:00 PM**

**DRURY LANE THEATRE &
CONVENTION CENTER
OAKBROOK TERRACE, IL**

6:00 COCKTAILS

6:30 DINNER

7:00 PROGRAM

9:00 SOCIAL / NETWORKING

TICKETS \$50 EACH

**For More Information
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*Catholic Professionals' Group
welcomes professionals to
participate in monthly meetings
where they can socialize with
other professionals who share
Catholic values, discuss topics
relevant to our faith &
professions, and enjoy spiritual
nourishment under the guidance
of Roman Catholic Priests.*

The Fast-Track Professional: How to Integrate Faith into Professional & Personal Life

Presented by Peter Breen
September 28th (Elmhurst)

Peter Breen, Senior Counsel and Vice President of the Thomas More Society in Chicago, addressed an enthusiastic group of professionals, providing a view into his experiences integrating faith and work on the front lines as a public interest attorney. Without the help of written notes and pausing every now and again to take questions from an engaged audience, Mr. Breen spoke from the heart for almost an hour, delighting us with war stories and providing practical advice on how to spread the seeds of faith in a secularized society.



Describing with both humor and humility his incredible journey of faith and trust, Mr. Breen explained how he became increasingly involved in, and devoted to, working for the public good. First, he shared his personal story of leaving a lucrative law practice in Chicago to work at the Thomas More Society, where he has aggressively fought to preserve the hard-won fundamental principles on which the United States was founded, particularly First Amendment rights. He also recounted the time when he was asked to start up a crisis pregnancy center, where he would have to, at the age of 28, oversee an experienced staff almost twice his age and advise and console individuals going through an almost unbearably stressful time. Nevertheless, having courageously said "yes" to the call, he went on to found numerous crisis pregnancy centers around Chicagoland, assisting women and their babies get off to a good start together.

As an attorney in the thick of the fight for life, marriage, and religious freedom on a daily basis, Mr. Breen recalled a number of court cases involving issues related to same-sex unions and children. As he is up against people who have little, if any, concept of the role faith, religion and morals have in their lives, he sees each court battle as an opportunity to speak God's truth to people, many of whom are hearing it for the first time. He emphasized, however, the importance of planting spiritual seeds for souls in a positive manner, even in the midst of litigation, in an effort to build bridges and provide a basis for further reflection on extremely complex and nuanced issues. Noting that he has made the most progress in opening people's hearts to the truth by first showing them respect and understanding, he urged us to similarly step out into the world to serve and to engage directly in the spiritual warfare of our time, whether in a soup kitchen, as part of a pro-life group, or through some other public service. Quoting Matthew 10:16, Mr. Breen reminded us of Jesus' admonition: "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves."

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Mr. Breen concluded his talk by telling us that he has thrown his hat into the political ring as a candidate for Illinois State Representative of District 48. For more information on his candidacy, please see votebreen.com.

For information about the Thomas More Society, please go to thomasmore.org.

Bible Study Timeline

We began our journey into the past by viewing the introductory video of the internationally acclaimed series by Jeff Cavins, *Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation*. In Lesson 1, titled *Finding the Story*, Jeff Cavins notes that people are "hardwired" for a story, a plan for our life, and for God. He reminds us that even if we do not have a plan for our own lives, the secular world is happy to give us one from such personalities as Dr. Phil and Oprah. He also reminded us that the story of salvation, the greatest love story ever told, begins centuries before the compilation of the Bible -- which is a sort of "Reader's Digest" version of the more detailed and nuanced epic -- and is better understood in chronological order over 12 distinct periods, rather than as a collection of books grouped together according to genre. In so doing, Cavins explained that the Bible is not a single book, but rather a collection of 73 books that can be confusing and exhausting if one tries to read the Bible straight through cover to cover.



Describing the fullness of the Word of God as understood through both written and sacred tradition, Cavins reminded us that the Bible is inspired by God and teaches the truth without error. Accordingly, he presented the three criteria for interpreting Scripture: (1) to be attentive to context and the unity of Scripture as a whole and not to focus exclusively on a line here or there; (2) to read Scripture within the living tradition of the whole church; and (3) to be mindful that all truths fit together and do not contradict. Further, he asked us to be attuned as we go through the story to keep in mind both its allegorical character, how the story relates to Jesus Christ, and its anagogical sense, relating to eternity. Finally, he also advised us to never give up, to not be afraid, and to keep in mind that God only calls us to be faithful, not perfect.

In explaining that God gave us the Scriptures and the Catechism, which provide both the structure and methodology for approaching the faith, Cavins described the Four Pillars of the Catechism: (1) the Creed, the plan of Salvation in a highly condensed form; (2) the Sacraments and Liturgy, which are the vehicles by which we enter the story and encounter Christ; (3) life in Christ, that is, how we live and personally fit into God's plan; and (4) prayer, which fosters our intimacy with Christ and helps our understanding of the other pillars.

Cavins advised that we must approach the Bible with humility, like a child open to receiving the gift of a story. With that in mind, we will read 14 books that are narrative in form and keep the story going within the context of the 12 periods. As we go through the story, however, we will also see how the remaining 59 books fit into that narrative to make the entire story of salvation really come alive.

We are very excited to offer this series to anyone interested in learning about our faith. Please come join us on our travels through time.