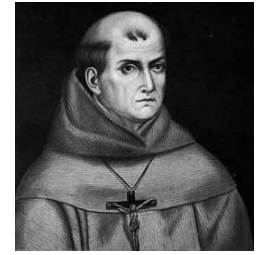




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



April 2021

Region 11

District 79

Charter 438

Newsletter

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

FUTURE EVENTS

- Apr 1 - Club Meeting - via Zoom - 1pm.
Speaker: Sr. Katherine 'Kit' Gray
- Apr 10 - Serra Meets - 9am - Archbishop
Bernard Hebda, Archdiocese of St. Paul MN
- Apr 25 - World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- May 6 - Club Meeting - via Zoom - 1pm
Speaker: Deacon Omar Uriarte
- June 3 - Club Meeting - via Zoom - 1pm.
Speaker: Fr. Gerald Horan



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A Happy and Blessed Easter to you all!

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

This year marks the 58th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations which will be observed on Sunday, April 25, 2021 also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood

and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes and the missionary life
Pope Francis composed a message specifically for this event. Read it here:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/vocations/documents/papa-francesco_20210319_58-messaggio-giornata-mondiale-vocazioni.html

As you continue to pray for vocations, try to do something extra that day.

St. Joseph

Pope Francis commemorated the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church with the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"). To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from December 8 2020 to December 8 2021.

SPEAKER



The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* during the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

St. Joseph has two feasts on the liturgical calendar. There is the more well known Solemnity of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary which we celebrated on March 19. There is also the feast of St. Joseph the Worker coming up on May 1. The feast was originated by Pope Pius XII in 1955 to counter the often violent “May Day” celebrations sponsored by the Communists.

Pope Francis writes, “there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron.” Work, he says, “is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion.” Those who work, he explains, “are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us.”

How shall we celebrate the feast day of Saint Joseph the Worker? We can pray, asking Saint Joseph’s intercession for anyone who has become unemployed or underemployed, whether or not due to Covid-19.

It would also be good to celebrate by building something - even something small. Simply working with our hands to create something helps us to connect to God.

In God's Love,
Catherine Walton
President



Our Serra Club members were very happy to welcome our former Chaplain, Father Bruce Patterson, as our March 4 guest speaker, and to hear about his new role and many responsibilities at the Administrative Priest Office. Working in his new Diocesan job is a completely different kind of ministry that Bishop Johnson had the foresight to create many years ago. Father Patterson is now the Vicar of Priests which is a support role for priests. He is part of the external forum and discipline authority for priests. His role includes responding to situations where disciplinary action might be required for a priest. Father Patterson would receive the referral and would obtain the help that the disciplinary action required. Additionally, he manages five different budgets. Within these various budgets carries the responsibility for the following services: a continuing education program for priests, long term care including lack of mobility, ongoing formation for the priesthood, continued spirituality, sabbaticals for priests, retreats, Days of Recollection, and various study programs.

In reviewing all the various segments of his position, Father Patterson responded very kindly that all our priests are his brother priests, and these priests are family to each other.

Basically, this job is a desk job in an office and so different from being a parish priest with the responsibility for the well-being of hundreds of parishioners. He commented that other dioceses are very cooperative, and they exchange many ideas to share. The example that Father gave was all the priests are covered by Anthem Blue Cross for their medical coverage, but there is a transition at age 65 into Medicare. By not having to reinvent the wheel, other dioceses are only too happy to provide time saving tips on how to implement the necessary change in healthcare coverage.

VOCATIONS REPORT



Father said he is now developing an all-day workshop for priests who are 64 years old to help ease them into Medicare. Topics to be covered are: Advance Directives, Wills, and Funeral Plans.

If a priest needs help with any addictions, Father Patterson arranges for the best plan to assist the priest. There is a clergy AA Group to provide ongoing help for an alcohol addiction.

Priests may retire at age 65, but at that age, they are dinged on their pension. They can take full retirement at age 70 with full Social Security benefits, but they can still remain active till age 75 which becomes a mandatory retirement for priests. There are always exceptions for the Energizer Bunnies, such as Father O’Gorman, sub-vicar for retired clergy. Father commented several times that it is a privilege to service his fellow-priests of all ages.

