

CPI Winter Newsletter

2014-15

Catholic Professionals of Illinois made considerable progress in 2014 with a number of notable accomplishments. Not only has CPI increased its social media presence, but has been blessed with remarkable speakers and has undertaken a few other endeavors (discussed below) that appeal to a wide audience. The enthusiasm is palpable, and CPI intends to grow its membership and develop into the organization of choice for Catholic professionals to network, learn about the faith, sanctify one's work, and to bring the light of Christ to others.

One undertaking is the Bible Study group, led by Fr. Kevin Baldwin, LC, which in the last quarter of 2014 covered Chapters 15-25 of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. This highly interactive group explores the gospel within the context of events, social attitudes, language and customs of Biblical times. Please note that the Bible Study will move to a new location. **Beginning February 10th, 2015, the bible study will meet the second Tuesday of each month at the Tap House Grill located at 1243 S. State Street in Lemont at 7pm.**

Speaker Series

As part of its ongoing speaker series, CPI hosted three inspirational speakers in the last quarter from very different professions: a politician; the CEO of a large company; and a physician.

Congressman Lipinski

First, in September, Illinois Congressman Dan Lipinski (D) spoke about the challenges of being a Catholic legislator in secular times, admitting that he is often swimming against the tide, even with respect to other, nominally Catholic, members of congress.

Remaining optimistic, he and fellow Catholic lawmakers from both sides of the aisle, including Congressman Paul Ryan, get together for lunch on a regular basis to support each other in their quest to be “in the world, not of the world.” (Jn 15:19; Rom 12:2) and to determine how best to address pressing public issues like abortion, contraception, same-sex marriage, healthcare, and religious liberty, especially in light of the push for ever-increasing government involvement in social justice issues.

Citing one example among others, Lipinski remarked how the so-called “Nuns on the Bus” supported Obamacare out of a distorted idea of social justice, noting that zeal for government solutions to certain social ills usually results in severe injustice elsewhere, like restraints on religious freedom. He previously observed that religious freedom is not merely the freedom to worship as one wishes, but also to exercise one's belief in the public square. Indeed, when the Hobby Lobby decision came out, he stated that “the ‘free exercise clause’ is not just freedom to worship, but freedom to exercise religious beliefs.”

The soft-spoken Congressman, who has earned numerous academic degrees from prestigious schools, including a PhD from Duke University, has a solid pro-life voting record, opposes same-sex marriage, did not endorse President Obama in 2012, and was the only Illinois Democrat to oppose the Affordable Care Act. The latter point begs the question about the platform of the Democrat party, but that is a topic for another

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column. Thank you Congressman for being a light in the darkness!

We would be remiss if we did not point out that Congressman Lipinski graciously invited **Fr. Thomas Koys**, an ardent supporter of CPI, to deliver the opening prayer before Congress on July 24, 2014. The prayer appears word-for-word in the *Federal Register*. Thank you, Congressman Lipinski!

Martin Tighe, Donnelly Communications, Inc.

Martin D. Tighe, Founder and Chairman of Donnelly Communications, Inc. spoke about how he was able to develop a culture of caring at his company, by placing God at the center, with the help of the nonprofit company, His Way At Work. Tighe, who started Donnelly Communications out of his bedroom while still in college and which now handles accounts associated with some of the world's best-known brand names, flew all the way from Atlanta, GA, to share how his company transformed into "a culture of integrity and passion for excellence which radiates throughout the company," once he employed the methodology of HWAW and implemented such programs as Corporate Chaplains of America in 2013. The program brings care and compassion to the workplace, where working people spend the majority of their time.



Martin Tighe explaining his firm's values

In practice, this means that the workplace is a supportive place during times of personal crisis, whether due to the loss of a loved one, divorce, financial, or credit problems.

For example, consider the following, taken from the list of core values and beliefs on its website:

Through **faith** we consider our tenure at Donnelly to be a blessing and an important part of God's plan for each of us. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve customers and represent our clients.

Our commitment to be completely honest and transparent shall never waiver. **Integrity** earns the trust of our esteemed clients and our respected teammates, and is essential to our very existence as a business.

We honor God when we give our best effort to serve our valued customers. We are continually learning, improving, and applying our talents in pursuit of **excellence**.

We exhibit **leadership** by delivering creative solutions and exceptional customer service. As individuals, we are empowered to innovate and lead by example.

We **respect** ourselves and others when we acknowledge the dignity and worth of each individual. We earn **respect** by treating coworkers, partners, clients, and customers honorably.

