

The Writer's Seed

Spreading the Seed – Christ in the Culture

Chapter Presence at Eucharistic Congress

Special points of interest:

- St. Johns Chapter of the CWG will host a table at the Congress
- Local chapter authors will be available to talk about CWG and their books
- Contact chairperson Tony Kolenc if you would like to help

The St. Johns Chapter of the Catholic Writers Guild will be hosting "Pictures with the Pope" along with an information table and CWG approved authors ready to talk about the local chapter, their works, and autograph their books.



Jerry Webster and the "pope" holding Jerry's two novels

Last year, the life-like image of Pope Francis drew curious onlookers to the table.

Attendance at the annual Eucharistic Congress, sponsored by the Diocese of St. Augustine, not only "feeds" hungry souls, but also promotes Catholic culture. It was at the 2012 gathering that Tony Kolenc met Jerry Webster at the CWG booth. The rest is history.

As a local chapter of the national Catholic Writers Guild, we aspire to the identity described so well by the CWG: we are a group of writers, artists, editors, illustrators and allies whose mission is to provide information and training to assist members in creating artistic works, and to help one another build a vibrant Catholic literary

and artistic culture. We do this by encouraging each other to create, publish, perform, and share our work; by reflecting upon core Catholic values in art; and by networking among ourselves and with others within the faith and literary communities.

There are no local dues, but we do "*pass the hat*" for voluntary donations at the end of each meeting. More information can be found on page 3.

If you are called to volunteer at the booth, please contact Tony Kolenc @ akolenc@msn.com ♦

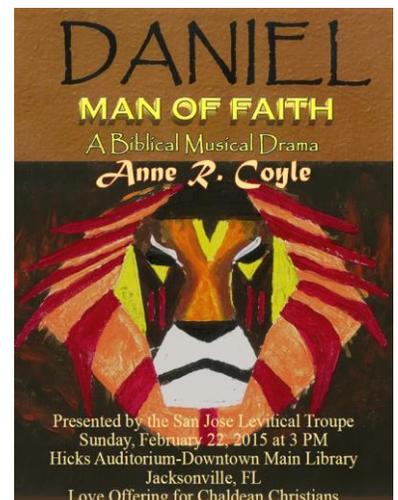
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Daniel Man of Faith Dazzles

St. Johns Chapter members Maureen Smith and Jody Windsor must be glowing in the wake of this original Anne R. Coyle musical drama recently presented by the San Jose Levitical Troupe in dazzling Babylonian attire.

Maureen wrote the script and Jody served as publicist. The audience heard from young and old Daniel, Kings, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and enjoyed dance performances, songs and music written by Anne, a member of the national CWG. ♦





Gerard D. Webster

AUTHOR CATHOLIC FICTION

When asked why he writes only fiction, Jerry flashes his famous smile and laughs,

“No one would believe me anyway.”

Interesting fact: Jerry spent five years in Franciscan Seminary.

Jerry Webster, founder, past chairperson, and backbone of this CWG chapter during the last four years, passed on his leadership torch in November 2014.

He humbly gives credit to many others for what the chapter has become today, but every member will tell you that without Jerry, we would not be here.

He started by gathering like-minded writers at the Queen of Angels bookstore and worked tirelessly to morph the group into the St. Johns Chapter of the Catholic Writers Guild, the first affiliated local chapter of the International Catholic Writers Guild.

Jerry continues to be the deeply rich “voice” publicizing meetings and chapter activities over Queen of Peace

Catholic radio (AM1460).

Both of his novels- “*Insight*” and the exciting sequel “*The Soul Reader*”- won the prestigious award of the Catholic Writers Guild Seal of Approval.



Jerry is working on his third book tentatively titled “The Sins of the Fathers”.

Comments Catholic author Ellen Gable Hrkach on Jerry’s latest book, “*I thoroughly enjoyed the Catholic themes and the Catholic flavor of the book. I especially appreciated how the author develops Ward’s character and how he illustrates the advantages*

and disadvantages of having the gift of “In Sight.” I highly recommend this novel to everyone who enjoys a well-written, fast-paced story.”

Our respected and beloved resident humorist served two years in the Peace Corps in Bolivia, two years in the U.S. Army and thirty years helping others through his position in the addictions field.

Jerry recently retired to be what he most cherishes: husband to his lovely wife, Anne, and proud father of five wonderful grown kids – one who is a priest, Father William – and grandfather to Riley.

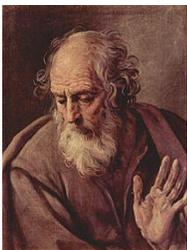
Thank you Jerry, for courageously blazing the trail, inspiring the travelers, and fostering motivation and hope along the way. ♦

Saint Joseph – Feast Day March 19th

Pope Pius IX proclaimed Saint Joseph the patron of the Universal Church in 1870. Having died in the “arms of Jesus and Mary” according to Catholic tradition, he is considered the model of the pious believer who receives grace at the moment of death, in other words, the

patron of a happy death.¹ Saint Joseph is the patron saint of a number of cities, regions and countries, among them the Americas, Canada, China, Croatia, Mexico, Korea, Austria, Belgium, Peru, the Philippines and Vietnam, as well as of families, fathers,

expectant mothers (pregnant women), travelers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general.¹Foley, O.F.M., Leonard. Saint of the Day, Lives, Lessons, and Feast, (revised by Pat McCloskey O.F.M.), Franciscan Media, ISBN 978-0-86716-887-7



Catholic Writers Guild



Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

Code of Ethics Excerpt

We work:

- with honesty, integrity, and justice
- to admit and correct

- mistakes promptly to meet all deadlines
- to present the truth without distortion to build and sustain human community through our economic, political, cultural, educational, and religious communications for the physical, intellectual, emotional, moral, and spiritual good of all people.

