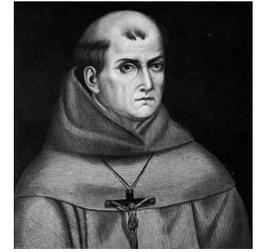




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



April 2014

REGION 11

DISTRICT 127

Charter 438

NEWSLETTER

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

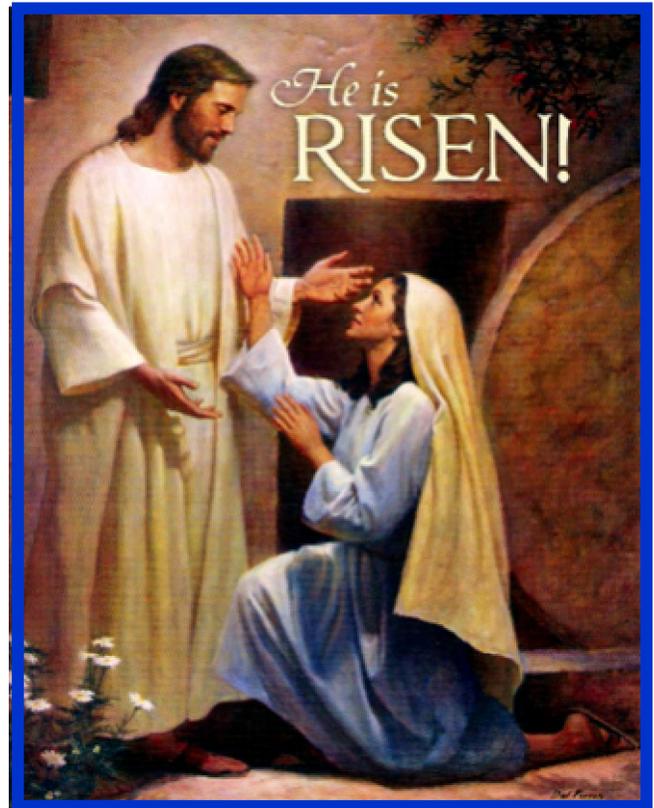
FUTURE EVENTS

- Apr 3 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Deacon Brandon Dang
- Apr. 17 – No Club Meeting
- May 1 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Katie Dawson, Director of Parish Faith Formation
- May 15 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Jim Reis
- May 19 – Installation, Motherhouse**
- June 5 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Seminarian Robin Joo
- June 7 – Priest Ordination and Reception**
- June 19 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD
- July 10-13–Serra International Convention, Sacramento, CA**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Serrans,
 Father Bob Stephan SJ from the Loyola Institute guided us through two sessions in our Day of Recollection on March 22. We counted our blessings in the first session with Gratitude. Then we reflected on those who had been Generous to us and where we might be called to be more generous in the second session. This was taken from just one of Pope Francis' daily talks. He talked about the Pope's simple acts that inspire people around the world. Fr. Bob did such a wonderful job guiding us that I found myself wishing his talk would go on longer. March 23 was our annual trip to St. John's Seminary. Many reported that it was the best ever. I confess that I went to San Diego to March Madness and saw four games that weekend including two on Sunday, so, no seminar. All my teams have now lost but it was fun while it lasted!
 Thank you to those who have agreed to be officers



for this next year and for the commitment you have made to Serra. I really appreciate it. May the Holy Spirit guide us all in doing the important work of Serra.

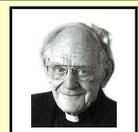
I will be traveling to Minnesota very early Thursday morning for the USAC executive meeting and thus will not be with you at our meeting.

We have many blessings to be thankful for 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



VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for March, donated by Bruce Junor, is Tuan Pham. Tuan is from La Purissima parish and is in Theology 2 at St. Patrick's. Tuan promptly sent a thank you note. He is grateful to all the Serrans for all they have done to

support vocations. He assures us that he has us in his prayers. He asks God to richly bless us and our families.

On March 23rd the three Serra Clubs made their annual visit to St. John's Seminary in Camarillo. When the bus arrived, Rector Monsignor Craig Cox and the seminarians were waiting to welcome us. We had time to tour the campus before Mass. Seminarian Daniel Seo, from Korean Martyrs Center, conducted the group I was with. He did an outstanding job taking us around the outside perimeter of the beautiful campus. Mass was celebrated in the chapel and following that we were treated to



Tuan Pham

a very nice lunch. Our club members enjoyed visiting with the seminarians from our diocese. Presently, there are fourteen seminarians studying for the Orange Diocese. In September the seminary will be celebrating their 75th anniversary. They would like to spruce up the campus for the celebration. There are many opportunities, large and small, for individuals and groups to help.

