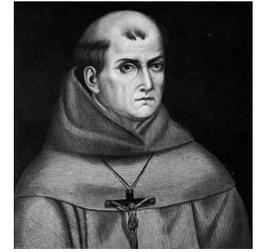




# SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



November 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

**November 2-7 – National Vocation Awareness Week**

**November 6 – Club Meeting, Motherhouse, Speaker: Sr. Kit Gray**

**November 15 – Annual Altar Servers Mass, Bishop Kevin Vann, St. Columban, 10:00AM**

**November 20 – Club Meeting, Motherhouse, Speaker: Fr. Antoine Bakh**

**December 4 - Christmas Mass and Luncheon**

**December 15 – Women and Spirit, Catholic Sisters in America, DVD, 7:00 to 9:00PM  
Christ Cathedral Arboretum**

**February 4 – Mass in Celebration of Consecrated Life, Holy Family Cathedral, 4:00PM Mass**

**March 9 - Women in Spirit, Christ Cathedral**

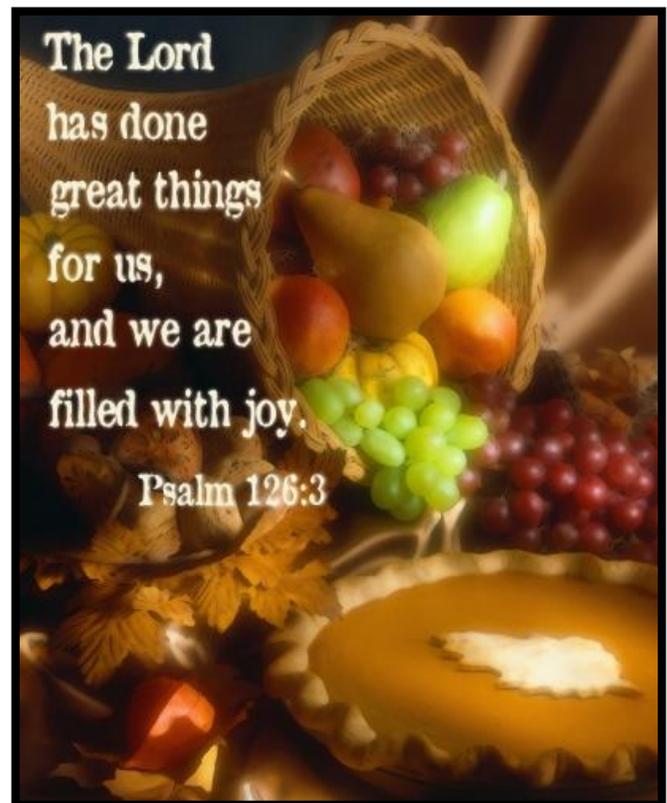
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Serrans,  
Rose and I just returned from a pilgrimage to Santiago del Compostella, also known as öEl Caminoö or the Way of St. James. We walked for 12 days across northern Spain with only what we could carry on our backs to

the city of Santiago, where St. James was buried. Pilgrims have walked this path since the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Our journey was not only filled with beauty but was also very spiritual. It is only when you deprive yourself of the comforts of home that you appreciate God's gift to each of us and to all of us. Here in Southern California we enjoy all of His bounty which create in us a desire to thank the Lord by giving of ourselves.

As St. John Paul the Great said: Do not be afraid to break out of comfortable and routine modes of living in order to take up the challenge of making Christ



known in the modern ömetropolisö. It is you who must ögo out into the byroadsö and invite everyone you meet to the banquet which God has prepared for His people. The Gospel must not be kept hidden because of fear or indifference. It was never meant to be hidden away in private. It has to be put on a stand so that people must see its light and give praise to our heavenly Father.

Please pray for St. Charles Borromeo, the patron saint of seminarians who is given credit for laying the foundations for the current seminary system for the training of priests. His feast day is November 4. Borromeo believed that abuses in the church in Milan, Italy arose from lack of training of the clergy. Among his most important actions, he established seminaries, colleges and communities for the education of candidates for Holy Orders. We should

pray for St. Charles Borromeo who devoted his life to the Church and who endured many obstacles to his mission.

This is a challenge to each of us to reach out to our community and the world and involve more people in our Serra club.

