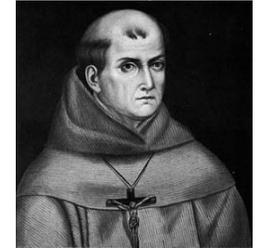




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



March, 2019

Region 11

District 127

Charter 438

Newsletter

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

FUTURE EVENTS

Mar 7 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Eymard Flood

Mar 9 - Day of Recollection, St. Joseph Center,
8:30 - 1:15

Apr 4 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Gerald Horan

April 7 - St. John Seminary Visit

May 2 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Brandon Dang

June 6 - Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD

June 19 - 23 - Serra's 77th International Convention
Mexico City

June 22 - Transitional Deacon Ordination, St.
Columbans, 10:00

July 11 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Deacon Omar
Uriarte

July 17 - Dedication of Christ Cathedral

July 27 - Priesthood Ordination, Christ Cathedral
At 10:00

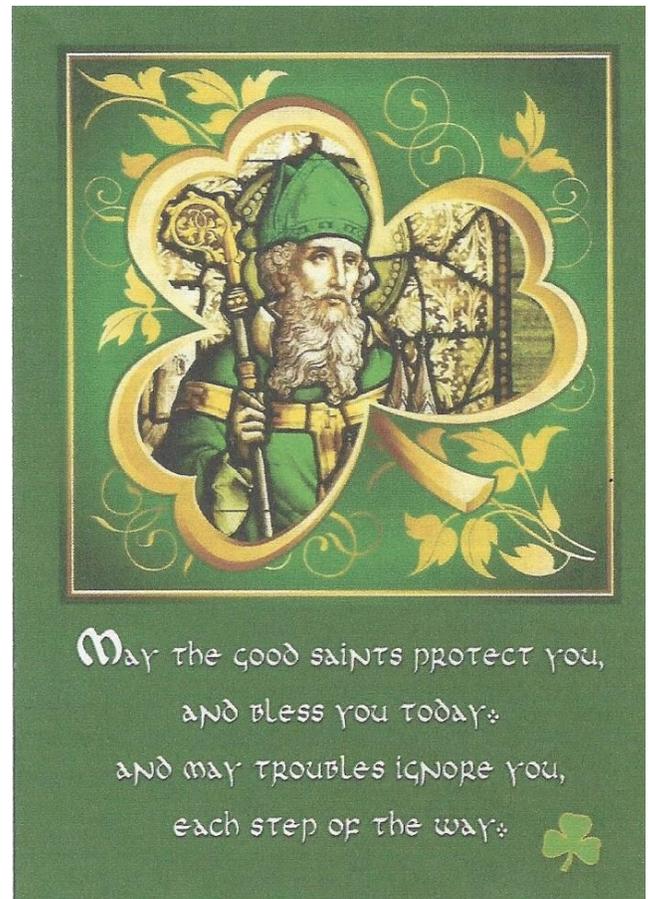
Aug 1 - Club Meeting, Speaker : Sr. Nadine
McGinnis, Part 1-Pope Francis 1

Sept 5 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Sr. Nadine
McGinnis, Part 2-Pope Francis 1

Oct 3 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Msgr. John Urell

Nov 7 - Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD

Dec 5 - Christmas Luncheon



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, Fellow Serrans,
On Friday, February 15th, I met with
Fr. Money Penny and three members
of the City Club at Christ Cathedral.
We discussed ways to increase our
membership. Fr. Money Penny

suggested that we each contact our seminarian and
ask them if their parents or other family members
would like to join Serra. If we get names from our
seminarians, we can contact their family members

and invite them to a meeting. Fr. Money Penny thinks
that family members of seminarians are already
supportive of those in the seminary. Let's give this a
try and see if we can increase our membership.

Sandy Micheletti, President

SPEAKERS

Our speaker on February 7 was deacon Bill Weeks.
Bright light came out of the garage. God gave us
light. Sin keeps us in darkness, not able to find the
light. The light of god gives us Joy. The light is my
salvation. Ship exploded in San Pedro in 1982, the
fear from total darkness, they had no flashlight,
candles, etc. God awakens them.

