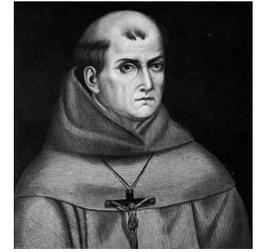




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



February 2015

REGION 11

DISTRICT 127

Charter 438

NEWSLETTER

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

FUTURE EVENTS

- February 4 – Mass in Celebration of Consecrated Life, Holy Family Cathedral, 4:00 PM**
- February 5 - Club Meeting, Speaker : Seminarian Aristotle Quan**
- February 19- Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Bill Barman**
- February 21 – Day of Recollection, St. Joseph Center, Mother Lewis Room, 8:00 AM**
- March 5 – Club Meeting, Speaker; Sr. Eymard Flood**
- March 9 - Women in Spirit, Christ Cathedral**
- March 19 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD**
- April 2 – Club Meeting, Speaker; TBD**
- April 16 – Club Meeting, Speaker; Fr. Troy Schneider**
- May 2 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Greg Dhreyvetter**
- May 21 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Christian Mondor**
- June 4 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Grace Le**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings, Fellow Serrans, I would like to share with you a talk that I went to on January 25 by Bishop Gordon Bennett, a Jesuit who is currently a director for spiritual retreats for Loyola Marymount University. The talk was attended by several Serrans from the City Club. His theme was about how our imagination can lead to our transformation. He quoted Albert Einstein who said "we can live life as if nothing is a miracle, or we can live life as if everything is a miracle." In his talk about "How to Dream Beyond the Real," he distinguished fantasy from imagination. Imagination concerns the possible while fantasy deals with the impossible. Fantasy is merely personal entertainment whereas imagination copes with the world. Projects born out of imagination bring adventure while fantasy begets failure. When facing

CANONIZATION OF BLESSED JUNIPERO SERRA



In a surprise announcement, Pope Francis has disclosed that he plans to preside at the canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra this year.

Speaking to reporters who accompanied him on a flight from Sri Lanka to the Philippines on January 15, the Pontiff said: "In September, God willing, I will canonize Junipero Serra in the United States."

The Pontiff is scheduled to travel to the US in September, to attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. The details of the papal trip, including the other stops that he might make, have not been settled.

a wall fantasy will try fly on wings that don't exist but imagination will start digging with hands we already possess. When life comes to an impasse, imagination suggests a new exit when fantasy remains locked into escapism.

St. Ignatius of Loyola was initially in fantasy but progressed to a productive imagination. He was able to use imagination to ask the crucial question "What if?" This allowed him to take the first step. Not only did he set his own imagination free, he set the imagination of others on fire. St. Ignatius did not

claim to invent the path to spirituality but always stated that his inspiration came from Jesus in the Gospels.

Imagination is an essential process to change. Bishop Bennett challenged us to allow more silence in our daily lives, to ask at all times "the what if question," to act like the person that one wants to become, and to desire a deeper spirituality. He extolled us to create a space in our lives, in our minds, and in our spirit where imagination can exist and work. At this time of the year, for many, our New Year's resolutions have already failed. The problem with resolutions is that they are too vague, have no concrete steps, and have no way of tracking progress. We chalk these up to "failures of the will." Our job is therefore to think and act as true Serrans in fostering and affirming vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life. Imagine, don't fantasize, as true Serrans!

Warren Kato, President

VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for January, donated by Rosa and Warren Kato, is Quyen Truong. Quyen is from Holy Family Cathedral and is in Theology 3 at St. Patrick's Seminary.

NEWS FROM THE SEMINARIANS: Most of the seminarians were able to spend the Christmas season with their families and are now back at their seminary. There are nine seminarians at parishes in Orange County doing their Pastoral Year. This is a nice opportunity for them to visit our club. Aristotle Quan, who is at St. Timothy's in Laguna Niguel is scheduled for February and Tim Donovan who is at St. Joachim is scheduled for August. Our club received a very nice Christmas card from Nicholas Thai. Nicholas

has been studying at the pontifical North American College in Rome. Presently he is doing his Pastoral Year at Santa Clara de Asis Parish. He thanks our club for our prayers and support and he continues to pray for us. Please continue to pray for all the seminarians and young men discerning the



Quyen Truong

priesthood. The next Priesthood Discernment Meeting will be Wednesday, February 4, 2015 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. Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of Perpetual Adoration.

FEBRUARY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: Loving God, we rely on your help to strengthen us on our journey of faith. Open our hearts so we may respond generously to your call to serve your people. Bless all those in ordained and consecrated life with courage, integrity, and zeal. Amen

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

SUPPORT THE MSGR. JOHN SAMMON FUND

Contact Sue Silvestri 714-544-0469



SPEAKERS



Our celebrant on January 15th was Fr. Bruce Patterson, from St. Killian's in Mission Viejo. We welcome him as our new chaplain. Welcome Father Patterson.