One of the major problems facing retired clergy is finding adequate housing for priests. Father Steve Sallot and Father O’Gorman are looking for adequate ADA living space for retiring priests. Originally the Newport Avenue property that belongs to the Diocese was earmarked as housing for retired priests with 300 units available. Because of many factors with the neighbors adjacent to that property, the units were cut down to 100 units under Clearwater Property Management Company. Units can be leased which will be an option for retired priests. Priests can jump in line with all the other seniors wanting to lease these units. There will be a chapel on the property, but it won’t be a Catholic entity.

Within the next ten years, 30 priests will be eligible to retire. Some priests have done well planning and saving for their retirement, while others have not. Currently, we have 40 retired priests.

During the Question & Answer segment, a question was asked, how would a priest be referred for an addiction? Father answered that if a priest needs disciplinary action, most often parishioners and the grapevine first acknowledge there is a problem that needs to be addressed. The most difficult part of this is when a priest or any person needs help yet refuses any help and won’t acknowledge that a problem exists.

Father Patterson’s presentation not only was very informative, but it provided a look behind the scenes on some aspects of the support provided to our beloved priests.

Virginia Mort

Brandon Lopez received the gift card for March, donated by Sue Silvestri. Brandon is now a Deacon, in Theology 4 at St. John’s Seminary. Brandon is from St. Pius V Parish and is Cathy Walton’s adopted seminarian. Brandon thanked Sue and the Serra Club members for their prayers and support. His journey to ordination is almost complete.

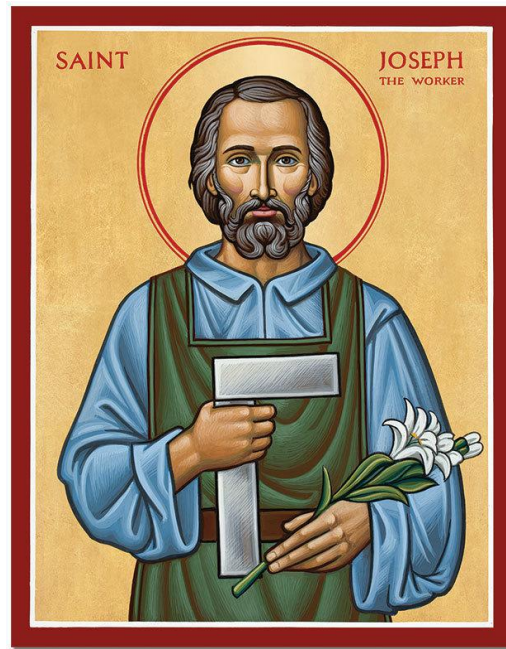
These past months have been challenging for our Serra Club since we haven’t had in person meetings. A request was sent to the Club members to sign up for the monthly gift card for the rest of this year. A special thank-you to the members who responded. We now have the remaining months covered. Our seminarians especially appreciate receiving the gift card.

Additionally, thanks to our dedicated Prayer Team who pray one hour a week for our Director, Father Brandon Dang. Father Brandon did have the virus and is now recovered. He feels our prayers made a difference on his road to recovery

Any questions regarding discernment, contact Father Brandon at 714-282-3036 or bdang@rcbo.org.

VOCATION PRAYER: Faithful God, you sent your Son to be our Good Shepherd. Renew in us our commitment to serve you. Bless all who dedicate their lives to you. Give insight to those discerning their vocation. Send us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, our Good Shepherd, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mary Brockschmidt
Vice President, Vocations



Prayer to Saint Joseph by Pope Pius X

O Glorious St. Joseph, model of all who are devoted to labor, obtain for me the grace to work in the spirit of penance in expiation of my many sins; to work conscientiously by placing love of duty above my inclinations; to gratefully and joyously deem it an honor to employ and to develop by labor the gifts I have received from God; to work methodically, peacefully, and in moderation and patience, without ever shrinking from it through weariness or difficulty; to work, above all, with purity of intention and unselfishness, having unceasingly before my eyes death and the account I have to render of time lost, talents unused, good not done, and vain complacency in success, so baneful to the work of God. All for Jesus, all for Mary, all to imitate thee, O Patriarch St. Joseph! This shall be my motto for life and eternity. Amen.