Angel of GOD MY GUARDIAN DEAR
When we live in fear it turns to depression, I am the light of the world says the Lord whom shall I fear.

Every gift is from above. In 2003 the Lord gave me my wife, His light is my wife. In 2008 our son was born to light up our life. Picture a man 100 years old, still practicing as a deacon Gerdard. God has given me a gift to share. He takes communion to over a hundred people a day. Always on the go living the Gospel every day. God knows no limits. We endure pain, sadness and lose, God says I will make it good. Do you know who gave you your light?



Bill Weeks

Maureen Kosinski

FINDING GOD IN OUR EVERY DAY LIFE

During the weekend in February, I attended the "Be not Anxious" Retreat at Mater Dolorosa Retreat House in Serra Madre, CA. Our speakers were outstanding. I managed to take some notes, and thought you might enjoy pondering over the messages. Hopefully, I will include the notes each month.

How often do we really find God in our everyday life? Yes, we pray, attend Mass, say our devotion to Mary with the Rosary. Take a few minutes to digest some of the following thoughts shared at the retreat. God is the DOCTOR in our souls.

God is within us manifest in our bodies, and present in our souls. He is our friend and always ready to help. He is in the sun, our food, our trees, our flowers, and if you really think about it, He is everywhere. We must first find ourselves, and only then do we find God.

What is my Christian identity? Identity is the fact of being who we are or what a person or thing is. What is our essence? Essence is the intrinsic nature that determines the character we possess. We are created in the image of God. God is in us. "I am always with you," Mathew 28:20. What can I do better to analyze myself?

If we have experienced love in our lives, we have experienced God. God is the experience of Love. Are we spreading God's love to others? How willing

Are we able to make sacrifices for the love of God? Think about each sentence, and the many ways we can apply these thoughts into our everyday lives. Regretfully, I failed to capture the name of the priest who gave this talk. I believe he was the director of the retreat House.

Virginia Mort

THANK YOU TO FATHER BRUCE

February 15, 2019

Dear Father Bruce,
Warren Kato informed our board that because your day off has been changed to Thursday, that you will not be able to service our Serra Club as our esteemed Chaplain.

On behalf of our Serra Club members, we want to thank you for the time that you "graced" our club by celebrating Mass so faithfully and by inspiring us with your many thought-provoking homilies.

We ask for your consideration to permit us to utilize St. Norbert's church and lunch room until we have found another willing Pastor to serve as our chaplain and to use his current parish for our meetings.

Father, please know how much we have loved and appreciated the time you spent with us as our much "loved" chaplain. Please accept our gift (\$100.00) check in appreciation for your dedication to our Serra Club.

In God's love,
Serra County Club
Virginia Mort

SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH Joan Golding

SERRA INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES - NASHVILLE JULY 1, 2018

1 PRIORITY FOR SERRA INTERNATIONAL IN 2018/2019

Membership is e-v-e-r-y-b-o-d-y-'s business!!

Dear fellow Serra Leaders, I would like to share with you my #1 focus as, God willing, President of Serra International commencing July 1st, and that is **"MEMBERSHIP IS E-V-E-R-Y-B-O-D-Y-'S BUSINESS"**. This saying is not new. We have heard it many times in the past and it emphasizes the importance of everyone being actively involved in promoting membership in Serra – and not just the VP of Membership.

I have chosen this focus because SI has an amazing 83 year history of worthy vocation programs and activities including prayer services, and is quite relevant to our Church across the globe, however, for these and other worthy vocation programs, activities and prayers to continue, we need to continuously work at increasing membership. **Why? Because a Club may have the best vocation activities and the best programs, but if the Club is not successful in membership, it will die one day. We cannot allow that to happen!**

To be successful in significantly increasing membership in 2018 and 2019, we will need to have every Serran at all levels to make a concerted effort and remain focused on membership in the coming year. Accordingly, for my term as President of SI, and as the opportunity arises, I will be asking:

- a) **Every Serran to bring in one new member in 2018, and again in 2019**
 - i) If every Serran is successful in this, SI will quadruple its size in 2019
- b) **Every District to bring in one new Serra Club in 2018, and again in 2019**
- c) **Simply put, let us ALL make a concerted effort for one year at increasing membership.** Why? Because if Clubs are successful, then Serra will be successful. Serra's success therefore depends entirely on each Club's success in increasing membership.

