A Voice For Vocations

SERRA CLUB CITY OF ORANGE
Region 11, District PA79
Charter 643

Newsletter
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Fr. Junipero Serra

Prez Sez – One Step At a Time

Beverly Truzzolino
President

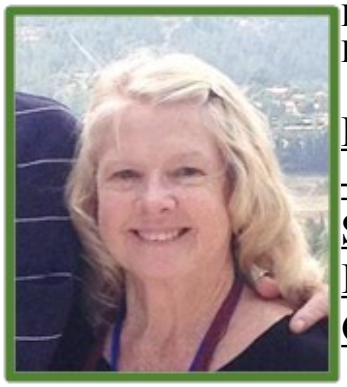
Have you ever had a prayer intention or request answered? I certainly have and many times the answer is not exactly what I had in mind. However, for some reason it all works out for the better. Some people might call it a God thing. As Serrans we continually pray for vocations, seminarians, our priests, and religious. Well guess what? There are fifteen new seminarians entering for the Diocese of Orange! Yes, it's a God thing. He is working in each of our lives as we pray and he chooses the followers.

Many of you know that I just returned from a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey, "In the Footsteps of St. Paul" along with a trip to Medjugorje. The first legs of the trip were historical and scriptural. The daily Masses were amazing, as we followed in Paul's footsteps, except our footsteps were assisted with the courtesy of a bus, thank goodness! Each Mass was special and in particular the outside Mass at Corinth; the altar was a huge rock and we all stood under a tree or sat on a rock. I could just

imagine the experience was quite like St. Paul and the apostles as they prayed and praised God.

Arriving in Medjugorje I was exhausted and ready for a rest, however, that was not the case. The guide started our first day at 6:30 am with a hike up Apparition Hill where our Blessed Mother first appeared in 1981 and still has miraculous happenings. This hike was not for the faint of heart, it was treacherous. I had watched YouTube videos beforehand, however; not quite prepared for the steepness and the rocks everywhere. The guide was very kind and said take your time, yet an older couple kept passing me, darn. I forced myself not to compare as I struggled with my knees screaming. I did make it to the top, just a bit slower. Which reminds me of my prayer life, sometimes answers seem slow, yet in God's time the answer comes. As Serrans we are diligent to attend Mass, attend meetings, fellowship, pray and correspond with our seminarians. A few of your seminarians have left, which can be frustrating, yet remember it's a discerning process. Please be patient and stay on the path one step at a time and if your seminarian has discerned out or you have not yet adopted a seminarian; there are fifteen that would love your support: Contact Carol Frank, VP Seminarians.

In Prayer
Beverly Truzzolino,
President



Anne Champagne, Governor, District #79

District Doings – Ecumenical Service of Prayer for Christian Unity

This event was the 18th Annual Roman & Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Christian Ecumenical Service of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year it was celebrating the 1700th Anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council which was held in 325 AD in Nicaea, followed by the Second Ecumenical Council of Constantinople held in 381 AD. Emerging from these councils was the Nicene Creed, which we are all familiar with from our Sunday Mass. In English, the word "creed" comes from the Latin word "credo" which derives from two Latin words "cor" meaning "heart" and donatum" meaning "to give". In another translation "this is what I give my heart to".

Ecumenical Celebrants

"The Creed summarizes how we view God, the world and ourselves. It narrates a very specific view of the world and constitutes the lens through which we are called to see everything. It lays out what we believe about the creation of the universe, the relationship between God and humanity, sin, redemption and forgiveness, good and evil, heaven and hell, as well as our responsibilities in this life. When we say we believe, we are affirming that we see things as they really are and that we have a personal

responsibility to live the vision contained in the words of the Creed."[1]

Churches represented at this prayer service were St Paul's Greek Orthodox, Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church, St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Holy Forty Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church, Our Lady of Guadalupe Roman Catholic Church and St Paul Assyrian Church of the East. Throughout the prayer service, choirs from the congregations of those churches, chanted and sang praise to God and treated those in attendance to a "divine" musical experience as well.

