

A Voice for Vocations



PREZ SEZ

Patty Baer, President



DISTRICT DOINGS

Anne Champagne
Governor, District #79



Officer Roster

District 79 Governor:
Anne Champagne
2020-2022

President: Patty Baer
President Elect: John LeDuc
Treasurer: Matt Ivary
Programs: Beverly Truzzolino
Vocations: Carol & Phil Frank
Membership: Raul Serna, Beverly Truzzolino & Jeanne Warren
Commun./Newsletter: Nancy Ivary
Recording Secretary: Angie Brazeal
Corresponding Secretary: Carol DeFeo
Hospitality: Maureen Neglia, Amanda Han, Carol DeFeo & Rosemarie Tsutsumi
Past President: Beverly Truzzolino
Trustees: Jim Baer, **Loretta Callopy**
Chic Ryan

Chaplain:

Father Nicolaus Thai

Spiritual Advisor:

Sister Louise Ann Micek, CSJ

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. life.



AUGUST

8th Brigid Noonan
17th Carol Frank
22nd Maureen Neglia
29th Betty Padilla

PRAY FOR OUR NATION

We're entering our third month of summer with great trepidation. Imperfections remain under the circumstances of a pandemic as well as tensions rooted in race relations. Yet, the current national atmosphere offers an opportunity for reflection and hope. I am reading a 630-page book called *My Dear Hamilton*. When the founding fathers gathered to sign the Declaration of Independence, it was also a tense and anxiety-ridden time. That declarative statement (all men being created equal) was a watershed moment in world history. That political revolution sought to achieve not only the emancipation of the human person, but also one's soul. It was a lofty goal and not achieved overnight. I can attest that it has not been achieved these many years later. The pandemic has given us the time and space to think about who we are, what's important, and what kind of country we want to be. This is an opportunity for a new beginning to create a society that values hope over hate, faith over fear, and compassion over confrontation. We Catholics cannot be content to stand on the sidelines of this struggle. In the face of racism, we must hunger for justice as we do for the Eucharist. We have shown that we are capable of mobilizing on issues of national concern, such as religious liberty, Action for Immigrant Children and protection of the unborn. These efforts should be a yardstick for how far we have yet to go in committing ourselves to working against racism. Here are five ways to begin: 1) Repentance. Our Catholic institutions have only just begun to

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PLAGUES & PROVIDENCE

This month I continue my review of a remarkably interesting article circulating through the Serra US Council emails which is of great interest to us Serrans in California. The author, Charles Harley is responding to four points of misinformation surrounding the Catholic Church and the Mission Period. This month I am covering his points #1 and #2; next month will be #3 and #4, followed by a summary.

#1 The Catholic Church stole the land from the Indians in order to build the Missions.

There was no concept of "owning" land in pre-Columbian California. The first-time land was surveyed in the late 1760's in California it was to set aside and safeguard 28,000 square miles of choice coastal land for the Indian tribes. The land was deeded in perpetuity and covered the general area of the settlements of contemporary local tribes on the most productive land. In all, 21 sites, generally no more than 30-miles from the coast were established. Spain affirmed the native inhabitation as the legal and rightful owners of the land. This is possibly the first time a European power declared indigent inhabitants of their colonies as "full citizens" and rightful occupants. In order to further isolate the Indians from clashes with settlers, they barred European and Mexican settlers from legally colonizing in or near Indian lands in California. This consequence of this isolation removed the threat of genocide during the Mission Period (1770 -1830).

SEE PG 3, "DISTRICT DOINGS"

PREZ SEZ CONT.

acknowledge their part in racism, from slavery to Jim Crow, from housing segregation to police brutality. 2) Solidarity. We don't need to invent new ways, but to join in existing movements that are leading the cause for justice. 3) Presence. Catholics with collars and habits need to be seen as visible symbols demonstrating the church's commitment. 4) Formation. Catholics need to examine the ways we form consciences, especially in education. Curricula should be examined to see how the history and reality of racism are addressed. Students should be taught to recognize racism as both an intrinsic evil and a social sin. This involves the presence of people of color in positions of responsibility and authority. Sadly, we have no African American members of our Serra Club. I recently heard a black celebrity say, "Make friends with someone who doesn't look like you". I'm grateful to say we're highly successful in forging friendships with our Hispanic and Vietnamese brothers and sisters. 5) Prayer. It is the most effective witness we possess. Gatherings united for causes by novenas, processions, rosaries and holy hours definitely show our dependence on the grace of God more than our own strength. So let us pray: "God of justice, give us the courage to admit our sins and failings. We seek your mercy and reconciliation with our brothers and sisters. We ask for strength to continue crying out to you for the healing of our nation until it fulfills its commitment to recognize that you have created all people equal. Amen."

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for August is The Maritime World. We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen, and their families.

And as for us . . .

Thank God for Online Masses

and thank our priests and deacons
for making it happen!



SOJOURNERS

Verse & Voice



Verse of the day

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- Psalm 23:4 (NIV)

Voice of the day

People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do.

- Dorothy Day

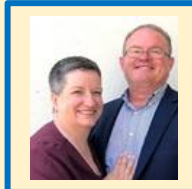
Prayer of the day

God, bless us in our efforts. No matter how small, help us to see the larger vision you have called us to.

City Club Newz

AUGUST SPEAKERS...

