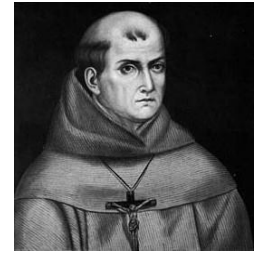




# SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



October 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

October 6 ó Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Nadine  
October 20 ó Club Meeting, Fr. Puckner  
October 30 ó Priesthood Sunday  
November 3ó Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Kit Gray  
November 6-12 ó National Vocations Awareness Week  
November 17 ó Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Al Baca  
December 1 ó Christmas Luncheon, St John Maron

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Serrans,  
Those of us who attended the Ordinati Dinner on 19 September enjoyed a very special evening. The Mass was celebrated by three of the four newly ordained priests. Father Nicolaus Thai is back in Rome resuming his studies. The dinner was excellent. It was probably the best catered dinners I've eaten in a very long time. I had the opportunity to enjoy Bishop Kevin Vann who was sitting next to me during dinner. He was sporting a nasty sunburn on his face from spending several hours in the sun while celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Diocese of Orange in Christ's Cathedral. He confessed that he completely forgot to apply sunscreen on his face.

Each of the newly ordained priests told the story of his journey into the priesthood. Each story was unique in how they received their calling from Christ to live life of a priest. Each priest said he was very happy in his new career as a priest, and each priest personally thanked the Serrans for our prayers, our gifts and our love.

## PRAYER TO BLESSED VIRGIN MARY FOR VOCATIONS



*O Mary, Mother of God, Mother of the Church, in this hour so meaningful for us, we are one heart and one mind: as were Peter, the apostles, the brethren, joined in prayer, with you. We entrust to you our lives. To you we all, one and all, repeat, "totus tuus ego sum," that you may take up our consecration and unite it with that of Jesus and your own, as an oblation to God the Father, for the life of the world. We pray you to look upon the needs of your children, as you did at Cana, when you were touched to the heart by that family's situation. Today, the greatest of this your family is for vocations: presbyteral, diaconal, religious and missionary*

They ask that we continue to pray for them as they perform their priestly duties. Truly it was joyous to hear their personal stories and to feel their enthusiasm for the priesthood. Congratulations to Father Brandon Dang, Father David Otto, Father Quyen, and Father Nicolaus Thai. We Serrans will continue praying for these very special and newly ordained priests.

Virginia Mort, President

## VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for October, donated by Pat Manzo, is Ian Gaston. Ian is from St. Norbert Parish and is studying at Mount Angel Seminary. Our club received a note from seminarian Nam Doan, thanking us for the gift card.

Nam is studying at St. John's Seminary. Nam expressed that it is a comfort to him to have our support and prayers. He prays for our club members and their families

On September 19<sup>th</sup> many of our club members along with the other Serra Clubs, attended the annual Ordinati Dinner at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse. Father John Moneypenney and Father Felix Just concelebrated Mass with three of our newly ordained, Father Brandan Dang, Father Quyen Truong, and Father David Otto. Father Nicholas Thai had returned to Rome. Each year the Serrans especially look forward to hearing the vocation story of the newly ordained. It confirms that our prayers for vocations are being answered. Our Diocese is blessed to have so many studying for the priesthood. We will continue to update our Adopt a Seminarian activity during October. We have thirty-six seminarians, three new seminarians entered in September.

Please continue to pray for all our seminarians and young men discerning the priesthood. The next discernment is scheduled for Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM, Pastoral Center, First Floor, Room 1D, Christ Cathedral Campus. Any questions regarding discernment, please contact Father John Moneypenney, Director of Vocations at 713-282-3036 or [www.frjmoneypenney@rcbo.org](mailto:www.frjmoneypenney@rcbo.org). Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of Perpetual Adoration.

### ORDINATION PRAYER :

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

## SPEAKERS



On September 1 Sister Theresa of the Sisters of St. Joseph was our guest speaker. Sister shared with us the beautiful story of her life of service. Using her major in music and her background in mathematics, Sister

taught for several years as an elementary teacher, grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>.

Her teaching experience led her to New Guinea, where for 14 years she served as missionary teaching English and music. Using her major in music she developed choirs in many high schools there and in the villages where song became an integral part of the liturgy.

After returning from her missionary work, she devoted her time caring for her ill mother and being a music director specializing in liturgical music. An opportunity to lead a project, "Sisters in Song", presented itself. Sisters from the entire country produced a DVD which was sold to help support retired sisters.