The next Priest Discernment Evening will be April 2, 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.

Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of adoration.

March Vocations Prayer: *Faithful God, You sent your Son to be our Good Shepherd. Renew in us our commitment to serve You. Bless all who dedicate their lives to you. Give insight to those discerning their vocation. Send us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, our Good Shepherd, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

SPEAKERS



Our speaker on February 6 was Sr. Eymard Flood. She will celebrate her 50th yr. jubilee on July 30, 2014 at Holy Family in Orange.

She brought us some pastoral news, the first of which is that Marywood did not complete escrow and is still

for sale. The asking price is upwards of \$25,000,000. She is starting classes on vocational discernment. There will be seven groups throughout the diocese meeting monthly. Classes will be for men and women. There will be encouraging speakers such as priests, brothers, and such.

She told an anecdote of a Friend of hers in the process of discernment. The woman went to a dance with a gentleman, when in the middle of the dance she simply walked off to become a nun. Sr. Eymard asked her "What? You didn't even say goodbye to the bloke?"



Sr. Eymard Flood

This being a Year of Consecrated Life, there will

possibly be an outdoor event with Bishop Kevin Vann to celebrate all consecrations of the religious life. To enhance this, she is doing a timetable of ordinations as far back as the 16th century.

We are asked to pray for two canonizations that they happen in April.

During this Lenten season, what do you hold dear that you are choosing to give up? Chocolate perhaps? How about thinking deeper? Perhaps we hold onto grudges, time to let it go. Maybe we hold onto "stuff", let it go. Let go and adopt something new. Contemplate this Lenten season how you can make it richer.

Take up your cross for today and then rest at night knowing you have done your best. Tomorrow do the same thing and the days after. When was the last time you spoke to someone and said "Thank you for the blessing you are to me?" Try it. You will feel better and so will they. I did and it worked. Stay away from the negative relationship, non-familial and others. Be non-judgmental.

Bishop Vann says "How is this Lent different from others in the past for you? What will you do differently, how will you change for our Lord?"

Follow Jesus' words when He said to take up your cross, deny yourself, and follow Him.

Pope Francis wants us to love ourselves; thereby leaving us open to allow Jesus in our lives each and every day. Look happy! Look like you have been saved! Each night, no matter how your day went, as for forgiveness and love.

The Knights of Columbus recently had a function including much food. At one point, a homeless man walked in just stood there looking around. Right away a gentleman came to him and asked if he would like a plate of food. The man graciously took it and enjoyed it. When he was finished eating, the gentleman asked if he would like another plate of food to take with him. Again he graciously took it and reached into his pocket to leave a donation, but his pocket was empty. No problem. This is a true story and the lesson we must all take away is to not grow weary in doing what is right.

Pope Francis has a single very important word for us: Evangelize. So many ways we can accomplish this, one small step at a time.

On March 20, 2014 our speaker was Fr. Troy Schneider. He is the youngest of ten children. He says his becoming a priest is in large part to his mother. At a young age, she just might have said, "Jesus, my son has a vocation. He just doesn't know it yet. Talk to him" Although it did happen many years later, here he is.

While attending a healing service, he was asked to be a "Catcher". When it was his turn for healing, he experienced the falling to the floor. That night he had a dream. He was in St. Mary's church. There was a mobile of angels hanging from the ceiling. Not real ones, as they were hanging by ropes and appeared plastic. In his dream, he said, "don't ever leave me." Then he flew out the church window. In his dream, he knew he was being called to priesthood. He dedicated his priesthood to Our Lady of Sorrows. He was sent to a seminary in Oregon. It was beautiful. Then three years in California. He missed Oregon, and by an act of God, he was set back to Oregon. From there he went to Belgium.

In L. Vinia the church was empty for church goers. There, attendance was down from 80% to 5%. He



Fr. Troy Schneider

learned a few more languages and the congregation grew and grew.

He spent seven years in Europe before returning to California. Here he met with Bishop Kevin Vann who said, "We need to move forward, not sugar coat things." After a while, he was back to Belgium for six months, now here again for six months, but who knows for how long? Our church attendance here is 33% - 35%, which is not good.

He is also an iconographer. It is a form of prayer for him, a window into the divine. An icon must be properly known to be written as it is an expression being true to the gospel in painting. There are many rules to follow. You and I cannot just up and paint an icon

"Look in the mirror and see who God sees. God sees His son. We see our own weaknesses, God sees them also, but He loves us because of it." He left us with this thought: spiritual prayer is like a funnel. It goes round and round, up and down.