St. Kilian's Father Al

"The mission of the Ecumenical Service of Prayer for the Christian Unity at Pentecost is to foster a deeper sense of prayer and work for unity among Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Christians by invoking the Holy Spirit to guide us towards that unity which we all confess in the Creed, and which Christ prayed for His disciples in the Gospel of John (17:21-23). May all of them be one Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You; may they also be one in us so that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me." [2]

[1.] Excerpt from the program of May 30, 2025 at St. Kilian's Catholic Church
[2.] Excerpt from the Mission Statement for the Ecumenical Prayer Service at Pentecost.

Serran Activities

Serran Hearts on Fire

On April 26 Serrans attended the Loyola Institute of Spirituality's Hearts on Fire Annual Awards Banquet at Christ Cathedral. They honored Mary Ellen Burton with the Hearts on Fire Award, Eric A. Clayton with the Writer's Award in Spirituality, and Aida Ocampo and Aurelio Castillo with the Love in Action Award. Anne Champagne. Shared the mission of the Loyola Institute for Spiritually to spread the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola in everyday life. She described the success of the morning and made available extra copies of "Cannonball Moments" by Eric Clayton, who was one of the honorees.

June 7th Ordination Mass

Fr. Oliver Coughlin

A Voice For Vocations

On June 7th Serrans attended the Ordination of Fr. Oliver Coughlin to the priesthood. After the Mass and ordination, they received a blessing from our new priest and took turns manning a Serran Vocations table outside the Cathedral.

Bishop Vann& Fr. Coughlin

Serran Vocation Table

June 13th Priests vs. Seminarians

On June 13 at 7:00PM priests and seminarians held their annual Basketball Game at Mater Dei.

It was a hard fought game and the Serrans that attended cheered vigorously for their champions. If you missed the fun this year it will return again next year.

Fr. Cheeyoon - Let the Game Begin

Penalties???

Love Those Seminarians

A Voice For Vocations

From The Treasurer -Dues are Due

It's that time of year again. Dues are due now. Make the check out to the Serra Club for $105. About half of the dues payment goes to National.

Please make checks payable to *Serra Club City of Orange* and send to Matt Ivary, 12965 Villa Rose Dr., Santa Ana, 92705, or use Zelle c/o (Matt) cell 714-679-5239, email mivary92@gmail.com

Mark Kreyche with Seminarian Ethan Ocampo and Julian Venegas of the Office of Worship, at the post Confirmation dinner with clergy at the St. Cecilia rectory.

A Voice for Vocations – May & June Speakers

Melda Arick, Recorder

On May 6th Jorge Uriarte's Described His Vocation Journey

Jorge Uriarte was introduced by Mark Kreche. who has been attending regular spiritual groupings with Jorge for years at St. Thomas More parish as well as teaching Jorge's grandson in the confirmation class.

Jorge was born in Lima Peru from a large family of seven boys. His home life was not ideal and at an early age of thirteen he found the New Testament and discovered Christ. He became devoted to the Blessed Mother and at fifteen he devoted his life to the Miraculous Medal. This was just the beginning of many moments where the hand of God was in his life. As a young boy he felt a calling to the priesthood, however, his father was not supportive.

Eventually their family immigrated to the US. Jorge studied art and electronics. He was involved with some unsavory characters for a short time and after a serious car accident totally turned to God. He prayed for a good wife and shortly after met his wife Silvia of fifty-four years also from Peru. He has four children and seven grandchildren. He had a business and at one point was in difficulty and was almost into bankruptcy, however, he knelt before an image of Christ in his office and prayed for help. Almost, immediately his business was turned around.

Jorge shared that he goes to the beach with a portable microphone, a large cross on his chest along with pamphlets, and miraculous medals to hand out and share the message of the gospel and in particular Catholicism. He has found it difficult sometimes as Christians seem to want to fight and can't see the truth. Even though Jorge naturally is

shy and wears sunglasses; he is courageous sharing on the beach! He finds it is a great place because so many people are there and he is allowed free speech. He shared other stories from when he brings the Eucharist to hospitals or convalescent homes too. An awe-inspiring talk!!

