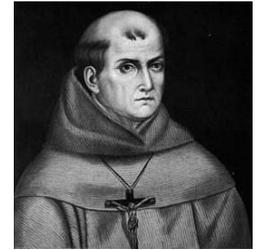




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



December 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

Dec 5 – Christmas Dinner. Tustin Ranch Golf Club, 6:00PM

Jan 2 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Al Baca

Jan 13-19 – National Vocations Awareness Week

Jan 16 – Club Meeting, Fr. Brendan Manson

Feb 2 – World Day for Consecrated Life

Feb 6-Club Meeting, Speaker: Seminarian Joseph Nguyen

Feb 20 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Quan Tran

Mar 6 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Eymard Flood

Mar 20 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Troy Schneider

Apr 3 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Deacon Brandon Dang

Apr. 17 – No Club Meeting

Apr 23 – Seminary Visit



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Serrans,
We had an outstanding convention in Monterey November 22-24. Fifteen Serrans from Orange attended including seven from our own club. At the necrology service a proclamation honoring our two recently deceased Serrans, Wanda Thomas and Jack Croal, was read and the bell tolled for them. With people journeying from as far away as Washington, Oregon, Ohio, New Jersey and even Chicago (new Serra International Executive Director John Liston), the conference featured exceptional presentations, highlighted by an enlightening talk by keynote



Pat and Bishop Garcia

speaker, Bishop Garcia of Monterey. Bishop Tom Daly (former auxiliary bishop of San Jose, currently Rector of St Patrick's Seminary) shared insights with us. Bishop spent the entire day enjoying the other speakers after his talk.

On Saturday the Mass was celebrated over Blessed Serra's final resting place which is on the altar at the Carmel Mission. It was the 300th birthday of Blessed Junipero Serra! What a celebration with pageantry and a beautiful choir! We had six bishops and Cardinal Mahoney celebrating the liturgy and joining us both nights for dinner where they sat at separate tables with the Serrans.

Our USAC executive committee met the two days preceding the conference. John Liston, our new SI executive Director was present at the entire meeting as well as at dinner and the hospitality afterwards at our invitation. This has never happened that the SI Director attended our meeting. John Liston was open and forthright at all times. He remained for the entire conference as well. He promised to send me the audit and I will forward it to you. This is part of the new transparency coming from SI.

Those that were able to attend the Christmas party on Thursday, Dec. 5th enjoyed a delightful evening put together by Mary Brockschmidt. Thank you Mary for being so capable and gracious! Mary's grandson Nick and his wife Emily entertained us with Christmas music. Each table enjoyed the company of one of the seminarians on internship.

We have many blessings to be thankful for as we always move forward, never turn back!

Pat Manzo, President

VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for December, donated by Sharon Birchler, is Michael Duc Nguyen. Michael is from St. John the Baptist Parish. He is in College 4 at Mt. Angel Seminary.

News from the Seminarians: Our Serra Club members who attended our Christmas Dinner at Tustin Ranch Golf Club were greatly blessed. We had four seminarians who are in their pastoral internship year. Father John Moneyppenny, Director of Vocations and Sister Eymard Flood, Vicar for Women joined us. The four seminarians were: Brandon Dang at St. Joachim, William Goldin at St. Norbert, Joseph Huan Nguyen at St. Timothy and Quyen Truong at St. Nicholas. Our Chaplain, Fr. Al Baca led us in a prayer service and the seminarians chanted the Salve Regina. That was very impressive, it brought back memories of my Catholic school years singing in the choir. It was a very special evening, we don't have very many opportunities to be with the seminarians since they are usually away at their various seminaries. A big thank you to our club members who hosted the seminarians, Laura and Al Alfieri, June and Richard Craig, and Sharon and Dennis Mulherin.



Michael Duc Nguyen

The next Priest Discernment Evening will be January 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. It is held at the Diocese of Orange Pastoral Center, first floor, Room 1D, Christ Cathedral Campus. 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 Moneyppenny, Director of Vocations, Fr.JMoneyppenny@rcbo.org.

December Vocations Prayer: *Loving God, Creator of the universe, you have gifted us with life. You call us to be a light to the world through baptism. Help us to brighten our world by sharing our gifts in the service of others and respecting all creation. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen*

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

SPEAKERS



Our celebrant on November 7th was our beloved Fr. Al Baca and our speaker was Lisa Truxow, Director of Worship for the diocese of Orange. She has had this position for 11 years. Her job is quite complex and I will do my best to at least

highlight her duties.

