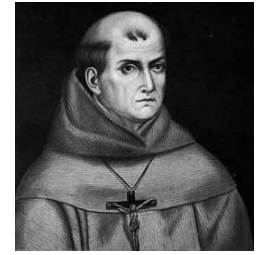




# SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



June, 2019

Region 11

District 79

Charter 438

Newsletter

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

## FUTURE EVENTS

- June 6 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Deacon Uriarte
- June 19 - 23 - Serra's 77th International Convention  
Mexico City
- June 22 - Transitional Deacon Ordination,  
St. Columbans, 10:00am
- July 4 - NO CLUB MEETING
- July 17 - Dedication of Christ Cathedral
- July 27 - Priesthood Ordination, Christ Cathedral  
At 10:00AM
- 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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

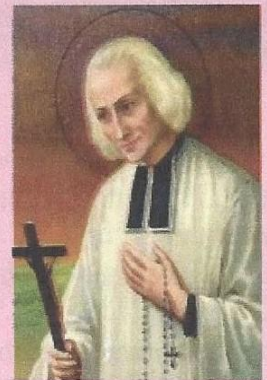


Hello Fellow Serrans,  
I hope that everyone received my notice about our June 6th meeting. we will celebrate Mass at St. Cecelia's at 12:15 pm and then go to the Citrus Café for lunch. Please let Sue Silvestri know if you are going to attend. Her phone number is 714-544-0469. Your choices are pot roast, stuffed chicken or tilapia. I hope to see everyone on the 6th.  
**Lector Schedule:** June 6: Virginia Mort, August 1: TBD, September 5: TBD, October 3: Pat Manzo, November 7: TBD, December 5: Virginia Mort. As you can see, we need readers for August, September, And November. Please consider being a reader at Mass.

Sandy Micheletti, President

## A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God our Father, You promised "I will appoint shepherds for My Sheep who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble: and none shall be missing. Hear the prayers of Your flock. Through the intercession of your beloved priest, St. John Vianney, we beg You to call to the sacramental priesthood generous men who will desire nothing more than to serve You in imitation of Your Son, Our Lord



Fr. John Vianney

Jesus Christ, Our High Priest. And after You call them, we pray that You sustain the doubtful, console the discouraged, strengthen the weak as they start the long and demanding preparation for the priesthood. Amen

## VOCATION REPORT



Dur seminarian who received the gift card for June, donated by Mary Brockschmidt, is Simon Li. Simon is from St. Norbert's parish and is in Theology 1 at St. John's Seminary.

**SEMINARIANS:** On June 22nd, three seminarians will be ordained transitional deacons. The three deacons are, Nam Doan, Jake Mackowicz, Mike Rizzo. On July 27th, at our newly dedicated Christ Cathedral, six seminarians will be ordained priests. The six to be ordained are, Scott Allen, Michael Duc Nguyen, Erialdoi Ramirez, Daniel Seo, Joseph Squillaciotti, and Martin Vu.

The seminarians will be leaving their seminary for their summer assignments. If you would like to contact your seminarian during the summer, send the mail to the vocations office at Christ Cathedral, they will forward it for you. Christ Cathedral, 13280 Chapman Ave. Garden grove, CA 92740.

Please continue to pray for all the seminarians and young men discerning the priesthood. The next priesthood discernment meeting will be at Christ Cathedral on June 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., Pastoral Center, First Floor, Room 1D, Christ Cathedral Campus. Any questions regarding, discernment, please contact Father John Money Penny,

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:** Loving God, You gift us with your Son, Jesus. At His baptism, you affirmed Him as Your beloved Son. Jesus responded by proclaiming the good news about your reign. Gift us all with generous hearts to further your reign here on earth. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen



Nam Doan



Jake Mackowicz



Mike Rizzo

Mary Brockschmidt  
Vocations

**SPEAKER**

Deacon Bill Weeks, speaker at our May Serra Club meeting, related his personal touching story of his devotion to our Blessed Mother and how he met his beautiful wife Carrie. He intertwined his story relating it to Mother's Day, the Blessed Mother, his Mama Mia, and his wife, Carrie.

His story began on Mother's day, May 13, 1965, the day of the Blessed Mother's appearance at Fatima, and the day Deacon Bill arrived in this world. The senior Weeks family was already blessed with four daughters. His father owned a gas



Bill Weeks

station, and was so certain that God was sending them another girl that when the doctor called him and said that William Joseph Anthony Michael Weeks was born, his father could not believe that the family was finally blessed with a son. What a happy day for the family! The priest came to the hospital and baptized Bill the day he was born. May is Mary's month, and Bill proudly responded in gratitude for his Mama Mia.

On his 38th birthday, Carrie, a devoted catholic, asked him out for their first date. She brought along a statue of the Blessed mother to join them, and asked that they say the Rosary together as they drove to their destination. As the evening progressed, a rainbow appeared and Bill quickly decided that he wanted to take a picture of Carrie against the backdrop of the beautiful rainbow. That first date led soon to their marriage three months later.

