

A Voice for Vocations

August 2017



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2016-2017

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Maureen Neglia
Chic Ryan

Chaplain:

Fr. Nicolaus Thai

Spiritual Advisor:

Sr. Louise Ann Micek, CSJ

District 127 Governor:

Matt Ivary

Upcoming Events

AUG 1: MEETING

Speaker: Ian Gaston
Topic: His journey to religious life

AUG 15: MEETING

Speaker: Joe Squillacioti
Topic: His experience in Rome

SAVE THE DATES

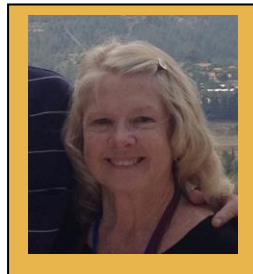
AUG 28: Ordinati Dinner

SEPT 11: Golf Tournament

OCT 29: Priesthood Sunday

PREZ SEZ

Anne Champagne, President



Serra International

75th International Convention in Rome

This year Serra International held its annual convention in Rome, Italy. There were approximately 600 Serrans at the Mass in St Peter's (see photo on the right). Following the Mass, we were escorted to the meeting room in the photo below for our private audience with Pope Francis, where he addressed the 600 Serrans in attendance. At our last meeting, you received the transcript in English of his message to us as we work on our Serran mission.

Being in the Pope's presence was truly awe-inspiring because of his graciousness. Generally, there have been approximately 300 in attendance at these international Conventions in the past, so you see the inspiration our Pope Francis provides to the faithful. Everyone there felt truly blessed to experience this wonderful opportunity. The convention was filled with very useful information, and I particularly enjoyed new ideas offered by delegates from so many places around the world. These were some of the countries represented: Thailand, India, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Italy and Portugal. Together we all prayed the Rosary for Vocations, with different countries praying each of the decades!

IT WAS BEAUTIFUL!

Serra Club City of Orange

Region 11, District 127, Charter 643

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.

Serrans attending Mass at St. Peter's-We were located directly behind the main altar in the basilica.



(Below) Pope Francis addresses the Serran congregation



Club News

Fr. Felix Just was our jubilant guest speaker on July 18. He shared over 100 slides of many different sites as he led a pilgrimage throughout the Holy Land. On this particular visit, he decided to visit some of the lesser known sites. He shared pictures and provided interesting facts on over thirty different locations. Some of those are listed below.

- 1) Ecce Homo Convent
- 2) City of David: Warren's Shaft
- 3) Negev Desert
- 4) Ben Gurion's Tomb
- 5) Avodah (Spring) has a deep pool in the middle of the desert
- 6) Herodium-Herod's tomb found here in 2012
- 7) Solomon's pools & the Herodian Aqueduct
- 8) Mount of Olives- Pater Noster Church is here displaying the Our Father in over 100 languages.
- 9) Gethsemane & St. Stephen's Cave
- 10) Alexander Nevsky Church leading to Golgotha
- 11) Bethlehem - Church of the Nativity
- 12) Magdala; 1st century Synagogue

The group was there during the month of Ramadan. They were able to see the Jerusalem Lights Festival, which was magnificent. Thank you Fr. Felix for your enthusiasm as you shared so much information on this special place.

God Bless You Fr. Felix as you move on and begin your sabbatical year. Thank you for all that you have done for our Serra Club.

The Sisters from the Servants of the Lord and Virgin of Matara, part of the religious family of the Incarnate Word (IVE) visited Holy Family Cathedral on July 23.



Sister Mary Model of Virtue (Brianna Noonan) is located in the center.

Who might you invite to a future Serra meeting?



*August 4 - John Perample
August 8 - Brigid Noonan
August 17 - Carol Frank
August 22 - Maureen Neglia
August 29 - Betty Padilla*

Congratulations to Saint Cecilia Parish on their 60 Year Anniversary in June



Below: This year on July 21st, the Seminarians ended the Priests winning streak at the annual basketball game... It was a very intense game!



The photo below was taken at the reception following Fr. Nicolaus' Ordination in 2016. The images are of the three churches so important to him in his vocation journey!



(Left in Vietnam, Center in Rome, and Right in Orange, CA.)

Meet Our New Serra Club Chaplain



To introduce our new chaplain to our members, please read an excerpt below from a letter that was written by Fr. Nicolaus Thai upon his new assignment to Saint Cecilia Parish. This letter will serve to acquaint everyone with Fr. Nicolaus' life journey thus far!

"My name is Fr. Nicolaus Thai, a priest of our Diocese of Orange. I was born in 1984 in Saigon. I was baptized on March 11, 1984 at Bac Ha Catholic Church, my home parish in the archdiocese of Saigon. It was at this spiritual home where I received the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. In addition, I was also very involved in the Eucharistic Youth Movement and, especially, was an altar server for quite a long time. In hindsight, it was during these years in serving at the altar during Holy Mass that God planted in me the seed of the vocation to the Catholic priesthood.

My family and I immigrated to the USA in 2001 and settled in Fountain Valley. I then attended Los Amigos High School, Orange Coast College, Cal Poly Pomona, and Cal State Long Beach. With many prayers and the support from family and friends, I applied to our Diocese of Orange. I entered St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park in August 2009 as a seminarian of our diocese and was enrolled in the Pre-Theology Program. Having finished this program in 2011, our Bishop Emeritus, Bishop Tod Brown, sent me to the Pontifical North American College in Rome for my theological formation. I attended lectures at the Pontifical Gregorian University, where I earned a Bachelor's degree in Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) in 2014. Having completed my Pastoral Year at Santa Clara de Asis, Bishop Kevin Vann ordained me to the order of Transitional Deacon on June 27, 2015. I then returned to Rome to begin my graduate Theological studies. After graduating from the Pontifical North American College (2016), Bishop Vann ordained me to the order of Priesthood on June 11, 2016 during the Jubilee year of Mercy. After my ordination to the Priesthood, I returned to Rome again for one more academic year to complete my graduate studies in theology and earned a Licentiate (equivalent to a Master's degree) in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.) on June 22, 2017." (See Nicolaus' Ordination Reception photo on right)

VOCATION

2017

PRAY ALWAYS

O God, Father of all mercies, provider of a bountiful harvest, send Your graces upon those You have called to gather the fruits of Your labor; preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service of You. Open the hearts of your children that they may discern Your holy will; inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Teach all Your faithful to follow their respective paths in life guided by Your divine word and truth. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Angels, and Saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant Your Church's needs, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ministers for Serra Masses

Lectors

AUG 1	Motherhouse Chapel Maureen Neglia
AUG 15	Motherhouse Chapel Brigid Noonan
SEPT 5	Motherhouse Chapel Beverly Truzzolino



EMs

Joe Neglia	Host
John Perample	Cup
Matt Ivary	Cup
Anne Champagne	Host
Chic Ryan	Cup
Raul Serna	Cup
Patty Baer	Host
Bob De Feo	Cup
Carol De Feo	Cup

"Always forward, never back!"
Saint Junipero Serra



Carol DeFeo
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