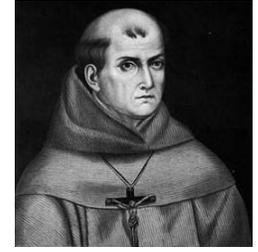




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



April, 2019

Region 11

District 127

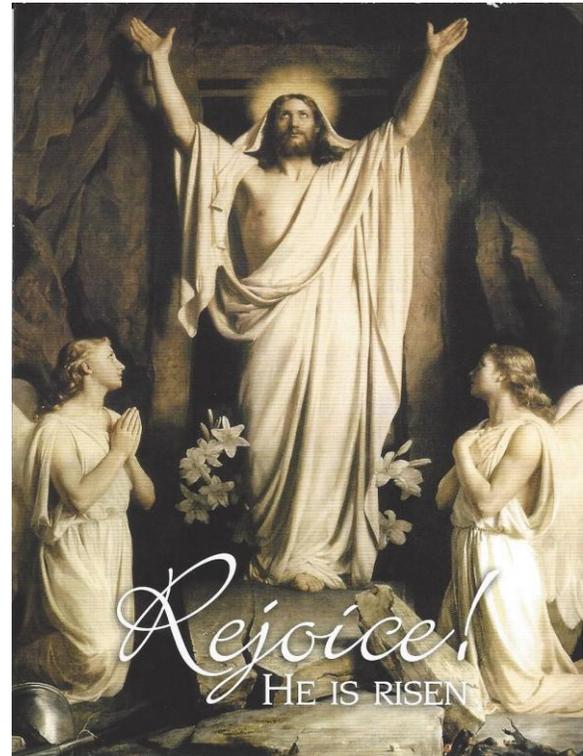
Charter 438

Newsletter

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

FUTURE EVENTS

- April 4 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Gerald Horan
- April 7 - **St. John Seminary Visit**
- May 2 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Brandon Dang
- May 12 - **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**
- 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
- Sept 9 - **Msgr. Sammon Memorial Golf Outing**
- Oct 3 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Msgr. John Urell
- Nov 7 - Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD
- Dec 5 - **Christmas Luncheon**



Dick will take care of sending a check for those members who have signed up for the trip. On another note, if you would like to join a Catholic group that prays the rosary for vocations. This is an international group and anyone is welcome to join. They pray the rosary on the last Saturday of the month at 9:00 a. m. EST. Call 312-757-3119 or join online at serrainternational.org.

Sandy Micheletti, President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Fellow Serrans,
I hope that many of you are planning to go on the bus trip to St John's Seminary on April 7th. We are to meet at the CSJ Mother House at 8:15 a.m. for a continental breakfast. At the seminary, we will be given a tour of the campus followed by Mass at 11:00 in the chapel. The cost for Serra members is \$25. If you haven't yet signed up, please contact Dick Peters to do so.

VOCATION REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for February, donated by Sandy and Frank Micheletti, is David Hoang. David is studying at Bishop White Seminary

in Spokane, WA. In March, the gift card, donated by Pat Manzo, was sent to Michael Hollihan. Michael is studying at Mt. Angel Seminary in Oregon.

SEMINARIAN NEWS: Except for the seminarians in their Pastoral Year, the seminarians are all studying at their respective seminary. The club received a very nice note from David Hoang. David is at Bishop White seminary in Spokane, WA. David commented that it is cold in Washington but he was filled with the warmth and kindness of our prayers. David prays for all of our club members and their families.

I also want to extend my appreciation to our club members for all the Masses and prayers offered for me during my recovery from hip surgery.

Please continue to pray for all the seminarians and young men discerning the priesthood. The next priesthood discernment meeting will be at Christ Cathedral at April 10, 2019 at 6:00 p. m., Pastoral Center, first floor, 1D, Christ Cathedral Campus. Any questions regarding discernment, please contact Fr. John Moneypenny, Director of Vocations at 714-282-3036 or fr.jmoneypenny@rcbo.org. Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of Perpetual Adoration.

VOCATION PRAYER: God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that you inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and the consecrated life to courageously follow your will. Send workers into your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and your people are strengthened by the sacraments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Mary Brockschmidt
Vocations

SPEAKER

Sr. Eymard Flood graced the Serra Club as our guest speaker this March 7, 2019. She described her present status by saying that her situation has changed. She has been two years out of a position. She did plan to work two more years before retiring and would like to do so.

Sr. Eymard centered her talk to our Serra Club based on the apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, which means "Rejoice and be glad."

Pope Francis desired to repropose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities.