For their honeymoon they made a pilgrimage to Fatima, walked the Compostella and then went on to Lourdes where it happened to be pouring rain. As the huge procession began, the statue of Mary came through, the rain stopped and a rainbow appeared. After the celebration, it started to pour rain once again. His Mama Mia kept her celebration dry with no rain.

Eager to start a family without success for five years, Bill and Carrie prayed a novena to the Blessed mother asking for a child. They went to Maui for a vacation, and their prayers were answered. Carrie gave birth to Brendan Michael Weeks on July 9, 2008. In thanksgiving, Bill and Carrie prayed the rosary every day. He treasures a particular statue of the Blessed Mother that he brought along to show us. He doesn't recall who gave it to him as a gift, but he handles it with care.

On October 28, 2017, Bill was asked to become a deacon, and what a special day it was when he was ordained as Deacon Bill Weeks. Bill is a Deacon at St. Cecilia Church in Tustin, CA.

The entire presentation of his story was filled with joy and enthusiasm for his love and devotion to the Blessed Mother, his Mama Mia. Our Serra Club members were deeply touched to witness his joy and to experience his message of love, prayer and thanksgiving to his Mama Mia, The Blessed Mother of Jesus.

Virginia Mort

## **RESCUING VOCATIONS THROUGH the LABOURE SOCIETY**

After three years of teaching junior high school, Bill Duffert answered a call to the priesthood. He was cleared for acceptance into the seminary, except for one problem - he owed well over \$35,000 in student loans, the threshold amount that his Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis is willing to take on.

Duffert estimated that it could take 10 years or more on a teacher's salary to whittle his debt down enough to start seminary. "I felt it would have been impossible unless I won the lottery," he said.

Yet, after only two years, thanks to the Laboure Society's coaching on fundraising, Duffert entered the St Paul Seminary at the University of St. Thomas. He credits that experience with also strengthening his vocation. "I met so many people who pray for vocations and want good and holy religious," Duffert said. "I was blown away by people's generosity and their generosity and their desire to build up the Church."

At a time when the Catholic Church in the U.S. is experiencing a shortage of vocations, it is a sad irony that 42% of qualified men and women are turned away. High student loan debts are often more than many communities and dioceses can take on. A "Survey for the National Religious Vocation Conference" found an average of more than \$28,000 in debt among serious inquires.

### **Laboure Finds a Way**

Founded in 2001 by Minnesota businessman Cy Laurent and his wife, Evelyn, The Laboure Society - whose patron is the Marian visionary St. Catherine Laboure - is a non-profit organization the helps aspirants fundraise in order to pay down their loans so that they can enter the priesthood, convent or friary.

Since its founding, Laboure has helped 268 men and women with an average of \$60,000 in student debt.

Aspirants attend an intensive four-day "boot camp" at the Eagan, Minnesota, headquarters to learn the basics of fundraising and biblically based philanthropy. They actually become part of a six-month class in which donations go to the entire class, not individuals. Aspirants do get credit, however, for donations toward their individual goal, which Laboure uses in calculating the grand award to the aspirant.

As long as they are still in need, aspirants can continue in the next six-month class. Follow-up

video conferences, weekly phone calls and visits with accountability partners who give them ongoing support afterward are included.

Frank Moore, a businessman living in St. Louis, Missouri, grew up Protestant in the Bible Belt of the South but converted to Catholicism through his wife Nancy's influence. In 2011, he considered how God had blessed him abundantly and wanted to give back. As a Vietnam veteran and one who likes to fight for causes, he prayed: "Father, put me in a battle for your Church. And put me in the tip of a spear in a fight that I will not screw up, to help your kingdom advance on earth."

A few months later, when Moore heard about Laboure on EWTN radio, he knew that was his cause. "I was shocked that the problem (student debt) was as big as it is and that the Church didn't have better solutions for it," he said. "I liked how Laboure worked with people who were already accepted by their dioceses and their only obstacle was debt."

Due to the high cost of education in this country, Moore said it's a problem that is only getting worse.

"You go to most abbots and bishops with \$100,000 in debt, and they can't help," he said. The interest rate alone is \$6000 a year. It often means putting off a vocation for 10, 15 and more years, and we may end up losing that vocation."

Moore explained that fundraising frightens many people, but he teaches aspirants to share their vocation stories.

He has served on the Laboure board and also as an accountability partner, which involves coaching and encouraging aspirants through once-a-week phone calls. They come to benefactors." He has helped many aspirants as an accountability partner, including two women who successfully fundraised to pay off \$200,000 in loans.

"Many Catholics have spent hours on their knees praying for vocations," he said. "So it's quite inspiring to have a hands-on role helping a terrific man or woman advance toward entering formation."

"Next to being a father and husband, this is the most satisfying thing I have ever done," he said.

*To be continued*

## **SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE**

**June Craig     Rose Kato**

**Sr. Nadine McGuinness, CSJ**