How can each Serran find one new member? Here's some helpful suggestions:

- a) Firstly, consider your spouse, siblings, children, relatives and friends, and invite them to join Serra. Serra has helped each of us to grow in our Catholic Faith, and it therefore follows that we would want to have our loved ones and good friends in Serra as well.
- b) If no relatives or friends can be found who are interested in Serra, then the next best place is your Pastor. Invite him to a Serra meeting as a Guest Speaker and ask him for referrals. Ask him also for permission to invite daily communicants to a Serra information meeting after morning Mass, or start a new Club 31.
- c) If the Pastor does not have any referrals for you, look at the volunteers in your parish, namely, ushers, lectors, ministers, etc., people who have a deep appreciation for the priesthood.
- d) If no parishioner can be found, then ask your priest friends or seminarians for referrals, especially family and extended family members of priests and seminarians for they are good prospects for Serra.
- e) Serra Clubs in the USA have had excellent results by devoting at least 1 Serra meeting each year to promote Serra membership by inviting prospective members attend to hear a presentation on Serra along with the testimony of Serrans, the Club Chaplain and/or Vocation Director and/or Bishop.

Why should we increase members in Serra? I can immediately think of 4 compelling reasons:

- 1) **To strengthen Serra** and thus ensure that Serra's noble apostolate in fostering and promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life will continue.
- 2) Serra has strengthened our own Catholic Faith, and so **we should be very eager to want our loved ones and good friends to experience the same peace that Serra has brought to us.**
- 3) **We need more priests to ensure that our grandkids and great grandkids will have the sacraments available to them.** In the Archdiocese of Toronto, it is estimated that 180 priests will retire by 2028 – will we have 180 ordinations by 2028? Our average has been only 4 per year since 2008. Where will the other 140 come from?
- 4) **We need more prayers to the Lord of the Harvest to bring laborers to the Harvest!**

Lastly, recruiting new members is a challenge. If you need inspiration, look no further than our own patron, St. Junipero Serra, whose travails show us what prayer, faith and sacrifice can achieve. But before you try to recruit another new member, do this:

- There are plenty of potential members waiting to be asked but how do you do it? What will you say to them about Serra? Are you really clear on what our Serra mission is, what our Serra Club does, and what is attractive about belonging to Serra International, the only lay organization that is aggregated to the Holy See? Here is an exercise for you to complete before you try to recruit a new member. Ask yourself the following questions, and write the answers down:
 - Why am I Serran? What convinced me to join?
 - In your own words, what is Serra's mission?
 - Why do I personally believe in this mission?
 - How many years have I been a Serran? What keeps me in Serra and working for vocations?
 - Name three blessings that you have received as a part of your membership to Serra.
 - Name three activities conducted by our club that fulfill Serra's mission.
 - How would you feel if Churches in your local community including your Parish, need to be shut down because there is a shortage of priests?
 - How important is it to you to pass on your Catholic Faith to your grandkids, and that the sacraments be readily available to them?
 - Name three reasons why the Church needs Serra.
 - How would you feel if you went to Sunday Mass to find that there is no priest?

Finally, think about the person that you want to invite to join our Serra Club. What about this special person made you think that he or she would find membership in Serra fulfilling? What qualities does this person possess that could make him or her a valuable member of our Serra Club?

I look forward to working with you on this membership campaign in the coming year! Please use the attached flyer and membership application in your efforts to attract one new member for your Club, and for Serra.

Together, we can do it! All it takes is for every Serran to recruit 1 new member in 2018!

Mary, Mother of Vocations, pray for us! St. Junipero Serra, pray for us!

Mario Biscardi, President, Serra International 2018/2019

Visit our websites at www.serrainternational.org , www.serraus.org , www.serracanada.com , www.serraspark.org