

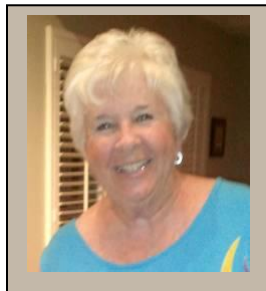
A Voice for Vocations

December 2013

Serra Club City of Orange
Region 11, District 127, Charter 643



PREZ SEZ
Maureen Neglia, President



Officer Roster

2012 – 2014

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<i>Spiritual Advisor:</i>	Sr. Nadine McGuiness, CSJ
<i>District 127 Governor:</i>	Wally Drazba

**Through Prayer....
Always Forward Never Back**

One thread flows through all of the Serra Conferences Joe and I have attended. Each has been an opportunity for reflection and recommitment to Serra and its ends. This conference was no different. I am including some thoughts from several of our speakers. Before I do that, I want to say how well prepared the Serrans from our club were, having just listened to the wonderful presentation by Elena Biale. The entire conference was in honor of his 300th birthday.

The keynote address by Bishop Richard Garcia highlighted the transforming aspects of Blessed Serra's life, which are the same for all our lives. They are: the call, the dream, the vision, and the mission. Bishop Garcia interwove all these aspects of Serra's life and applied them to ours. Listening is the key to all the aspects. We have to have stillness in our life to listen to our call and we need to constantly listen for the continuing call. All great leaders respond to a dream. There is challenge in responding to that dream, in realizing that God is behind the dream. We are challenged to dream new dreams and ask the question, "why not?" These dreams drive our future. The vision is implemented from the dream and if we are truly listening, a vision can be born and from this comes the mission.

Our Mission... to foster, affirm and promote vocations to the priesthood, religious life, diaconate, and all ministries in the Catholic Church, and through this support of all ministries, to deepen our members' personal faith lives.

(Cont.... "Prez Sez")

A Franciscan, Fr. Kenneth Laverone provided the biography of Blessed Serra's life in light of the influences on his imagination. He spoke of the influence of his parents, the formation from the Franciscan friars, Francis of Assisi, John Duns Scotus, and the Franciscan mystics. His inspiration came from all these sources as he first came to Mexico and then to Alta California. The key throughout is his ability to listen in the stillness of his heart.

Bishop Daly, interim rector of St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, challenged us as Serrans to continue to ask the question, to strive to provide a culture for vocations. He concluded with "we can't give what we don't have....we need silence to be with God."

We celebrated Mass in honor of the 300th anniversary of his birth at the Carmel Mission Saturday evening with seven bishops and Cardinal Mahoney. The cardinal closed the celebration with his reflection on the three virtues that dominated Blessed Serra's life: hope, courage and personal sacrifice.



Upcoming Events

**Dec 3: Fr. Felix Just SJ
Advent Preparation**

**Dec 15: Christmas Party
Hosted by Bob DeFeo**

Dec 17: No Meeting

**Jan 7: Sr. Nadine, CSJ
Pope Francis Overview
and the Synod**

**Jan 21: Mike Rizzo
His discernment journey
District Meeting**

**Jan 2014: TBA: National
Vocation Awareness Week**

**Feb 2014: TBA: World Day
Prayer for Consecrated Life**

City Club Newz

On November 5, 2013, Fr. Mike Mathews addressed our Serrans. He is a native Orange County citizen and expressed how nice it is to be home. He had spent 23 years in South Bend, Indiana pastoring 2 churches and found that to be challenging indeed. Currently he is on sabbatical. He has been relaxing and reconnecting with his parents. His future is going to include an assignment to Uganda in East Africa with the Holy Cross International Community. His location will be near the beautiful Lake Victoria. Their community has been blessed with vocations. He has visited the Holy Cross facility previously. Uganda is still recovering from the evil tyrant Idi Amin. During his rule, education was stopped. Fr. Mike indicated that there are numerous cultural differences, including a culinary delicacy of a severed fish head, which is considered to be a special meal!

The Spirit of the Holy Cross community is teaching, caring and missionary work. Fr. Mike will spend his time with seminarians, college volunteers and assimilating into a new culture.

He reminded us that God provides for challenges. There are graces in the Sacrament of Ordination, and he will make new friends, while supporting the Holy Cross Community!

On November 19, thank you to Elena Biale for her presentation on Junipero Serra, as Maureen Neglia mentions in her column, our region's Serrans had a good foundation when attending the November Serra Conference.

GREAT JOB, ELENA!

Fr Mike Matthews (below)



The Founding of the Sisters of St. Joseph

In 1650, Le Puy, France, Father Jean Pierre Medaille, S.J. our founder, introduced to six women who wished to participate in the vision, the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The mission was, he told them, the mission of Jesus. We were to be about connecting all people and creation with God and with one another.

LIVING AT THE EDGE: THE FIRST COMMUNITIES

When this little group was founded, it was by no means the only attempt at consecrated life outside cloistered walls. Apostolic openness, although bold in many forms, was not as new and innovative as it had been 50 years earlier in the days of St. Francis de Sales. At the death of Fr. Medaille (1669), there were more than 30 communities in six dioceses: Le Puy, Lyon, Clermont, Vienne, Viviers and Nende. None of these houses was affected by any legislation—either of the state or of the Church. They did not fall under the rubrics of the Council of Trent. Here were small groups of women living in the country and following the life of an ordinary person. They were the earliest ancestors of today's secular institutes: they could develop freely under the authority of the local bishop.