AUG 4 Dcn. John & Michelle Selig and son-



seminarian, Zach

**VOCATIONS:
GOD'S PLAN**

AUG 18 Fr. Basil Harnish, O.Praem



Subject TBD

SEPT 1 Fr. Edmund Page, O. Pream



See back page for Zoom meeting instructions.

OUR SERRAN SUMMER: Began with **World DAY OF PRAYER FOR PRIESTS** and will end with **PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY**.

Our Mission is to spend our summer—from beginning to end—praying for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. Two special celebrations bookend our commitment.

[From *The US Conference of Catholic Bishops*] **THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF PRIESTS** was celebrated by the universal church on **JUNE 19TH, 2020**. Occurring annually on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the World Day of Prayer for Sanctification of Priests was established by Pope St. John Paul II in 2002 and encourages priests to reflect upon the importance and dignity of their vocation. In his Holy Thursday homily on April 9, 2020, Pope Francis reminded priests that in order to serve others, they must first allow themselves to be served by Christ. Just like St. Peter, priests must be willing to be washed by Christ, forgiven by Christ and loved by Christ so that they, in turn, may be dispensers of divine forgiveness and to love others. The Holy Father also remembered those courageous priests in hospital ministry who have died in service to their brothers and sisters suffering from coronavirus. He also commended those priests who serve prisoners and those ministering in remote parts of the world. Bishop James F. Checchio of Metuchen, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Bishops, Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, echoed Pope Francis' gratitude for priests during this time of pandemic. "We give thanks to the priests who are continuing to serve the people of God in this challenging time. Priests are the face of Christ and allow people to encounter Jesus, especially through the celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On this World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, I encourage my brother priests to contemplate with gratitude the great gift Jesus has given us in our vocation. I ask the faithful to pray for all priests that they may be filled with joy and strength as they continue their important work of shepherding God's people."

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2020, seeks to reaffirm the priesthood of Jesus Christ and its central place in the life of the Church. This day also specifically honors priests, without whom the Holy Sacraments could not be conferred, for a single day out of the 365 days of the year during which they tirelessly serve their parishes. Celebrate and thank a priest today, and don't forget to give special thanks on 9/27!



"The Sacred Heart of Jesus"
2010, [Stephen B. Whatley](#)

DISTRICT DOINGS CONT.

In 1830's, as spoils of their independence from Spain, the Mexican Government declared the Spanish land grants to the Indians to be null and void. Before the Padres could turn the management of the missions over to the Indians as planned, the Mexican Government confiscated the Indian's lands, buildings and hundreds of thousands of head of livestock. The Mexican government distributed the Indian lands and their riches to cronies in Mexico. The Indian inhabitants of the missions and the Padres were scattered to the countryside. In California history this is known as "Secularization of the missions". It should be known as, "The theft of tribal lands and riches earned by the labor of the Indians."

In 1849, just before California statehood, representatives of the California Indians petitioned US Congress to recognize the Spanish land grants and return the Mission lands to the Indians. In 1851, Congress voted to accept Mexican land titles over Spanish land titles. This Act legalized Mexico's theft of the tribal Indian lands under US Law.

#2 The Catholic Church built the Missions to enslave the Indians and benefit from their free labor.

The simplest definition of slavery is, "The worker does not benefit from the fruits of his own labor." The missions were set up as teaching plantations to enable the indigenous Indians to learn the skills necessary to survive in the 18th Century (own land, plant crops, graze cattle, irrigate fields). The mission lands were set aside in perpetuity by the Spanish Crown and held in sacred trust by the Franciscans for the Indians. The Franciscans (who took a vow of poverty) managed the lands in safekeeping until they were to be handed over to the Indians after 15 or so years. The Catholic Church did not own the land. The Franciscans did not own the land. **The Indians owned the land** deeded by the Spanish Land Grant. Mission Indians when working to benefit the missions were benefiting from the fruits of their own labor. The mission plantations or farms were similar to the modern-era Kibbutz organized after the creation of the state of Israel.

After the missions were dismantled, the fortunate mission Indians found labor with a new breed of farmers called the rancheros. The Indians became ranch hands paid with only room and board. The rancheros became rich from the fruits of Indian labor. (Stay tuned!)

Plans are already underway
**2021 Serra International
Convention**

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

July 1-4, 2021

City Club Newz

Fr. Anselm Rodriguez...

...spoke to us at our July 21st online meeting. He offered us a fascinating accounting of his pilgrimage to priesthood. Although he'd wanted to be a priest from early childhood, he took other routes while maturing into adulthood. The 1st time he applied to the Abbey, they told him go get out into the world, get an education, then decided if this was what he was called to. After college, grad school, a serious relationship (she dumped him and broke his heart!), and the difficulty of paying off large student debts, he finally was accepted into the Abbey—and since then has had no doubts. God's guidance of his journey every step of the way is now apparent. When he gets to heaven, he will thank all who encouraged and helped, particularly those whom he doesn't even know—especially all Serrans have been praying for him!

SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

For the summer, we will continue our **Zoom** meetings online. The new time for all meetings will be **10:00 am to noon**. **July through September**, we return to our regular meeting dates of the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays**.

All meetings will have the **same <https://> address and password:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83749618391?pwd=a3ZIMXpVczBwVHh0SXF5V01iNk1oQT09>

PASSWORD: 719605

- *If you do not have Zoom or a computer*, to listen to the meeting call the following:
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 1 (669) 900-9128
PASSWORD: 719605
MEETING ID: 837 4961 8391

P.S. Please be sure to first figure out how to mute your phone/computer.