

# Catholic Professionals' Group

SEPTEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1: ISSUE 3

**CPG'S NEXT EVENT**  
**"Fast-Track Professional:**  
**How To Integrate Faith**  
**Into Professional**  
**& Personal Life"**  
**WITH PETER BREEN**

**SAT., SEPT. 28, 2013**  
**5:30 - 10:00 PM**

**PARAGON CLINICAL OFFICES**  
**977 N. OAK LAWN AVENUE**  
**ELMHURST, IL**

**5:30 JEFF CAVINS' BIBLE**  
**TIMELINE**

**6:30 SOCIAL / NETWORKING**

**7:00 KEYNOTE - PETER BREEN**

**9:00 SOCIAL / NETWORKING**

**DRINKS/APPETIZERS**  
**(FRANCESCA'S) AVAILABLE**

**For More Information**  
**Please Contact:**

**Mary Beth Sutkowski MD**  
[mbsutkowski@comcast.net](mailto:mbsutkowski@comcast.net)

**Barbara Tishuk Esq**  
[barbaratishuk@comcast.net](mailto:barbaratishuk@comcast.net)

*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.*

## Catholic Moments in American History: Part I

Presented by Fr. Thomas Koys  
August 31st (Downers Grove)



Approximately 20 Catholic professionals gathered at Ballydoyle Irish Pub and Restaurant in Downers Grove to enjoy some social time together in the "Pope Room" and to hear some of Father Koys' brilliant insights into American history. First, we opened the program with a short Gospel Reflection from St. Luke (LK 14:1, 7-14), led by Father Kevin Baldwin. The reading served as a reminder to avoid developing an inordinate desire for human respect or becoming blinded by ambition. While true humility is not opposed to personal achievement and calls one to be fully aware of, and to act on, one's God-given talents, the Gospel reading stressed that we must always be cognizant of our nothingness and dependence on God. True humility, therefore, is natural simplicity and an attitude toward God that allows the soul to discern God's will for us and even provides a source of fortitude. The prideful, on the other hand, close the door to God's will. As Jesus explained: "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Next, Father Koys treated us to a delightful PowerPoint presentation, complete with movie clips, to discuss Catholic themes throughout American history. Among other things, he touched on important aspects of our culture generally, including a distinctively Catholic worldview that partly inspired the principles on which our nation was founded. Among his many observations, Father Koys pointed out that, as an example of Papal disappointment with corrupt monarchs, the American Revolution was in a sense a form of ex-communication and an opportunity to start over with a proper regard for the divine and individual freedoms. Further, Father Koys quoted G.K. Chesterton, noting that the concept of popular voting is sort of a "communion of saints." G.K. Chesterton once said, "Tradition means giving votes to the most obscure of all classes, our ancestors. It is the democracy of the dead. Tradition refuses to submit to the small and arrogant oligarchy of those who merely happen to be walking about." In addition, referring to President Lincoln's debates with Stephen Douglas over the issue of slavery as Lincoln's "Catholic moment," Father Koys noted that Lincoln's appeal to natural law as moral authority for ending the abhorrent practice was decidedly Catholic in that his argument recognized the personhood and thus the dignity of every human being.

Father Koys also contrasted certain Catholic moments in history with seemingly Protestant-inspired events or trends, such as the taking of land from Native Americans and attempts at scripture-only conversion, and the taking of land from Mexico with the questionable authority of the divine right of kings.

Referencing the book of Samuel, Father Koys also illustrated how people continued to desire a human, earthly king because they rejected God as their ultimate king. Even amidst Samuel's warnings, they remained stubborn, insisting they have a king "like other nations." A lively discussion ensued after the presentation during which the group enjoyed socializing and delicious refreshments.