

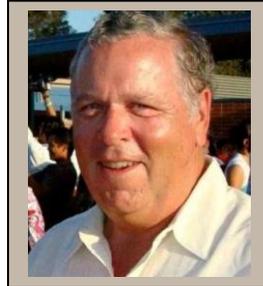
A Voice for Vocations

March 2015

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



PREZ SEZ
Matt Ivary, President



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.

Officer Roster 2015 – 2016

President	Matt Ivary
President Elect	Janie Hanson
Treasurer	Ed Haske
Programs	Patty Baer
Vocations	Wally Drazba
Hospitality	Joan Amort Paul Amort
Membership	Beverly Truzzolino
Communications	Nancy Ivary
Newsletter	Anne Champagne
Recording Secretary	TBA
Corresponding Secretary	Carol DeFeo
Sergeant-at-Arms	Joe Costanza
Trustees:	Jim Baer Maureen Neglia Stan Espenship

Chaplain:

Fr. Felix Just, SJ

Spiritual Advisor:

Sr. Nadine McGuinness, CSJ

District 127 Governor:

Wally Drazba

An Evolving Faith

This past month has had more activity for our club than most. Our Mardi Gras pot-luck and Lenten retreat morning made a wonderful start for our prayerful reflections this Lent. Fr. Felix led us in Lectio Divina of the first two Sunday Gospels for Lent and encouraged us to continue prayerful reflection of the scripture readings throughout the season. I came across this reflection by Fr. Richard Rohr and wanted to share it with you all, rather than my usual musings for the start of this Lent.

An Evolving Faith

Adapted from Great Themes of Scripture: Old Testament; pp. 110-112 by Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

The Hebrew Scriptures show an evolutionary development, a gradual coming to see how God acts in human life. God is not changing; it is our comprehension of God that is changing. As we go through the Scriptures, what we see in Israel's growth as a people is a pattern of what happens to every person and to every people who set out on the journey of faith. They go through stages and gradually come to see how God loves them and what God's liberation does for them. But they come kicking and screaming and denying.

In the first stage, people start to experience the reality of God and God's love as more than abstract concepts.

At the same time, however, they tend to believe that God's love is limited to just themselves, a select few such as a chosen people or the one true Church. In the second stage, people begin to respond to God's love, but they perceive God's love as rather totally dependent on their ideal response. They believe that grace is a conditional gift, that God will love them if they are good, that God will save or reward them if they keep the commandments.

In the third stage, people begin to see God's love as unlimited and unconditional, but they do not see further than that. They acknowledge that God loves them whether they are good or bad, and that God is gracious to the just and the unjust alike. But they still think that God is doing that from afar, from up in heaven somewhere. They do not yet see themselves as inherently participating in the process. Frankly, they have not discovered their own soul yet.

Finally, in the fourth stage, they make the breakthrough to seeing that God's grace and love is present within them, through them, with them, and even as them! The mystery of incarnation has come full circle. They can now enjoy God's temple within their own body, as Paul loves to teach, and can love themselves and others and God by the same one flow. It is all one stream of Love! They now fully realize that it is God who is doing the loving, and they surrender themselves to being channels and instruments of that Divine Flow into the world.

The first three of these stages can be seen most clearly in the Hebrew Scriptures. I am not a believer in supersessionism, which thinks that Christianity supersedes and thus eliminates Judaism. The evolution simply continues with the fourth stage seen most clearly in the words and actions of Jesus, in John's Gospel, and in many of the letters attributed to Paul. Even in these texts there are pockets of resistance and exclusion. It is all three steps forward and two steps back!

Paul himself clearly affirms: "Is it possible that God has rejected his people? Of course not!" (Romans 11:1 where he then develops this argument at length). You cannot succumb to any rejecting spirit, or it will surely undo you! If you hate your parents, you will soon hate yourself too. As love is one, so also is hate. We must totally build on and honor our Jewish foundations, and live in eternal gratitude for their substantial gift to us, just as we have a gift to give back to them--Jesus.

