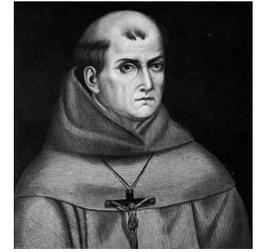




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



July 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

- July 3 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Grace Le
- July 10-13–Serra International Convention, Sacramento, CA
- July 17 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Felix Just
- August 7-Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Kit Gray
- August 21 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Jerry Horan
- September 5 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD
- September 8 – Msgr. John Sammon Golf Outing
- September 18 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Steve Sallot
- October 2 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD
- October 16 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. August Puckner
- November 6 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD
- November 20 – Club Meeting, Speaker ; TBD

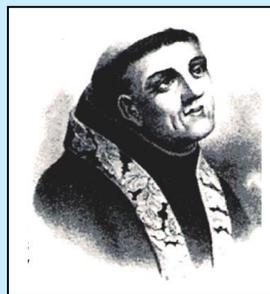
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Serrans,
 On June 10, several fellow Serrans attended our dear friend, John McElligott's Memorial Mass. The Mass was beautiful. John was a devoted Serran and faithful Catholic. Yes, I mourn his passing and our loss, yet I also rejoice that he had once lived and brightened our lives, and that he is in heaven. It seems that in God's unfathomable way, God sends such people into our lives, just to remind us that beyond this transitory world there is a living world that never dies.

I would like to share my recollection of Pope Francis's homily at Easter vigil with you. Pope Francis used the story told in Matthew Chapter 28 and Luke Chapter 24. The story begins with the women who went to Jesus's tomb at dawn after the Sabbath. They found the tomb empty. An angel said

PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED JUNIPERO SERRA



Heavenly Father, we ask you to look lovingly on the missionary journey of your faithful servant, Junipero Serra.

His steadfast efforts in founding nine missions in California and the conversion of thousands of

Native Americans have inspired the formation and work of Serra International. This ministry in Father Serra's name is to encourage and affirm vocations to priesthood and vowed religious life.

WE pray that you bless this holy and courageous missionary and grant him ultimate honor of Sainthood in your heavenly kingdom.

We ask this in the name of Thy Blessed Trinity and of Mary, Queen of vocations. Amen

to the women: "Do not be afraid!" (Matthew 28:5) and asked them to tell the disciples that Jesus was risen and He was going ahead of the disciples to Galilee." (Matthew 28:7) The women ran to spread the message and on the way Jesus himself encountered them and said to them: "Do not fear; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, there they will see me." (Matthew 28:10) Pope Francis emphasized the returning to Galilee is "to remember their encounter with Jesus, to remember His words, His actions, His life; and it is precisely this loving remembrance of their experience with the Master that enables the women to master their fear and to bring the message of the Resurrection to the apostles and all the others (Lk 24:9) when He was still in Galilee" to remember what God has done and continues to do for me, for us, to remember the road we have travelled; this is what opens our hearts to hope for the future. May we learn to remember everything that God has done in our lives."

Yes Galilee is the place where the disciples were first called. For each one of us, too, there is a "Galilee" in our journey with Jesus. "To go to Galilee" means to recall that very first moment we felt His love and calling. "To go to Galilee" will help us to rekindle our love for Jesus so passionately and thus draw new energy from our Christian experience. Let us go back to our Galilee to meet our risen Christ and to become His witness.

Saint John Paul II gave us this message, "Along with prayers, the work of fostering vocations also requires a constant effort to bring the need to people's attention through personal witness, so that God's call may encounter a ready hearing and generous response in those to whom it is directed. This is the aim of your efforts to spread an authentic Culture of Vocations." Let us be the witness of Jesus' love by reflecting His love in our faces and actions. Let us be proud Serra members by spreading an authentic Culture of Vocations.

