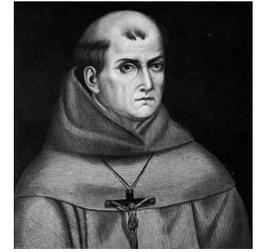




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



March 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

- Mar 6 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Eymard Flood
- Mar 20 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Troy Schneider
- Mar 22 – Day of Recollection, St. Cecilia, 8:00 to 1:00
- Mar 23 – Seminary Visit, meet at Motherhouse, 8:30 AM
- Apr 3 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Deacon Brandon Dang
- Apr. 17 – No Club Meeting
- May 9 - Installation

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Serrans,
The mission and ministry of Serra that we are all pretty familiar with is to support and affirm vocations to ministerial priesthood and to encourage and affirm vocations to religious life in the Catholic Church.

We do this in our various Serra activities. In addition, Serra's mission and ministry is to assist its members (that's us) to recognize and respond in their own lives to God's call to holiness. We further Catholicism by encouraging our members, in fellowship and through education, to fulfill their Christian vocation to service.

This month we have a very busy Serra weekend. On Saturday, March 22nd we have our day of recollection. The next day is our annual trip to St. John's Seminary. My hope is that many of you will join us for both worthwhile events.

On another note, President Sean Yeo of Serra International has asked that we unite in prayer as a Serra family during lent. He specifically asked that

May the friendships you make,
Be those that endure,
And all of your grey clouds
Be small ones for sure.
And trusting in Him
To whom we all pray,
May a song fill your heart,
Every step of the way.

Old Irish Blessing

Psalm 51 and one decade of the rosary be prayed daily for the following intention :

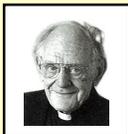
We pray for Serrans all over the world to use this period of lent to empty ourselves through personal prayer, repentance, penance, and sacrifices so that God can sanctify us and make us effective and faithful instruments in the Serra lay apostolate of promoting vocations to the priesthood and that we will continue to have a deep love for the Eucharist and be ardent promoters of vocations to the priesthood. Amen

God bless,

Pat Manzo, President

SUPPORT THE MSGR. JOHN SAMMON FUND

Contact Sue Silvestri 714-544-0469



VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for February, donated by Jerry Stauber, is Tony Park. Tony is from St. Thomas Korean Center and is in Theology 2 at St. John's Seminary. Tony expressed his thanks to Jerry and the Serra members for supporting

vocations. He asked that we continue to pray for each other as we grow in faith and love for God.

News from the Seminarians: Seminarian William Goldin was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Kevin Vann on February 7th at Mission Basilica San Juan Capistrano. Many of the Serra members attended the service. For the past year William has been doing his pastoral assignment at St. Norbert's. David Otto, Judy Houlihan's adopted seminarian is on pastoral assignment at St. Anne's. He writes that all is going well he enjoys the parish. He appreciates our prayers and support.



Tony Park

The next Priest Discernment Evening will be March 12, 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.JMoney penny@rcbo.org. Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of adoration.

February Vocations Prayer: *Gracious God, in response to your request for her to be the mother of Jesus, Mary out of love, and in faith, let go of her fears, and said "yes" to an awesome responsibility. As I try to follow your will in my life, may Mary's strength sustain me, as I can say confidently with her, "let it be done to me as you say." . Amen.*

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

SPEAKERS



Our honored speaker on February 6 was seminarian Joseph Huan Nguyen. He hails from Vietnam, one of five siblings, six girls and three boys. He was an altar server at age seven in his home country. Now, Masses were twice a day, at 4:30 am and 4:30 pm. Believe it or not he chose 4:30 am! His mother reminded him that he would have to wake up at 3:00 in the morning, and he did it, walking 20 minutes through a cemetery to reach the church. At his age he was obviously considered a junior server. At the big Masses such as Christmas, Easter, and when the bishop would be there, only the senior servers would be allowed to serve Mass. When he was 7 or 8 years old, he told his mom he wanted to be a priest. God and his mother said yes.



Joseph Huan Nguyen

His family moved to the United States in late 1994. They settled in Nashville, TN although, unfortunately, it was in a bad neighborhood that included gangs and shootings. He said there would be shootings back and forth with his family in the middle of the block. The family actually had four moves in three months, finally settling in Garden Grove in March of 1995 in St. Callistus parish.

Moving to a new country was a real culture shock not to mention the language. Thus his vocational desire vanished. So he chose college. Not a bad choice. He made friends, dated, had a girlfriend. Actually, two girlfriends, although perhaps not at the same time. Joseph's life had everything, including peace. Somehow his desire to become a priest returned. "I know I have a vocation" he said to himself. He was not running away from it, all the time dating a girl, and so she accompanied him to a vocational discernment meeting. As much as he loved her, he loved his faith more.

He attended Santa Ana College for two years, and then moved on to Cal State University Fullerton. As a student, he also had jobs. His first job was at the Orange County Fairgrounds working with frames and pictures. Next, he took a job at the same time working for Disney helping to decorate for weddings. Then he took a job at New York Life; all this while he earned a degree in Business Finance.

Along the way he met Fr. Bao Thai who helped him with his discernment. Now he was dating a second girl, while helping his family run their business of a hair and nail salon in Long Beach for four years before entering the seminary. In 2006 he decided "no more girls."