The May 20th Meeting – Fr. Nicolaus Duy Thai, St. Polycarp.

Fr. Nicolaus

Father Nicolaus visited us from his current assignment as pastor at St Polycarap to tell the story of his vocation journey, and to talk about what encourages vocations.

Fr. Nicolaus was raised in Viet Nam. The women in the church were always praying in church. They would always scream at him to be quiet! He immigrated to the United States from Vietnam in 2001 when he was 17 and settled in Fountain Valley with his family. He received all the sacraments here. Through prayers and support from family and friends, his discernment led him to express interest in becoming a seminarian for the Diocese of Orange.

The support that he received for his vocation was invaluable. God calls us and we pray that we make the right choice. He entered St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park in August 2009 as a seminarian of the diocese and was enrolled in the Pre-Theology Program. In August 2011. Bishop Tod Brown sent him to the Pontifical North American College in Rome for his seminary formation. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) in 2017 from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. Bishop Vann ordained him to the Order of Transitional Deacon on June 27th, 2015, and to the Order of Sacred Priesthood on June 11th, 2016.

He then served as a parochial vicar at St. Cecelia Catholic Church and School for his first parish assignment from July 2017 to June 2021. From July 2021 to June 2022 he served as a formator at Mt. Angel Seminary in Oregon. He then returned to the Diocese of Orange and served as a parochial vicar at St Martin de Porres in Yorba Linda from July 2022 to June 2024. With St. Polycarp as his third parish assignment, he looks forward to learning and serving to the best of his ability.

It is very important to be in a strong faith community whether it be family or the church community. It is very important to see others praying. A devout and praying community is very important to help those with their faith journey. Fr. Nicolaus asks for your prayers while assuring you of his prayers for the St. Polycarp parishioners.

Fr. Nicolaus involvement with our Serra Club started at St. Cecilia's while he was serving as parochial vicar to the parish and school. He attended a Serra Convention in Phoenix, Arizona as our chaplain. His service at St. Cecilia's was during the challenging times of the pandemic, where he showed his diverse talents in construction along with the parishioners of a giant canopy for Mass in the parking lot. Fr. Nicolaus is a magnificent priest, a dear friend to many and a blessing to our diocese of Orange.

On June 3rd - Our Newest Seminarian From St. Cecilia, Jayden Le

Jordan joined us to tell his vocation story. Jayden Le was born on November 3, 2003 at Orange Coast Memorial Hospital in Orange, He was baptized on December 7. 2003 at St. Cecilia in Tustin. He is the oldest of 3 children and calls

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Tustin his home for the past two decades. Jayden went to Tustin Memorial Academy, C.E. Utt Middle School, and then Tustin High School.

Jayden's father was born and raised in North Viet Nam in a port city. He was a cradle Catholic from a very strong Catholic family. He was a fisherman by trade His great grandfather and brother were captured by communists and sent to an internment camp. Eventually, they were hung upside down in a monastery. The great grandfather prayed to Our Lady of Perpetual Help for help after his brother passed out. Eventually, his great grandfather's rope broke and he fell down and was able to rescue his brother. Something they considered a miracle.

His mother was born and raised in South Viet Nam in a central city, as a non-Catholic. His mom converted to Catholicism in Manila. Both his parents with their families, coincidentally moved to Tustin, California, into the same apartment complex. They both went to Tustin High, where they met and became high school sweethearts. They married in 2000 and had Jayden in 2003.

He was open to the priesthood at 6 years old. In middle school, he ignored the calling of the priesthood. In 8th grade, he had a meltdown and started yelling that he needed a priest. Fr. Bao met him and got him involved in the church ministries.

Jayden credits the Divine Mercy devotion and intercession of Our Lady alongside St. Peter, his family's patron saint, for his reversion. During COVID, he got involved in gardening and was growing lots of Vietnamese vegetables. At that time, there was a forecast of a hurricane coming to Orange County. With anticipation, he pitched a tent in his back yard and waited for the event. He was extremely disappointed when he only received an inch of rain!