Warren Kato, President

VOCATIONS REPORT

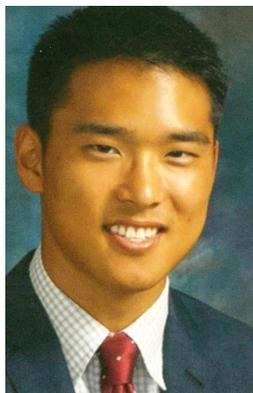


Our seminarian who received the gift for June, donated by Joan and Joe Wesley, is Daniel Seo. Daniel is from Korean Martyrs Korean Center and is in Pre-Theology 2 at St. John's. The seminarian who received the gift card for July, donated by Lupe Chavez, is

Phillip Shifflet. Phillip is from St. Philip Benizi parish and is in College 3 at Mt. Angel

On June 7, 2014 Bishop Kevin Vann ordained three priests for the Diocese of Orange: Father William Goldin, Father John Duy Nguyen, and Father Charles Tran.

These new priests are a Blessing from God and a gift to our Diocese," said Bishop Vann. Fr. Nguyen and Fr. Tran were given parish assignments and Fr. Goldin will go to Rome for advanced studies. Please keep the newly ordained in your prayers. Many Serra Club members attended the ordination and served at the reception following. The seminarians were also in attendance. Some will be completing their pastoral year and some will be given special assignments for the summer. They will return to their respective seminaries in late August.



Daniel Seo

Please continue to pray for all the seminarians and young men discerning the priesthood. There is no priesthood Discernment Meeting scheduled for the month of July. The next Priesthood Discernment Meeting will be Wednesday September 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., Pastoral Center, First Floor, Room 1D Christ Cathedral Campus. Any questions regarding discernment please contact Father John Money Penny, Director of Vocations at 714-282-3036 or Fr.jmoneypenny@rcbo.org.



Phillip Shifflet

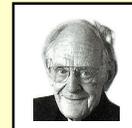
Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of Perpetual Adoration.

JULY VOCATION PRAYER: *We must pray so that the hearts of those young people may be emptied, emptied of other interests and other sentiments, so that they may become free. This is the prayer for vocations. "Lord, send us nuns and send us priests, defend them from idolatry, the idolatry of Vanity, the idolatry of pride, the idolatry of power, the idolatry of money. This prayer of ours is to prepare these hearts so that they are able to follow Jesus closely. (Pope Francis)*

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

**CONGRATULATIONS!
SR. EYMARD FLOOD, OSC
ON YOUR 50th JUBILEE**

**SUPPORT THE MSGR.
JOHN SAMMON FUND**
Contact Sue Silvestri 714-544-0469



SPEAKERS



Our speaker on June 5, was Robin Joo, seminarian. He is 28 years of age and is entering his pastoral year at Our Lady, Queen of Angels. He is one funny and committed seminarian.

In high school football his teammates

called him Joo-Joo. He is a second generation Korean-American from Long Beach. He grew up with many Hispanics, thus speaks Spanish as well as Korean and English. He admits that he was a tiny (?) troublemaker as a youngster yet loved sports. One of his classmates now plays professional baseball with the Angels. He got good enough grades ó when he studied. Sounds like most students to me.

His grandma was the instigator to his religion. She was a Southern Baptist and at her knee is when he began learning about Jesus. I say was because the day before her death she converted to Catholicism, received communion and was confirmed. All thanks to Robin's influence, I'm sure.

Although he admits to being a troubled young man, at age 21 he received a BS in Business at UC Riverside. Before seminary, sport fishing was a favorite of his, mostly in Mexico as well as Alaska.

Fr. Al Baca was a very big part of his life; he became newly baptized and Fr. Al helped him grow in holiness. He heard a call during the Eucharist: he saw a blinding flash of light from the host, but not one person near him saw it. His thought was "I cannot go into the priesthood, I like girls too much." Still, he talked to many religious, listening to homilies and others who said to consider it. At a Christmas Mass he got scared, or cold feet as some may call it, and dropped out for a few weeks. Fr. Al said "Time for seminary. You need discernment." Bishop Brown agreed. Out of 26 applications he was one of 6 that were accepted. He is drawn to jail ministries because of past experiences.

