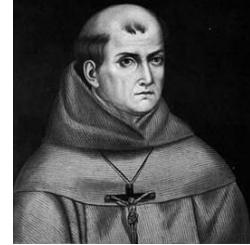




# SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



May 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

- May 1 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Katie Dawson,  
Director of Parish Faith Formation
- May 11 – Vocations Awareness Week. World Day of Prayer for Vocations**
- 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,  
This is my last message as your club president (but I'll still be around at the USA Council!). This just a quick note to say ôthank youö several times. Let me begin by saying ôthank youö to all the club members for all you do for Serra. Part of the installation ceremony for President includes the words, ôA year from now, you won't know how many lives you have touched or influenced.ö I believe this refers to everyone in Serra.

I especially thank all of my officers for their commitment these past two years. You have worked very hard and made me look very good. Our Lord has given all of us many gifts and talents and you have been sharing them with us.

My special thanks to Father Al for being our Chaplain. We know you are a very busy priest, and I personally appreciate your presence at our meetings.

## Vocation Prayer for Vocation Awareness Week

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus Christ, Came among us with great humility and courage, To pour out his life in service and show us The way to you.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon young men and Women, we pray, that they may know themselves As beloved sons and daughters, and Hear your call to pour out their lives In service to the Church.  
Mary, our mother, pray for them, That they may respond, like you, With humility and courage:  
öBe it done to me according to your word.ö This we ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

You continue to encourage many men and women to enter religious life.

Thank you and God bless us and our efforts.

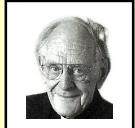
Pat Manzo, President

## THE END OF AN ERA

The Tustin Banquet Center where we have been meeting these many years has been sold. The upcoming May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be the last at this location. The second meeting on May 15th will be at the Motherhouse. A committee is searching for a new venue where we can have Mass, lunch and our meetings. A report on this matter will be given at the meeting.

**SUPPORT THE MSGR.  
JOHN SAMMON FUND**

Contact Sue Silvestri 714-544-0469



## VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for April, donated by Sheila Blake is Aristotle Quan. Aristotle is from St. Cecilia's parish and is in Theology 2 at St. Patrick's Seminary.

Our club had just one meeting in April on the first Thursday since the second Thursday fell on Holy Thursday. Our speaker was seminarian Brandon Dang. Brandon has completed Theology 2 at St. Patrick's and is presently in his pastoral assignment at St. Joachim's. Brandon was very articulate in sharing his vocation story. He was attending Jr. College and felt he would most likely have a career in the computer field. Some friends invited him to a week-end retreat and following that he began discerning if he did have a vocation. He prayed and asked our Lord for a sign. During the consecration at Mass he had an overwhelming feeling of our Lord's presence when he looked at the host. He felt he had his answer. This helps us to know that our prayers for vocations are being heard. Brandon is my adopted seminarian and praying for him and having contact with him on his journey to ordination has been very rewarding.

The next Priest Discernment Evening will be May 7, 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 Moneypenny, Director of Vocations.

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

**Vocations Prayer:** *Faithful God, You have blessed us with many gifts. Grant us the wisdom to use them for the glory of your name. Jesus calls, "Come follow Him and be faithful. Give me the courage to follow wherever you lead. Bless the Church with generous hearts, eager to serve you. Amen.*

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

## SPEAKERS



Our speaker on April 4 was seminarian Brandon Dang. He is currently serving his pastoral year at St. Joachim's parish in Costa Mesa. Next year he will be ordained as a deacon.

He was born at the Little Company Of Mary hospital in Torrance, CA. He then moved with his family to Aliso Viejo when he was 5 yrs. old. Although mom was schooled in a convent school by the nuns she became a fallen away Catholic for 15 years. One day she was driving on El Toro Rd. when she past St. Nicholas Church. She stopped, entered, prayed to the Blessed Sacrament and felt the peace she had not felt since the convent school. She came back, bringing her two sons with her.