As we had not a formal speaker, our time was filled with much new information. Sr. Nadine McGuinness let us know that Fr. Junipero Serra is to be canonized when Pope Francis comes to the United States, currently scheduled in September 2015.

Sr. Eymard gave us the good news that a new Catholic radio station, AM 1000 began broadcasting this very day from Christ Cathedral in the tower on the same floor as EWTN. We are quite proud of that. Also the cathedral floor is beginning to be removed from the ground up which is quite a task. This year of 2015 is the Year of Consecrated Life. Please pray for all religious. A list of religious communities is being sent to all parishes to choose which we will be praying for. More information will be coming from our parishes in our bulletins.

Fr. Bill Barman, our speaker for February 19, sent a suggestion to us via Fr. Patterson. Let's invite the parents of our seminarians to the Serra Club. This will help increase membership. None of us are getting any younger. Look around, most of us have gray hair showing or are hiding it.



Fr. Bruce
Patterson



Sr. Nadine
McGuinness



Sr. Eymard
Flood

Sharon Birchler, Communications

**IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO ANSWER
GOD'S CALL**

“Ever since I was a seven-year old girl making my first Holy Communion, I felt that Jesus was asking me to be totally his,” said Sister Mary Anthony, a Visitation nun in Mobile, Alabama. When she was 14 years old she told her parents she felt God wanted her to become a nun. Angrily, they responded with a threat telling her, “The only way you are ever going to leave home will be the day you get married.” Desiring to be obedient to her parents, Sr. Mary Anthony turned to prayer. “I promise Jesus I would be a good wife and mother if I had any children. I trusted him that if he still wanted me to be a nun, then he would see to it that his will would be done.” Not long after, she met her husband. She was 15 years old, and they married when she was 17. They had 5 children and were married for 32 years when he was called home to heaven.

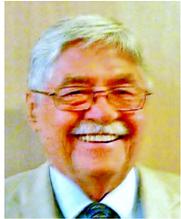
“My children were all grown and self-sufficient, and I remembered my promise to Jesus – I wanted to be totally his now that I was totally free to do so.” Desiring a life of prayer, Sister Mary Anthony entered the Visitation Monastery. “I felt that the best way I could be of assistance to my fellow human beings was to take everything to God in prayer.” Being a cloistered nun, she thinks of herself as a prayer warrior in God’s army---something she feels she could not have done as well as a layperson.

Having been married hasn’t hindered her ability to adapt to life in the monastery. “Being a married person taught me how to live in unity with other people.” She says the hardest part of being a nun has been squelching the desire to do her own will. She says with a laugh, “Can you imagine a house full of women all wanting their own way? This is why we take a vow of obedience.”

Sister Mary Anthony still sees her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren on a regular basis. They respect her decision to become a nun, but they continue to call her Mama, Nana or great Nana. “My family still turns to me the way they did when I wasn’t a nun. However, they know I am better able to guide them being in the monastery than being with them.”

Twenty-five years of being a nun has changed Sister Mary Anthony, and she likes the person God has helped her to become. “I feel that I have become more gentle and simple because of focusing on trying to follow and copy the virtues of Jesus.”

DISTRICT DOINGS



Our District Council, that is the club presidents and the president elects, met earlier in January. It was reported that since we did not have a seminarian receive the rite of transitional deacon last year, we will not have a priestly ordination this year.

One seminarian who could have been ordained to the diaconate decided to discern a little longer. We all pray that he follows the vocation that Christ is calling out for him. The Church needs committed lay people as well as more priests

Next year, it is possible that seven of our current seminarians will take the step to the diaconate, and the following year it could be ten more, keep praying, do private prayer and participate in the Eucharistic adoration in your parish, or even a nearby parish.

Janie Hanson reported that on the annual Day of Recollection hosted by the City Club. The date is Feb 21. There will be a signup sheet at your next club meeting. Come, and bring a friend, a potential Serran.

The 31 CLUB parish program has been very slow starting, and I take complete responsibility. I am trying new avenues to get it started. Also, the Newman Connection aimed at students not in Catholic schools is starting. We will need help in both of these programs. Lastly, we again will be presenting all of our sisters, brothers and order priests celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life with a small bookmark, thanking them for all they do for us. Samples will be available at your club meeting, not enough for everyone, but you may know someone that is covered under the title of consecrated life. Take one for them

Wally Drazba, District Governor

**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY
Mary Brockschmidt Bruce Junor
Arbie Keown**