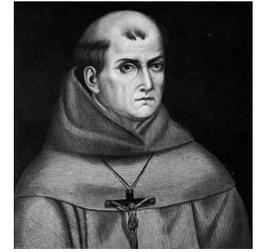




# SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



September 2016

REGION 11

DISTRICT 127

Charter 438

NEWSLETTER

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

## FUTURE EVENTS

September 1 ó Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Theresa  
September 15 ó Club Meeting, Speaker:  
Fr. Moneypenny  
October 6 ó Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Nadine  
October 20 ó Club Meeting, Fr. Puckner  
November 3ó Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Kit Gray  
November 17 ó Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD  
December 1 ó Christmas Luncheon, St John Maron

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Serrans,  
Accolades to Maureen Kosinski!!!  
Once again, Maureen delivered an  
OUTSTANDING Monsignor  
Sammon Golf Tournament. Give

Maureen a huge job to do and she really delivers!!  
Ninety golfers played in 92 degree sunshine and  
extremely hot weather. Thirty priests and deacons  
played golf, and thirty four of our members came to  
the dinner held at the Tustin Ranch Golf Course to  
show their support. Bishop Vann, unable to play  
because of back problem, came to show his support.  
He rode around in a golf cart and enjoyed watching  
the players. He needed a ride home after nine holes,  
and Maureen asked me to drive him home. Was I  
thrilled to relinquish my spot to another player? You  
bet! It was a blessing to get out of the heat and drive  
our beloved Bishop home. Of course after cooling  
off and taking a shower, I returned to the golf course  
to enjoy the delicious dinner with all the golfers and  
guests.

Sharon Mulherin, Membership Chair for many years,  
treated the new co-membership chairs Silvia Uriarte  
and Cathy Walton, and me to a lunch and give an  
orientation to

## SAINT JOHN VIANNEY PATRON SAINT OF PARISH PRIESTS



*Almighty and merciful God, Who didst bestow upon  
blessed John Mary Vianney wonderful pastoral zeal  
and a great fervor for prayer and penance, grant, we  
beseech thee, that by his example and intercession  
we may be able to gain the souls of our brethren for  
Christ, and with them attain to everlasting glory,  
through the same Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who  
liveth and reineth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one  
God, world without end. Amen*

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new co-chairs on everything we needed to know to  
increase our membership and many other important  
details that come with the responsibilities of being a  
membership Chair. Please join me in thanking  
Sharron for her many years of serving as  
Membership Chair.

Mark your calendars to attend the Ordinati Dinner to  
be held on Monday evening, September 19. Mass is  
at 5:00 PM followed by dinner, \$40.00, food choices  
are salmon or beef. Hopefully, many of our members  
will attend this important event.

Always Forward, Never Back was a vey important  
philosophy of St. Junipero Serra. May we Serrans

incorporate those words into our everyday life as Serrans.

In God's Love,  
Virginia Mort, President

## VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift September, donated by Joan Golding is Nam Doan. Nam is from Holy Spirit Parish and is studying at St. John's Seminary. Our club received a note from newly ordained Father Quyen Truong, Father s at St.

Nicholas Parish. He appreciated all the prayers, support and love he has received from Serra Club Members. He continues to pray for all of us.

**NEWS FROM THE SEMINARIANS:** After engaging in a variety of assignments during the summer, the seminarians have returned to their respective seminaries. The Diocese of Orange is blessed to have thirty-six seminarians. Four were ordained in June and three new men have entered. In June, seven seminarians were ordained Transitional Deacons. Four of the seminarians are in their Pastoral Assignment year, serving at parishes in our Diocese. The Pastoral year is a very defining time in their journey to ordination. This month our club is updating Adopt a Seminarian activity. Our members have been very supportive of this activity.

Please continue to pray for all our seminarians and young men discerning the priesthood. The next discernment is scheduled for Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM, Pastoral Center, First Floor, Room 1D, Christ Cathedral Campus. Any questions regarding discernment, please contact Father John Moneypenny, Director of Vocations at 713-282-3036 or [www.frjmoneypenny@rcbo.org](mailto:www.frjmoneypenny@rcbo.org). Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of Perpetual Adoration.

**ORDINATION PRAYER :** Loving God, your son, Jesus, brought the light of the gospel to the world. Grace or Church with people of faith who carry that light in peace to the world as priests, deacons, consecrated seculars and lay ministers. Together may we live in service to others. Amen.

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

## SPEAKERS



Our speaker on August 3rd was Michael Rizzo. He is 56 years young, a seminarian and proud of it and needless to say, we are also proud of him. He is a New Yorker, now spending his seminarian years at Mt Angels in Oregon. He is spending his time

this summer at St. Pius V in Buena Park.

How, you may ask, did he manage to become a seminarian quite a few years past the average age? He was a student at a Jesuit High School in New York. Cornell came after that, then he received a law degree at Michigan. In 1985 he married, still living in New York. The couple moved to New Jersey and he wanted to become a deacon but alas, he was too young.

When he became of age, he planned on putting his application for the deaconate.

Whoops! Had to put that on hold because there was a baby on the way. He worked for US Bank until 2009 when he decided to retire. He planned on working one more important job, then reapply for the deaconate and teach college. September 2011 was okay but in 2012 his wife had a heart attack and the angels took her.

By this time he was living in Orange County, CA as his son was now attending college here in our golden state. The St. Ignatius Exercises led him to believe that priesthood was for him. Just thinking about becoming a priest he was full of peace. He wanted Michigan but got a less than warm reception there. Fr. Moneypenny was a very good help in his discernment.