The small scope of Medaille's project favored such "under the radar" development. The first sisters did not establish monasteries to care for young girls, nor did they form a feminine counterpart of the Society of Jesus. The first sisters of St. Joseph were uneducated; only two came from a higher social class. Most knew nothing of the Jesuit constitutions, so they did not aspire to imitate that order. They desired only to serve God and the neighbor with whatever means at their disposal, sometimes aided by the Jesuits, but always supported by Fr. Medaille. However, even though they did not aspire to follow the Jesuit constitutions, they lived out the spirit of the Society of Jesus as they had experienced it through membership in and imitation of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, through observance of the Marian congregations, and through missions preached in their local parishes.

Their primary desire was to unite life in radically following Jesus Christ, not simply as devout lay women. Fr. Medaille understood this very well. He did not try to impose a rule of life upon them in imitation of other groups or even of the Society of Jesus. He suggested that they continue to live their lives "in a different manner." They would take simple vows and their small communities would demonstrate that the life of the sisters was "entirely consecrated to pure and perfect love of God," all "one in love with one another and toward every neighbor." (continued on Pg 3, column 1.)

District Doings

WALLY DRAZBA

**District Governor
Serra District 127**

Vocation Corner



Last weekend 15 of our diocesan Serrans joined over 100 other Serrans from our region, as well as some from around the country, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Junipero Serra. Saturday night's Mass was concelebrated by Roger Cardinal Mahoney and 4 other Bishops. The Mass was celebrated at the Carmel Mission, where Blessed Junipero is buried. It was a moving experience.

At the meeting some of the talks were about his life, so he became more of an inspiration for us to follow his motto "Siempre Adelante", "Always Forward", a fitting motto for our vocation work.

We also heard from two Priest Vocation Directors as they explained all that they have to do, not just to help promote vocations, but to be the seminarians' constant guides. In the Monterey Diocese, the Vocation Director is also a pastor in the small town of Spreckels. Fr. John, thank you for doing such a diligent job with the Orange Diocesan seminarians, hearing your compatriots stories, we appreciate what you do even more.

Nancy Ivary, Regional Director for our region, Region 11, chaired a short meeting so we could hear how other districts are doing. Thank you, Nancy, you're doing your normal great job, we appreciate it.

The USA Council also had an executive board meeting before the Regional meeting. It was very heartening to hear that the confusion caused by Serra International has been resolved. Both USAC and SI have a common Executive Director, John Lisston. He attended the executive meeting, and stayed for our Regional meeting. Many of us had a chance to speak to him. This is one of the great side benefits of attending a regional meeting. Next year our regional meeting will be combined with the Serra International meeting and will be held in Sacramento, July 10th thru 13th, 2014.

(cont. from page 3 - Sisters of St. Joseph)

They would visit the poor and those in prison, care for orphans and the sick, care for former prostitutes, give spiritual direction to the laity, help in marriage preparation, "and even give instruction for women who live near religious women but who are not being served by them." In short, as Fr. Medaille directed, "they will undertake all exercises of zeal" belonging to women, all for the "greater glory of God." (more to come in next month's newsletter)

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER BRIGID NOONAN

All of our Serra members would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Bridgid Noonan.

Below, is Bridgid's biographywhen you have a chance, please let Bridgid know that she is most welcome as a fellow Serran!

Bridgid's Bio:

The oldest of ten children, I was born and raised in Louisville, KY. After obtaining my degree in Sociology from Bellarmine University, I left Louisville in 1972 and worked in New York City for two years as a VISTA volunteer. VISTA was the domestic Peace Corps. Upon completion of my service, I moved to California where I explored a myriad of employment opportunities. Then I began a ten year career of working at a local psychiatric hospital. During this time, my daughter Brianna was born. In 1988, I decided I wanted to teach math, so I returned to school to obtain my teaching credential from Chapman University. When my daughter entered first grade, I began a 22 year career of teaching math at Spurgeon Intermediate School in Santa Ana. I just retired in June, 2013. During retirement, it is my mission to serve those in need. I have lived in Santa Ana for twenty years and have been a member of Holy Family Cathedral since 1979.

Growing up, my family prayed daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Clearly prayer does work as evidenced by the fact that two of my brothers are priests - one is a Benedictine in Flavigny, France and the other is a Franciscan in Lubbock, Texas. Prayer is powerful. Our seminarians and those discerning religious life need our prayers and support. In addition to strengthening my own faith life, that is the reason that I have decided to join Serra.

**SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY DEC 15, 2013**



**CHRISTMAS PARTY
HOSTED BY BOB DeFeo**

Vocation Prayer



For Those Who Serve

Spirit of God, the Church's source of life, strengthen those in sacred orders and religious vows and all who witness their baptismal promises through public ministry.

Bring to fulfillment the ministry of Christ within the Church, that we may be your sacrament in the world and a source of joy for all men and women. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Ministers for Serra Masses

- DEC 3 Wally Drazba,
1st Reading
Maureen Neglia,
Psalm & Prayers
- DEC 19 NO MEETING
- JAN 7 TBA
1st Reading
TBA
Psalm & Prayers



EMs
 Matt Ivary, Host
 Carol Cagle, Cup
 Barbara Caraccio, Cup

NO MEETING

TBA, Host
 TBA, Cup
 TBA, Cup

**"Always forward, never back!"
Junipero Serra**



Carol Cagle
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