Warren Kato, President

## PRAYER TO ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO

*O glorious St. Charles, the father of the clergy and the perfect model of holy prelates! You are the good pastor, who like your divine Master, gave up your life for your flock, if not by death, at least by the numerous sacrifices or your painful mission. Your sanctified life on earth was a spur to the most fervent, Your most exemplary penance was a reproach to the slothful, and your untiring zeal was the support of the Church.*

*O great prelate, since the glory of God and the salvation of souls are the only objects of Solitude to the blessed in heaven, vouchsafe to intercede for me now.*

*You are, O great St. Charles, among all the saints of God, one in whose intercession I should most confide, because you were chosen by God to promote the interests of religion by promoting the Christian education of youth. You were, like Jesus Christ Himself, always accessible to the little ones; for whom you broke the bread of the Word of God, and procured for them also the blessing of a Christian education. To you then, I have recourse with confidence beseeching you to obtain for me the grace to profit of the advantages I enjoy, and for which I am so considerably indebted to your zeal. Preserve me by your prayers from the dangers of the world; obtain that my heart may be impressed with a lively horror of sin; a deep sense of my duty as a Christian; a sincere contempt for the opinion and false maxims of the world; an ardent love for God, and that holy fear which is the beginning of wisdom.*

## VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for November, donated by Sharon Mulherin, is Anthony Tran. Anthony is from St. Barbara parish and is in Theology 2 at St. John's Seminary. Our Serra Club received a

nice note from Nicolaus Thai, last month's recipient. Nicolaus thanks us for our prayers, support, and kindness.

His pastoral year at Santa Clara de Asis is going well. He feels it has been fruitful and productive. He also has us in his prayers.

November 2-8 is designated as National Vocation Awareness Week, a time set aside specifically for the Church to promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education. The idea of a religious vocation often doesn't appear in the mind of a potential candidate



on its own. The faith community many times gives it a necessary nudge. When people encourage someone to consider a religious vocation, he or she is far more likely to take serious steps toward answering the call. Fr. John Money Penny, Director of Vocations says "this is a wonderful time to consider what God is inviting you to do with your life."

Please continue to pray for all the seminarians and young men discerning the priesthood.

The next Priesthood Discernment Meeting will be Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., Pastoral Center, First Floor, Room 1D Christ Cathedral Campus. Any questions regarding discernment contact Father John Money Penny, Director of Vocations at 714-282-3036 or [Fr.jmoneypenny@rcbo.org](mailto:Fr.jmoneypenny@rcbo.org). Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of Perpetual Adoration.

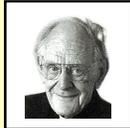
## NOVEMBER PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

*Father, in every generation you provide ministers of Christ and the Church. We come before you now, asking that you call forth more priests to serve our Church. Give us priests who will lead and guide your holy people gathered by Word and Sacrament. Bless us with priestly vocations so that we can continue to be a truly Eucharistic Church, strengthened in our discipleship of Jesus Christ, your only son. Raise up, we pray, priests who are generous in their service, willing to offer their lives and all their gifts for your greater glory and the good of your people. We make our prayer in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

**SUPPORT THE MSGR.  
JOHN SAMMON FUND**

Contact Sue Silvestri 714-544-0469



**SPEAKERS**



Katie Dawson from the Faith Formation Office was our honored speaker on October 2. She hails from right here in Orange County. She loves her job, her colleagues, confirmation of Christian Doctrine. At one time she taught CCD. Now the whole person is being formed ó heart, mind, soul ,etc.

There is a village in this world with a population of 2,200. In that village they have 22 people who have entered vocational life. In another smaller village of 900 they also have 22 people having entered vocational life. Their faith permeates the world they live in. Do each of us say óWhat are you asking of me, God?ö To duplicate these people, we need to develop a parish community of disciples.



Katie Dawson

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is being taught to children age three to twelve. It is a three star program wherein the children have even changed the parents as a result. We need strong Catholic families. Currently there is a strong disconnect. One problem is the faith practice of parents and can be a problem. For example, say the kids go to Mass on Wednesday, the parents may think Sunday is not necessary. Another problem that has shown up is at first reconciliation. Parents always need to be there to embrace their children. There was a child whose parents did not come and had no one to embrace. Remember this: one primary factor that matters most is parents. They are irreplaceable.

Here are a couple of family friendly questions to ask yourselves: Do you pray before meals five times a week or more and would you like to change?

There is now in development a new program as a result. It is being initiated in Spring 2015 and will start in fall 2015. The program is ógiftedö. There will be a workshop in the diocese to determine what gifts they were given at baptism. What are they called to bring into the world. In January there will be a

program about the book: óForming Intentional Discipleshipö by Sherry Weddell. This author will be at Christ Cathedral the last week of January. This goes to the root of recognizing how to reach today's culture to be closer to Christ.

No matter how close we believe we are to Christ, we can each be even closer.

