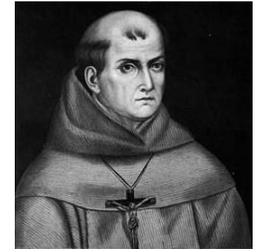




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



November, 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

Nov 3-9 National Vocations Awareness Week
Nov 7 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Daniel Seo
Dec 5 - Christmas Luncheon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



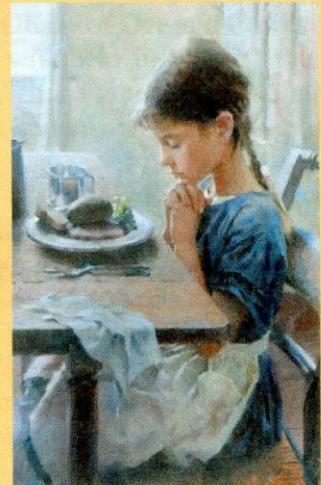
Dear Serra friends,
What a gift it was to attend and celebrate the 160th anniversary of the Apparition Site at the National Shrine of Our lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin the week of October 6-9. Silvia and George

Uriarte went with me and Cheri Maggiano. Both the weather and the planned agenda were perfect. Although this was the celebration of the 160th Apparition of the Blessed Mother in the United States, the site has only been approved by the Vatican in 2010. The Vatican moves very slowly and needs to be absolutely certain that all details and evidence have been checked, rechecked and certified to be authentic.

The Blessed Mother appeared to Adele Brise, a 24 year old Belgium immigrant three times. On the third apparition, Mary identified herself as the Queen of Heaven, and asked her to pray for the conversion of sinners, frequent the sacraments, and to teach the children what they needed to know for salvation. Until her dying breath, this is what Adele did. After going door to door, she founded a third order of sisters and started a boarding school. She relied on the providence of God during her life, and saw miracles happen with her own eyes, such was the case of the Peshtigo fire that devastated the area

THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER

O Gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat and especially for this feast today. Thank you for our home and family and friends. Thank you for our health, our work and our play. Please send help to those who are sick hungry, alone, and suffer war and violence. Open our hearts to your love. We ask your blessing through Christ your son. Amen



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

surrounding the shrine, but Mary's prayer and the power of God spared sanctuary commemorating Mary's apparition.

Today, Catholics from around the world visit the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help and pray to receive special graces. They sense the maternal presence of Mary and receive comfort and peace from her prayers. It is an awesome sight to see the hundreds of wooden crutches encased under glass from people who were healed at the Shrine. I am confident and Sylvia joins with me in inviting you to visit this Shrine. During Mass, those of us that received Holy Communion knelt at the altar railing and received the Host on our tongues. It was a very touching experience from decades ago.

Save the date, December 5, 2019, is the date for our annual Christmas Mass at St. John Maron Church and Holiday Luncheon. The holiday party will take place at Grand Catered Events in the Garden Room following the Mass. Tickets will be printed and distributed at our November meeting. Please make

every effort to attend. November brings us Thanksgiving Day, a special day, to enjoy a delicious meal with family and friends and to thank God for our bountiful blessings. The emphasis is not on giving or buying but on being thankful and expressing that appreciation to God and to one another. May we all enjoy a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

In God's Love
Virginia Mort, President

VOCATION REPORT



The seminarian who received the gift card for November, donated by Madrienne Peters, is Vincent Nguyen. Vincent is from Blessed Sacrament Parish and is in his Pastoral Year at Santa Clara de Asis Parish in Yorba Linda.



Vincent Nguyen

SEMINARIANS: There are five Seminarians in their Pastoral Year. Since they're not at their respective Seminary, they will be invited to our Christmas luncheon next month. This is a special opportunity to meet the seminarians. Fr. Brandon Dang, Director Vocations, reported that the discernment went well

last month. Father has been busy visiting the different seminaries. To introduce our new Director of Vocations, Father Dang, there is a Vocations Fair scheduled on Sunday Nov. 10th from 8:00a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Edwards the Confessor in Dana Point. There will be representatives from 15 Religious Orders attending

Please continue to pray for all the seminarians and young men discerning the priesthood. Any questions regarding discernment, please contact Father Brandon Dang at the Vocations Office at 714-282-3036 or bdang@rsbo.org. Discernment will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 9 Hillgate Irvine on November 5th and 26th, Holy Hour 7 p.m., gathering 8 p.m. Inquiries call 714-282-3046. 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

SPEAKER



Msgr. John Urell

As a new seminarian, Msgr John Urell wanted to work with the poor, so he went to Honduras to work with the Missionaries of Charity. But, God had other plans for him. He's now ordained as a priest in the Diocese of Orange for 41 years.