Not too much later, he got a call from Fr. Moneypenny saying that Bishop Van wants to meet him. Bishop gave him a very stern recruitment. In talking to his son about it, he said "Dad, it's a lot nicer here in Orange County."

To actually be a priest, is different than the functions he does, such as confessions, etc. His heart and soul and spirit must be completely attuned. He must ask himself, as Bishop Vann did, What would Jesus Christ do on relating to people? God willing, he will be ordained in 2019.

Questions he presented to us: 1) How do you pray about God? 2) How do you feel about God? 3) How



Michael Rizzo

## EARLY HISTORY OF THE SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY

*Continued from last month's newsletter*

### CONVENTIONS

Serra International hosts a convention each year at some location throughout the world, such as Toronto, Colorado Springs, Washington D.C., Rome, Rio de Janeiro, Guadalajara, (Mexico), to name just a few.

A District/Regional convention is held each year. Initially, District 4 and District 82 (Beverly Hills, Conejo-Ventura, Glendale óBurbank, San Fernando, Santa Barbara and South Bay) alternated as host for the convention. Later, the states of Hawaii, Nevada and California joined as the western Region. Now, the convention is hosted alternatively between the North and South. Orange County hosted the convention at the Marriott in Newport Beach in 1980 and again at the Embassy Suites in Palm Desert in 1990.

### ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY VISITS

Each year since the Serra Club of Orange County was chartered, members have visited St. John's Seminary to attend Mass and socialize with the seminarians from Orange County. The members are treated to a luncheon and are joined by the seminarians. Also, a tour of the campus is conducted by the seminarians. The highlight of the visit centers around the Mass and the singing by the seminarians.

### ANNIVERSARIES/BIRTHDAYS

In 1989, the club initiated a program of assigning names of seminarians to the Serrans to correspond with on a one on one basis. The program was initiated by Clint Kelly.

Each month the names of the seminarians who have a birthday the following month are received from Monsignor Murray's office and are mailed to the Serrans alphabetically from the membership roster. Each Serran is encouraged to send Christmas and Easter cards to his assigned seminarian.

In January, 1992, the club started a program of sending anniversary cards to all the priests in the Diocese of Orange. One-hundred-sixty-three cards were sent in 1992.

In the city of New York, at the Serra International Convention, Monsignor John Sammon, was the first chaplain to be awarded the óArchbishop Cousins award for the outstanding chaplain.

Again in Guadalajara, Mexico, at the 1992 Serra International Convention, Monsignor Sammon was recognized for his unique approach to educating Serrans in Catholicism. He was awarded the óFather

are you compassionate like Jesus Christ? Rudeness, ego, etc. do not fit. Learn to minimize.

With all the losses of life he has had to face, the Holy Spirit has never failed him in helping families.

On August 18 our celebrant and speaker was none other than Fr. Bill Barman from La Purisima.

He talked mostly about Pope Francis' visions of this Year of Mercy. Empathy is the key to Pope Francis' vision to families and communities. Identify with those who aren't necessarily

so nice to us or one another. We do not know where they are coming from, what may have been happening in their lives. The challenge is to have empathy from few to many. Challenge leads to empathy which leads to compassion which leads to mercy and deed. For example, when Jesus tells



Fr. Bill Barman

the parable of the shepherd who goes in search of the lost sheep, does he do so simply with the detachment of a teacher, or does He enter into the frantic and anxious mind and heart of the shepherd? Pope Francis is teaching us to put our minds into those with whom we are trying to have empathy.

Who is Pope Francis next to? In Italy on an upturned boat he said Mass. He invited Muslims to come on board his plane. He had dinner with the Muslims. Could any of us have done the same? Well, maybe not celebrate Mass on an upturned boat. I, for one, am likely to fall into the water. Orange County is great for building houses. Every year more and more people are moving here. What we need to do is build homes for those who need them most. The homeless, the extended families, the lonely, the elderly.

Pope Francis is encouraging the Church to embrace empathy as the necessary source of compassion and mercy. Every person has empathy toward those who are closest. The challenge is to rise from having empathy for a few to having empathy for many. Put ourselves into the shoes of others distant or different from ourselves, especially those who suffer most. Empathy will move us to compassion, and compassion will move us to conversion of mercy

### **SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER**

**Laura Alfieri, Lou Escalle, Sharon Mulherin, Madrienne Peters, Jane Virgilio**

Junipero Serra Award for Furthering Catholicism. Of course, all Serrans were behind the recommendations for the awards by providing the facts to Serra International.

On May 21, 1992, Monsignor Sammon was recognized by our Serra Club on his Golden Jubilee as a priest. Many other Serra Clubs in Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego recognized Monsignor Sammon. Among the mementos he was given was an engraved watch and an original Peanuts comic

strip. Monsignor Sammon begins his homilies or talks with an analogy of the characters in the comic strip. His office is adorned with many stuffed Snoopys. It should be noted that Bill Brundige worked for months through Bishop John Steinbock, former Auxiliary Bishop of Orange, to get Charles Schulz, the originator of the comic strip, to provide this memento for Monsignor Sammon.

*Conclusion*

*Editor's note: The early history of the Serra Club was compiled by Bob Zimmerman in 1992 and presented for inclusion in this newsletter by Jerry Stauber.*

**MONSIGNOR JOHN SAMMON GOLF OUTING  
AUGUST 29, 2016**