He later enrolled at Irvine Valley College in the summer of 2021 and would later transfer to Cal State Long Beach as an English Education major. Jayden was hired by Fr. Khol and Deacon Bill Weeks to be a communications & Special Projects Administrative Assistant. In addition to his listed and unlisted responsibilities within the Office, Jayden is active within St. Cecilia in a variety of different ministries such as the Head Coordinator of Altar Servers and a Youth Leader in the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement. Furthermore, he would assist at Christ Cathedral and other Diocesan functions as an MC, especially Ephaphta, a young adult discernment ministry centered on nights of adoration and fellowship.

Jayden began meeting with Fr. Cheeyon Chun and started the formal process to the seminary after years of encouragement in early 2024. He was accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Orange on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, and will be heading to Mount Angel Seminary in Portland, Oregon this coming July. In his spare time, Jayden enjoys building LEGOS, cheering for the Lakers, playing tennis and spending time with friends and family. We wish him luck and will be praying for him during his years in the seminary.

June 17th - John Le Duc Speaks on His Vocation as a Benedictine Oblate

John Le Duc

John is affiliated with the St. Andrew's Benedictine Abbey in Valyermo, California. It is a place of peace and

tranquility mirroring the life of the Benedictine monks.

In 1870 Benedictine monasteries again became an important part of religious life. They were independent; had much land, farms, stores and villages and tried to return to the simpler ways of life. Benedict's rules were binding for all. During the Reformation in the 16th century the religious orders both declined and reformed. In the 19th century there was a renaissance of Christianity and monastic life. In 1893, Pope Leo XIII had the Benedictine confederation consolidated and created the Congregation of the Annunciation, which is a congregation of monasteries for the Roman Catholic Benedictine Confederation.

In 1920 a new Benedictine missionary community was formed in Chung Chu, China and served as a Seminary and school. It was infiltrated by the Communists on Christmas day. They took over the abbey and put all the monks under house arrest. Some of the Chinese Monks came to California and developed a 2,000-acre ranch in Valyermo and started a monastery. It is part of the Mother house in Bruges, Belgium, that John visited years ago.

John became an Oblate at St. Andrew's Abbey. Oblates are those who want to become closer to God, stay grounded in secular life, and feel a sense of peace. Prayer and service become a cornerstone to everyday living. It mirrors the life of a monk. It starts with formation where you visit a Monastery and meet the monks. You study the rules and practice the way of their living. After you have discerned, you spend a year as a Novice Oblate. The second year, you become a Full Oblate and take final oblations. You don't take monastic vows. Your responsibilities are daily prayer, meditation on scripture, attend Mass and receive the sacraments.

John befriended three special monks at St. Andrews Abbey:

- Brother Peter, a Chinese Monk, took his temporary vows in 1950. In 1955 the Communists came to have him renounce his Catholicism. He refused and spent twenty-five (25) years and seven (7) months in prison where he was tortured. The saying of the Rosary five (5) times a day got him through it.
- Fr. Eleutherious, standing 6'9", was born in Belgium, and spoke Dutch and French and very little English. He was born in 1909 and died at 100 years of age in 2009.
- Fr. Werner was an artist who painted on sandpaper to give the art work a different dimension. The selling of his art made money to help support the Monastery.

St. Andrew's Abbey Is a couple of hours away up towards Palmdale and can be visited daily. If you want to know what a day in their life is like, they'd love to show you.

Chaplain's Corner

Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

A New Shepherd: What the Election of a New Pope Means for the Church's Future

There is something profoundly moving about watching white smoke rise from the Sistine Chapel. It speaks of hope, of continuity, of the mysterious yet steady hand of the Holy Spirit guiding the Church through the ages. The election of a new pope is not just a historical event—it's a deeply spiritual moment that touches every Catholic heart, no matter where in the world we are.