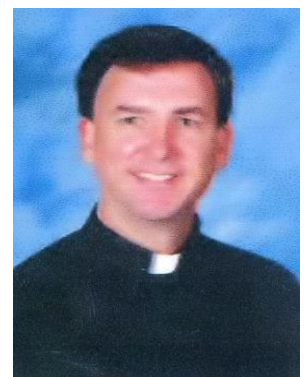
Sister Theresa's present job is to serve the Sisters of St. Joseph leadership council, which is developing a new vision for the order. One example of future plans is to redesign the Mother House from a living space for the sisters into several new facilities. AUSF nursing program will be established. A fifty unit housing facility for lower income seniors and veterans is part of the plan. Other projects will be announced in the future.

Our Serra group was overwhelmingly impressed with Sr. Theresa's story of hard work and devotion. Her worldwide dedication to a life of service is a living testimonial to the Sisters of St. Joseph.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> our celebrant and speaker was Fr. Moneypenney, Director of Vocations. His main topic was regarding the seminarians. Although he is the Director of Vocations, he actually watches over all of us because he is taller than any of us.

This is his fifth year with this title, has one more left, depending on the Bishop who has the power to extend that time.

Every parish has two priests. Those needing more get more. Speaking



Fr. John Moneypenney

of priests, the average age of priests is 56 with retirement occurring at 75. The average age of seminarians is 33, and we currently have 38, adding six this year. Three from Mexico are coming to the United States to learn English language skills. There are seminaries, St. Augustine in Toronto, St. John in Camarillo, one in Menlo Park, and St. Angels in Portland. He travels to each seminary at least once a year, and one visit to Rome. Such a travelling

sacrifice, so a couple of Serran members offered to carry his luggage. No answer came forth, but he did give a gracious smile.

Fr. Moneypenny was very fortunate to have attended the canonization of Junipero Serra.

There are pillars of formation the seminarians must travel through. The first is the Human Formation. This, briefly, is to learn who you are in relation to family, friends and outsiders.

The second is Intellectual. A shorter word for this pillar would be Study, and it is not an easy path, nor is it short.

The third is the Pastoral Formation when they learn how a parish really works. Their duties do not end with saying Mass.

The fourth is Spiritual Formation. They learn how deep is their spirit taking time to deepen it even further, how to pray the liturgy of the hours, and so much more. tough days? Oh my goodness yes. Knowing their true purpose in life takes time and introspection.

Last week he and his brother had the great joy (?) of moving their mother from the snowy mountains of Colorado to sunny Arizona. Truly, a priest's love for his mom and family is a great thing. Many seminarians have not seen their families in quite a while because of distance, Viet Nam for one example.

When asked how he first began thinking of becoming a priest, he answered saying "Some asked me. Actually it was a lay person."

I believe we can all take heed from that. How many of us have asked someone that question? If you have, do it again.

Sharon Birchler

**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER**  
**Clara Escalle, Mary Horan, Ralph Masdeo**  
**Virginia Mort, Sue Silvestri**

### FROM THE VATICAN

A meeting between Pope Francis and Cardinal Claudio Hummes has touched off speculation that the Pope might support a move to allow the ordination of married men as priests.

Cardinal Hummes, the former prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, has indicated his support for a discussion of allowing married priests in areas where the shortage of clergy is particularly

acute, such as the Amazon region of his native Brazil.

Sandro Magister, the veteran Vatican-watcher for *L'Espresso*, reports rumors in Rome that Pope Francis intends to devote the next meeting of the Synod of Bishops to discussion of the clergy: a topic that would allow for debate on the issue of celibacy.

Nearly two months after Pope Francis instituted a commission to study women and the diaconate, *L'Osservatore Romano* has published an article on Deaconesses and the early Church.

Carlo Carletti, an archaeology professor at the University of Bari, said that the starting point for any examination of the topic is Romans 16:1, in which St. Paul refers to "our sister Phoebe, a deaconess." Of the 30 inscriptions that refer to deaconesses, said Carletti, 25 have been found in Asia Minor (in modern day Turkey).

Carletti attributes this geographical concentration to the legacy of St. Paul who included women in his missionary activity. In the West, on the other hand, "the diaconal ministry" remained constantly a male prerogative.

### THIS MONTH'S CHUCKLE

An old nun who was living in a convent next to a construction site noticed the coarse language of the workers and decided to spend some time with them to correct their ways.

She decided she would take her lunch; sit with the workers; and talk with them.

She put her sandwich in a brown bag and walked over to the spot where the men were eating.

Sporting a big smile, she walked up to the group and asked: "And do you men know Jesus Christ?"

They shook their heads and looked at each other.. very confused.

One of the workers looked up into the steelworks and yelled out, "Anybody up there know Jesus Christ?"

One of the steelworkers yelled down, "Why?"

The worker yelled back,

"Cause his wife's here with his lunch."



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**