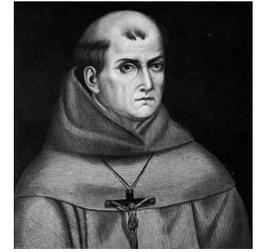




# SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



September 2013

REGION 11

DISTRICT 127

Charter 438

NEWSLETTER

**OUR MISSION IS TO FOSTER, AFFIRM AND PROMOTE VOCATION TO MINISTRY IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

## FUTURE EVENTS

- Oct 3 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Mary Elizabeth Nelson, Vocation Director of Mother House
- Oct 17 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Msgr. John Urell
- Nov 7 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Lesa Truxaw, Director of Office of Worship @ Marywood
- Nov 21 – Club meeting, Speaker: Rev. Michael Matthew
- Nov. 22 -24 – Western Regional Conference, Carmel**
- Nov 24 – Blessed Junipero Serra 300th Birthday**
- Dec 5 – Christmas Dinner. Tustin Ranch Golf Club**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

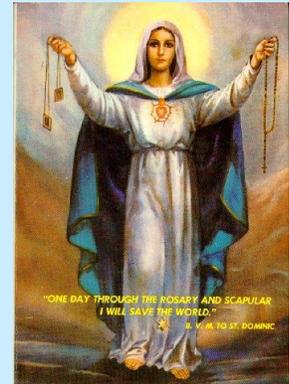


Dear Fellow Serrans,  
For the 6<sup>th</sup> time Maureen Kosinski did a great job with the golf outing. Since I played with her that day, I am aware of the glitches from the club and starter which made for a trying day but it mostly got ironed out and we had a lot of fun! Thank you Maureen!

In 1782 a chapel was erected that is still in use today. This chapel is one of two chapels that still exist where Fr. Serra is known to have celebrated Mass. It is believed to be the oldest church in California and is known as "Serra's Chapel". This was the sight of our Serra Unites prayer service on September 24. In commemoration of Fr. Serra's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday we chose this site for our 3<sup>rd</sup> District Serra Unites. Thanks to our chaplain Fr. Al, it is a very special event. We had several readers from all three clubs and every one of them did an outstanding job. We were joined by two seminarians who are on pastoral internships to help us out. William Goldin led the rosary and Brandon Dang (who is Mary Brockschmidt's adopted seminarian) served at Mass and they both joined us for dinner.

## Prayer on the Rosary

*Oh God, whose only Begotten Son, by His Life, death, and resurrection has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech Thee that, meditation on the the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may we imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen*



At the last meeting I was able to award Clara Escalle a ten-year Serra pin. She joined Serra at my urging when I was ending my president term the first time. Clara's husband has been a member for 36 years and Clara has helped with nearly every event in all those years. She told me she would join if I promised to not give her a job and I agreed. Soon after Clara joined she volunteered to be in charge of receptions. Clara states that she has enjoyed her years as a member of our club and a real Serran. Unfortunately, Clara broke her hip. She is in our prayers and we hope to see her at a meeting again soon. Again I am in debt to Cathy Walton who quietly arranged the prayer service. Our club has been in charge of most everything these last few months and I am grateful to those who stepped up and made everything turn out well! especially Cathy!!  
God Bless

Pat Manzo, President

## VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for October, donated by Ralph Masdeo. is John Duy Nguyen. John is from St. Columban parish. He is in Theology 4 at St. Patrick's seminary. He has been ordained a deacon.

At the suggestion of our Serra Club Chaplain, Fr. Al Baca, this year's Serra Unites Prayer Service for vocations was held in the Serra Chapel at Mission San Juan Capistrano. How very spiritual to kneel before the retablo in this 229 year old chapel. The service was well attended by members of the three Serra Clubs. Our club chaplains, Fr. Al and Fr. Felix Just concelebrated Mass. Two of our seminarians, who are on pastoral assignment, were able to join us. William Goldin, who is at St. Norbert's led the rosary Brandon Dang who is at St. Joachim served at the . Mass. Following the service, everyone enjoyed dinner at the El Adobe restaurant.