Fr. Troy can be found at Santiago de Compostela in Lake Forest.

Sharon Birchler, Communications

DISTRICT DOINGS



It is just 3 more weeks until Easter. We want to thank all Serrans; particularly the team's leading the clubs. I think we have grown a little during the past year. We hope to be more proactive in our quest to further a culture of vocations in our diocese. We hope that we will get a lot of support from our members during the coming Serra year. In a recent meeting with Bishop Vann we outlined a more aggressive program, and the bishop is squarely behind us. We had a full Serra weekend on March 22, 23. Fr. Bob Stephan SJ had a wonderful presentation on Saturday. Fr. Bob led us to look in to ourselves to see how we are living a full Christian life. Father's talk centered on two themes, "Gratitude" and "Generosity." He reviewed both the sayings of Pope Francis, also how the Pope without fanfare or photographers performs many simple acts that are truly inspiring. From the first moments of his papacy he did significant "small" acts that should also inspire us to live more simply and closer to the way Jesus lived.

On Sunday, 39 of us boarded the bus to St. John's Seminary. Msgr. Cox asked the seminarians from our diocese to be prepared to host tours of the

seminary before Mass. There were several small groups, so the tours were quite personal. After the usual inspiring Mass, we had a wonderful lunch. Again, our OC seminarians were very gracious hosts. We had arranged to have reserved tables, with one or two seminarians at each table. More than one person remarked that this was one of the best visits we have ever had. Thank you for all who attended.

A blessed and happy Easter to all.

Wally Drazba, District Governor

WITHOUT PRAYER, MASS AND CONFESSION, A PRIEST BECOMES MEDIOCRITY

The Sacraments of the Holy Orders and Matrimony, two specific vocations and two great paths to the Lord where the theme of the Holy Father's catechesis during his March 26 general audience in St. Peter's Square. The ministers who are chosen and consecrated for this service prolong Jesus' presence over time, and they do so with the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of God, and with love. Those who are ordained are placed at the head of the community. Yes, they are at the head, but for Jesus this means placing their authority at the service of the community. Whoever wants to become great among you must become your servant and whoever wants to be first must be your slave. A bishop who does not serve his community does not do good; a priest or a curate who does not place himself at the service of his community does not do good, he is mistaken.



Pope Francis

Pope Francis emphasized that impassioned love for the Church is a characteristic that always derives from this sacramental union with Christ. The bishop, the priest, love the Church in their own community, they love the Church greatly. How? How Christ loves His Church. The priesthood and matrimony are two sacraments that represent the path by which people habitually reach the Lord.

Finally, the Pope cited the words of St. Paul to Timothy when he advised him not to neglect, but rather always to revive the gift given to him. When the ministry is not nurtured by prayer, by listening to the Word of God, with the daily celebration of the Eucharist, and also with regular confession, the

authentic sense of one's own service is inevitably lost from view, along with the joy that comes from profound communion with Jesus. The priest who does not do these things, loses over time, his union with Jesus and becomes mediocre, which is not good for the Church. Therefore, we must help bishops and priests to pray, listen to the word of God that is our daily bread, to celebrate the Eucharist every day and to confess regularly.

Access to the priesthood cannot be sold. This is an initiative the Lord takes. The Lord calls, he added, and concluded by encouraging the young to hear this call to cherish the invitation and pray that it might grow and bear fruit in all the Church.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER

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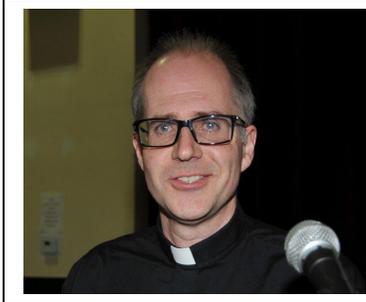
Rose Falbo

**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL
Judy Houlihan Warren Kato**

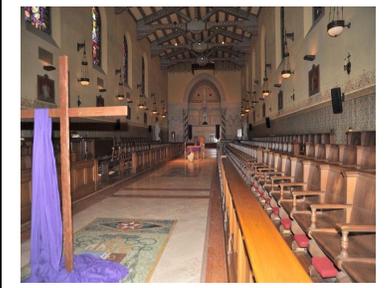
PRAY FOR OUR AILING SERRANS



DAY OF RECOLLECTION, ST CECILIA CHURCH, MARCH 22, 2014



ST. JOHN SEMINARY, MARCH 23, 2014



Photos courtesy of Joan Golding