Originally she trained and worked in the business world so she is well suited for this position. She plans all of the bishop's stuff as she put it. In other words, she organizes his work load, makes life as easy for him as she can. She is the go-to resource for priests, and liturgies.

She oversees the RCIA program on behalf of the bishop. She reviews, for the bishop any new or remodeling of churches. She has worked in the ministry of religious education and teaching. She also worked at St. Vincent de Paul for 8 yrs. Her biggest project to date,



Lisa Truxow

I am guessing, is Christ Cathedral. To prepare, she studied many Catholic churches. She asked us, "What is the bishop's role?" It is to unify communities. At our fullest in worship, we have the bishop, priests, deacons, and the people. Catholic liturgies need space. How the altar is arranged, where shall the ambo stand, where shall the confessionals be placed, what is the best seating for all the parishioners, visitors and worshipers, and even tourists. Our Masses are sacred and we need to consider the tourists who wander in and out to view this miracle. Christ Cathedral is the church for all other churches.

She part of the architectural and renovation committees including all acres of the grounds. First she chooses a liturgy consultant. Bro. William Walker was chosen by Bishop Vann within two

weeks of taking office. No time was wasted on making that decision. He immediately got to work. Second an architect needed to be hired. Many applied, ten were interviewed, and four rose to the top. A very difficult decision. Instead of hiring one, two were hired as their qualifications were so outstanding. They each are world renown in their respective fields. One will work on the interior and the other on the exterior such as the many acres of ground. To accomplish this decision, she visited both offices and a couple of completed projects. In visiting their offices, she got a whiff of how the staff works together. Not only do they work well together but both offices work well together also.

Now in contemplation are the seating plans. There is a long way to go before construction plans are even drawn up, hopefully, in Spring of 2014. This is a church of worship as well as a tourist site. What about the Blessed Sacrament? That is a must! It needs a distinct place avoid of tourists not looking to pray. The baptistery. Should it be at the entrance into the church or at a separate part? And the tabernacle must be the safest of all.

Regarding the Walk of Faith, the current stones are wearing down. A GPS has been made. They can be looked up by name, scripture, and photos have been taken trying to preserve their legacy. All stones are trying to be returned to the donators.

Cemetery management started on day one.

Smaller chapels are being considered. For example, there are not 3,000 attendees. Parking issues are to be addressed later. Above or below grown structure. This must come later. First cost must be spent on the cathedral itself. The timeline as it now stands is as follows: in a perfect world, it will be ready for dedication in June of 2016.

Regarding the organ, part of it was built in Italy; therefore, we will be sending back those parts to be rebuilt by the appropriate craftsmen. The pipes desperately need renovation as they are far overdue for maintenance. Actually, one of the angels ran into the pipes. Ouch! That had to hurt. I hope God's angels were with her.

Our speaker on November 22 was Fr. Michael Matthews, originally from Tustin. He grew up in Tustin, graduating from St. Cecilia grade school then Mater Dei high school and on to Notre dame University in South Bend, Indiana where he earned a degree in History and a master's degree in Theology. Holy Cross started in France, and spread to the USA in 1840, later somewhere sent to California to the gold rush area, but they never came back.

As a novitiate of the Order of the Holy Cross, he spent a year in Colorado at a retreat. This is where the novitiates learn how to live comfortably with one another, share, and learn what life will be like as a priest. It is a time of discernment. As a third grader, Sr. Jeanne gave the class an assignment to draw a picture of what they want to be when they grow up. Fr. Michael drew



Rev. Michael Matthew

a priest. He also was told he had the gift of gab, a priestly vocation was recommended.

During his junior year at Notre Dame, 1984-1985 he studied in London. It was during this time that it became clear to him to become a priest. After this year, he took his first vows at Holy Cross. He spent nine years of seminary, for his vocation. During this time, on April 10, 1999, he was ordained a deacon at St. Joseph's. From 2001-2013 he served as pastor at St. Stanislaus and also served at Holy Cross church. It was just recently on July 2, 2013 that he came back to Orange County, in Tustin.

On December 27, 2013 he will leave for Uganda where he will spend three years helping novitiates with their discernments. He will enjoy the fruits of seeds planted before. There are churches, schools and seminaries in the more populated areas where he will be. He will be living with 35 seminarians before they become novitiates, preparing them for the graduate level of Theology. Many of the seminarians come from the bush where whole generations cannot read or write. A three year program there is equal to one year here in the US. University work looks like high school to us. The basic ability to put together a sentence is not there due in great part to government corruption. With their studies, they must first be approved by Fr. Mike, then must be approved for entrance into the Catholic Pontifical University where all teachings are in English.

