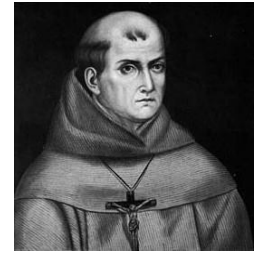




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



October 2014

REGION 11

DISTRICT 127

Charter 438

NEWSLETTER

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

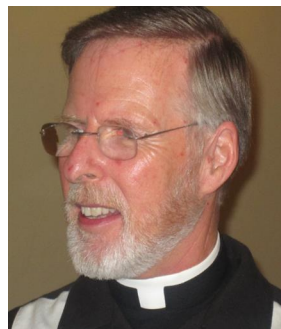
FUTURE EVENTS

- October 2 – Club Meeting, Motherhouse, Speaker:
Katie Dawson
- October 16 – Club Meeting, Motherhouse, Speaker:
Fr. Augustine Puckner
- October 20 – Ordinati Dinner, Motherhouse, Mass at
6:00PM, dinner following
- October 26 – Priesthood Sunday
- November 6 – Club Meeting, Motherhouse, Speaker:
Sr. Kit Gray
- November 20 – Club Meeting, Motherhouse, Speaker:
Fr. Antoine Bakh
- December 4- Christmas Mass and Luncheon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Serrans,
As you know, we have been working with Bishop Kevin Vann and Father John Moneypenny to help us select a chaplain for us. We are pleased to advise that Rev. Bruce Patterson, Pastor at St. Kilian Catholic Church, has agreed to be our chaplain. I feel that we are very lucky and blessed to have Fr. Patterson to give us spiritual guidance and be our celebrant. Some of you may recall him as he has been a guest speaker for us. This brings to mind, Priesthood Sunday. Priesthood Sunday is a special day, set this year on Sunday October 26, to honor priesthood in the United States. The number of priests per each Catholic has declined over the past 40 years. Instead of decrying this statistic, it is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the



Fr. Bruce Patterson



Prayer for Priests

O Queen of the apostles
Mother of Jesus Christ,
you were with him at the
beginning of His life and
of His mission, you sought
the Master among the
crowd, you stood beside
Him when He was lifted
up from the earth
consumed as the one
eternal sacrifice, and you
had John close by you,
your son, accept from the
beginning those who have been called, protect their
growth, accompany your sons in their life and
in their ministry. O Mother of priests. Amen

Prayer by Blessed John Paul II

Life of the Church as a central one. Traditionally scheduled for the fourth Sunday of October, the USA Council of Serra International asks all parishes to choose any Sunday that works best with their liturgical schedule.

The planning guide at the Priesthood Sunday website (<http://www.priestsunday.org>) sets out several things we can do on this special Sunday by working with your local parish. There may be a special introduction at Mass to give thanks to the many priests who give of themselves for Christ's people. After the creed, several intercessory prayers are suggested. A member of the parish council may invite members of the assembly to join in a blessing over the parish priests. There are further suggestions of various methods to celebrate Priesthood Sunday with the whole parish.

I would encourage everyone to active participation in planning for and celebrating Priesthood Sunday

Warren Kato, President

VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for October, donated by Clara & Lu Escalle, is Nicolaus Thai. Nicolaus is from Holy Spirit parish and presently is in his Pastoral Year at Santa Clara de Asis parish in Yorba Linda. Nicolaus had been in Theology

3 at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. **NEWS OF THE SEMINARIANS:** There are 38 Seminarians studying for the Orange Diocese. Mary Osinga, from the Vocations office, had completed the pictures of the 2014-2015 seminarians. This month we will be updating our Adopt a Seminarian activity. It is very rewarding to adopt a seminarian, pray for him daily and be with him on his journey to ordination. Please continue to pray for all the seminarians and young men discerning the priesthood.



Nicolaus Thai

The next Priesthood Discernment Meeting will be Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., Pastoral Center, First Floor, Room 1D Christ Cathedral Campus. Any questions regarding discernment contact Father John Moneypenny, Director of Vocations at 714-282-3036 or Fr.jmoneypenny@rcbo.org. Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of Perpetual Adoration.

OCTOBER VOCATION PRAYER: *Gracious God, source of all life, we praise you for your abundant blessings. You nourish and strengthen us on our faith journey. We join our hearts and voices in prayer that you enrich your Church with people who embrace the call to holiness and service. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen*

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

SPEAKERS



Our celebrant and speaker on September 4th was Fr. Wayne Adajar. The middle child of five boys, he grew up in the Philippines. His weather report for his homeland was that it had two seasons: hot and very hot.

