

A Voice for Vocations

February 2019



Serra Club City of Orange
Region 11, District 79, Charter 643



Beverly Truzzolino, President



Our mission is to foster, affirm and promote vocations to the priesthood, religious life, deaconate and lay ministries and, through this to deepen our members' personal faith



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2018-2020

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- District 79 Governor: Anne Champagne

THIS IS THE LORD'S TIME

In January we reflected on St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, America's first native-born saint, who was canonized in 1975. She overcame struggles like those we face in our own lives. She would often state: "...my God knows best".

In February, we reflect on Our Lady of Lourdes, the Blessed Virgin Mary, who on February 11, 1858 appeared for the first of several times to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous in a cave at Lourdes, France. God had a plan to use this young girl. The lady of the vision told the girl she wanted a chapel to be built there at the cave-grotto. The girl would have to go through many hardships, but eventually her story was believed. A memorial would be built which has become a major Marian shrine to which five million pilgrims a year are attracted.

By using Bernadette as a messenger, God added another holy name/attribute to our Holy Mother: Our Lady announced to Bernadette that she was the "Immaculate Conception," confirming a proclamation by the Pope four years earlier that Mary had been conceived without original sin. In honor of the girl's devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, the Church recognized Bernadette as a saint when Pope Pius XI canonized her on December 8, 1933.

Our Lady having a plan--a "calling"-- for this child Bernadette reminds me of the important calling that we as Serrans have: listening to and encouraging young people--even our own children or grandchildren--when we feel that the Lord may be nudging them to consider a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life. Be sure to look for signs in young people; God may have vocational plans for them!

DISTRICT DOINGS

Anne Champagne
Governor, District #79

Greetings, fellow Serrans. Having recently returned from the annual Serra Rally of the USA Council of Serra International, I would like to update you with a summary of the activities of this 4-day event.

As you can easily surmise, sharing 4 days of information would not be possible within this short column, but I have chosen moments that were inspiring to me, particularly the work being done with young people on college campuses--and beyond.

During the rally, there was a panel of two religious sisters and one priest who talked about their work and ministry. At the end of their comments, they provided the opportunity for a Q & A session. Below are a few highlights.

Currently on university campuses and in other ministries involving young people, these speakers "are establishing a strong, visible presence of priests and religious amongst the young people."

The church has concerns. A crisis that presently exists is perceived by many to be a shortage of vocations; however, the true calamity is a crisis of prayer. Therefore, these ministers are working with youth to teach them how to pray.

Overwhelmingly, while being immersed in work with young people, they found that these youth want someone to talk to about meaningful things in their lives. Therefore, in working with this age group, their focus is

Upcoming Events

- FEB 5—Mtg: **Speaker— Sr. Nadine Me Guinness Pope Francis, Part 1**
- FEB 19—Mtg: **Speaker— Sr. Nadine Me Guinness Pope Francis, Part 2**
- MAR 5—**FAT TUESDAY POTLUCK BREAKFAST**
- Mtg: **Spkr: Fr. Aristotle**
- MAR 9 8:00-1:00 **DAY OF RECOLLECTION.** Mother Louis Rm. at Motherhouse
- MAR 19 **Speaker-- Fr. Gaston**
- APR 2- **Sr. Louise Anne Micek**
- MAY 5: **Hearts on Fire**
- JUN 20-23: **SERRA INT'L CONVENTION: Mexico City [+ OL Guadalupe Pilgrimage]**

(from DISTRICT p.1)

on establishing personal relationships with the young people, gradually establishing with them a "culture of vocations," an idea with which we at Serra are very familiar. The example was given of the USC campus. There are 50,000 students; 10,000 of them are Catholic. Currently, 150 are being mentored and 75 are actively looking at religious life. There are some 2-year volunteer programs which do work similar to that of the Peace Corp--which we all remember. Mentors who participate in these activities often find this to be a time in their own lives during which they hear a personal call to the religious life.