When the new Holy Father stepped out onto the balcony, bearing the weight of Peter's mantle, the world held its breath. In that moment, centuries of

tradition met the unique personality, heart, and mission of one man chosen to lead more than a billion souls. And whether we know much about him yet or not, we know this: he is our pope, and Christ has called him to shepherd His flock.

For many of us, a new pope stirs a mixture of emotions….What does the election of a new pope mean for us?

First, it is a powerful reminder that the Church is alive. It is not frozen in time. It grows, breathes, and responds to the signs of the times—not by chasing trends, but by proclaiming the timeless truth of the Gospel in every age. A new pope brings new vision, new emphasis, and sometimes, new energy to the Body of Christ.

Second, it reminds us that leadership in the Church is service. As Catholics, we do not follow a pope because of his charisma or background, but because of his office—because he is the successor of Peter, entrusted by Christ Himself to "feed My sheep." The pope is not a CEO or political figure. He is a father, a servant, a witness to Christ crucified and risen.

Finally, this moment is a call to unity. In a world so often fractured by ideology, fear, and division, the papacy stands as a visible sign of communion. We may come from different cultures, speak different languages, and see the world through different lenses—but we are one Church, one Body, one faith. A new pope reminds us that our unity is not in uniformity, but in fidelity to Christ and His Church.

As we look to the future under the leadership of our new Holy Father, let us pray—not just for him, but with him. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen him with wisdom and courage. Let us support him with love, patience, and obedience. And let us recommit ourselves to the mission he now leads: to proclaim Jesus Christ to a world aching for truth, mercy, and hope. The world will be watching. But more importantly, heaven is watching. And in the great journey ahead, may we, the faithful, walk closely with Peter—because we know Who walks ahead of him.

In Christ Jesus now and forever,
Deacon Bill Weeks

Induction of Officers

At our June 3rd meeting in the hall we inducted the New and Returning Officers. The list of officers for the new 2025 Serran Year is posted at the end of the newsletter.

New Officers for FY2025-26

We also recognized our Serran Year 2024 New Members: Maryle Olivier, Maryellen Keating, Mike Keating, Steve Olivier, George Brazeal, Linn Stalnaker, Cecilia Santiago, Carmel Sanchez, Al Jezowski and Terri Jezowski

FY2024 New Members

A Voice For Vocations

And last but not least we honor members on their miles stone Membership Anniversaries:

Membership Anniversaries

10 year: Phil Frank and Carol Frank
20 year: Beverly Truzzolino
25 year: Nancy Ivary and Gloria Suess

Coming Events

Meetings:

- **Tuesday, July 1, 2025 –** Canceled for Sr. Cecilia's Summer Vacation Schedule
- **Tuesday July 15, 2025 –** Canceled for Ordination Luncheon
- **Tuesday, August 2, 2025** – Canceled for Sr. Cecilia's Summer Vacation Schedule
- **Tuesday August 16, 2025** – 8:00AM meeting hosted by Anne Champagne, with communion service and potluck breakfast

June 26-29, Serra International Convention, Kansas City, MO. - Mark and Beverly are going.

Tuesday July 15, 2025 Ordinati Luncheon & Mass – We will celebrate the ordination on June 7th of Fr. Oliver Coughlin. The cost will be $60 per person. The Mass will be held at 10:00AM in Christ Cathedral's St. Callistus Chapel and Crypts with Luncheon to follow at the Cultural Center, 4th floor. Up Elevator!

Happy Birthday

Name	Month	Day
Phil Frank	May	8
Beverly Truzzolino	May	12
Deacon Bill Weeks	May	13
Thu-Hien Majkoski	May	22
Roni Master	May	25
George Brazeal	June	16
Matt Ivary	June	25
Mark Kreyche	June	25

Prayer List

Wally Drazba: A Faithful Witness of Christ

In the quiet witness of faithful men, the light of Christ shines most clearly. Wally Drazba was such a man—a figure whose life did not clamor for attention, yet whose example spoke volumes to all who knew him. Rooted deeply in his Catholic faith, Wally lived with humility, integrity, and a love that radiated from a soul attuned to God.