Why Africa, you ask? I certainly asked. Fr. Jim, a missionary friend of his told stories, homilies, and his approach to life encouraged in Fr. Michael a desire to go to Africa. He actually volunteered to have this ministry. He will be there for three years; however, upon reflection, his twelve year term as pastor was originally one year, so he wonders how long he will actually be in Africa.

Parishioners bring animals of all kinds, and produce to Mass to give their first fruits to God. A Mass in

Africa is a two hour service, with the homily being 30-45 minutes.

Invited to parishioner's homes for a meal, the typical meal they have is a plate with plantains in the center, surrounded by smashed beans, and also boiled beef on the plate. He once was invited to a home, and as being such an honored guest he was served the delicacy of a severed fish head, eyes and all. Yes, he ate it; I'm sure with many prayers just looking at it. He expects to perhaps develop a taste for it while living there for three years. Would you? Would I?

His trip to get there will take 25 flight hours and 10 hours in a car. The best mail route is through Holy Cross in North Dakota where it will be delivered in person. Someone is always coming down to Uganda. He has already learned to speak a little Swahili. Asante sana! It means thank you very much. Now we can all speak some Swahili. How good is that?

Creature comforts are minimal with the exception of cell phones. Seems everyone has one. Maybe no utilities, but by golly they do have cell phones. These families live in huts, many with no shoes, but all have much love to give. Fr. Michael will be "adopted" into one of these huts living with the family for a week.

The Ugandans like good tall people, so Fr. Michael at 6'8" just fits the bill. The water is not safe to drink but there will be ample bottled water for him. He has had his \$550.00 worth of shots for this travel. Sleep will occur under mosquito nets that have been dipped in DDT. These little (or big) creatures are late night party animals and come from 1am to 4am.

We wish Fr. Michael well in his travels and missionary work and to see him back in three years. God bless you, Fr. Michael.

Sharon Birchler, VP Communications

DISTRICT DOINGS



The weekend of November 22-24 15 of our diocesan Serrans joined over 100 other Serrans from our region, as well as some from around the country, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Junipero Serra. Saturday's Mass was celebrated by Roger Cardinal

Mahony and 4 other bishops. The Mass was celebrated at the Carmel Mission, where Blessed Junipero Serra is buried. It was a moving experience. At the meeting some of the talks were about his life, so he became more of an inspiration for us to follow

his motto "Siempre Adelante," "Always Forward," a fitting motto for our vocation work.

We also heard from two Priest Vocation Directors as they explained all that they have to do, not just help promote vocations, but to be the seminarians constant guides. In the Monterey Diocese, the Vocation Director is also the pastor in the small town of Spreckels. Fr. John, thank you for doing such a diligent job with the Orange Diocese seminarians, hearing our compatriots stories we appreciate what you do even more.

Nancy Ivary, Regional Director for our region, Region 11, chaired a short meeting so we could hear how other districts are doing. Thank you Nancy, you're doing your normal great job, we appreciate it. The USA Council also had an executive board meeting before the Regional meeting. It was very heartening to hear that the confusion caused by Serra International has been resolved. Both USAC and SI have a common Executive Director, John Liston. He attended the executive meeting, and stayed for our Regional meeting. Many of us had a chance to speak to him. This one of the great side benefits of attending a regional meeting. Next year our regional meeting will be combined with the Serra International meeting and will be held in Sacramento, July 10-13 2014.

Wally Drazba, District Governor

COST OF ANNUAL RETIREMENT CARE

The total cost of care for senior women and men religious topped \$1.1 billion in 2012, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops stated in a press release on the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

61% of religious communities in the US that take part in the collection have a median age of 75 or over. By 2023, "retired religious will outnumber wage-earning religious by four to one," according to the press release.

"Of 548 communities submitting data," the USCCB added, "only 8% were fully funded for retirement." Catholics have contributed \$698 million to the collection since 1988, including \$27 million in 2012.

SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

Lupe Chaves John McAndrew
Therese McAndrew

SERRA REGIONAL CONVENTION, CARMEL, CALIFORNIA NOVEMBER 22 - 24, 2013



CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY DECEMBER 5, 2013



Fr. Al Baca William Goldin Brandon Dang Sr. Eymard Flood Fr. John Moneyppenny Joseph Huan Quyen Truong Nguyen

