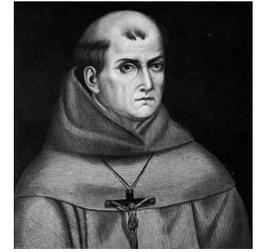




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



February 2014

REGION 11

DISTRICT 127

Charter 438

NEWSLETTER

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

FUTURE EVENTS

- Feb 2 – World Day for Consecrated Life**
- Feb 6-Club Meeting, Speaker: Seminarian Joseph Nguyen**
- Feb 20 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Quan Tran**
- Feb 22 – Serrans United in Prayer**
- Mar 6 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Eymard Flood**
- Mar 20 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Troy Schneider**
- Mar 23 – Seminary Visit**
- Apr 3 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Deacon Brandon Dang**
- Apr. 17 – No Club Meeting**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Serrans,
I have not been with you for a couple of meetings. I visited my youngest in Barcelona where I became an admirer of Gaudi. Five days after returning from Europe I boarded another plane for Chicago, between storms, for the

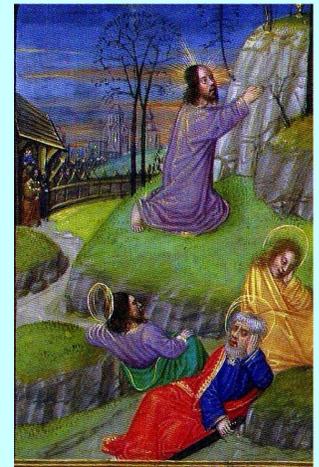
USAC Board meeting. Not to say it wasn't snowing and quite cold in Chicago but nearly as bad as the prior and following week.

The weather was very cold but the atmosphere was warm and inviting and loads of work was accomplished. Spirits were high as 33 District Governors, versus 13 last year, came for training the day before the meeting got underway. It was thought to be the best training ever!

John Liston, SIØs new Executive Director was with us the entire time and candid about answering any questions we had. I encourage as many from our club as possible to travel to Sacramento for the International Convention July 10 to 13. If you sign up before April the cost is \$300. After April it is \$400.

Vocation Prayer For Priests

Almighty and ever-living God,
You govern the universe in your providence and you govern the Church as your family.
Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is our Lord, shares his headship of the Church with those whom he calls to ordained priesthood.
Do not leave your people without pastors who make visible the presence and love of the Good Shepherd. Call those whom you have chosen and give them the grace to hear that call and cooperate with it.
Enlighten all the baptized to discern and support the call to priesthood among those who are prepared to leave all for the sake of the Lord and his Church.
Give us joy in our gratitude for our salvation and help us all to live in unity of mind and heart, so that the world may believe that Jesus is Lord, now and forever.
Amen



Our seminarian William Goldin who attended our Christmas party and was a guest speaker for our meeting, will be ordained to the diaconate on February 7th at 7:00pm at the Mission Basilica, San Juan Capistrano.

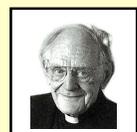
We have many blessings to be thankful for in the new year as we always move forward, never turn back!

God Bless

Pat Manzo, President

SUPPORT THE MSGR. JOHN SAMMON FUND

Contact Sue Silvestri 714-544-0469
The Serra Club of Orange County has contributed \$16,708 including an anonymous donation of \$5000.



VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for January, donated by Therese and John McAndrew, is Phung Nguyen. Phung is from St. Irenaeus parish and is in Theology 2 at St. Patrick's Seminary.

News from the Seminarians:

Seminarian William Goldin, who was a guest at our Christmas dinner, will be ordained a deacon on February 7th at seven o'clock in the evening at Mission Basilica San Juan Capistrano. William will serve at his first Mass as a deacon on Sunday, February 9th at twelve noon at St. Norbert in Orange. There will be a reception following Mass. Serra Club members are invited to attend.

The next Priest Discernment evening will be February 5, 2014 at 6:00 PM. 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 Money Penny, Director of Vocations. E-mail Fr.JMoneyPenny@rcbo.org. Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of adoration.

January Vocations Prayer: *Loving God, we rely on your help to strengthen us on our journey of faith. Open our hearts so we may respond generously to your call to serve your people. Bless all those in ordained and consecrated life with courage, integrity and zeal. Amen.*

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations



Phung Nguyen

SPEAKERS



Our celebrant and speaker on Jan. 16 was Fr. Brendan Manson. Since July of last year he has been serving at St. Edward the Confessor church in Dana Point. He spoke of priesthood from the perspective of Pope Francis. Our

Pope directs his comments directly to bishops, cardinals and monsignors, etc. As he looks at priesthood as not being a job of advancement, a monsignor must first reach the age of 65.

We all must check our own lives. Our traditions, for example. Always make sure God is first, and that traditions do not become God. Easter will be here before we know it. Easter egg hunts are a great tradition for the children, just make sure God is first. Pope Francis says we must always be friends of the poor. The Catholic church is not the same Church as was in times past. Church is our first home, and the poor must be our second home.

Volunteering is a wonderful way to serve the poor. We can donate goods, donate money, and so very important is to donate our time. Church ministries help with this. Administrative duties prevent priests from being able to spend more time with the poor. This applies to all of us, not just our priests; therefore,

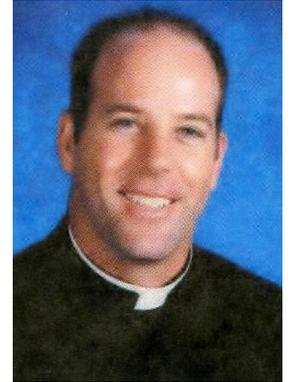
the Church is hiring lay people and volunteers to perform some administrative duties to help free up the priests. Pope Francis acclaims we are brothers in community. "We are shepherds, and the shepherds must smell like their sheep." Think of it this way: you go to work in a bakery for a day. You will leave smelling like flour and sugar. If you visit a smoke filled environment, you will leave with your clothes smelling like smoke; therefore, we need to put ourselves in the place of the poor we are attempting to help to best understand them.