The next Priest Discernment meeting will be October 9, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose is to familiarize interested men in the possible call to the priesthood in the Diocese of Orange. Any questions regarding discernment, please contact. Rev. John Money penny, Director of Vocations [Fr.JMoney penny@rcbo.org](mailto:Fr.JMoney penny@rcbo.org). The diocese offices are in the process of moving to Christ Cathedral. The location of the October meeting is yet to be determined. Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of adoration.



John Duy Nguyen

**October Vocations Prayer: *Gracious God, source of all life, we praise you for your abundant blessings. You nourish and strengthen us on our faith journey. We join our hearts and voices in prayer that you enrich your Church with people who embrace the call to holiness and service. We ask this in Jesus name Amen.***

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

## SPEAKERS



On September 5<sup>th</sup> we were honored to have Fr. Al be our celebrant and speaker again. Last month I wrote that he has so many stories to tell. Well, I believe he may have outdone himself this time.

He recently visited the Korean-Americans for conversation. It appeared he landed on the hot seat. He was peppered with questions. . These were questions he was pleased to answer. About our beloved Catholic faith.

He also attended a Jewish/Catholic dialogue. An Orthodox Rabbi facilitated this dialogue. There are three types of Jews. There are the Reformed Jews, the Reconstructionists, and the Orthodox. It had been a very long time since an Orthodox Jew accepted this position.

Msgr. Baird started the talk. The Rabbi wants his people to be more American. Women should no longer need to shave their heads as only their husbands are allowed to see their wives. Thus, they wear wigs. Men can give up their long locks. In old times, they were not allowed to shave their sideburns to let the locks grow.

Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> is the first day of Rosh Hashana as it began the night before at sundown and will last for ten days until Yom Kipper, the Day of Atonement.

There are a large number of Jews and Muslims, as well as Catholics in Irvine.

An Islam professor wants to "Americanize" Muslims here in order to let go of what is unnecessary.

"So what shall we talk about?" asks Fr. Al. A 90 yr. old woman asked "Why do Catholics believe Jews are going to hell?" His answer, "There is good news and bad news. The good news is that it is not true. Anybody and all are equal. The bad news is that it has taken you this long to figure it out."

Part of the reason things were so bad in Germany was because they had isolated themselves having nobody to turn to.

Pope benedict said "Let His blood be upon us, the precious blood, not a scourge. Jews are not Christ killers. Pilate, Herod and others were not all Jews, just a small group." In the time of Jesus, whole groups argued about the possibility of heaven. Today many Jews do believe there is a heaven and an angelic being.



Fr. Al Baca

### SUPPORT THE MSGR. JOHN SAMMON FUND

Contact Sue Silvestri 714-544-0469



The young Jews today are questioning about the saints, etc. They have Christian friends asking even more questions. For example, what is the meaning of a Christmas tree? Maybe mom or dad put one up.

Rabbi asked, "Why do we want this confirmation?" Fr. Al replied, "Well, if another Hitler comes again, we can be here for you. Let's stay close. We need each other. There is only one heaven, Not one for each faith.

Fr. Al shared that as a child he prayed to God that he just wanted to know the truth, be it Mormon, Buddhist, whatever. Bishop Sheen once said that most Catholics leave for lack of knowing the complete truth.

Today, no young people are going to synagogue. The same is true of young Catholics. The difficulty is how do we package this to make it inviting to bring the young back to the faith.

And the Lutherans are rediscovering Mary, assumed into heaven, and the sacrament of confession.

It is a long road, but God is helping all of us along the way.

How many of us clearly remember The Act of Contrition? Not enough of us. Learn it remember it, and bring it to confession if needed, the old one or the newer one. Also, going back to your roots, such as gravesites, the town where you were born, ancestry.com, etc. Ask questions. You will learn a lot, and feel a deeper connection.

Padre Pio had a true touch on life. Once a bishop accused Padre Pio of being a womanizer. A supporter standing nearby declared "The bishop is a womanizer. Who is he to talk?" Padre Pio then slapped the supporter in the face. "Pray. Do not talk ill of others." The man spent the night in the forest, came back and apologized to Padre Pio, then followed him until his death. Padre Pio had a gift of seeing into people's hearts but would send them out of the confessional until they were ready to make a true confession.

