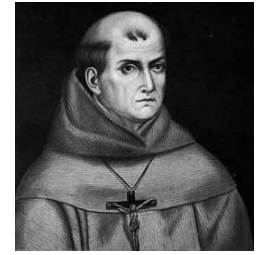




# SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



October 2020

Region 11

District 79

Charter 438

Newsletter

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

## FUTURE EVENTS

- Oct 1 - via Zoom - Speaker: Sister Nadine McGuinness, CSJ, **St. Therese of Lisieux**
- Nov 1-7 - **National Vocation Awareness Week**
- Nov 5 - Club Meeting
- Dec 3 - **Christmas Mass and Luncheon**  
St. John Maron - tentative

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Month of the Holy Rosary

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary. On October 7 we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Rosary. It commemorates the naval victory of the Holy League - Spain, Venice, and the Papal States - over the Ottomans at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571. It stopped the Ottoman Turks' expansion into Europe. Pope Pius V instituted the new feast day of Our Lady of Victory. It is now celebrated as Our Lady of the Rosary since the Pope had urged daily praying of the Rosary for victory.

On October 13 is the anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun, the culmination of Mary's visits to the children at Fatima where Our Lady asked us to pray the Rosary.



Today we are praying the Rosary for our own causes. There are several novenas for our nation now occurring across the country. Our own Serra Club has established a prayer team with each person praying an hour once a week for a year for our Vocation Director, Father Brandon. If you haven't signed up yet but you think you can make that kind of commitment, please do so. The Rosary is the perfect prayer to be a part of your hour.

We each have our own way of saying the Rosary. I use a different rosary for each set of

Mysteries - red for the Sorrowful, blue for the Joyful, gold for the Glorious and white for the Luminous. I usually pray along with various videos online. Some might use their First Communion rosary or one gifted upon receipt of another sacrament. We might pray with one passed down from our ancestors, one purchased at a Holy pilgrimage site or we might use a rosary that we handmade ourselves.

Hopefully, gone are the days when it was perceived that praying the Rosary was for little old ladies. Now the Rosary has taken its rightful place as a powerful spiritual weapon, which it has always been, of course.

In God's Love,  
Catherine Walton  
President

## **SPEAKER**



Our speaker on September 3 was Deacon Bill Weeks.

### Unexpected Surprises

Let us imagine how Jesus comes to us unexpectedly on any day. Today, He would be wearing blue gloves and a mask. That's what I have to do in order to suit up to do God's work because of my compromised immune system.

How can we ask the Holy Spirit, what is the "unexpected" that you want me to share today and with whom? Many times Jesus comes to us through prophets and in so many unexpected ways. Allow me to share a personal story. Bill held up a photo of his family of 4 girls. His parents had been praying for a son to carry on the family name. For twelve years his father had been praying for a son. The day his mom went to the hospital to deliver her 5<sup>th</sup> child, her husband just didn't go to the hospital with her because he just knew his wife was having another girl. When the doctor asked his mom, "Where is your husband?" she replied that he didn't want to

hear that she delivered another baby girl. Dr. Esposito phoned Mr. Weeks Sr. at his work to announce that Gene Weeks should have been at the hospital to see his wife deliver a healthy baby boy, baby Bill Weeks. Mr. Weeks Senior apologized to Bill for years that he wasn't in attendance for his son's arrival. Our Blessed Lord sure surprised the Weeks family with a baby son.

Deacon Bill held up a photo of Our Lady of Guadalupe. His prayer to the Blessed Mother has been asking, when will our Covid pandemic end? He admitted that he works intently in a 12 hour day every day except on Sunday. One day, while watering the lawn, a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared on the sidewalk. Bill couldn't believe his eyes. He took a photo of her picture on the sidewalk. That is the photo that he held up for us to see. This phenomenal experience of her picture on the sidewalk is the unexpected surprise that the Blessed Mother is with us. All God is looking for is for us to be faithful and to love God, and for each of us to proclaim I am there dear Lord. I love you, and I am faithful.

Think of where we are now. We are tired and fed up with the Covid and the quarantine. Now we can only see Him on Zoom. It is easy for us to give up. God is here for us in subtle ways. He is here for us in a smile from someone. Why suddenly do we question is it really true that God is reaching out to me? Am I in a position to accept His love? Am I open to receive Him? Think deeply about how each of us would answer these questions.

Deacon Weeks continued with another personal story. He showed us a photo of his son Brendan who his story was about. Bill was having a terrible day. Everything that could go wrong did go wrong. The printer wouldn't print, the paper jammed, the calculator wouldn't work, the computer froze, and Bill had a tall stack of papers to shred. As he thought about all the work he had to do he shouted, "In the name of Jesus, Satan be gone!!" At that moment, his son Brendan came into Bill's office and sat down and in a loud voice said, "O my Jesus, please help my dad!" The boy came up behind his dad and hugged him. Truly, it was Jesus touching Bill in that moment. God chose Bill's son to give him the strength. Almost at once, the printer printed, the calculator worked, the phone worked, and the computer unfroze. This story is a beautiful sign that our Lord comes to us and reassures us that He is there with us.