Although his parents did not encourage him becoming a priest, neither did they prohibit him. So he took the exam to enter the seminary, passed, and told his mom he was entering a new school. An avid basketball player, he actually entered the seminary to play basketball.

He was ordained in the Philippines in 1998. His first eight years he taught theology and philosophy and was a seminary formator. He then moved to the United States, having family here, in the Philippines and Dubai.

Coming to California, he joined the Diocese of Orange and his first assignment was at Holy Spirit in Fountain Valley. Being just across from



Mile Square Park made it very convenient to practice his golfing. Being close to the beach, he got to surf. He was there for three years and he was happy.

His next assignment was in Mission Viejo at St. Killian's. He continued to enjoy his favorite sports.

He was there for four years and was happy.

Next he was placed in his current assignment at St. Cecilia's in Tustin. His duties are to work with many of the ministries. He works with the Eucharistic Ministry, the Lectors' ministry, the altar servers, the youth ministry, and the confirmation students, a busy priest, he is not done yet. Depending on hospital calls and such, later in the evening when the hall is empty, he goes in to shoot some hoops. He has been here for two months, getting to know the parishioners, and he is happy. What else can we say about him? He is one happy priest.

He told us that St. Peter was called to be a fisher of men, but we have to lower down our nets, meaning we need to humble ourselves before God.

Answering a question from the audience, he played amateur basketball. Now he graces us parishioners with his short and very meaningful homilies and his happiness towards God and all of us.

Welcome to St. Cecilia Fr. Wayne.

Sharon Birchler, Communications

DISTRICT DOINGS



During the month of October we have two Serra opportunities to fulfill one of our goals, "To affirm the Priesthood and Consecrated Religious life as positive life styles."

The first event that we are working on is supporting the Diocesan Religious and Consecrated Life Office. Sr. Eymard Flood, a great champion of the Serra Clubs is kicking off the year for Consecrated Life with three evenings of a ðMust Seeö documentary -Women & Spirit. Catholic Sisters in Americaø I will be sending an electronic copy to all presidents asking them to print up flyers for the event. The committee is inviting all Serrans to the first of three showings which is on Oct 13, 2014 at the Arboretum of Christ Cathedral at 7:00 PM.

Our part, we will be serving the refreshments after the presentation. The sisters weren't sure about this, and we Serrans have all the punch bowls, etc. there will be three presentations, so each club will be asked to host one of the three. City Club will take the first night.

Then on October 26, 2014 we will be celebrating **Priesthood Sunday**. The newly formed District Vocation committee made plans earlier this week to work in as many parishes as we can to get parishioners of all ages and groups to participate by expressing to our priests how highly we appreciate them. If you weren't able to come to our committee meeting, but still want to help, it's not too late. E-mail and I'll send you the meeting notes and you can decide what you can do.

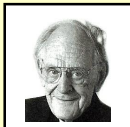
What we are asking all Serrans to do, is personally either verbally, or in writing with some form of thank you note, even inexpensive Thank You card available at the 99 cent store. Let all the priests that you know how much you love them. We are going to see if we can have each club send a card to a group of parishes, so all priests in the diocese, will know that we Serrans fully appreciate them. This we'll work out with our club board.

Remember to contact me via e-mail with offers of help or questions; my new e-mail address is walhar@att.net.

Wally Drazba, District Governor

**SUPPORT THE MSGR.
JOHN SAMMON FUND**

Contact Sue Silvestri 714-544-0469



SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

**Clara Escalle, Mary Horan
Ralph Masdeo, Virginia Mort
Sue Silvestri,**

VOCATION PRAYERS ANSWERED



Mother Assumpta Long, Prioress General of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist continues:

Vocations came quickly ó and, like the ðmiraculous draught of fishesö in the Gospels, kept on coming!

By August 1999, we had already welcomed eight postulantes (new members). In the Jubilee Year 2000, we accepted another dozen, doubling our numbers in a single year. Since then, our growth has actually accelerated, swelling our ranks to approximately 120 Sisters.

Our vocations have come from 31 of the United States, as well as from Canada. Some are converts, others are ðcradle Catholics.ö Many attended orthodox Catholic institutions such as Thomas Aquinas College, Christendom College and the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Others come from secular institutions, such as Harvard and UCLA.