We respect:

- the Catholic faith
- the values, ethics, goals, leadership, and other established guidelines of The Catholic Writers' Guild
- the confidential nature of all ideas shared within the group
- the reasonable privacy of others
- the dignity of the person ◇

The Catholic Writers Guild, Inc.
Ph 317-755-2693

Annual dues: \$40

www.catholicwritersguild.com

Sneak Peeks



CWG March Calendar

Event: Local Chapter Meeting

Date: 3/7/2015

Time: 10-12 noon

Location: Father Felix Varela Center (formerly the Cuban American Club) 5110 Lourcey Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257

Session: "Writing Non-Fiction"

Speaker: Tony Kolenc

Outstanding Business

Critique Session

contact Tony Kolenc at

akolenc@msn.com

Upcoming Events

Dates: March 13-14th

Event: Eucharistic Congress

Information: <http://www.floridaeucharist.org/schedule/>

Speakers: His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Father Michael Schmitz, Mother Adela Galindo, Dr. Scott Hahn, Jeff Cavins

Dr. Scott Hahn is the author (or editor) of over forty books, including best-selling titles like *Rome Sweet Home*, *The Lamb's Supper*, *Hail Holy Queen*, *A Father Who Keeps His Promises*, *Lord Have Mercy*, *First Comes Love*, *Swear to God*, *Understanding Our Father*, *Scripture Matter*, *Spirit and Life*, *Understanding the Scripture*, *Catholic Bible Dictionary*, *Many Are Called*, *Signs of Life*, *Reasons to Believe*, *Answering the New Atheism*, *Ordinary Work Extraordinary Grace*, and *Living the Mysteries*.

Date: April 18th

Event: Local Chapter Meeting

Information: Speaker: Susi Pittman – *"Don't Be Afraid To Self-Publish: The benefits & drawbacks and how it can get you 'out there.'"*

Date: April 21st

Event: Bishop Felipe Estevez "Using Your Talents to Impact the Culture"

Information: Special Event of the St. Johns Chapter of the CWG. Free and open to the public. Refreshments and door prizes. No registration required; however you can register at the following site for door prizes:

<http://svy.mk/1LDk6oF>

Time: 7 pm

Location: Father Felix Varela Center (formerly the Cuban American Club) 5110 Lourcey Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257

Come and join us!

Highlights

Key points of interest from the chapter meeting

ST. JOHNS CHAPTER OF THE CWG

Board Members:

Chairperson

Antony Kolenc

Vice Chairperson

Bob Vergenz

Treasurer

Dan Costello

Secretary

Paula Babadi

Coordinators:

Publicity

Rod Beaman

Jerry Webster

Events

April 21st – Bishop Estevez (see p.3)

Newsletter

Paula Babadi

Rod Beaman

Judith Emami

Maureen Smith

Sonya Rivera

If you would like to write a short piece for the newsletter, please contact Paula Babadi at wordsbypaula@gmail.com

Scriptio de Cor Quote Corner

*All I have seen
teaches me to
trust the Creator
for all I have not
seen.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson
1803-1882*

Welcome new members...



Please make sure the secretary has your most current e-mail address so you don't miss out on the meeting notes and newsletter every month. Send address to wordsbypaula@gmail.com

Critique Partner Program...

Dan Costello led the group through potential processes for voluntary critiquing outside of meeting sessions.

The Google Document tool may provide a means for multiple "reviewers" to read and critique

submissions to the site. *More to come...*

The Writing Process and Dealing with Writer's Block ...

The kind of energy generated when writers learn from each other's experiences is palpable.

The Writing Process...

Judith Emami moderated an engaging group discussion complemented by the related topic

Overcoming Writers Block moderated by *Paula Babadi*.

Summarizes Judith:

As writers, all of us engage in the five steps of the writing process whether we are consciously aware of it or not. Because it is a recursive process, we easily move from one step to another, even though time away from our writing is highly

recommended before starting revisions. It is wishful thinking and unrealistic to expect to get your writing perfect on the first draft. We discussed different revision and editing strategies.

Three key things to remember about writer's block:

- "Every writer I know has trouble writing." *Joseph Heller*
- The "block" is often just a symptom of some deeper issue such as fear of success, failure, criticism, or perfectionism and once identified and addressed, releases the writer to move on.
- There are multiple tools, actions, exercises and techniques to get you back on track or on a totally new path.

You had to be there! ◇

The Catholic Writers Guild Prayer

Holy Family,

Guide our minds, our hearts, our hands,
As we write, speak, illustrate –
help our words to live in union with the Word.

Teach us discipline and skill
to use the talents god gives us.

Give us also insight and courage
to convey God's love through our craft,

and humility to be open
to His divine will, shaping our lives,
in loving loyalty to His Church.

In Christ's name. Amen. ◇

