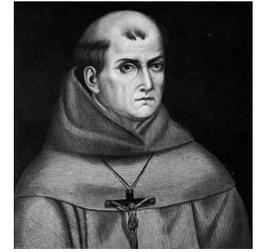




# SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



November 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

November 3<sup>o</sup> Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Kit Gray  
November 6-12 <sup>o</sup> National Vocations Awareness Week  
November 17 <sup>o</sup> Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Al Baca  
December 1 <sup>o</sup> Christmas Luncheon, St John Maron

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Serrans,  
We all know and love Mother Teresa. On September 4, 2016, when she was canonized a saint in the Catholic Church, perhaps we thought, that if anyone should be canonized, it

should certainly be Mother Teresa. For the past six weeks for the St. Cecilia Woman's Ministry group, I had the privilege of leading the ladies using a delightful book, "Conversations with Mother Teresa." (There are four extra books available should you be interested in purchasing one, give me a call). The book is filled with examples of how deeply she lived her love of Jesus.

One example of this is on occasion the sisters were treated to fresh fruit. Mother Teresa always chose an orange. One of the sisters suggested that she should eat a banana because it had more nutritional value in it. She stated that it was true but she answered "When I eat an orange it allows me to demonstrate my love better to Jesus. Eating each section, she would repeat, "Jesus, I love you."

Another saying of Mother Teresa is, "We need silence to be alone with God, to speak to him, to listen to Him, to ponder his words deep in our hearts. We need to be alone with God in silence to be renewed and transformed.

## PRAYER AT THANKSGIVING



*Thank you, Father, for creating us and giving us to each other in the human family. Thank you for being with us in all our joys and sorrows, for your comfort in our sadness, your companionship in our loneliness. Thank you for yesterday, today, tomorrow, and the whole of our lives. Thank you for friends, for health, and for grace. May we live this and every day conscious of all that has been given to us*

Silence gives us a new outlook on life. In it we are filled with the energy of God Himself that makes us do all things with joy.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, let us take a few minutes to ponder the words of Mother Teresa, and in silence, to be alone with God giving thanks for all of our bountiful blessings that we enjoy each day. Happy Thanksgiving Serrans!

In God's Love,  
Virginia Mort, President

## VOCATIONS REPORT



Our Seminarian who received the gift card for November, donated by Sue Silvestri, is Mark Chae Jung. Mark's home parish is St. Thomas Korean Center. He is studying at Mt. Angel Seminary.

Seminarian Ian Gaston, studying at Mt. Angel, thanked our club for our prayers and support. He feels they are essential to his formation and growth as a man of God. He especially appreciated receiving the gift card. It arrived just before he would be going on a field trip. Seminarian Hernan Wences, also at Mt. Angel,



Mark Chae Jung

prays for the Serrans especially during his rosaries. He shared that the beginning of the semester was very busy, now it has settled into a steady pace. Hernan sent a picture postcard of the chapel at Mt. Angel, a very prayerful place. The seminary is connected to a Benedictine Monastery. Please continue to pray for all our seminarians and young men discerning the priesthood. The next discernment is scheduled for 9th 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 [www.frjmoneypenney@rcbo.org](http://www.frjmoneypenney@rcbo.org) or 714-282-3036. Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of Perpetual Adoration.



Ian Gaston



Hernan Wences

of Vocations at [www.frjmoneypenney@rcbo.org](http://www.frjmoneypenney@rcbo.org) or 714-282-3036. Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of Perpetual Adoration.

**VOCATION PRAYER :**

Dear God, we ask you to inspire men and women to respond generously to your call and embrace the gift of their vocation. Bless them with the joy that comes through loving service. We pray in union with the communion of saints in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations Trustee

nize when we see and feel the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a gift to the Church. Pope Francis has said that he is not staying Pope until he dies. Only until all his energy to fulfil his position has drained. The young have the energy we admire.

Prior to his trip to Italy, he announced to them *“I am coming.”* Once there he exited the car quite early, causing a fair walk to his destination. He walked alone into a neighborhood and knocked on a door to see how people are dealing with trauma. He visited towns, privately, alone, as a priest, a bishop and Pope, for the first time in decades, he has awakened us. There are packets that perhaps the Pope gave out in Italy, that show the worldwide challenges and how some countries are handling Christianity with these challenges, how to keep and improve.



Sr. Nadine McGuinness

Jesus’ presence to us is the gift of the Holy Spirit. Nowadays we can know about so many countries issues. How can we best help them? By practicing our faith and letting it be shown. For example, bone marrow donations can and has helped twins to live. We need to trust God! As families we need to trust God to raise our children in God as they were Christianly raised by parents, grandparents and Church. Let’s be ourselves and learn from our elders and the wisdom of the Church.