Our honored celebrant and speaker on October 16 was Fr. Augustine Puchner, a Norbertine priest. Pay attention because there will be a quiz at the end. He is currently pastoring at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Costa mesa. He has been there for five years, first being a parochial vicar and the last three years as pastor.

He entered the Abbey in 1990 on his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. During his studies he spent four years studying in Rome with other Norbertines from around the world. After returning home, he was ordained in 1997.

Growing up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he is the youngest of four boys and one girl. His parents encouraged all the



Fr. Augustine Puchner

boys to consider the priesthood, and they patiently waited for the last one to desire it. In the fifth grade he started being an altar server. Participating in the Mass as an server, he felt inspired to priesthood. He received a lot of encouragement from his large extended family.

Starting college, he studied pre-med with a second interest in theatre. His parents reminded him that one of our popes was an actor in his younger days. He attended CSULB for his master's in theatre.

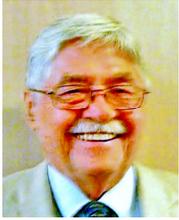
Well, he knew he needed a plan B so he prayed to God. Thinking of priesthood won out. He began going to daily Mass where many parishioner's gave him encouragement. Prayers and encouragement from others was essential to his decision. After touring several seminaries, he felt most at home at St. Michael's Abbey.

He gave thought to diocesan priesthood but ultimately decided on religious community life. He felt very drawn to it.

Quiz question: So where is he? Pastor at St. John the Baptist. There are six Norbertine priests there and have established a small community, a small abbey. Thankfully, he is close enough to St Michael's Abbey to visit frequently.

Sharon Birchler, Communications

## DISTRICT DOINGS



At the District Council meeting, several members of the council reported on the wonderful things that happened on **Priesthood Sunday**. St. Cecilia parish had a lunch on Sunday in honor of the priests. Fr. Maximilian O. Praem was deeply moved by the priest blessing at the end of Mass. St. Edward has a great collection of cards and notes to their priests showing appreciation of their Priesthood. The children at holy Family Cathedral school made a banner and the whole school signed it thanking the priests and bishops. Different classes wrote thank you notes to different clergy. Bishop Brown went to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade to personally thank them for their thoughtfulness. Of course many other things happened at different parishes, these are just examples of what was done. We must also thank Deacon Frank Chavez for encouraging the deacons to either lead the priest blessing or arrange to have someone else lead it. And, of course, thanks to Patrick Mott, editor of the Orange County Catholic, for the article regarding **Priesthood Sunday**. It was in the October 22 edition of the paper. And last but not least **A great thank you to all the wonderful priests that serve us in the diocese.**

Wally Drazba, District Governor

## SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

**Laura Alfieri**

## NUMBER OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS IN THE US DECLINES

The number of women religious in the United States has fallen below 50,000, according to a new report from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

The number of religious sisters grew from 147,310 in 1950 to 181,421 in 1966 before suffering a steep decline to 126,517 in 1980, 79,814 in 2000 and 49,883 in 2014.

Some religious institutes are countering the trend: the Nashville Dominicans have grown by 76% since 2000, and the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma (Michigan) have grown from nine in 1973 to nearly 100, according to the report.

## “DAYS WITH RELIGIOUS” YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Catholic Bishops Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations is promoting “Days with Religious” initiative and resources to help families learn about the consecrated life of religious men and women. Activities will focus on sharing experiences of prayer, service and community life with those living a consecrated life.

“Our brothers and sisters in Christ living consecrated lives make great contributions to our society through a vast number of ministries” Said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky president of USCCB. “They teach in our schools, take care of the poor and sick and bring compassion and the love of Christ to those shunned by society, others lead lives of prayer in contemplation for the world.”

Pope Francis proclaimed 2015 a Year of Consecrated Life, starting on the first day of advent, the weekend of November 29, and ending on February 2, 2016, the World day of Consecrated Life. This year also marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Perfectae Caritatis, a decree on religious life, and Lumen Gentium, the Second Vatican Council’s constitution on the Church. Its purpose as stated by the Vatican is to “make a grateful remembrance of the recent past while embracing the future with hope.”

“The days with Religious activities will represent great opportunities for families and adults for families and adults to look at the many ways men and women serve Christ and the Church while answering the call to live in consecrated life,” said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh, North Carolina, chairman of the USCCB committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

Catholics are invited to join activities that will be promoted in collaboration with the Council of Major Superiors Women’s Religious, the leadership Conference of Women’s Religious, and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men.

**ASPIRE TO INSPIRE BEFORE YOU  
EXPIRE**