What makes Jesus such a special Jew was that he said this divine election was first of all free, and therefore universal, and not bound by any ethnicity or era of time. Grace is inherent to our dignity as human beings. But he learned that and dared to believe it both from the Jewish Scriptures and from his own God experience. He claimed them both. (continued on Pg 2)

Upcoming Events

MAR 3: MEETING
Speaker: Phung Nguyen
Topic: His Seminary Walk

MAR 17: MEETING
Rev. Angelo Schettini, S.J.
Topic: Italian Jesuits

MAR 22: BUS TRIP
St. John's Seminary
Camarillo, CA

APR 26: SAVE THE DATE!
Annual Day of Prayer for
Vocations

MAY 3: SAVE THE DATE!
"Hearts on Fire" Dinner

Save the Date! Nov 6-8-15:
Region 11 Conference
Ventura Beach Marriott

Club Newz

On Tuesday, February 3, 2015, Alicia McLaughlin addressed our club members. Alicia was born and raised in Chile, South America and has lived in California for 47 years. She has her degrees in education and in English, and her Masters in School Psychology. She has worked for the Santa Unified School District as a counselor and school psychologist for several years. Through volunteer work in several organizations with emphasis on Social Justice, she got involved in a newly formed group for women victims of domestic abuse at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Santa Ana. An additional group has been formed in St. Cecilia Parish in Tustin. Our Diocese of Orange has started reaching out to all parishes to develop awareness on the issue of Domestic Abuse. This has led to creating a group to develop a plan of action to provide greatly needed help in our community, working together with county organizations, such as shelters for victims.

The name of the Pastoral response to Domestic Violence is "When I Call for Help". Domestic Violence is defined as behavior used to control through fear and intimidation. This would include name-calling and threats and controlling the victim's money to increase their powerlessness. Victims fear for themselves and their children, are passive and feel helpless. They think they are at fault and desperately try to keep their family together. Should you encounter anyone in this situation there is a National Domestic Violence Hotline Phone #: 1-800-799-SAFE. We extend our appreciation to Alicia for bringing important information to light surrounding this difficult issue!

Revision to September 2014 Newsletter:

The Song that Annette Hills sang to Father Bob Stephan, SJ ("You are a Priest Forever") was composed by Annie Karto (not by Annette, as I had stated). Annette Hills was kind enough to notify us of this error, so we appreciate her advising us and allowing me to "set the record straight".

(continued from Page 1)

You are loved and chosen so that you can pass on the experience, not hoard the experience. In fact, if you feel a need to guard it, as if it were limited or scarce, that is the certain evidence that you have not accessed the Infinite Source yourself. It has to start with some kind of "I got it" experience which should lead to "But everybody else does too!" and eventually a Leonard Cohen kind of Hallelujah! As Ken Wilber so brilliantly says, "Religion starts elitist, but ends egalitarian. Always!" I think it is almost a necessary pattern, but far too many stop half way. (Related resource: *New Great Themes of Scripture* (CD set) by Richard Rohr, OFM)

Club Newz

On February 17th, in preparation for the upcoming Lenten season, Fr. Robinson addressed our group with the topic: "The changing experience of Lenten Practice as we age". (See Fr Robinson below being introduced by Patty Baer.)

Some bullet points from his presentation:

Surrender into God's loving embrace.

Our Lenten journey needs to be internal, not external.

Instead of making resolutions, live your life "resolutely".

Seek to establish a relationship with God.

Don't just measure our do's and don't's.

Our focus must be on God.

"WE must be present, NOT God must be present."

Materialism is our present day "Golden Calf".

Make your Lenten goal to "Be free of Myself".

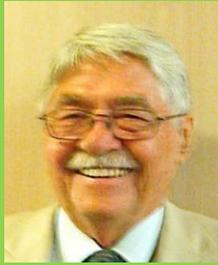
Pray to surrender ALL to God!

THANK YOU, Fr. Robinson!



Special Thanks to Janie Hanson for the beautiful job of setting up for a very successful "Day of Reflection" on Feb 21st.





District Doings

WALLY DRAZBA

District Governor
Serra District 127

Vocation Corner

March 2015

Janie Hanson, and the City Club had a very wonderful morning of Lenten reflection. Fr. Felix Just, SJ, chaplain of the City Club and executive director of Loyola Institute of Spirituality was our presenter. We had a good exercise in how to prayerfully read scripture, using Lectio Divina. Father, your presentation really made the readings come alive, thank you!