We foster **teamwork** by building healthy relationships and promoting accountability. When we pool our individual, complementary abilities, we accomplish extraordinary things.

We recognize that our business is a gift from God. Our call to **stewardship** compels us to put God's love into action as we conduct business, care for stakeholders, participate in

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the community, and apportion profits. [<http://www.donnelycommunications.com/html/Donnelly-Who-We-Are-Core-Beliefs-and-Values.html>] (last visited January 8, 2015)].¹

Dr. Anthony Caruso, Ob-Gyn

Our final speaker in 2014 was Dr. Anthony Caruso, Ob-gyn, who gave a rare glimpse into the in-vitro fertilization process and its unintended consequences. As a former practitioner of artificial reproductive technology (ART), who once shared the mindset of those who regard reproduction as an on-demand entitlement rather than as a gift, Dr. Caruso explained that the extremely lucrative medical practice was in a sense a pact with the devil.

Noting that ART is covered by insurance in certain states, Dr. Caruso explained how couples often travel to Illinois on a pilgrimage of sorts for treatment in hopes of achieving pregnancy. What people seem to either ignore or not realize are the ethical issues inherent in ART. For example, not only does ART upset the body's natural balance, but it also inexorably leads to the commoditization of the unborn and women's bodies, and to a chronic self-centeredness exemplified in the form of abandoned frozen embryos, sex-selection abortions, "reduction," selling one's eggs to pay for expenses, freezing eggs from aborted fetuses for later use, and even unsuspecting half siblings getting married. (Recall the movie, *Delivery Man*, in which Vince Vaughn plays an anonymous sperm donor who later finds that 533 children, conceived from his contributions and living in the same

¹ For more information about Corporate Chaplains of America, please visit its website at: <http://chaplain.org/>.

area, now want to identify their biological father.)

Clearly fascinated with the science behind the various ART methods, Dr. Caruso used charts and graphs to illustrate the complicated and delicate hormonal processes involved in achieving pregnancy and the lengths to which couples will go toward that end. Feeling empathy toward these people, Dr. Caruso initially thought that he was simply using his expertise to bring joy to people who might not otherwise be able to achieve pregnancy, and he undoubtedly did. But he eventually had a kind of epiphany, just as he was poised to become president of a Chicago area reproductive endocrinology organization, realizing that he was undermining God's plans and actually subverting human dignity. The fruits of his professional courage were that he refused the position and eventually joined Downers Grove Ob/Gyn, where he currently practices with Dr. Robert Lawler, Ob-Gyn.

Upcoming Speakers

Father William Blazek, SJ, MD, FACP, a board certified Internist, Fellow of the American College of Physicians, Jesuit priest, and the Director of the Integritas Institute for Ethics, will present a talk to CPI in the spring of 2015, entitled, "*Moral Teaching Serves the Human Person*," at St. James at Sag Bridge Church, 10600 S. Archer Avenue, Lemont, IL, near the intersection of Routes 171 and 83.

Margaret Drungle, MA, LCPC, will speak on the pornography epidemic and ways to combat it using gentle methods from a holistic, dignified Catholic approach.

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LOOK WHAT'S NEW!!!



Great Books Happy Hour!! Starting Febr. 25th

3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm

This year's readings:

- **Antigone** by Sophocles
- **Confessions** by St. Augustine (in 2 or 3 parts)
- **Hamlet** by William Shakespeare
- **The Federalist Papers** (in 3 parts)
- A work by **Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche**

Place: Tap House Grill, 1243 S. State Street, Lemont, IL 60439
Come eat, drink, and learn with us!

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Another project, a trip to the Holy Land, June 20-30, 2015, with Father Kevin Baldwin, is underway. The itinerary and registration details are available at www.catholicprofessionalsil.org.

Outreach Events

December saw CPI members preparing and serving Polish sausage, baked beans, and cream puffs to about 100 residents at **Catholic Charities Daybreak Shelter in Joliet**. It was a

wonderful and joyful way to share Christ with people experiencing temporary homelessness. Please consider joining us next time.

Also, CPI will be volunteering to pack meals for needy families, at **Feed My Starving Children, on May 30, 2015**. Please join us and register at www.volunteer.fmssc.org.

Advertising and sponsorship opportunities available.

Contact CPI at:

catholicprofessionalsil@gmail.com.

Finally, a huge THANK YOU to our fourth quarter sponsors:

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