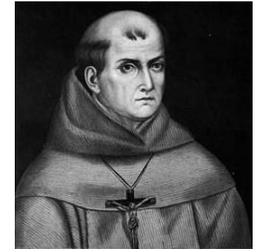




# SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



September 2020

Region 11

District 79

Charter 438

Newsletter

## FUTURE EVENTS

Sep 3 – Club Meeting via Zoom - Deacon Bill Weeks

Sep 27 – Priesthood Sunday

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Back to school

Whether homeschooling, distance learning or in person classes, it's back to school across the country.

Five of my six grandchildren are of school age. As they begin another year of their formal education in subjects such as English, Math and History, I need to continue teaching and sharing various aspects of our Catholic faith and tradition with them. Even if some of my grandchildren attend Catholic school, they can still benefit from my reinforcing of the Catholic faith.

So many of my plans involved in person gatherings such as a May Crowning or an All Saints parade. I was so glad that I got my Three kings/Epiphany/my birthday celebration in before this coronavirus hit. We wore crowns, gave gifts to the baby Jesus, sang "We Three Kings", wrote our house blessing on the door lintel and looked for the baby Jesus while eating Kings' cake.

So this year isn't a total loss. But I need to get back on the ball. I need to rethink how to share the faith with them because in person plans may not be possible for quite some time.

We have only so much time to pass on the faith to our children and grandchildren. It is our duty to do all we can, while we can, so that we can dance with them in heaven.

Priesthood Sunday

September 27 is Priesthood Sunday. Our parish priests have been dealing with a lot, trying to find solutions to follow health guidelines while making sure we can worship. I like what Archbishop Cordileone did in San Francisco. Gatherings were limited to 12 people. He got creative and multiplied the Masses, making use of the large plaza in front of the Cathedral. First, he had 5 Masses of 12 people each occurring simultaneously. The next week he increased that to 12 Masses of 12 people each, all wearing masks and social distancing.

So on this Priesthood Sunday, maybe we can't do what we usually do as to any in person larger celebrations that we might have had in the past to honor our priests. We can, however, be sure to show our appreciation for their efforts in providing the sacraments to us during this difficult time by giving them a card or saying a word of thanks after Mass.

In God's Love,  
Catherine Walton, President

## SPEAKER



Our speaker for our August Zoom Meeting was Judy Cozzens, currently serving as Past President of the U.S. Council of Serra International. She and other members of the Serra Leadership team have offered to do talks for Serra Clubs throughout the country.

We've all noticed how Serra has improved in recent years in what they are providing for all of us and Judy Cozzens has been a big part of this.

She has been a Serran for 19 years. She was awarded Outstanding Serran in her District. She helped build the College Connection and helped facilitate the transition of that to what is now the Newman Connection which connects young Catholics to their Catholic Campus Ministry. She's done extensive work with vocations programs and helped develop the Serra Spark program. She is working on the new Serran program to train Parish Vocations Ministries and is working on new club development.

The first part of her talk dealt with how Serra is building a stronger church through our dues.

The \$100/yr in dues that we pay goes primarily to four programs: Serra SPARK, Parish Vocation Training Programs, the Seven Serran Prayer Project and building a better partnership with FOCUS.

Serra SPARK: Vocation Directors do not have a lot of time and support staff. Serra SPARK provides them with a program that they don't have to create and that they can modify if they want to. Examples include Adopt a Seminarian, 31 Club, Traveling Crucifix and/or Chalice, Priesthood Sunday and Holy Hours. These resources are available to our clubs, of course, to implement in the parishes in our Diocese. Resources are now available in Spanish, too.

Parish Vocations Ministries: NCDVD – the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors – asked Serra to train people to start Parish Vocation Ministries. This program is starting to be implemented throughout the country. Several people from 8-10 parishes would be trained at one time. The Diocese would provide the location. Serra would send someone to train them. Virtual training sessions are occurring now. After the training, the parish is assigned a Serran mentor who will answer questions and encourage them. Those parishes that have had many vocations spring up from them are a result of developing a culture of vocations. They talk about it, pray about it, have presentation, etc. as a parish.

Seven Serrans Project: Priests are not trained to be Vocation Directors. There is a high turnover in the position. There are 30% new directors each year. Knowing someone is praying for them encourages

them. A team of 7 from each Serra Club would pray for one hour, one day a week, for one year. Each of the seven would be assigned a day of the week to pray.

FOCUS: Fellowship of Catholic University Students. Ten percent of seminarians have been missionaries through FOCUS. Another 30% said they were influenced by FOCUS. 30,000 FOCUS alumni in our country serve the church in many ways. We should look to FOCUS to find future Serrans.

And so we should view our dues not as dues but as an investment in the future of the Church.

God has put this ministry in our hearts. This is the work the Lord has committed to us. Many Catholics say they are concerned that we need more religious vocations but what are they doing about it? As Serrans, we take action.