Wally understood that faith is not simply belief but a lived reality—something that must take root in daily life, shaping every action, word, and thought. Whether serving in his parish community, guiding his family, or supporting those in need, he brought the presence of Christ into ordinary moments. His life was a quiet sermon of steadfast devotion, revealing a man

who walked closely with God not only in the pews on Sunday but in the rhythms of daily life.

One of Wally's greatest strengths was his ability to lead by example. He was not loud about his convictions, but there was no doubt where he stood. He carried the rosary not as a symbol but as a lifeline to Mary and her Son. He lived the sacraments—not merely receiving them but letting them shape his heart. His reverence at Mass, his compassion for the suffering, and his unwavering commitment to prayer and service were testaments to a life formed by grace.

In Wally, people saw the Beatitudes alive. He was gentle and meek, yet strong in spirit. He mourned with those who mourned, brought peace where there was discord, and hungered for righteousness not through words alone but through just action. He reminded those around him that holiness is not distant or unattainable, but found in ordinary men and women who choose faithfulness, day after day.

As we reflect on Wally Drazba's life, we see the image of a true Catholic man—not perfect, but perfectly striving. His legacy is not one of wealth, fame, or acclaim, but of quiet fidelity to the Lord. And that, in the eyes of heaven, is greatness.

May Wally's memory be a blessing, and may his example inspire us all to walk more closely with Christ, to love more deeply, and to serve more generously. In his life, we were given a glimpse of the kingdom of God on earth. In his death, we pray he now enjoys the fullness of that kingdom in the presence of the Lord he served so well.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Deacon Bill Weeks

Deceased

- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Wally Drazba and for his family.
- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jane Virgilio (County Club) and for her family.
- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jen Mauson and for her family
- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Marge Turk and for her family.
- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bob Moore and for his family.
- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Charlie McCarthy and for his family.
- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bob DeFeo and for his family.
- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Messerschmidt and for her family.
- Please pray for the repose of the soul Dan Phalanx (father in law of Deacon Bill) and for his family.
- Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Bible and for his family.

Sick

Please pray for the intentions and speedy recovery of:

Angie Brazeal (recovering from a broken hip), Andy Sison (recovering from an auto accident), Carol DeFeo, Deacon Bill Weeks, Michael Feeney, Mary's Kitchen, Sr Louise Ann Micek, Kathy Robinson, Jeanne Warren, Dan McKelvie, Nancy Ivary, Kimberly Hills Leibe, August Overholdt, Maureen Renden, Sister Virtue, Patty Baer, Beverly and Dan Truzzolino and friend Geri Dixon and Seminarian Alvin Huynh who is having major surgery. and our Serran travelers.

2025-26 Officer Roster

Officer	Name

A Voice For Vocations

Gov. District PA79:	Anne Champagne
President:	Beverly Truzzolino
President Elect:	Mark Kreyche
Treasurer:	Matt Ivary
Programs:	Mark Kreyche
Vocations	Carol & Phil Frank
Membership:	Anne Champagne & Patty Baer
Newsletter:	James Dazé
Recorder:	Melda Arick
Correspondence:	Brigid Noonan
Publicity	Angie Brazeal
Hospitality:	Loretta Callopy
Hispanic Ambassador:	Luis Morones
Trustees:	John Le Duc, Maureen Neglia & Sister Louise Ann Micek, CSJ
Ad Hoc. Committee:	Georgia Mottl, Maureen Neglia, Loretta Callopy, Rosemarie Tsutsumi, Anne Champagne.
Chaplain:	Deacon Bill Weeks
Spiritual Advisor:	TBD

Prayer to Find A New Spiritual Advisor

Heavenly Father,

We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this matter. May He grant us His wisdom to search out a member of your Kingdom to serve in this capacity for our organization. Help us to select a spiritual candidate on fire for your Church passionate about serving it well. Enable them to make herself known quickly so that our members may be fed with the light of your truths. We make this our prayer today.
Amen.