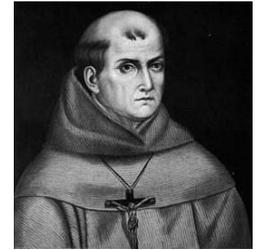




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



December 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

December 1 ó Christmas Luncheon, St John Maron
January 5 ó Club Meeting at St. Norbert Church,
Speakers: Rosa and Warren Kato
January 19 ó Club Meeting, Speaker: Carrie Baleu
February 2 ó Club Meeting, Speaker: Arbie Keown
February 15 ó Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Wayne

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Serrans,
Hopefully those of you who attended the Serra Club Christmas Mass and luncheon event enjoyed yourselves and now are filled with the Christmas spirit. It is always a special Mass when Fr. Antoine Bakh chants prayers in the language that Jesus spoke. Our entertainer serenaded us with beautiful Christmas carols, and it was fun to sing the Julie Andrews Senior Citizen version of "My Favorite Things." We concluded the event by standing up, joining hands and singing three choruses of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" as we swayed to the music. From my viewpoint, everyone had happy smiles on their faces. It is fun to have our child out to play regardless of our age.

Due to the January impending remodel of our current meeting place at the Mother House, we have been temporarily relocated to St. Norbert's Church at 300 E. Taft Ave. in Orange. We will have the same format. Mass will be at 12:15 PM followed by lunch next door in the Ministry Hall. The Blue Frog caterer will deliver our lunches just as before. We truly appreciate and thank Fr. Bruce Patterson for opening St. Norbert's Church for us.

Remember: WE WILL MEET AT ST. NORBERT'S effective January 5. Please don't forget.

HAPPY HOLYDAYS



May your Christmas be merry and bright. Christ is the reason for the season! May the new year be a healthy and happy year and overflowing with the love of God.

In God's Love,
Virginia Mort, President

VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for December, donated by Rosa and Warren Kato, is Deacon Michael Khong. Deacon Michael is from St. Columban's Parish and is at St. John Seminary. Our Serra Club members have signed up to take care of the monthly gift card through 2017. The seminarians always thank us for the gift cards, They really

appreciate your generosity. A big thank you to our club members for supporting this activity. Presently our seminarians at St. John's, St. Patrick's and Mount Angel are close to the end of the semester. They will be taking their final exams and will be leaving the seminary for their Christmas break sometime between the 16th to the 18th of December.

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

The next discernment is scheduled for December 14th 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 www.frjmoneypenny@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 : Loving God, you gift us with your son, Jesus. At his baptism you affirmed him as your loving Son. Jesus responded by proclaiming the Good News about your reign. Gift us all with generous hearts to further your reign on earth. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

SPEAKERS



On November 3 Sister Kit Gray of the Sisters of St. Joseph was the Serra Club guest speaker. Sister's presentation was very informative on the Year of Mercy. She first provided background information on the Year of Mercy and then

shared the story of the Stations of Mercy that have been created at Christ Cathedral.

Sister Kit reminded the members that it was in April 2015 that Pope Francis proclaimed a Jubilee Year of Mercy to begin on December 8, 2015 which was the 50th anniversary of the closing of Vatican II. The year will conclude on the Feast of Christ the King on November 20, 2016. She explained that the Holy Year in Roman Catholic tradition is a great religious event encompassing forgiveness and reconciliation between



Sr. Kit Gray

adversaries with a commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters.

The Year of Mercy included the opening of a Holy Door in Rome. Sister Kit explained that there are two Holy Doors in the Diocese of Orange at Holy Family Cathedral in Orange and at Mission San Juan Capistrano.

Sister shared with the group selections from Pope Francis' April 1, 2015 "The Face of Mercy." She referred to old Testament teachings describing God's nature as being patient and merciful.

Sister Kit distributed a beautiful booklet describing the Stations of Mercy at Christ Cathedral. Sister indicated that the Stations of Mercy provide a way to prayerfully reflect on the Works of Mercy as outlined by Pope Francis in the "Face of Mercy" document. Each station is dedicated to one of the Works of Mercy. They are located throughout the campus of Christ Cathedral including the Cultural Center, Tower of Hope, the Plaza and Arboretum Fountain path. Sister said that the plaques denoting each station would remain after the Jubilee Year of Mercy ends. Sister Kit invited the Serrans to visit any or all of the stations at Christ Cathedral.



Fr. Al Baca

Father Al Baca, pastor of St. Columban Church in Garden Grove and former pastor of St. Cecilia Church in Tustin and former chaplain of the Orange County Serra Club, was the guest speaker on November 17, 2016. He reported on what has been happening at St. Columban Church. Fr. Al related that

since being transferred to the large Garden Grove parish he has stepped away from his former responsibilities for the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. Father Quan Tran is now Episcopal Vicar for the Ecumenical and Interreligious Office.

Father Al said St. Columban Church has 7,000 registered families with 300 children in the school. He noted that 65% of the church is Vietnamese. There are three assistants: Father Thai Trinh, Fr. Philip Smith and Fr. Ngu Nguyen. Additionally, Fr. Steve Sallot lives on the church campus. Fr. Al noted that this is the third time that he and Fr. Steve have an assignment together. Father explained that St. Columban was his childhood parish and his parents live close by. The church seats 1,500 people. He said

that there are five Masses in English, four Masses in Vietnamese and one in Spanish.

Father next talked about some of the recent additions to the church campus including an additional exit driveway and grounds improvements. Father then described his journey of faith and determination in obtaining two large white marble angel statues for the area in the front of the church. The quest actually started with a shopping trip to find flower stands at a warehouse near John Wayne Airport. He related the story of the two angel statues that were initially priced at \$50,000 each and were eventually purchased at auction for \$9000. The Knights of Columbus agreed to pick up the cost. The statues are informally referred to as St. Michael's angels which Father said was fitting since the first St. Columban pastor was Fr. Michael Murphy. Marble bases were obtained for the statues without taking money from the church budget.