Brandon Dang   Mary Brockschmidt   Fr. Al

What led to his becoming a priest? He converted to Catholicism when he was 9 or 10 years old. He became an altar boy, later entered Irvine Valley College where he became good friends with a classmate who was very deep in his Lutheran faith. When Brandon was ready to transfer to CSULB, he had a girlfriend and was also involved with the youth group at St. Nicholas church. A retreat of sorts was happening one day, from 7:00 a.m. to well into the afternoon. He claims as any college student knows, there is no 7:00 a.m. Well at 6:30 a.m. one of the youths called him asking "You coming?" Uh, by the way, we need a ride. One guess as to who their driver was.

Everyone was separated into groups based on age. There he met Fr. Ben. Talking and introducing himself, he realized his life was empty. Fr. Ben shared the peace and joy he experienced with God. That's when Brandon knew he wanted this experience also. Outdoors, he said to God, help me here. God wasted no time. Along came a youth inquiring how his talk was. "I think I want to be a

priest.ö That's great. You'll be a good priestö replied the youth.

When he told his mom, he was anxious. It is tradition in his culture that the oldest boy carry on the family name. She was somewhat surprised but pleased for him. Dad took a year to come around, but seeing the peace and joy in his son, he was pleased. At Mass, Brandon prayed for a sign that this is what God wanted for him. At the consecration of the host he felt something he never felt before. He had his sign.

He is currently half way through seminary. First and second years he studied pre-theology and philosophy. His current pastoral year is crucial to him. He recently went with his pastor to bless a house. His parish is located in the middle of a large residential area, many of the homes being recovery homes. As they entered the house, there were many beautiful women. As father was blessing the house, Brandon realized this was one of the recovery houses.

His favorite verse in the bible is from Jeremiah. God said to Jeremiah to go do what I want you to do. Jeremiah replied that he was too young, but he obeyed God.

God does make us an instrument of his peace.

Sharon Birchler, Communications

## DISTRICT DOINGS



This is a time to say thank you. On May 19, the officers for the next Serra year will be officially installed. I have many people to thank, but in this column I will thank the three club presidents, and leave it to them to thank those in their own clubs.

Before I thank the Serrans, there are two priests that I think we Serrans ought to extend our heartfelt thanks. First, **Fr. John Moneypenny**, who has fully embraced the work of the Serra clubs. He not only has supported the seminarians, but also supported us in our meager efforts. We look forward to greater cooperation between Serra and our diocesan leaders, due to the efforts of Fr. John. At this time Fr. John is e-mailing to all parishes the Serra program for öVocation Awareness Weekö which starts on May 11, öGood Shepherd Sundayö. We Serrans need to check our website [www.serraoc.org](http://www.serraoc.org) so we can support the efforts of our parish priests. Thank you Fr. John.

We also owe thanks to Msgr. Craig Cox the rector of St. Johnö Seminary. We have seminarians in six different seminaries, but the only one close enough to visit as a group is St. Johnö. Msgr. Cox, always the gracious host, is right there in front of the seminary entrance to greet our bus. Msgr. Cox is retiring as rector and will go back to the job for which our priests are ordained, to be a parish pastor. Thank you Msgr. Cox. May God bless you in your new post.

**Now to our Serrans.** The County Club has had the experience of Pat Manzo for the past two years. Pat as we know has risen through the ranks of Serra to serve on the Serra USA executive board, but when her club needed her, she did the job for two more years. The City Club also had a veteran as their president the last two years. Maureen Neglia, past president of the City Club, came back and did the job again. And last but not least, Ed Dainko, a Serran for many years in San Bernardino, has finished his first year as president of the South Club. Thank you to all of you for the support you have given to me and the seminarians of our diocese.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank another silent Serran. Jim Wienciek, who due to his early morning work schedule, cannot get to our meetings, never the less has done an important job for us. Check out our website [www.serraoc.org](http://www.serraoc.org) regularly and you will see his efforts as our webmaster. Thank you Jim.