Bill continued that this morning he was the designated Deacon to give Communion on the tongue. This morning there was one lady who came into the chapel. She asked, "Deacon, do you have a moment?" She shared that her sister's husband has been out of work for a year. Today he has an interview. They prayed together as she felt the love of Jesus in her heart. She felt assured that no matter what happened with his interview that Jesus was looking out for him and his family....another unexpected moment!

When Mary Brockschmidt asked Bill to speak to our Serra Club, the stories that Bill needed to share about how Jesus touches our life all came together for his topic. Through the unexpected, God will shine. We need to trust that God will always be there for us. He tells us to have faith, trust and be faithful to Him. It is through our holy examples that we will bring others to the Lord. Bill commended us Serrans for staying connected through Zoom. We will see the day when Covid disappears. We need to always look for those unexpected surprises that will brighten our day and make us smile. Bill closed with, "I am humbled to carry my cross," and suggested that we know that God is with us every day, every moment. Each of us needs to look for the unexpected ways that God will surprise us.

Virginia Mort

## VOCATIONS REPORT



Seminarian Cheeyoon Chun received the Target gift card for October, donated by June Craig. Cheeyoon is from Korean Martyrs Catholic Center. He has completed his Pastoral Year at Santa Clara de Asis Parish in Yorba Linda and has returned to Mt. Angel Seminary.

Except for the five seminarians who are in their Pastoral Year, the seminarians have returned to their respective seminaries. Oliver Coughlin, one of our

new seminarians, who is at St. John's Seminary, thanked our club for the gift card. Oliver shared that he is in the seminary because of the prayers and support of so many people. We can also count on his prayers for us.

I hope some of our Club members saw in the Orange County Catholic September 20<sup>th</sup> edition, the orangediocese . follow Social Media section. It connects to Instagram and featured our Vocations Director, Father Brandon Dang - <https://www.instagram.com/p/CE-NUP0pr0s/> and seminarian Ian Gaston -

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CFAyGduJ5jK/> . Ian is doing his Pastoral Year at St. Mary's in Fullerton. The U.S Council of Serra has requested that Serra Clubs organize a seven-member prayer team who agree to commit to one hour of prayer on a certain day of the week for our Vocations Director. This is to ensure that every vocation director has at least one person praying for them each day of the year. I called members and we do have a team of seven members who have committed to doing this. Any other Serra members are welcome to do this as well. Any questions regarding discernment, contact Father Brandon at 714-282-3036 or [bdang@rcbo.org](mailto:bdang@rcbo.org).

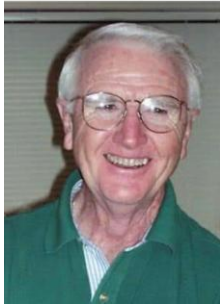
**VOCATION PRAYER:** Loving God, your Son Jesus, brought the light of the gospel to the world. Grace our Church with people of faith who carry that light in peace to the world as priests, deacons, religious, consecrated seculars, and lay ministers. Together may we live in service to others. Amen

Mary Brockschmidt  
Vocations





## IN MEMORIAM



When our club President Cathy asked me to write about John McAndrew's time in Serra, I realized that John had been my friend for over 55 Years. John was an oral surgeon and I first met him when he pulled my wisdom teeth. From that inauspicious beginning, we and our families soon became friends. We both belonged to St Cecilia's parish and both raised large families in North Tustin. And the McAndrews were part of the soul of that parish. Each year they had a St. Patrick's Day party, complete with drinking, good food, singing and piano playing, attended by nearly 100 people at their home.

It is because of John and his wife, Therese that I joined Serra Club. John and Therese invited me to join Serra when women were first allowed in our club in early 1998.

Although John was not a charter member of our club he joined the following year, in 1977. A large group of us from our club in that cohort began going to conventions together. John and Therese attended nearly every International and Regional Serra Convention in their many years in Serra. This took them to many countries around the world and many different parts of the United States, as well as many cities here in California.

When John joined the club, Monsignor John Sammon was the Chaplain and had been the Pastor of St Cecilia's. John served as President in 1980. He also served in several other positions in the club, such as Secretary, Treasurer, VP of Programs and golf chairman, always working hard for vocations. He remained a member of our club until his death last week at age 92.

John liked to say that I served as his unofficial agent. I was able to book several "gigs" with him singing show tunes and sad Irish ballads in his beautiful tenor voice for impromptu evening entertainment.

At an international convention in Spokane, for example, we saw a talented Serran playing piano and in need of vocal accompaniment. John was humble and wouldn't have volunteered on his own, but I ran and got him. John sang a few songs, but the gathering crowd wanted more, applauding for an encore. So John sang a few more songs. This repeated a few times and John sang a few encores before retiring for the night.

The last convention the McAndrews attended was the Regional Convention in Ventura just a few years ago. I volunteered to drive them. Bishop Robert Barron had just been appointed Bishop of the Ventura area. He celebrated Mass for us at Mission Buenaventura and joined the Serrans for dinner afterwards at our hotel, which was a special treat for all of us.

On a video call his daughter set up, I saw John just last week. He looked so good and smiled as always when he saw me. John McAndrew was such a nice, kind, generous and spiritual person. They don't make many like him. I cherished his friendship.

May John Rest In Peace,  
Pat Manzo

## SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER MARY HORAN VIRGINIA MORT SUE SILVESTRI



The First Rosary