

A Voice for Vocations



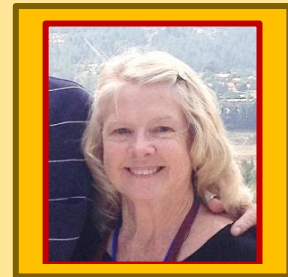
PREZ SEZ

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.



SEPTEMBER

12th Carl Manning
14th Jim Wiencek

INSPIRATION: Be Happy!

As we enter the month of September, we're reminded of Mary, whose birthday is celebrated on the 8th and the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows on the 15th. We ask her to open our hearts to continue saying "yes" to God as she did, despite any difficulties and sufferings we may be experiencing.

I heard an uplifting vocation story while watching an EWTN Mass in July. The celebrant informed us about the life of Matteo Farina, a poet (among his other gifts). Matteo was born on September 18, 1990 in Avelina, Italy. He died on April 24, 2009 in Brindisi, Italy. It was apparent early in his 18-year life that he possessed a deeply spiritual side. He was surrounded by love of family, friends, parish community, sports, music, and even a girlfriend. He attended daily Mass, said the Rosary every day and confessed every week. At nine years old, he read the entire Gospel of St. Matthew as a Lenten practice. His parish was under the care of Capuchin friars, from whom he gained a devotion to Saints Francis and Padre Pio. Two events marked his life: a dream and a diagnosis of brain cancer. His dream led him to understand his vocation: "I hope to succeed in realizing my mission as 'infiltrator' among young people, telling them about God,...I look around me and want to enter their lives quietly like a virus, infecting them of an incurable illness: Love!" (How ironic that we're all now experiencing quite a different virus!) At age 13, his first cancer symptoms arose. During his illness, he began to keep a journal. He wrote: "You would like to scream to the

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THE REAL PADRE SERRA

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 #3 and #4, followed by a summary.

Saint Junipero Serra, the Catholic Church and the Mission Period

#3 So many Indians died during the mission years, it is obvious the Catholic Church was operating "Death Camps" along the model of Dachau and Buchenwald.

The original rationale of the mission system was geopolitical. Spain desired to create an "instant colony" of first-class Spanish landowners occupying California. The purpose was to solidify Spain's claim in California and deny Russian, English and French colonization. A cornerstone of such a grand plan was the continued survival, and welfare of the tribes during the period they learned the skills of the 18th Century. Spain had been in the New World for 250 years by the 1760s. They were well aware that their biggest challenge would be keeping the mission inhabitants alive.

The Indians in California would have had little contact with Europeans and consequently no immunity to deadly European viruses (measles, mumps, chicken pox, etc.).

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PREZ SEZ CONT.

world that you would do everything for your Savior, that you are ready to suffer for the salvation of souls, to die for him. You will have the opportunity of showing him your love". He used to say: "It is useless to despond; we have to be happy and transmit happiness. The more happiness we give people, the more they are happy, thereby the more we are happy". His mission can be described in his own words: "My God, I have two hands; let one of them be always clasped to you to hold you closer in every trial. And let the other hand fall throughout the world if this is your will... as I know you by others, so let others know you through me. I want to be a mirror, the clearest possible, and if this is your will, I want to reflect your light in the heart of every man. Thanks for life. Thanks for faith. Thanks for love. I'm yours". His love for Mary strengthened during this time and he consecrated himself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. His friends often referred to him as "the moralizer" since he often spoke about God and encouraged peace. The amazing fact about this young man is that on May 6, 2020, Pope Francis advanced the sainthood causes of five men and women, including this teenager, declaring him "venerable." What an inspiration to the Millennial generation! I was so enthralled by hearing Matteo's accomplishments in that homily that I immediately googled him when the Mass was over. I hope his story speaks to you as it did to me.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER: "Dear Lord, we pray that the planet's resources which You have entrusted to us will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful way."



Thank God for Outdoor Masses

*and thank our priests and deacons
for making it happen!*



PRAY ALWAYS



City Club Newz

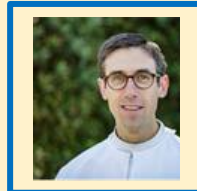
"SEVEN SERRANS PROJECT"

Praying for FR. RAUL LEMUS, Vocation Director of San Jose:

MON-John Le Duc, TUE- Beverly, WED—Chic Ryan/Jeanne Warren, THU—Joe Neglia, FRI—Carol DeFeo, SAT—Anne Champagne, SUN—Phil and Carol, *vigilant prayer warriors!*

SEPTEMBER SPEAKERS

SEPT 1 Fr. Edmund Page, O. Pream



SEPT 15 Rev.Fr. Peregrine Fletcher, O.Praem



Subject TBD

See back page for Zoom meeting instructions.

DISTRICT DOINGS CONT.