Another bit of good news is his father is a practicing Catholic.

I think we have a very good priest ahead of us.

Sharon Birchler, Communications



Robin Joo

courage. One comment I'd like to make to all Serrans. Of the roughly 20 people who helped at the reception, 15 of them were from the City Club. PLEASE in the future come and help and get to know your fellow Serrans.

Although it is summer, I want you to know that our officers and fellow Serrans have been wonderful and have been attending training and planning sessions. The thought for this month is "Why did I join Serra?" Was it just for the Mass and meals? Let me emphasize here the Serra USA Council's mission statement.

Our mission is to:

To foster, affirm, and promote vocations to the ministry in the Catholic Church. What am I doing to further this mission statement?

Wally Drazba, District Governor

**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN JULY
Dick Peters, Fr. Al Baca, Sheila Blake**

**POPE EMPHASIZES JOY OF
PRIESTHOOD**

Pope Francis told a group of diocesan priests that there is "nothing more beautiful for a man than being called to be a priest."

The Pope made his remarks in the Cathedral of Cassano all'Jonio, a town of 18,000 in the province in the southern Italian region of Calabria. The Pope's remarks followed an address to prisoners in Castrovillari, a helicopter ride to Cassano all'Jonio, and a visit to the sick in a hospital there.

Emphasizing the joy of the priesthood, Pope Francis said that in silent prayer before the tabernacle, a priest "Jesus make us see if we are working as good workers, or if we have become a little like employees; if we are open, generous channels, through which his love, his grace can flow abundantly, or if instead we place ourselves at the center."

The Pope also warned against "pastoral individualism" and called upon priests to choose to take part "in the beauty of fraternity" in the midst of "a subjectivist culture that exalts the self even to the point of idolizing it." Noting that the family is in "crisis," the Pope concluded by calling upon the



DISTRICT DOINGS



Maureen Kosinski chaired the reception after the Priest ordination. She did it with a heavy heart, her son, Kevin is on life support due to the ravages to his body of radiation 30 years ago. Maureen I don't know how you did it, our thank you falls far short of your

priests to work with families as well as for the family as an institution.

IN TWO MICHIGAN VILLAGES, A HIGHER CALLING IS OFTEN HEARD

Fowler, Mich. ó Aside for the mole grazing his right elbow, it is difficult to distinguish Gary Koenigs knecht from his identical twin, Todd, four minutes the elder.

Growing up, the twins, now 26, milked cows side by side on the family farm. They both graduated at the top of their high school class. And with their ordination they have begun careers as Roman Catholic priests, two of 477 men in the United States expected to be ordained this year.



They demonstrate that priestly vocations are not evenly distributed by family or geography: they are among six priests in their extended family, and among 22 from their hometown, Fowler, Mich., population 1224. They officially tie up the leader board with the neighboring village of Westphalia, population 938, which has also produced 22 priests, making for a robust rivalry in both football and Roman collars.

In an era when the number of priests in the United States continues to dwindle ó declining by 11 percent in the past decade and crippling the Catholic Church's ability to meet the needs of a growing Catholic population ó this rural patch of Clinton County offers a case study in the science and mystery of the call to priesthood.

With the older generation of priests dying off, it would take three times as many priests ordinations as is occurring nationwide to maintain the population of 38,600 priests, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University.

But the communities of Fowler and Westphalia, where it is not hard to find an altar boy who is considering priesthood, are doing more than their part. For the Todd Koenigs knecht and the Rev. Gary

Koenigs knecht, encouragement arrived in many forms, from messages scribbled in crayon by grade school children to \$20 checks scrawled in shaky cursive, gifts from older parishioners to defray seminary costs.

Their home parish, Most Holy Trinity, hosts a weekly prayer hour dedicated to religious vocations and an annual fund raiser to help cover tuition; it contributed more than \$410,000 to each Koenigs knecht twin.