The second part of Judy's talk dealt with passing on the faith to our children and grandchildren.

Judy has 3 children, 9 grandchildren and one great grandbaby. She was a K-12 teacher in Colorado and received the Governor's Award for Excellence and was a finalist for Colorado Teacher of the Year. She directed the writing of 15 books including "Kids Explore America's Catholic Heritage" and "Teen Prayers by Teens."

As parents, grandparents and godparents we have a great chance to influence people and be an active agent in passing on the Catholic faith.

Judy offered Ten Parenting/Grandparenting Tips:

1. The way to the grandchildren's hearts is through the in-laws. Develop a good relationship so that they will tolerate us even if they disagree on some things.
2. Talk to other grandparents and ask what they do with their grandchildren so that you get good ideas to adopt.
3. Serve and smile. If I'm an old grump they won't want to be like Grandma. Be a happy person in their lives that they like. Help them. Serve, smile and have the kids serve with you.
4. Pray with your families. Talk to your kids about chastity and holiness for their marriage or their other

vocation in life. Judy says they share with her and ask her to pray for them.

5. Give specific compliments. An example makes a compliment meaningful. Share virtue stories. Judy recommended “Glen’s Story Corner” online.

6. Sacrifice and fasting. Doing the right thing is not always easy. Let them know how you’re handling your attitude when it is not always easy. Remind how Jesus died on the cross for us.

7. Be Pro life. Judy wears the Precious Feet pin. She tells her granddaughters, “If you or a friend are involved in a pregnancy you can come to me for help.” Check out “From Freak to Bishop” on the internet. It is the story of Bishop Cozzens, her son, and how her doctor wanted her to abort him.

8. Express your love for Jesus and the Church. They won’t just catch it. You have to plan little things to get in there. Tell them they have a choice. Teach them to evaluate what will bring them closer to God, what gives meaning to their life, and what are they going to be proud of in the future.

9. Vocations. Judy has two grandchildren in discernment. She says, “I do not want you all to be religious priests and nuns. I want you to take time to find out what God’s plan is for you. I want you to get to heaven and be holy.”

10. Build a relationship with your kids and grandkids. Talk about what they like. Get them off their phones. Do things that they want to do. Get them to interact with you. The goal is for us to dance together in heaven. Judy sends two letters a week during their freshmen year at college. She funds a faith trip for each grandchild. She decides what qualifies as a faith trip. It has to be something religious that will help them grow in their faith such as a visit to the Holy Land, a missionary trip to Puerto Rico or study in Rome.

Judy concluded with a St. Francis quote: “Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received...but only what you have given: a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage.”

She said, “I can share my Catholic faith and even in dying I pray that I will be a great witness to my

grandchildren that I’m going to dance with the Lord in Heaven and be waiting there for them.”

Catherine Walton

## VOCATIONS REPORT



Father Brandon Dang, Director of Vocations, reported that our Diocese of Orange is blessed to have four new seminarians. Our member, Joan Golding, signed up to take care of the Target gift card for September. She was very generous and donated enough to take care of four gift cards. As a welcome to the new seminarians, they will each receive a gift card this month. New seminarians: Oliver Coughlin from St. John the Baptist will be in Theology 1 at St. John’s Seminary. Zachary Fier from St. Timothy will be in Pre-Theology 1 also at St. John’s. Seth London from Holy Trinity will be in College 1 at Mt. Angel. John Huan Nguyen from Our Lady of La Vang will be in English Studies and Formation at Queen of Angels Center of Priestly Formation in Gardena.

This year five seminarians will be in their pastoral year. Ian Gaston, Mark Jung, Roberto Gutierrez, Simon Li and Benjamin Nguyen. This is a very important year in their journey to ordination. Please keep them in your prayers. I will send the information on their parish to members who have adopted them. If any club members are interested in adopting one of the new seminarians, contact me and I will give you the necessary information.

Father Brandon has had a busy summer working with the seminarians. This month they will be returning to their respective seminaries. Any questions regarding discernment, contact Father Brandon at 714-282-3036 or [bdang@rcbo.org](mailto:bdang@rcbo.org).

Vocation Prayer: Loving God, your son Jesus brought the light of the gospel to the world. Grace our Church with people of faith who carry that light in peace to the world as priests, deacons, religious, consecrated seculars, and lay ministers. Together may we live in service to others. Amen.

Mary Brockschmidt  
Vocations

## **GOODBYE**

This is my final newsletter. After 14 years of creating, publishing and distributing the monthly newsletter it is time to go.

Age and other issues prevent me from continuing to maintain the standards I set that resulted in 2 awards for excellence from Serra International. There would be other awards if I chose to participate in the competition. So, GOODBYE.

Thank you for your prayers and keep up the good work.