Our speaker on October 20 was Fr. Augustin Puchner. Fr. Puchner comes from a faith-filled family. Encouraged early in life, he had a good foundation. His oldest cousin, Susan, became Sr. Miriam. He first considered becoming a priest while serving as an altar server in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. In college, he was a pre-med biology major as he comes from a medical family. His second love was theatre. It was at that point he prayed for his calling. While that was happening he continued school and waited tables. That’s familiar to many of us. So, he prayed again, *“show me what you wish me to do to serve you.”* To discern he asked himself *“what do I do now.”* Knock on the bishop’s door and say I want to be a priest? So, he visited various communities. He ultimately chose the Norbertines and entered St. Michael’s Abbey in 1990, staying three years. Then it was on to Rome to study for four years. He was ordained in 1997. In

Our speaker on October 20 was Fr. Augustin Puchner

Fr. Puchner comes from a faith-filled family. Encouraged early in life, he had a good foundation. His oldest cousin, Susan, became Sr. Miriam. He first considered becoming a priest while serving as an altar server in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. In college, he was a pre-med biology major as he comes from a medical family. His second love was theatre. It was at that point he prayed for his calling. While that was happening he continued school and waited tables. That’s familiar to many of us. So, he prayed again, *“show me what you wish me to do to serve you.”* To discern he asked himself *“what do I do now.”* Knock on the bishop’s door and say I want to be a priest? So, he visited various communities. He ultimately chose the Norbertines and entered St. Michael’s Abbey in 1990, staying three years. Then it was on to Rome to study for four years. He was ordained in 1997. In

**SPEAKERS**



On October 6, 2016 our speaker was our Spiritual Director, Sr. Nadine. In her words, today’s first reading reflects Paul’s vision that everyone had firsthand experience of God. Wrong! Stupid! We need to recog-

2009 he was moved to St. John the Baptist in Costa Mesa as Parochial Vicar.

So, what should we as parishioners do? Trust in God and trust in your faith. Think about church and trust, committing a life to the Church to help others.

To end, there is very good news. Vocations are on the rise, so let's continue our prayers and support. Prayers from family and friends really do help.

Sharon Birchler

## **SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER**

**Laura Alfieri**

## **THE FASTEST NUN IN THE WEST**

Blandina Segale, S.C., more commonly known as Sister Blandina (23 May 1850 ó 23 February 1941) was an Italian-born American Religious sister and missionary, who became widely known through her service on the American frontier in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. During her missionary work, she met, among others, Billy the Kid and the leaders of Native American tribes of the Apache and Comanche. She served as a educator and social worker who worked in Ohio, Colorado and New Mexico, assisting Native Americans, Hispanic settlers and European immigrants.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Santa Fe has opened a process to canonize Sister Blandina, for which it has received the permission of the Holy See. For this, she is honored by the Church with the title of Servant of God. She is the first individual in New Mexico's 400-year history with the Church to have a cause opened for their beatification and canonization.

She was born Rosa Maria Segale in 1850 in Cicagna, Genoa, then part of the Kingdom of Sardinia. She emigrated at age four with her family to the United States, where they settled in Cincinnati, Ohio. She had felt called from an early age to join the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. She did so at the age of sixteen, when she was clothed in the habit of the sisters and given the religious name of Sister Blandina, in memory of St. Blandina, martyred in 177 during the reign of Marcus Aurelius. On December 8, 1868, she completed the novitiate and professed religious vows for the first time.

Sister Blandina went to teach in the schools of Steubenville and Dayton. It was there that she received notice on 27 November 1872, at the age of

twenty-two years, she was sent to serve as a missionary to Trinidad. At first thinking she was being sent to the Caribbean, but soon learned that her assignment was in Colorado, where the sisters of Charity recently opened a mission. She was later transferred to Santa Fe, where she co-founded public and Catholic schools throughout the United States. During her time in New Mexico, she worked with the poor, the sick and immigrants. She also advocated on behalf of Hispanics and Native Americans who were losing their land to swindlers.

Sr. Blandina travelled alone on dusty trails and railroads, through the unexplored lands of the far Southwest, finally reaching Trinidad, a frontier mining town, on December 9, 1872. After opening a school with her bare hands, her first action was to fight against the common practice of lynching. She came to learn from one of her students that a member of the gang led by famed outlaw Billy the Kid had been seriously wounded and had been left to die in a shack. She immediately went to him and, as she examined the wound, spoke harshly to his persecutors saying, "I see that with a hard head that you find yourself unable to kill him with one shot to the head." Without another word, she treated the bandit and saved the man's life.

In December 1873, Sr. Blandina received a letter from her Mother Superior directing her to move to Santa Fe, New Mexico to help the religious settlement. Despite the scarcity of funding and resources, she built several schools and orphanages, continued to visit the mines in the area and railway construction sites to minister to the people there. She managed to collect funds for the construction of St. Vincent Hospital and for the care of indigent. She visited and took care of Billy the Kid and other prisoners confined in the main prison in New Mexico.

In 1882, Sr. Blandina was charge with the reconstruction of the dilapidated convent in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She also attempted at building a hospital there but was recalled in 1889 to Trinidad, where she defended the right of the Sisters of Charity to teach in the local school while wearing their religious habit, However, anti-Catholic prejudice prevailed and she was forced to return to Albuquerque where, in 1901, she completed the construction of St. Joseph Hospital.

Sr. Blandina returned to Cincinnati where she worked with her sister for the Italian immigrant community until her death at the age of 90, on February 23, 1941.

*To be continued*