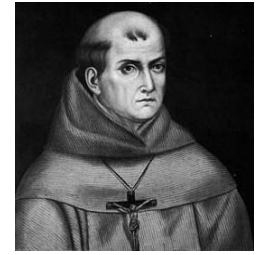




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



November 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

- Nov 1-7 - National Vocation Awareness Week
- Nov 5 - Club Meeting - via Zoom Speaker: Rev. Nicolaus Duy Thai
- Dec 3 - Christmas Mass and Luncheon
St. John Maron - tentative

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thanksgiving

Despite a stressful and tumultuous year, I give thanks.

Let us be thankful that we are Catholic. Whatever course this country takes, we know what we have to do to continue to live out our faith and try to influence others.

Thank you to all of you members of our Serra club. Your generosity in donating gift cards and offering your prayers is a source of strength to our seminarians. And thank you for making a valiant effort to try to figure out how to attend our Zoom Meetings.

We give thanks for members like Dick Peters, who for health reasons recently had to step down as Newsletter Editor and Treasurer. He is an example of a reliable member committed to



our club's goals. He consistently fulfilled his responsibilities and truly embodies what it means to be a Serran.

For others who had to discontinue their membership but who served us well for years, we give thanks. Let us not forget them.

Thank you for our deceased members - those who have gone before us and who established this club and those who kept it going all these years, such as John McAndrew to whom we recently paid tribute.

Finally, we are thankful for our "parent" organizations - Serra International and Serra USA - that came through a difficult period and really got their act together, providing good service and support to us now. Things look only to get better.

Thank you Lord for this, our Serra community. Help us to live out our mission.

In God's Love,
Catherine Walton
President

SPEAKER



It is always special to have one of our members be the featured speaker at our Serra Club. Sister Nadine chose to speak on St. Therese because it was her dad's favorite saint, and conveniently, October 1, just happened to be the day Sister Nadine spoke to us, and it was the Feast Day of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin, and Doctor of the Church. Saint Therese was French. She died at the young age of 24; however, she had a huge influence on the Catholic Church during her short lifetime.

From a very young age, she wanted to enter the convent. Her dad said that she was too young. He took her and her sister to Rome. She walked right up to the Pope and asked if she could enter the convent. The Pope referred her to her local Bishop who gave permission for Therese to become a nun. At age 15, Therese became a Carmelite cloister. At her novitiate ceremony, Therese became Sister Therese of the Child Jesus of the Holy Face. Her name kept her in close contact with God the Father and the Son. All through her life she focused on the Son. She wanted to help us to refresh the Face of Jesus each day of our lives. Therese asked in her prayers, what is the Face of Jesus today? Does He have a happy face or a sad face?

Therese wrote a document after she took the habit in 1889 with the purpose of an opportunity for others to sharpen and to increase devotion to Jesus. At an annual retreat, a Franciscan priest focused the retreat on talking to Jesus and the way Jesus speaks to us, rather than trying to be perfect through self-sacrifice. This priest focused on the gospels. What is each gospel telling me about my life today? Therese decided that she would take the message from the retreat to all the sisters to help them feel better. This retreat changed her life through the gospels where she gained an inner peace.

In 1893, her older sister became the new Prioress who chose Therese to be the Spiritual Director to the novices because she displayed a very special love for God and for each other.

At 22, Therese adopted the White Fathers from Belgium who were farmers and went around the world teaching in the missions. Therese was chosen to pray for the missions. It gave the priests some opportunity to work with Therese. The priests had been looking for a companion. She counseled them, encouraged them, praised them, and answered their questions. Therese of Lisieux is one of the patron saints of the missions, not because she ever went anywhere, but because of her special love of the missions, and the prayers and letters she gave in support of the missionaries. This is reminder to all of us who feel we can do nothing that it is the little things that keep God's kingdom growing. Here she was teaching the priests, and people had thought of her as a simple girl. She did not want to take her final vows because she would tell the other sisters that she was new at the convent.

Therese contacted tuberculosis, and suffered greatly coughing up blood. She received an invitation from a second group of priests to come to Africa to work in the mission field. She had to say no because she was dying. Therese's father named her the Little Flower.

Sisters were very hard on each other. When Therese died, no one thought she was very special. Therese had written down her daily activities on how she lived her life. Her sister rewrote the book on her specialness. She was very special. She portrayed two different images. One emphasized the hardships of convent life, and the other is her style of loving was being patient. She helped people to love the way Jesus loved. Therese looked into the Face of Jesus.

The Entrance Antiphon of her feast day reads: The Lord led her and taught her, and kept her as the apple of his eye. Like an eagle spreading its wings he took her up and bore her on His shoulders. The Lord alone was her guide.

Therese integrated her daily life into each day's gospel. How was Jesus going to say, "I love you?" How was Jesus going to communicate His message to us? Her love for Jesus was so profound. She felt Jesus was protecting her and holding her up. She suggested that we look at each day's gospel to find the message that God has for us. Jesus cured the sick. We are to help the sick. Say to them that the kingdom of God is so close to you. We need to help people we know and those that we don't know. Whatever good we do for others will always come back to us. We need to focus on prayers from the daily gospel. Praying this way gets the message that Jesus has for us each day. Therese wrote, "Kindness

is my only guiding star. In its light, I sail a straight route. I have my motto written on my sail: To live in love." St. Therese of Lisieux pray for us.

Virginia Mort

VOCATIONS REPORT



Mary Brockschmidt is recovering from her surgery. Please continue to pray for her. She says that she received a heartfelt letter from Seminarian Seth London thanking us for our support. To learn more about Seth, by the way, go to the Diocese Vocations website

<http://www.ocvocations.org/seminarians>


They are redoing it. Some of it is still under construction but it's looking good.

There you will find seminarians' pictures and biographies and they have a monthly prayer calendar (see below).



**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER
LAURA ALFIERI**



NOV							
PRAYER CALENDAR							
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 Ivan Lopez Bishop White Seminary	3 David Hoang Bishop White Seminary	4 Ethen O'Campo Mt. Angel Seminary	5 Seth London Mt. Angel Seminary	6 Deacon Cheeyoon Chun Mt. Angel Seminary	7 Increase of Vocations to Priesthood & Consecrated Life
	8 Priests & Bishops of the Diocese of Orange	9 Deacon Michael Fitzpatrick PNAC - Rome	10 Deacon Brandon Lopez St. John's Seminary	11 Juan Carlos Salguero Seminario Hispano	12 Vincent Nguyen St. John's Seminary	13 Michael Hoolihan Discernment Year	14 Increase of Vocations to Priesthood & Consecrated Life
	15 Priests & Bishops of the Diocese of Orange	16 Ian Gaston Pastoral Year	17 Roberto Gutierrez Pastoral Year	18 Mark Jung Pastoral Year	19 Simon Li Pastoral Year	20 Benjamin Nguyen Pastoral Year	21 Increase of Vocations to Priesthood & Consecrated Life
	22 Priests & Bishops of the Diocese of Orange	23 David Moreno St. John's Seminary	24 Cole Buzon St. John's Seminary	25 Tony Del Castillo Mt. Angel Seminary	26 Oliver Coughlin St. John's Seminary	27 Matthew Leung Mt. Angel Seminary	28 Increase of Vocations to Priesthood & Consecrated Life
	29 Priests & Bishops of the Diocese of Orange	30 John Huan Nguyen Queen of Angels Center					