Also, he met Fr. John Neneman who invited him to his office to chat. As he had just moved into his office, there was not even a chair to be offered. So they casually sat on the floor and had a very down to earth two hour conversation.

He met and shared with Fr. Al Baca and Fr. Christopher Phem. The more they talked, the stronger Joseph felt. He also met with Bishop Todd Brown once a week for 2 months in the Bishop's home.

He was accepted into the diocese, entering Mt. Angels seminary in Portland, OR in 2008. This summer will be six years. He is now serving his Pascal year, and then the next year he will be a deacon. He is now serving in Laguna Niguel at St. Timothy, under the leadership of Pastor John Urell.

Our celebrant and speaker on February was Fr. Quan Tran from St. John Vianney church on Balboa peninsula and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Newport Beach where he is parochial vicar. He arrived in the United States from Viet Nam in 1975 at the age of six, with his parents and three siblings settling in Denver, CO.

He believes his priestly vocation started even before he was born. With his grandmother in the hospital, not expected to live, his grandfather was walking home, stopped in St. Joseph's Catholic church to pray. "If my wife recovers, my whole family will become Catholic." That night he and his wife had the same dream. The next day God had cured her. Grandfather kept his promise to God. Fr. Quan graduated with a degree in Business Financial. He then went to Pepperdine where he received his law degree, ultimately becoming an

Orange County prosecutor, helping to get those criminals under control. He had fallen away from his faith in high school and college. He started dating a girl who invited him to go to Sunday Mass with him every week. That was something. The relationship didn't last. No problem, God was in control. The next girl



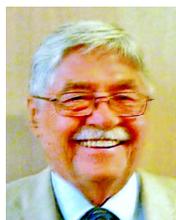
Fr. Quan Tran

he dated took him to daily Mass, as well as adoration and St. Michael's Abbey. About that time lawyering wasn't giving him the same satisfaction as it had. This young lady asked if he had ever thought of becoming a deacon. Hmmm. Three others approached him in a short period of time asking if he had thought about the priesthood. Double hmmm. So he Googled "priesthood", researching all he could. Prior to this, part of his life plan was to marry and have a family. God, however, had other plans for him. So he entered the seminary, still uncertain. It was an exciting yet scary time. Five years later he was ordained in June, 2011.

Answering some fielded questions, he is still friends with the last girlfriend. She is not married, and so who knows, she may become a nun. That again is in God's hands. He does have an advanced degree in Ecumenism earned in Rome, now helping Fr. Al Baca and Bishop Kevin Vann in that area. At present, his mom, a convert, is now the only practicing Catholic out of the whole family. Much different than it used to be but our prayers are with him and his family.

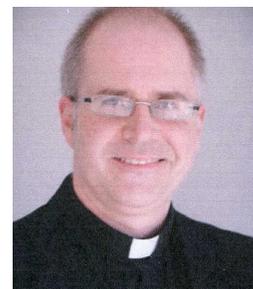
Sharon Birchler, Communications

DISTRICT DOINGS



This past month we had one major event, the ordination of seminarian Will Goldin to the transitional diaconate. Will was trained as an opera singer, two of his friends were at the reception and entertained us with their wonderful voices. If you have never attended an ordination, you're missing one of the joys of our Serra work.

We have two events coming up. On March 22 Fr. Bob Stephan SJ will be presenting our annual Day of **Recollection**. For more information on the event go to www.serraoc.org and click on the Current Events on the home page. A full biography and information on



Fr. Bob Stephan SJ the day are there. For those without computers, the morning starts with 8:00 AM Mass at St. Cecilia, followed by a continental breakfast, father's talks, and finishes with lunch. Cost is \$20.00 per person. The following day, March 23, is our annual **Serra Day at St. John's Seminary**. Msgr. Cox, the rector invites us to join the seminarians at Mass, and then

hosts a great lunch. We will be travelling by bus, leaving the CSJ Motherhouse at 8:30 AM. We return approximately at 3:30. The bus cost is \$15.00. Remember we are doing this to support the seminarians, especially if your adopted seminarian is at St. John's.

Wally Drazba, District Governor

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



Bob and Jeanne Wintheiser

SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH
Joan Golding Sandy Micheletti
Robert Wintheiser

WORLD'S OLDEST NUN SAYS 'JOY'
IS SECRET TO LONG LIFE



A Camillian nun who recently turned 107 said a joyful attitude and service to others were part of the secret to her long life.

“God does it all,” said Alma Bellotti, pointing upwards. “I merely give him thanks.” However, the world’s oldest nun admitted that “living in joy and making those around you happy” certainly helped keep her in good mental and physical health.

Born into a humble family in the Northern city of Verona, Bellotti joined the Carmillians over 80 years ago, dedicating her life to the ministry to the sick for which the religious order founded by St. Camillus de Lellis in 1582 is known.

She has travelled around much of Italy and is currently based in the Tuscan city of Lucca. She advised young people to be “attentive and docile” to the word of God. “The only thing that gives us full joy.” On her birthday she attended Mass at the Vatican guesthouse where Pope Francis has been living since his election last March and was able to exchange a few words. However, she declined to say which of the nine popes she has seen in her lifetime she liked the most.

PRAY FOR OUR AILING SERRANS



Adam blamed Eve
 Eve blamed the snake
 and the snake didn't
 have a leg to stand on