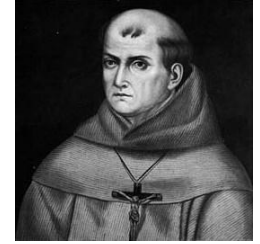




# SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



May 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

**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



May is the month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Why is this? In the early Church there is evidence of a major feast of the Virgin Mary celebrated on May 15. Later a tradition began of devoting 30 days to Mary - *Tricesimum* - which was also known as "Lady Month." Dedicating the month of May in particular to Mary was started by the Jesuits in Rome in the 18th century and spread throughout the world.

May has no major feasts like the Feast of the Assumption in August or the Immaculate Conception in December. But May has the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13 when Our Lady first appeared to the children in 1917 and the Visitation on May 31. In 1945, Pope Pius XII established the feast of the Queenship of Mary on May 31st. After the Second Vatican Council, this feast was moved to August 22, while May 31st became the feast of the Visitation of Mary.



In May it is Spring and there is new hope, new life. In much of the world Mother's Day is celebrated in May and Mary is our spiritual mother. She is the mother of the Church. May occurs during the Easter Season. During this season Mary was a steady presence for the disciples after the Lord's Ascension and during Pentecost. She provided comfort and guidance as the new Church was being formed.

In honor of her, attend a May Crowning or put flowers in front of a statue of Mary at your own home. And, of course, if you say the Rosary, you will be giving her a "Crown of Roses".

In God's Love,  
Catherine Walton, President

## SPEAKER



“Following in Christ’s Footsteps” was the perfect topic for Sister Katherine Gray to share with our Serra Club on Holy Thursday. Sister welcomed our invitation to delve into this topic. Since it was also April 1, she laughingly called us all, “Fools for Christ.” Sister Gray’s slide presentation began with, “Getting more out of Holy Week is putting more into it.”

Passover is the celebration of the Jews exodus from Egypt. There is a connection between the Israelites who sacrificed an unblemished one year old male lamb to the Last Supper which was the Seder meal that Jesus shared with his closest friends. Jesus would soon be the human sacrifice as he was crucified and died on the cross for our salvation.

Sister Katherine spoke of the pandemic that had just hit us in March of last year. There were no bells or Adoration of the Cross. Our churches were closed. Holy Week wasn’t cancelled last year, it was just different. It was Live Stream. How will we celebrate Holy Week this year? May our Blessed Lord bring us safely through the Paschal celebration emotionally, and prayerfully. What is being offered this year as we gradually begin to open our churches?

Palm Sunday was the blessing of the palms. Every emotion humans feel Jesus felt. On Monday, Jesus was honored with a dinner at the home of Martha, Lazarus and Mary Magdalene. Mary poured an expensive perfume on the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair. Jesus replied, “Let this be kept for the day of my burial.” We call Jesus the anointed one. We are anointed at our Baptism.

Monday before Easter is also the Mass of the Oils which is the blessing of all the oils that are to be used in each parish throughout the year. Tuesday is the day that Jesus senses that He will be betrayed. Jesus was deeply troubled and testified, “Amen, Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” Wednesday was Spy Wednesday. Judas goes to the

chief priests and asked “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on, Judas looked for an opportunity to hand Jesus over.

Thursday begins the Triduum or three days. It is really one liturgical movement. Holy Thursday was the blessings of the bread and wine and the washing of the feet. Both actions are given as a model for us to follow. Share the Eucharist. These actions commemorate the heart of the gospel. Washing of the feet was a slave’s job. (Several years ago, the Pope went to prison and washed the feet of some prisoners.) Jesus became obedient to death. It is important for us to be like Jesus and love one another. After the Passover dinner, Jesus went into the garden to pray. He asked his Father, if you are willing, take this suffering away from me, not my will, but yours be done. Jesus is arrested. He spent the night in prison. The altar is stripped.

Good Friday is the most sober day of the church. We celebrate our solidarity with Jesus. Into your hands O Lord, I give up my Spirit. It is finished. And bowing his head, Jesus handed over the spirit.

Holy Saturday is a day of waiting for the new Easter Proclamation with the Easter Vigil. We have the Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Candle. We light the Paschal Candle and have nine readings. It is a very long ceremony with the blessing of the water, oil, bread and wine. The catechumens are welcomed into our church with Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. The Easter season lasts for 50 days until Pentecost. Sister closed her presentation with a question, “What does all this mean to us? He is with us always!

Virginia Mort

## VOCATIONS REPORT



Seminarian Benjamin Nguyen received the gift card for May, donated by Bruce Junor. Benjamin is in his Pastoral Year at St. John Neumann Parish in Irvine.

Benjamin is from Christ Cathedral Parish and is Serra member Lil Hanson's adopted seminarian. On June 12<sup>th</sup> at Christ Cathedral, Bishop Kevin Vann will ordain three Transitional Deacons to the Priesthood. They are Rev. Mr. Cheeyoon Chun, from Korean Martyrs Catholic Center, Rev. Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick from St. Martin de Porres Parish, and Rev. Mr. Brandon Lopez from St. Pius V Parish.

There will be no Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate this year. The seminarians in their Pastoral Year will be ordained next year.

Bishop Vann announced that Father Nicolaus Thai, Parochial Vicar at St. Cecilia's, effective July 1, 2021, will be in the Formation Faculty at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon. Father Nicolaus will be involved on the faculty as an integral part of the human formation staff, forming Seminarians to be good and holy priests for Dioceses primarily on the West Coast. This is a very important task for which Father Nicolaus is well qualified, having completed graduate studies in Rome before being assigned to St. Cecilia's. Please keep Father Nicolaus in your prayers.

I would like to thank all the Serra Club members for their Mass remembrances, prayers and condolences at the passing of my husband, Don. Also, our Director of Vocations, Father Brandon Dang, who concelebrated at Don's funeral Mass. I am consoled in knowing Don is enjoying his eternal peace with our loving Lord.

Any questions regarding discernment, contact Father Brandon at 714-282-3036 or [bdang@rcbo.org](mailto:bdang@rcbo.org).

**VOCATION PRAYER:** Come, Holy Spirit, be the fire in our soul. Ignite us with passion for the gospel. Be the wind in our spirit. Breathe in us and move us to act. Anoint our whole being. Confirm in us our commitment to witness to the gospel. Renew us and the world in your love, now and always. Amen.

Mary Brockschmidt  
Vice President, Vocations

**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN MAY**  
**SARA ADAMO AND**  
**MAUREEN KOSINSKI**