Fr. Sam Ward, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Los Angeles, noted that the daily Mass which is offered on the campuses of both UCLA and USC is well attended. Also, there is great social media support from the Diocese of LA, focusing on youth and demonstrating that persons in religious life are just regular people: "It could be you!" What a great message!

There was so much more said about different ministries amongst our youth. All Serrans in attendance were reporting they found the talks to be very inspiring and full of hope. What I have shared is only "scratching the surface" of the four days at the conference. Hopefully, next time more of us will go.

Please continue to pray for our efforts here at Serra. As we hear reports such as these, we understand that the Holy Spirit is at work constantly, and all we need to do is find what he may be calling us Serrans to do to assist and encourage them.

I appreciate each and every Serran. When we see so many of us together, it becomes more tangible that our prayer, our work and our commitment are making a difference every day!

I will share more recollections in future newsletters! Please stay tuned! ALWAYS FORWARD, NEVER BACK!



2019 VENTURA SERRA RALLY in the garden at Mission San Buenaventura with St. Junipero Serra: Matt & Nancy Ivary, Pat Manzo, Dan & Beverly Truzzolino, Anne & Mark Champagne and Jim & Patty Baer.

City Club Newz



ORDINATI 2018
Many of our members enjoyed celebrating our two new priests at Christ Cathedral. Fr. Aristotle spoke at the dinner after Mass while Fr. Gaston had to leave. We were also entertained by the Snappy Tappers, a group of talented retirees from CSF. A good time for all!



On January 15, we were privileged to be visited **Sister Catherine Nguyen** (Lovers of the Holy Cross) who is Faith Formation director at St. Cecilia's. She told us about the history and flourishing situation in her order, of her family's escape from Vietnam, and of her struggles, attempting to "become nobody" in order to fully serve God. She sang and told stories and inspired us all.



Sunday, May 5, 2019
Reception & Silent Auction 5:00 p.m.
Dinner & Awards Ceremony
Hilton Anaheim
777 Convention Way, Anaheim

2019 Serra Rally



We experienced the spirituality of Saint Junipero Serra this January when many of us attended the Serra Rally in Ventura, including a beautiful Mass and meal at San Buenaventura Mission. There were many engaging speakers, national and local, who informed us on the state of Serra and inspired us to continue both our prayers for vocations and our personal growth in spirituality. The most persistent message from all clergy and religious was how grateful they are for Serra's support!



Pray for Our Birthday Celebrities

Happy Birthday . . .

FEBRUARY

Joe Costanza on the 27th

MARCH

Anne Champagne on the 3rd

Gloria Suess on the 10th

Loretta Callopy on the 13th

Sr. Louise Ann on the 22nd

Raul Serna on the 28th

Save the Date!

SERRA INT'L
CONVENTION
In
MEXICO CITY
June 20-23
2019
With Pilgrimage
to see Our Lady of
GUADALUPE



Plan to participate in our
Serra Day of Recollection
March 9th



8:00 am- 1:00 pm
Sisters of St. Joseph,
Mother Louis Room.
Guided Reflections by
Fr. Domenico
Di Raimondo, MStS.
Mass and lunch

PRAY ALWAYS

Faith comes and goes. It rises and falls like the tides of an invisible ocean. If it is presumptuous to think that faith will stay with you forever, it is just as presumptuous to think that unbelief will.

--Flannery O'Connor

Go before us, God, that we may follow in your steps. Go behind us, God, to steer us when we stray. Go beside us, God, as our strength and our joy for the journey.

--Amen.

VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST HOSTS

FEB 5 LORETTA CALLOPY C. 714/305-0267

FEB 19 ANNE CHAMPAGNE C. 714/7217137

MAR 5 FAT TUESDAY POTLUCK

“Always Forward, never
back!”
Junipero Serra



Carol DeFeo
608 S. Breezy Way
Orange, CA 92869