Wally Drazba, District Governor

## BECOME SHEPHERDS, NOT BUREAU-CRATS POPE TELLS SEMINARIANS

In an April 14 address to seminarians from the Pontifical Leonine College, Pope Francis told the young men that if they are not prepared to dedicate themselves to serving the faithful, they should not become priests.



After emphasizing that a priest must be a shepherd, devoted to the care of his flock, the Pope said: öIf you are not willing to follow this pathí it is better to have the courage to seek another.ö He reminded the seminarians: öThere are many ways, in the Church, to bear Christian witness.ö

The Pope told the students at the Leonine College located in Anagni, Italy that prayer, study, community life, and the apostolic life are the four pillars of seminary life. Seminarians are önot

preparing to become functionaries of a company or a bureaucratic body. Pope Francis emphasized, but instead are becoming shepherds in the image of the Good Shepherd — a work that can occur only through the Holy Spirit. James and John wanted to become prime minister and minister of the economy, but the Lord worked with them and in time they had the right intention.

Pope Francis emphasized the importance of daily meditation on the Gospel, frequent confession, faithful and loving reception of Holy Communion, and intercessory prayer like that of Abraham and Moses.

In following Jesus' ministry there is no room for mediocrity — he added, as he recommended that seminarians meditate on St. Augustine's work *De Pastoribus* and take refuge under the mantle of the Mother of God.

## LEARN BUSINESS GENIUS FROM TRAPPIST MONKS

August Turak was the CEO of a software startup and going through a serious personal crises when a friend told him about spending time at a Trappists monastery. He decided to try it himself. He liked it so much that he has returned repeatedly for 17 years. and has discovered that there is not only spiritual truth but business truth too.

At the start, he found the experience a shock and, he thought, utterly unbusinesslike. For instance:

*I found myself in the lunch line behind a frail monk clearly well into his eighties. While he slowly painfully stooped for one of the trays stacked knee-high beneath the counter, I was busily trying to stifle my impatience. But when he finally retrieved it, he didn't move forward. Instead, to my surprise, he suddenly turned and presented me with his hard-earned tray with a look of childlike delight.*

*The atmosphere was so transformative that I was being transformed without any conscious effort on my part.*

What does this have to do With business? That monastery, Mepken in South Carolina, and other monasteries like it are extremely successful. They have been succeeding for a millennium and a half, while selling humble commodities like eggs, mushrooms, and cheese. How? In Augie's words



Belgian Trappists with the beer they make and sell.

with an ancient yet emergent socioeconomic model that can teach us how to keep what is positive and productive about capitalism while transcending the ethical limitations and internal contradictions. They are an extreme example of doing well by doing good, sacrificing self in a community of interest that thrives on the transcendence of individuality.

Augie wrote a book that is full of stories not only from Mepkin Abbey but also from companies Augie has been involved with including IBM. It is also full of practical observations for applying these stories and lessons they hold to one's own business life. Augie writes that the monks of Mepkin and agnostics like Warren Buffett alike have been wildly successful in business not despite their fanatical commitment to the highest principles but because of them. The counterintuitive secret that the monks, Buffett, and the world's greatest salespeople have discovered is that the more successful we forget our selfish motivations, the more successful we become. Service and selflessness is not about sacrificing growth and profitability for some abstract and elusive common good. It is just damn good business.

*From an article in Forbes Magazine*

## CLUB OFFICERS 2014 - 2015

President	Warren Kato
President Elect	Arbie Keown
Immediate Past President	Pat Manzo
Secretary	Rosa Kato
Treasurer	Dick Peters
VP Communications	Pat Manzo
VP Programs	Virginia Mort
VP Membership	Sharon Mulherin
VP Vocations-Affirmation Committees	Mary Brockschmidt
Trustee Year 1	Joan Golding
Trustee Year 2	Sylvia Uriarte
Trustee 3	Madrienne Peters
Newsletter Editor	Dick Peters

## SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN May

**Sara Adamo      Maureen Kosinski  
Bob Taylor      Joe Wesley  
Jeanne Wintheiser**

## PRAY FOR OUR AILING SERRANS