The houses in these two villages eight miles apart in central Michigan are orderly, with Virgin Mary statues in front yards, American flags on front porches and unlocked front doors. Faith is the center of life, those who live here say: Everyone is Catholic, everyone is related and everyone shows up at Mass. The youth groups are active. Nearly all the students attending the prom in the villages begin the festivities by attending a regularly scheduled 4:30 p.m. Mass, dressed in their party attire.

The only grade school in Westphalia is a Catholic one, and the only place of worship is a Catholic church, St. Mary's, pictured in the city logo alongside the water tower.

óIt seems like culture takes a little longer to catch up out here in the sticks,ö said Vernon Thelen, who serves as president of Fowler, the equivalent of a mayor, and attends morning Mass several times a week. óWhen I say culture, I mean some of the bad culture you see on sitcoms and TV.ö

The Koenigs knecht twins grew up without a TV, playing cribbage and praying the rosary instead. Their community naturally fosters priestly vocations, Father Todd said, óIt's in the air.ö

Logan Trierweiler, a 12-year-old from Westphalia, said he was surprised by the attraction to priesthood he experienced last month while watching his parish priest, the Rev. Mathias Thelen, pastor of St. Mary's. óI was observing how close he gets to God, and I thought it would be so cool if I could become that close to God.ö

Logan, who is an altar boy, readily shared the prospect with friends. óThey said that sounds cool,ö he said. One friend responded that he, too, was contemplating becoming a priest.

When Father Mathias polled Logan's sixth-grade class a few weeks ago, asking how many of the 43 students would consider life as a priest, brother or sister, at least a dozen raised their hands, he said.

He too, is from Fowler and speaks freely about his path to the priesthood, including a breakup with óthe girl of my dreams.ö

“My heart was not made for a woman,” he tells parishioners. “My heart was made for God.” Logan has already imagined the sacrifices that would be required by vows of celibacy, poverty, and obedience. “It would be a little sad to not have a family and live far away from home, depending on where I go,” he said.

Some parents do hesitate to give up their sons to the priesthood, Father Mathias said, campaigning for a more conventional and seemingly less lonely married life.

That never occurred to Agnes Koenigsnecht, an organic dairy farmer and a mother of 10. “They’re not ours to keep,” she said of her twins. “How can you hold them back?”

The elevation of religious life here has also had an effect on young women: Westphalia has produced 37 Catholic nuns over the decades, according to diocesan data, while Fowler claims 43. Marita Wohlfert, who is 20, is in the running to make it 24, having professed her first vows last year with the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara and taking the name Sister Mary of the Holy Family.

She is the fifth of nine children for Jerry Wohlfert, who runs the millwork shop in town and went through four years of seminary himself before getting married. His oldest son attended a year of seminary, then ruled out the priesthood; his 18- and 14-year-old sons say they are considering it. “If the families are open to God’s calling, “Mr Wohlfert said, “then the seminarians will come.”

Meanwhile, farmers joke about who will break the tie I Fowler-Westphalia’s priest count.

The answer may have been in the sanctuary during the Saturday ordination Mass, sitting behind the bishop’s wooden throne and holding his foot-tall miter: Lee Koenigsnecht, the twins’ 19-year-old brother, who just finished his first year of seminary.

From an article in The New York Times

**8th ANNUAL
Msgr. JOHN SAMMON
GOLF OUTING**

Serra Club of Orange County invites you to have a fun day of golf, dining and camaraderie with friends and the clergy of the Diocese of Orange

**Tustin Ranch Golf Club
12442 Tustin Ranch Road
Tustin, CA
Monday Sept. 8, 2014**

ENTRY FEE \$135.00

Golfing Fee
Golf Cart
BBQ Lunch
Cocktails and Dinner



For information contact:
Maureen Kosinski, 714-838-9387

TODAY’S CHUCKLE

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said “When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah.” The teacher asked, “What if Jonah went to hell?” The little girl replied, “Then you ask him.”