

# A Voice for Vocations

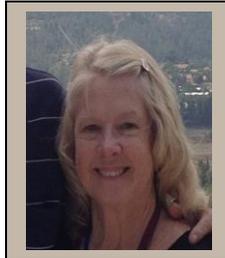
**November 2016**

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



**PREZ SEZ**

**Anne Champagne, President**



## Officer Roster

2016-2017

**President** Anne Champagne  
**Pres-Elect** Beverly Truzzolino  
**Treasurer** Ed Haske  
**Programs** Patty Baer  
**Vocations** Carol & Phil Frank  
**Hospitality** Open  
**Membership** Beverly Truzzolino  
**Communications** Nancy Ivary  
**Rec. Secretary** Brigid Noonan  
**Corres Sec** Carol DeFeo  
**Sergeant-at-Arms** Joe Costanza  
**Trustees:** Jim Baer  
Maureen Neglia  
Chic Ryan

### Chaplain:

Fr. Felix Just, SJ

### Spiritual Advisor:

Sr. Nadine McGuinness, CSJ

### District 127 Governor:

Matt Ivary

## Upcoming Events

**NOV 1: MEETING**  
**Speaker:** Kathy Robinson  
**Topic:** Adopting a seminarian

**NOV 15: MEETING**  
**Speaker:** John Straw  
**Topic:** Concern America

**DEC 6: MEETING**  
**Speaker:** Judy Cozzens,  
Pres-Elect US Council Serra  
International  
**Topic:** Vocation activities

**SAVE THE DATES**  
**DEC 11: Christmas Party**

**FEB 16-19: Serra Rally**  
Phoenix, AZ

## Giving Thanks

Last week, my husband Mark and I were back on the East Coast attending our niece's wedding in the state of Maryland. There were a few days that we were able to take in some local sightseeing. We chose to go into Philadelphia one day, and on another day we visited the Gettysburg National Park in Southern Pennsylvania.

As we were seeing the beginning of the turning of the leaves of Autumn, the feel for me was of homecoming and of entering the holiday season, beginning with my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving Day, as I feel that it is a holiday that still maintains its pure theme of a day of Thanksgiving to God for all the blessings that we have personally, and the privilege of living in our wonderful nation.

Therefore, it did not escape me that our signers of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, PA, giving birth to our nation, were firm in their dream for what America had the potential to become. They acted, at great personal risk, to uphold those ideas, and all of our citizens are grateful for their sacrifices to this very day.

Then, 87 years later, the unity of our nation, the question of slavery, and a Civil War unfolded, which again tested those ideals.

**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.

As we toured Gettysburg, heard President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address again, and became aware of the tremendous human toll that our Civil War exacted, I became very grateful indeed. We are free to practice our religion, free to vote, free to pursue truly anything we wish. What blessings these are from God! I hope that after having an experience of how "hard fought" these developments were that I will never forget to thank God for our nation, and our liberty. On November 8<sup>th</sup>, we will once again have the privilege of the ballot box. As grateful citizens, I pray that all Americans will exercise their right, as many people in our 200+ year history prayed, fought, and sacrificed so that we could have that privilege.

**Make sure to Vote on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>!**



*Happy Thanksgiving!*  
*To You And Your Family*

*Club News*

On October 4, 2016, Sr. Nadine McGuinness led our Serra Club Members in Communal Prayer. Our Programs officer, Patty Baer had provided the "Jubilee Year of Mercy Eucharistic Adoration" for Sr. Nadine. After Fr. Felix had completed our regular Mass, he brought out the Holy Eucharist and placed it into the monstrance on the altar in the Sacred Heart Chapel at St. Joseph's.

At that point, Sr. Nadine led our group in the Eucharistic Adoration. Our Serrans participated by reading the communal prayers, with responses like "The Lord is kind and merciful" and "in your mercy, hear our prayer", in response to the Litany. These responses were apropos for our current Year of Mercy, which will soon be drawing to a close.

Our group sang "We are Many Parts"

"We are many parts, we are all one body,  
And the gifts we have we are given to share.  
May the Spirit of love make us one in deed  
One the love that we share, one the hope in despair  
One the cross that we bear."

This adoration service gave special meaning to the words of this familiar hymn.



On October 18, Georgia Mottl provided an informative and inspirational presentation on her pilgrimage to Italy which occurred in May, 2016. Led by Fr. Paul Vu, she was one of 48 people from St. Killian's who made this journey of spiritual significance, which included prayer, meditation and learning. Day 1 included a visit to St. Peter's Square. There was clearly lots of excitement as Pope Francis was greeting many of the people from the pope mobile. Later that day included visits to three major papal basilicas. One of these was St. John Lateran, which is the cathedral of the Pope. The following day, Fr. Paul celebrated Mass at the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica. A visit to the catacombs of St. Callistus was then followed by a visit to the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel.