Their life-experiences and talents are no less diverse. Sister Maria Guadalupe, for example, worked as a Catholic missionary in Belize. Sister Thomas Aquinas was headed for a career in the Air Force ó she's a licensed pilot! Sister Annunciata spent time helping Mother Teresa's Sisters in Calcutta. Sister Maria Bemma studied in Russia, and now speaks and reads Russian fluently. Sister Maria Elizabeth was pursuing her doctorate in electrical Engineering on full scholarship at the University of Michigan (and has recently completed it).

But in the end, all had one thing in common: they heard God's call to the religious life with the Dominican Sisters of Mary! í

It is God alone, of course, who has blessed our new community with so many vocations. But may we not discern in some things we have done ó and, perhaps just as important, not done ó some reasons for His overwhelming beneficence?

I believe we can. None, I hasten to add are in any way original with us. Quite the contrary: they mark a

return to the aspects of the religious life that nourished the great religious orders for centuries. To mention just a few:

Unwavering orthodoxy: As Dominicans, the motto of our order is *Veritas* ó Truth. Accordingly, we believe it is our duty to receive God's truth from the Magisterium of His Church ó and then carry it forth, unaltered and undiluted, to others.

Rigorous study, therefore, is integral to our formation ó eight years from postulancy to final vows. Throughout these years, postulants and novices study the fundamentals of the Faith as presented in Scripture, the *Summa Theologiae* of St. Thomas Aquinas, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, papal writings and other source documents. They also study Mariology, Church history, spiritual classics, liturgy and more.

Then, of course, we take these treasures out into the world through our teaching and evangelizing!

Constant prayer:

Prayer is as necessary to the religious life as water is to a plant. Therefore, our prayer life comes first. Daily, our Sisters join in Community to pray: the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours (The Divine Office), A Eucharistic Holy Hour, The Rosary, Renewal of Consecration to Mary, A Prayer for Vocations and Meditation. Plus every Friday, we have Eucharistic Adoration with confessions; and, on First Fridays, all-night Eucharistic Adoration. And of course, each Sister has her own individual prayer life in her monastic cell.

The traditional habit: As denoted in Canon Law, the religious habit is a sign of consecration and a witness to poverty. It speaks instantly and eloquently, yet wordlessly, of who we are and what we believe.

As a symbol of one "given to Christ," the habit "claims" us to be His Spouses in much the same way that a wedding ring announces to the world ó and reminds oneself ó that one is "taken." It is a sign of hope in a world that needs to be reminded of the possibility of living joyfully in the freely chosen consecration of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

My fellow sisters and I could tell you countless stories of how the mere sight of our Dominican habits has sparked reactions in Catholics ó and non-Catholics ó that prove the tremendous power of its witness.

Joy! When you see a group of Dominican Sisters, notice how they are always smiling. There's a reason: they love being Sisters. To the Dominican Sisters of Mary, a life of service isn't a burden, but a privilege ó and a thrilling adventure. Even our

hardships bring us joy, by uniting us with Our Lord in His Passion.

The past several decades have seen the virtual disappearance of the teaching Sisters that made Catholic schools educationally superior, genuinely Catholic ó and widely affordable. The loss to the Church, and to generations of Catholic children, has been incalculable. But it is not irreversible, and the Dominican Sisters of Mary are dedicated to reviving this tradition.

All of our Sisters, once they reach the fourth year of formation, begin training leading to certification as schoolteachers. Then, they teach in the K-8 schools we administer, or in our mission schools at the elementary, junior high and high school levels.

Our schools ó the Spiritus Sanctus Academies ó are committed to achieving the highest excellence in intellectual formation as well as to supplying an unequivocal witness to Catholic truth and practice.

A chapel stands at the center of each school house. Reproductions of classic artworks showing scenes from the Gospels, saints' lives and Catholic history adorn the hallways and classrooms. The children attend daily Mass at the beginning of each day. Opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration on First Fridays and weekly Confession are offered. The family Rosary is encouraged.

The nationwide expansion of our teaching apostolate is well underway. Already more than 30 of our Sisters are teaching in two archdioceses and seven dioceses around the nation.

Though teaching is our primary apostolate, we also engage in other forms of evangelization, including apologetics (defending the Faith) on college campuses; spiritual retreats for single and married women; and apostolic endeavors (each year, for instance, we lend our presence to the annual March for Life in Washington D.C., the West Coast Walk for Life in San Francisco and other prolife events around the nation)

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

The children were lined up in the cafeteria elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE.. God is watching. Moving further along the lunch line, at the end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."