Msgr. John said he was much influenced by Pope John XXII's call to bring people back to the Church. We must accompany and respect those who have gone astray if we wish to see them return to the faith. We must not judge. He credits Msgr. John Sammon for saving his family and him many years ago.

A couple came to him after being married and out of the Church for fourteen years. They received an annulment and are once again in the fold. We must walk with people and do not judge if we are to bring people back to the faith. There is hope for the future in this regard. The Church is our friend.

Maureen Kosinski

FROM THE VATICAN

The following is from the National Catholic Register

The meeting for the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazonian region has approved a final document which calls for the ordination of married men as priests and for women to be considered for diaconal ordination.

The 33-page document, approved Oct 26, is the result of a three-week meeting in Rome. The synod's 181 voting members, together with representatives from indigenous communities, religious orders, lay groups and charities, discussed a range of issues concerning the region spread across nine countries.

One of the document's most anticipated and likely controversial items is the call by the synod fathers for the ordination of proven married men, so-called *veri probati*, in the face of an acute shortage of priests in many parts of the region.

"Many of the ecclesial communities of the Amazon territory have enormous difficulty in accessing the Eucharist," the document says, while noting that some communities go for months, even years, between visits from a priest.

The synod fathers said that they "appreciate celibacy as a gift of God to the extent that this gift enables the missionary discipline, ordained to the priesthood, to dedicate himself fully to the service of the Holy People of God." But, the bishops concluded, "legitimate diversity does not harm the communion and unity of the Church, but expresses and serves it." The document proposes "to establish criteria and dispositions on the part of the competent authority... to ordain as priests suitable and esteemed men of the community, who have had a fruitful permanent diaconate and receive an adequate formation for the priesthood, having a legitimately constituted and stable family, to sustain the life of the Christian community."

These criteria, together with each individual paragraph of the text, was approved by a two-thirds vote of the synod's voting members.

Speaking after the session ended, Cardinal Peter Turkson said that the voting process had proceeded smoothly and that all the articles of the document had passed by a comfortable margin.

Bishop Erwin Krautler, the retired head of the Xingu prelate in Amazonian Brazil, told reporters that the proposal for the ordination of married men was not a surprise.

"It is what we expected, of course," Krautler said. The article passed by a margin of 128-41.

Krautler has been an adamant proponent of married clergy, telling an Oct. 9 press conference that there is "no other option" for the region" and said that indigenous people in the Amazon were unable to understand the evangelical witness of celibacy.

Shortly before the synod opened, Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, published a book entitled *Friends of the Bridegroom: For a renewed vision of Priestly Celibacy*, and Cardinal Robert Sarah, head of the Congregation for Divine Worship, made several public interventions in favor of celibacy. Presenting the document at a press conference, Cardinal Michael Czerny, special secretary of the synod, said some members felt that proposing to change the discipline of clerical celibacy should be reserved to the universal Church. "Other felt that existing norms of canon law... allow us to consider this within the context of a specific region," said Czerny.

Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay and a close advisor to the Pope, said in an interview that he was in favor of the proposal, in as much as it represented a merely disciplinary change.

"I think that the present canon law says that it is an impediment if you have a wife to receive orders, but it is an impediment that can be dispensed by the Holy See - and it has been dispensed. But I think there should be very clear criteria, conditions put (on the proposal)," Gracias said, referencing how the Church had worked to incorporate married former Anglican ministers who had been ordained as Catholic priests.

The synod document also called for new and enhanced ministerial roles for women in the life of the Church in the region. Noting that "the Magisterium of the Church since the second Vatican Council has highlighted the central place that women occupy in the Church," the document called for the Church to recognize and promote (the leadership of women) by strengthening their participation in pastoral councils of parishes and dioceses, or even in instances of government."

The bishops also recognized that in the Amazon "the majority of Catholic communities are led by women," and asked "for the institution of a ministry for 'women's' leadership of the community' to be recognized within the service of the changing demands of evangelization and community care."

The bishops also noted that "in a large number of these consultations, the permanent diaconate for women was requested. For this reason the theme was important during the synod," the bishops wrote, but noted that Pope Francis had already created a commission to examine the question and so requested that they be given the chance to feed into that process.

In his speech to the closing session of the synod, Pope Francis said that he would consider reconstituting the commission, which he established in 2016 under the auspices of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, to examine the historical role of female deacons and expand the commission to include new members.

Earlier this year, the Pope addressed the issue directly, noting that "the formulas of female deacons' ordination found until now, according to the commission, are not the same for the ordination of male deacon and are more similar to what today would be abbatial blessing of an abbess."

Pope Francis said that he hoped to issue an exhortation before the end of the year.