St. Charles Borromeo loved music. In fact, he loved it so much he found a theatre that played the music he loved, but it was rather a risqué place he would otherwise not have gone, but he went anyway. Staying true to himself and his faith, he removed his glasses. Now he could hear but not see. Very creative gentleman, I say.

Fr. William Hubbard, from Our Lady of Fatima in San Clemente was our celebrant and speaker on September 19. He hails from Mater Dei High School graduating in 1999 and was ordained December 18,

2008. He currently serves as a Lady of Fatima.

He grew up in a normal Catholic family, as one of many typical children who find church not one of their favorite places to go, but he went.

At a high school retreat, he had an experience of prayer. He felt much loved by God.

"Maybe I should start following Jesus, like, every day." That brought him to become involved in Mater Dei's Youth Ministry. In his senior year he started thinking of becoming a priest. Onward to Orange Coast College, then Steubenville, Ohio, Franciscan University. He was still discerning. He was having a wonderful experience growing in faith. He entered the seminary in Camarillo, still discerning. Nothing major happened. When he asked God, "Should I become a priest?" God had no answer. His own answer was "I want to be a priest." Little moments of prayer, assurance and support are how it worked and still does for Fr. William.

What he asked of us is this: No one in his home parish ever asked him if he would like to become a priest. Therefore, it is up to us to tell them. For example, approach a young man, "Have you ever thought about becoming a priest? Because, I think you would be a good one." Identify men as well as women.

Be holy so as to encourage holiness in others. A good book to read is *Imitation of Jesus*. The best books of prayer are the Gospels.

Sharon Birchler, VP Communications



Fr. William Hubbard

## DISTRICT DOINGS



This past month we had two District Wide events. Both happened to be hosted by the County Club.

The first event was **the Msgr Sammon Annual Clergy Golf** at the Tustin Ranch Golf course which is much easier to reach than the previous site. In future years you may just want to come to dinner and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Serrans and the clergy. It's not often that many of us get to socialize with them.

**Maureen Kosinski** the chairperson for the last few years again put on a wonderful outing. There were 72 golfers, many of them priests and deacons. And

for the first time in a few years there was a bishop golfing, **Bishop Dominic**. Unfortunately, he had another engagement later, so he couldn't stay for dinner, but it was great seeing him there. Maureen changed the prizes awarded to the clergy from golf items to cash awards, this reflects the change where many of the priests come to dinner, but do not golf. The second event was the evening of prayer under the title of "**Serra Unites**". The reference is really out of date and should really be called "**Serra Evening of Prayer for Vocations**". Fr. Al Baca, chaplain of the County Club suggested that since this year is the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fray Serra's birth, we have the evening in the Serra chapel at the **Mission San Juan Capistrano**. Fray Serra said Mass on this very altar. It was a spiritually moving evening. **Fr. Felix Just**, Chaplain of the City Club, concelebrated with Fr. Al. They were assisted by two seminarians who are doing their pastoral year, **William Goldin, and Brandon Dang**. **Sr. Nadine**, spiritual advisor for the City Club was also in attendance.

The event was chaired by **Cathy Walton**. Again, thank you Cathy for a great job. **Joe DeRitis** helped secure the Chapel working with **Msgr. Art Holquin**, as well as the El Adobe restaurant for our meal after the service. Unfortunately, Joe wasn't able to attend, he had a stroke, but Johanna promptly called 911 and Joe was home in a day. Thank you Joe for your help. I'd close with a portion of a longer quote of Bishop **Sheen** that was the theme for the night. "**Prayer in the Church is alone primary; publicity and its methods are secondary. The search for vocations begins on our knees.** Let's never forget this.

Wally Drazba, District Governor

**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER**  
**Lu Escalle Mary Horan**  
**Ralph Masdeo Virginia Mort**  
**Sue Silvestri**

**SURVEY OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS ON VOCATIONS**

The following is Part 4 of a *Consideration of Priesthood and Religious Life Among Never-Married U. S. Catholics* by the *Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University*.