In the following days, the group visited Monte Cassino, which is the site of a monastery founded by St. Benedict in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The abbey was looked upon as a place of holiness, culture and art. Its high altar was damaged by the war in 1944, but eventually was restored with its original elements and decorations. In 1964, Pope Paul VI re-consecrated the altar and proclaimed St Benedict the primary patron saint of Europe. Fr. Paul celebrated Mass at the tomb of St. Benedict and his sister, St. Scholastica. Another day, which also included rain, the group visited the tomb of St. Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo. St. Padre Pio began celebrating Mass in a small church, but due to increasing numbers, it became necessary to build a larger church. Today, the church has two levels and the upper church can seat up to 6500 people. Visits to the Basilica of St. Dominic and the Sanctuary House of St. Catherine of Siena were also included.

The group had the opportunity to proceed through twelve Holy Doors during their pilgrimage. In October, 2015, Pope Francis broke with tradition in having each diocese throughout the world designate one or more local Holy Doors during the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. This provided Catholics the opportunity to gain the plenary indulgences without having to travel to Rome.



## Brianna Noonan - My Vocation Journey

About 5 years ago, I took time to pray about my vocation for probably the first time in my life. I decided to spend a month sitting with each vocation and letting it rest in my heart. I acted as if that was the vocation that God was calling me to and then watched and waited to see what my heart did. At the end of that time, I was sure that God was calling me to marriage. Single life felt terrible every time I sat with it. I was never at peace. Religious life didn't feel bad but it came down to this fact every time: I don't like spending all of my time with women and I hate being told what to do. It was rationale. So marriage it was. Christmas Eve Mass in 2014, was the first time that I ever felt like God might be calling me to religious life. As I left that Mass, I was getting some very strong feelings that our Lord was asking me to be his bride. It was a shocking and scary feeling.

I talked to a few priests and one of them recommended Servants of the Lord and Virgin of Matara. I did some online research and didn't get very far because nothing about them was very attractive - not the life, not the habit, not the vows. Well, actually, one thing was attractive. That was being the bride of Christ. After a few months, the feeling went away. I thought - "Oh great, that was my Abraham and Isaac moment." You see I had gotten to a point where I said, Jesus if this is what you want from me, you can have it. I love you that much even though I felt like I was giving up everything I'd ever desired." So when the feeling passed, I thought great - I passed the test just as Abraham did.

Then on December 27, 2015, I went to Rome. My parish priest accompanied a group of us to this eternal city, where he was leading a retreat for the Religious Sisters of Mercy. We had the huge blessing of being able to attend Mass with them each day and also to spend some time with the Sisters. They were beautiful, strong, smart and full of life women. On December 31, I had the opportunity to have coffee with Sister Mary Krista. I went into this conversation full of excitement, but unclear as to where my excitement was coming from. I knew she would want to know about my vocation; I was still feeling like I didn't have one to the religious life. During the course of the conversation, I mentioned that I didn't like spending all of my time with women. She agreed with me. I went on to say that I don't like being told what to do. She also echoed that feeling. Lastly, I expressed the feeling that I just don't find religious sisters attractive. I don't see religious life as beautiful. Her response was "I never did either, and sometimes I still don't." In a matter of five minutes she had shot down all of the walls I had created as to why I didn't want to be a religious sister. She left me with this thought - she knew that God was calling her and speaking to her because he was planting things on her heart that would never have come from her so they must be from God. That day, my heart was overflowing with joy. By the end of the day, I really wondered if God was calling me.

On the following day, January 1, we had the opportunity to celebrate Mass with the Sisters. During this Mass, the Sisters renewed their vows. What a beautiful celebration! At one point during the Mass, I felt certain that God was calling me to be his bride. The moment I knew for sure was when I had the realization that my vocation was not my gift to God, but His gift to me. Prior to this time, I had never thought of religious life as being a gift.

During March, 2016, I visited the Sisters of Mercy in Michigan and the Servants of the Lord in Washington DC. While both were amazing experiences, the Lord stirred my heart while I was with the Servants of the Lord. On Easter Sunday, March 27, I submitted an application and was accepted on June 1. I officially entered religious life on July 19. My beloved Jesus has blessed me beyond all belief.

*Brianna is the daughter of Brigid Noonan*



*Fr. Felix - November 2*

*Thelma Tavera - November 9*

**The following members of our Serra Club are facing some health challenges. Please remember to pray for them. You may wish to consider sending them a note of encouragement.**

*Barbara Caraccio  
James Callopy  
Michael Feeney  
Theresa Morris  
Kathy Robinson*

**VOCATION**

**2016**

**PRAY ALWAYS**

Lord, our God, You established the Church as a sign of Your continuing presence in the world. We ask You to raise up the faithful ministers to Your Church in the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life, so that the message of faith, justice and love contained in the gospel may be brought into the hearts of all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Ministers for Serra Masses**

**Lectors**

- NOV 1 Nancy Ivary, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Maureen Neglia,  
Psalms & Prayers
- NOV 15 Jim Briscoe, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Loretta Callopy,  
Psalms & Prayers
- DEC 6 Maureen Neglia, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Nancy Ivary,  
Psalms & Prayers

**Eucharistic Ministers**

- Patty Baer, Host  
Betty Padilla, Cup  
Thelma Tavera, Cup
- Carol DeFeo, Host  
Bob DeFeo, Cup  
Anne Champagne, Cup
- Joe Neglia, Host  
Matt Ivary, Cup  
Betty Padilla, Cup

**“Always forward, never back!”  
Junipero Serra**



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Orange, CA 92869