We are all called to holiness, not just the bishops and priests but all the people. Saints are our models as they lead us away from sin. We are to emulate them. Saints Perpetua and Felicity, mentioned in today's

Mass, were two women who lived in North Africa. St. Perpetua was remembered because of her teachings with small children. Perpetua adamantly refused to give up her faith and was beheaded because of it. St. Felicity, her companion and handmaid,



Sr. Eymard Flood

was also a member of the early Church in 203. Because she was a Christian she was to be executed under Roman law but was pregnant and could not be executed. But, three days later after she gave birth, she was beheaded.

When you read the lives of the saints, there are different ways of responding. You don't have to die to be a saint or do extraordinary things. But you can be like a saint in everyday life. In your lives you may already be working extra hard for a cause. You may be working for the Church without thinking of getting credit for it. You may be doing fish fries or whatever else you do for the Church. But you must give yourselves an opportunity to be a saint. Do this extraordinarily well and you are on the path.

Who are the saints that you pray to? The nephew of St. Patrick, St. Mel of Armagh, was a bishop who consecrated Bridget to a power the equivalent to a bishop by making her the abbess of a convent. But because she oversaw many convents she actually had more power than the bishop because the religious order could actually own land. In addition, she was also a spiritual leader in Ireland which also gave her more power. Now in Ireland there is a spirituality center left by her.

For Lent, we all make promises but things may not work out the way we plan. But, we can do something more challenging than giving up something by doing something positive. Just try each day or each week. You don't have to do it for 40 days. Sr. Eymard gave us an example of a mother who wrote a letter each week to her son. Eventually she met up with her son who said "Mom, please don't write any more letters because I can't read them." But the poor kid could never read her handwriting because they don't teach cursive writing any more.

We are all called to holiness. How holy are you? What makes you special to your family, your community, etc. What makes you a good person?

During the 1970's after Vatican II, there were contradictory statements.

First, we are asked to go back to our Christian sources and the founders of our Church. However, at the same time, we are to look to the present and the signs of our times to find out our needs. We are all called to live life in religious ways. We are obligated to take up our cross and follow Jesus. We heard this at Mass this morning. What is your cross today? What tears at your heart? What prevents you from being happy all the time?

Pope Francis calls the beatitudes the identity cards of the Christians. What are we called to do? All of our vocations are a ministry for our brothers and sisters. Communicate with them. Call them, text them. Take up our crosses and follow across the desert, through the water and do what we are called to do.

Warren Kato

MOTHER DOLOROSA WOMEN'S RETREAT

St. Augustine said, "Pray as you can, not as you cannot. There are two official prayers of the Church: the Mass and the Brevary. The rosary is a devotion. Praying is a necessary part of our lives. Luke 10:38, he tells the story of Martha and Mary. Martha is anxious and worried about many things. Mary has chosen the better part, sitting and listening to Jesus. Martha and Mary complement each other. We need to both a Martha and a Mary.

Jesus went to the mountains to pray. When we pray we are ascending the mountain as Jesus did. No one is generic to God. Jesus goes to the community to evangelize. Prayer gives us hope. It deepens our relationship with God. We cannot know God unless we know forgiveness and love. When we attend Mass we are praying in community. God waits for us to open the door for Him. We have a need to connect with God. It reminds us of who we are.

I am an image of God. We are the essence of God our Being. I deserve to be treated with dignity and worthy of respect. Respect for human life is essential. If we know who we are, we can then move into community. We learn how to love. We are the sons and daughters of God in community. We need to be in community. We should not be so wrapped up with ourselves that we can't see what others need. We are to go out and help somebody. We need to go out and heal the world. We transform our pain by love. It is necessary to do good for others.

In ministry, Jesus is out there, and it is the people who are touching Him. We need to remember: I am

unique and the world needs me right now. We are here by design. Everything here has been ordered. The world needs me to be here right now. Each of us is God's gift to the world Now is the time to build up the body of Christ. The peace of God surpasses all understanding. We need to understand our essence.

Virginia Mort

FROM THE VATICAN

There are more than 1.3 billion baptized Catholics in the world, making up 17.7% of the global population, according to the latest Vatican statistics. The *Annuarium Statisticum Ecclesiae*, a yearbook released in Rome on March 6, showed the number of Catholics growing more rapidly than the overall population in Africa and Asia. In the Americas the Catholic population is growing but not as quickly as the overall figure. In Europe the number of Catholics remained essentially unchanged from the previous year.

The yearbook showed a decline in the number of candidates for the priesthood worldwide. Again the Figures for Africa and Asia were more promising, while in the Americas and especially in Europe declined.

The figures in the *Annuarium* reflect reports from 2017, the last year for which full statistics are available.

THIS MONTH'S CHUCKLE

Bible Lessons

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

INCENSE: Holy Smoke!

MAGI: The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

PROCESSIONAL: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of Mass, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats

RECESSIONAL: The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of Mass, led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot.

SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL Warren Kato