**Consideration of Becoming a Religious Sister Among Women**

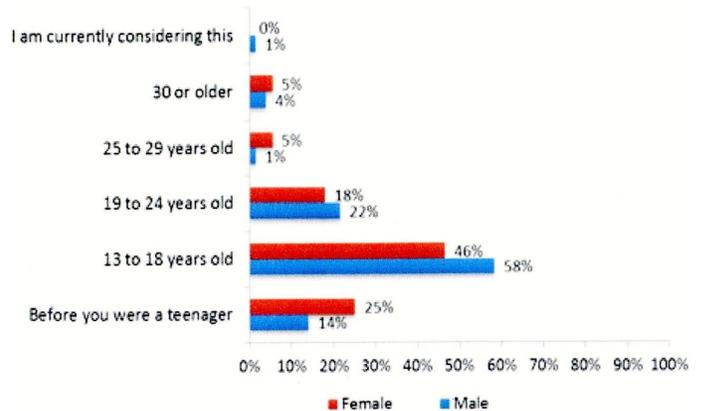
Among female respondents the model predicting consideration of becoming a religious sister includes many parallel results to the model for male respondents.

Whereas secondary school is important for male vocational consideration, it is attendance at a Catholic primary school which is important for female vocational consideration. Female respondents who attended a catholic primary school are more than three times as likely as those who did not to consider becoming a religious sister. Parish youth group participation is also important for female respondents. However, unlike males, it is participation during high school years rather than primary school years that has an effect. Women who participated in parish youth group during these teen years are more than nine times as likely to consider becoming a religious sister. Similar to male respondents, encouragement is also a positive factor. With nearly the same effect as is demonstrated among men, women are nearly twice as likely to consider a vocation when encouraged by another person to do so.

Also parallel to men, women who have used traditional media in the last year to consume or follow religious or spiritual content are more likely than those who do not to say they have considered a vocation.

Among the adults surveyed (excluding those ages 14 to 17 in the sample) who say they have considered a vocation, most report that they did so between the ages of 13 and 24. Additionally one in four Catholic females who have considered becoming a religious sister did so before they were a teenager.

**When in your life did you first consider a religious vocation?**  
 Never-married Catholic adults who have considered a vocation



Respondents who said they had never considered a vocation were asked in an open ended question, "Why do you think you have never considered this?" Among male respondents who have never considered a vocation as priest or religious brother,

the most common responses to the question were related to a general lack of interest (39%), celibacy (18%), not having a calling (8%), having other life goals (8%), and having some doubts about their faith or not feeling religious enough (8%).

Among female respondents who have never considered a vocation as a religious sister, the most common responses were related to a general lack of interest (31%), celibacy (16%), not having a calling (11%), discomfort with the lifestyle they would need to adopt (10%) and having some doubts about their faith or not feeling religious enough (9%).

Hispanic adult Catholics who have considered a vocation may face additional challenges, as Hispanic respondents are the least likely to report attending college or obtaining a college degree. Hispanic respondents are also the least likely to indicate enrollment in a Catholic school at any level and this would make it less likely that they will consider a vocation. Family members of Hispanic respondents are less likely to encourage vocations. One in five Hispanic respondents (21%) also indicated that citizen requirements prevented their consideration of becoming a priest or religious brother. Two-thirds of

Hispanic never-married males (66%) agree at least somewhat that their desire to be a father prevented their serious consideration of a priestly or religious vocation. By comparison only 51 percent of non-Hispanic white male respondents indicated this.

**Conclusion**

Although many speak of priest shortages and steep declines in the number of men and women religious, the survey reveals that there is no shortage of individuals who seriously consider these vocations among never-married Catholics in the United States. Three percent of men say they have very seriously considered becoming a priest or religious brother and 2 percent of women indicate they have very seriously considered becoming a religious sister. This is equivalent to 350,000 never-married men and more than 250,000 never-married women. Shepherding more of these individuals on the path to seeking a vocation would likely require a combination of greater outreach from the Church, encouragement from others, assistance in obtaining educational prerequisites, and dealing with other issues such as student loan debt and citizen status.

*This concludes the survey*

**MSGR. JOHN SAMMON CLERGY GOLF OUTING SEPT 9, 2013**



Chairperson: Maureen Kosinski



The Winners: Deacon Ray Duthoy, Hank Wesseln, Gene Miller, Herman Beuselinch

**SERRA UNITES, MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, SEPTEMBER 24, 2013**