In the first hundred years of exposure to Europeans, the native population on the Eastern seaboard dropped 95%. Spain needed to prevent this from happening in California. They mistakenly believed a good European diet and European hygiene would resist the European diseases. We know now viruses cannot be overcome by diet. Disease took a heavy toll on the Missions. Most of all it delayed handing management of the Mission lands to the Indians after 15-years. Time and time again trained staff succumbed to disease. In one 3-month measles pandemic in 1806 one quarter of the native population of Bay Area missions died. A survey run by the Spanish Crown around the turn of the 19 Century showed no accelerated death rate in Mission Indians when compared to those still living outside the mission in the old order. European disease was called the "Trojan Horse" that found its way into each mission compound.

For the most part, single members of the mission Indians slept in gender separated barracks. (This is centuries before understanding viruses and social distancing.) In many writings today I come across the popular narrative that the Padres "engineered" these dormitories to be "fermenting caldrons of disease" so as to exterminate native Californians more efficiently. The facts do not support these allegations. During the 60-year Mission period, fewer native Californians died than the next 60-years under Mexican and US rule by nearly a 5 to 1 factor. * The only deadly enemy for Native Californians when under the protection of the Padres was European disease. The population records that survive today provide indisputable evidence. The next 60-years, after, the dismissal of the Padres and break-up of the Missions, would be an apocalypse for the California natives.

#4 The Catholic Church practiced systemic genocide to wipe out the native cultures.

We know from the above information, the Franciscans were engaged in a losing struggle to keep their Mission populations alive and healthy. The allegation of Franciscan sponsored genocide is absurd. It exposes both a lack of knowledge for the period and ignores the rationale that justified the creation of the Mission system for the Spanish Crown.

In 1830 the Mexican Government confiscated the mission lands and scattered the native inhabitants into the countryside. This opened California to settlers from Northern European and Mexico. The Mission Indians were displaced. There were no longer laws prohibiting homesteading on unchartered lands occupied by local tribes. The tribal Indians faced waves of colonizing settlers pushing them off their lands. The tribes were in direct competition for survival with the settlers, many of whom were well-armed and carried little concern for native life. The fractured tribes were overwhelmed and plundered by an unforgiving tide of an alien 19th Century social order rolling over their native lands. The modern world was an unstoppable tsunami. Starvation became common as the Indian's fragile pre-Columbian food sources were being destroyed by agriculture and livestock. On paper, Mexico outlawed slavery, but not in practice. During this second 60-year period, as a consequence of state sponsored genocide, bounty hunting, starvation and disease,

the native population dropped from 250,000 to 16,624. Genocide was supported by both Mexico and the US Government. During the Gold Rush and early days of Statehood, there were instances of vigilante hunting parties and bounties for dead Indians. In 1851 a group of 49ers slaughtered a village of 300 women and children. In 1853 settlers were responsible for an attack killing 450 of a tribe during a prayer ceremony. Despite entering the Union as a free state in 1850, (Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo) the California legislature enacted a series of laws legalizing Indian slavery. This barbarous law was finally repealed in 1867 (four years after Lincoln's emancipation proclamation). In his first address to the legislature in 1851, the California Governor, John McDougall, promised "a war of extermination will continue to be waged between the races until the Indian race becomes extinct." The citizens of California almost fulfilled his promise; 80-years earlier, genocide, bounty hunting and starvation was the very scenario the Spanish Crown sought to avoid by the creation of protected Indian lands and providing Indians the tools to survive in the 18th Century.

IN SUMMARY

Saint Junipero Serra was a humble man who hijacked Spain's geo-political experiment to secure its colonial boundaries and turned it into a humanitarian Franciscan crusade. He embraced a susceptible group of peoples and led them through a violent collision of cultures. His vision saved tens of thousands of lives over six decades.

He does not deserve to be the symbol of the sum of the cultural suffering brought by the arrival of the 18th Century. St. Serra did not bring the 18th Century to California. He does not deserve to be the symbol of racism, murder and apocalypse which began nearly 50-years after his death and continued until the 20th Century.

St. Serra is an icon of the Catholic Church, a holy man who had the vision to anticipate the plight of primitive people swept away by a powerful culture, and a man willing to dedicate his life to abate their pain and give those people the tools to survive in a New Order.

Charles Harley
charley@cameoguild.com
June 24, 2020*

The Population of the California Indians 1769-1970

Sherburne F. Cook.
Berkeley: University of California Press. 1976. 239 pp

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

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

July 1-4, 2021

City Club Newz

New prez, Patty Baer presents our **THANK YOU** gift to Beverly Truzzolino for two years of hard, excellent work as club president: card, flowers and statue of St. Junipero Serra.

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**.

Unless otherwise notified, all meetings will have the **same https:// address and password:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83749618391?pwd=a3ZlMlRlcVczBwVHh0SXF5V01iNk1oQT09>

PASSWORD: 719605

MEETING ID: 837 4961 8391

- *If you do not have Zoom or a computer*, to listen to the meeting call the following:
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 1 (669) 900-9128
PASSWORD & MEETING ID: Same as above.

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