Father related how the men of the parish have built a large nativity. He noted that men liked to build and that is a good way to get them more involved with the parish. The parish is now working actively with Habitat for Humanity in home construction. Father was pleased to learn that psalms are etched in the corners of the homes that are built. Father Al related that there is a Methodist church down the street from St. Columban church and he and the minister have a very good relationship.

Father Al noted that St. Columban Church continue to grow with many families registering this year. Father Al and the assistants teach religion at the school. While there is a convent house on the church campus it may eventually become a retreat house. The Irish Sisters of Charity now have only two sisters in residence and they are not getting adequate numbers of new vocations. Father told the story of St. Columban the Irish priest who was known for taming wild animals.

In conclusion, Father Baca asked the Serra members to keep him and his 92 year old father and 89 year old mother in their prayers.

Joan Golding for Sharon Birchler

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

**Virginia Cunanan
Maria Lawmaster**



I'm glad I was able to join your club with my friend Maria who I knew at a prayer group at St. Justin's Church in Orange.

I was born in the Philippines, came to America in 1970 after finishing my nursing school. I have lived in Orange after I got married in 1974 raised a family with two sons. Both of them are married and I am very blessed with 5 handsome and beautiful grandchildren.

As a Registered Nurse I have worked in different areas of nursing most specially in Intensive Care, Emergency Room, Home Health Nurse and a little bit of Hospice. I love my job so much as much as I love taking care of people. I opened my own assisted living facility in 1993 and sold this year so I can retire.

My home parish is Holy Family in Orange. I have been a parishioner since 1979 but nine years ago I joined a pilgrimage in Poland where I had witnessed some miracles of Our Lady of Czestochowa and I had been going to Pope John II church with their Latin Mass.

I love doing organic gardening. I have 3 4x8 raised beds for my vegetables and I'm growing 30 different fruit trees of any kind. I find it so much fun plus I spend my time at the gym or walk in the sand at the beach when the weather is good.

I love to cook of different ethnic food and my kids always love any of them.

I hope to be a part of the Serra Club and it's a pleasure meeting you all.

Thank you
Virginia Cunanan



My name is Maria Lawmaster. I was born in Barcelona Spain and was an only child. My father died when I was three years old and my mother placed me in a Catholic boarding school because of the long hours she worked and she felt I would be well Taken care of by the nuns. She married an American man who was in the service and I came to America with my mother and my new stepfather when I was 13 years old.

After my stepfather retired from the Army we moved to California and I attended and graduated from Hollywood High School. I worked as a stenographer at Max Factor, Inc. until I got married in 1968 and with my husband we moved to Orange County. My husband and I were married for 45 years and had a very loving marriage. We had three sons. Two of my married sons live in Arizona and we have 5 grandchildren. My husband died on March 8, 2013. My middle son who is not married moved in with me after my husband's passing to help me get through a very difficult time I was experiencing. I still miss my husband very much and I guess I'll always will even though as time goes by it does get a little easier.

I have worked at the Anaheim City School district as a bilingual Office Assistant for 25 years and I retired in 2007

I have been a parishioner of St. Norbert Church since 1990. My husband and I together were extraordinary Communion ministers to the homebound until a few months before his passing. I continue this ministry now and have been doing it for 15 years.

I also belong to the Legion of Mary through St. Anthony Claret Church. St. Norbert's doesn't have this ministry which is why I am also involved in volunteer work through the Legion of Mary at St. Anthony Claret. I take Communion and pray the rosary with the Catholic patients every Monday at Parkview Hospital. I've been involved with this ministry for the last 8 years. I love cooking, especially for my family and my friends. I enjoy trying new recipes on them and always hope they

like them. I belong to 24 Hour Fitness and try to exercise at least three times a week. I also love watching movies on the Hallmark Channel.

Maria Lawmaster

SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

**John McAndrew, Therese McAndrew
Sharon Birchler, Pat Manzo, Betty Page
Jerry Stauber, Silvia Uriarte
Cathy Walton**

THE FASTEST NUN IN THE WEST

Continued from previous newsletter

Sister Blandina's encounters with Old West outlaws later became the stuff of legend and were the subject of an episode of the CBS series Death Valley Days. The episode, called *The Fastest Nun in the West*, focused on her efforts to save a man from a lynch mob.

According to one story, she received a tip that Billy the Kid was coming to her town to scalp the four doctors who had refused to treat his friend's gunshot wound. Sister Blandina nursed the friend to health, and when Billy came to Trinidad, Colorado to thank her she asked him to abandon his violent plan. He agreed.

Another story says that Billy the Kid and his gang attempted to rob the covered wagon in which she was travelling on the frontier. When he looked inside, he saw Sister Blandina. At that Billy the kid simply tipped his hat and rode off in deference to her safety and the debt he owed her.

Many of the tales were recorded in letters to her sister, and which were later published in a book entitled *At the End of the Santa Fe Trail*.

On August 25, 2015 supporters and researchers presented their case before the Archdiocese of Santa Fe at a ceremonial "first inquiry" in Albuquerque on why Sister Blandina should become a saint. The public inquiry, headed by the former Archbishop of Santa Fe, was aimed at determining if there was enough evidence to move her case through the largely secret process through the Vatican.

Editor's Note: Traditionally, the contributors (and me) take a respite from publishing a newsletter to further enjoy the holydays. There will be no newsletter in January.

SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