Priests are chosen from the flock to serve the flock. They are of the flock. As Jesus said, "I know my sheep and my sheep know me." A priest is an ordinary man consecrated to serve others, i.e. the poor. When Fr. Brendan dresses in "normal" clothes, that is, not clerical clothing, comments are made such as "Are you fired?" or "Oh my goodness you are normal!"

Pope Francis asks us all to pray, "May our seminarians proceed to smell like the sheep."

Anyone who gives up all loved ones for Him will receive 100 fold here and the hereafter.

Contrary to years past, the average age of the priest being ordained today is 35. There is no formal business training as seminarians yet oftentimes they are required to perform not only as a priest but also as a business manager in order to effectively run



Fr. Brendan Manson

their church. No business would last more than three weeks if run as the church is often run. This is proof that the Church is God's Church.

A phrase left to us by Fr. Brendan, faith and family, Christ and the poor.

Sharon Birchler, Communications

DISTRICT DOINGS



As I write this we are celebrating our Consecrated Religious with special recognition today and tomorrow. I know some of the church bulletins used the bulletin announcements regarding World Day for Consecrated Life. Did your parish? There should have been one last week and another this week regarding WDCL. Please e-mail me what your parish did, I am very interested. Our parish told me they have two versions of their bulletin, an electronic one and a printed one. The electronic one has more information in it.

Several of us from our district were at a Super Weekend that Serra USA Council has every January. I went for the first time this year. It was a worthwhile weekend, both from the further training I received, and the upbeat nature of the Council meetings. Serrans, we are again working together as ONE SERRA with our vocation work. If you are interested in the particulars, I will forward an e-mail I just received from Dan Jones our USA Council president. It summarizes the settlement of the distraction that a few International members caused. My e-mail address is walhar@earthlink.net.

As part of the extra training I received, I am asking each club to do two things. First, pick your new officers for next year. Your president will be meeting with a nominating committee soon and I pray that you think of how you can better serve our Serran goal. Secondly, I am asking the presidents to ask at least one more person, and hopefully more than one to serve on a district level **vocation committee**, after all that is the purpose of our clubs. I would like to start meeting with this group soon. Please give it some thought and prayer, we need your help.

Wally Drazba, District Governor

SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Mary Brockschmidt Bruce Junor
Arbie Keown John McElligott

OLDEST BENEDICTINE CONVENT IN UNITED STATES CLOSES



The members of the oldest Benedictine convent in the United States have decided to close their convent. St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys Pennsylvania, now has 17 sisters; the youngest is 58. The sisters will move to other convents.

The first Benedictine convent in the United States was established in St. Marys, Pennsylvania, in 1852. The founding nuns, Mother Benedicta Riepp and her two companions, originated from St. Walburga Abbey in Eichstatt, Bavaria. They came at the invitation of Father Boniface Wimmer, OSB, to bring Benedictinism for women to America and also teach the children of the German immigrants. In succeeding years their mission expanded to include hospital care and other works. The community formed more branches over the years, so that today over fifty Benedictine monasteries in America and beyond can trace their roots to St. Marys.

NUNS FORM NEW RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY IN CALIFORNIA



A new women's religious community, the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa, has taken root in northern California with the approval of Bishop Robert Vasa. The community emphasizes fidelity to the papacy, Eucharistic adoration, Marian devotion, and

liturgical worship in both the ordinary and extraordinary forms of the Roman liturgy. The sisters' apostolate includes Catholic education and catechesis.

“I realized that to have the fullness of the Catholic faith, I need to be in union with Rome,” Mother Teresa Christe said in an interview with *Catholic World Report*. We have to trust our Lord; where Peter is, there is the Church.”

“Our goal is to teach people the Catholic faith, emphasizing the beauty and goodness,” she added. “We also assist in reverent liturgies. We help with music, especially the Gregorian chant, and with the sacristy and in maintaining the altar. We’ve been well received. Many are happy to see sisters in full habit at work again in the diocese. Some thought it would be something they’d never see again.”

PRAY FOR OUR AILING SERRANS



Invitation from Serra's Executive Director
On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Serra International and the Convention Committee, I would like you to join us for Serra's 72nd International Convention to be held in Sacramento, California from 10-13 July 2014.

The Convention Committee and I are putting together an excellent program this year consisting of beautiful Masses, top-notch speakers, and several opportunities for you to meet Serrans from around the world.

Register now to take advantage of a discounted registration fee, pay only \$300 per person. After 15 April, the standard registration fee of \$400 will go into effect.

Your registration fee includes access to all convention events, three dining events; the opening reception consisting of heavy hors d'oeuvres; the annual awards lunch, and the annual banquet on Saturday, 12 July 2014. You will, also, have the

opportunity to sample the wonderful restaurants of Sacramento while you are there.

To help you get the most of your time in Sacramento, Serra International has partnered with the Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau. Thanks to Serra's partnership with The Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau, you can show your convention badge at participating restaurants for discounts and, in some cases, free food.

We have also obtained a discounted rate of \$11.00 per person passenger for a one way trip to or from Sacramento International Airport (SMF) with Super Shuttle. A one way trip typically costs \$13.00 per person each way.

A taxi from Sacramento International Airport to the Hyatt Regency Sacramento costs between \$40.00 and \$50.00.

Smart/business casual attire is acceptable for most of the convention events. Formal attire is traditionally worn during the Annual Banquet on Saturday evening

E-mail jliston@serra.org for more information.