We have one big event this month, our annual visit to St John's Seminary in Camarillo. We can take 56 people, and we already have reached the half-way point in the number of reservations. If you have an adopted seminarian attending St. John's, this is a great time to visit the seminary. Even if you have been there before, remember we don't do it for us, we do it to support the seminarians.

Last month, I made a plea for Serra members to offer their help with some specific vocation projects. So far, no one has offered. I am currently working on Newman Connection, and starting a new Serra Club in the northwest of our diocese. We could do more, if I knew I was going to get some help. Think about it and answer the question, "Why Did I join Serra?"

Who will you be inviting to our next Serra Meeting?



Kathleen Beckman, L.H.S.

(continued from February 2015)

At the Orange Meeting, it was edifying to see that your gatherings begin with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I'd like to focus this brief article on something that is at the heart of your mission as Serrans - prayer! St. John Vianney, the patron saint of priests, said this about the primacy of prayer:

Prayer is the source of all graces, the mother of all virtues, the efficacious and universal way by which God wills that we should come to him. He says to us: "ask, and you shall receive." None but God could make such promises and keep them. He says to us "If you ask the Father anything in my name, he will give it to you."Ought not this fill us with confidence, and to make us pray fervently all the days of our poor life? Within the reach of the ignorant, enjoined to the simple and to the enlightened, prayer is the virtue of all mankind: it is the science of all the faithful! Everyone on earth who has a heart, everyone who has the use of reason ought to love and pray to God.

Why must we pray for seminarians and priests? Fr. John Hardon teaches us, "Having taught priests over 30 years, having lived with priests, and having labored for them, loving them and suffering with them-no words I can use would be too strong to state that the Catholic priesthood needs prayer and sacrifice as never before since Calvary...One saint after another has declared that the devil's principle target on earth is the Catholic priest. We ask, then, why pray for priests? We should pray for priests and bishops (and seminarians) because this has been the practice of the Church since apostolic times. It is a matter of revealed truth. It is a divine mandate."

The above excerpts from my book are offered to encourage your work of prayer for seminarians and clergy that is the heart of your vocation. I wrote the book to magnify the 2007 Congregation for Clergy's booklet, "Eucharistic Adoration for the Sanctification of Priests and Spiritual Maternity." The Congregation's wonderful booklet is available at www.booksforcatholics.com. Please watch for the continuation of Kathleen's wonderful communication to our club in next Month's newsletter!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar 3 – Anne Champagne
Mar 10 – Gloria Suess
Mar 13 – Loretta Callopy
Mar 28 – Raul Serna



Vocation Prayer

2015

Pray Always

Good and gracious God, we come before you this day asking that your call to priesthood and consecrated life fall upon open minds and generous hearts.

You never cease calling workers to your vineyard.

We pray for the grace to be your voice in encouraging others to risk the response that is called forth.

May we never falter in our desire to respond generously to your call, in supporting those who are called to serve as priests and religious, in encouraging others to be open to your call in their lives.

This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

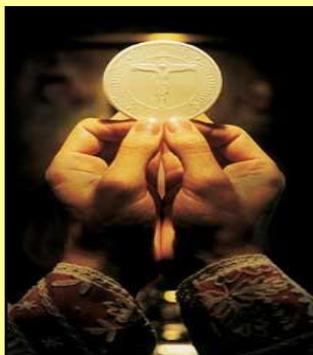
Lectors

MAR 3 Loretta Callopy, 1st Reading
Jim Briscoe,
Psalm & Prayers

MAR 17 Stan Espenship, 1st Reading
Wally Drazba,
Psalm & Prayers

APR 7 Maureen Neglia, 1st Reading
Nancy Ivary,
Psalm & Prayers

Ministers for Serra Masses



EMs

Joe Neglia, Host
Betty Padilla, Cup
John Perample, Cup

Chic Ryan, Host
Joan Amort, Cup
Jim Baer, Cup

Patty Baer, Host
John Biale, Cup
Elena Biale, Cup

“Always forward, never back!”
Junipero Serra



Carol DeFeo
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