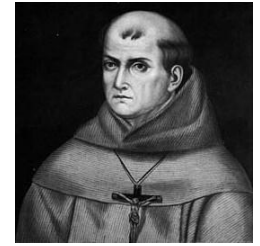




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



June 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

June 3 - Club Meeting - via Zoom - 1pm
Speaker: Fr. Gerald Horan

June 12 - Priesthood Ordination - 10am -
Christ Cathedral -in person or
Livestream -

<https://mass.christcathedralcalifornia.org/> or
<https://www.facebook.com/ChristCathedralCA/>

July 1 - Club Meeting - via Zoom - 1pm.
Speaker: Fr. Paw Lwin

Aug. 5 - Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD

Sept. 2 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Kimberly
Jetton, Exec. Dir. Orange Catholic Foundation

Oct. 7 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Msgr. Urell

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

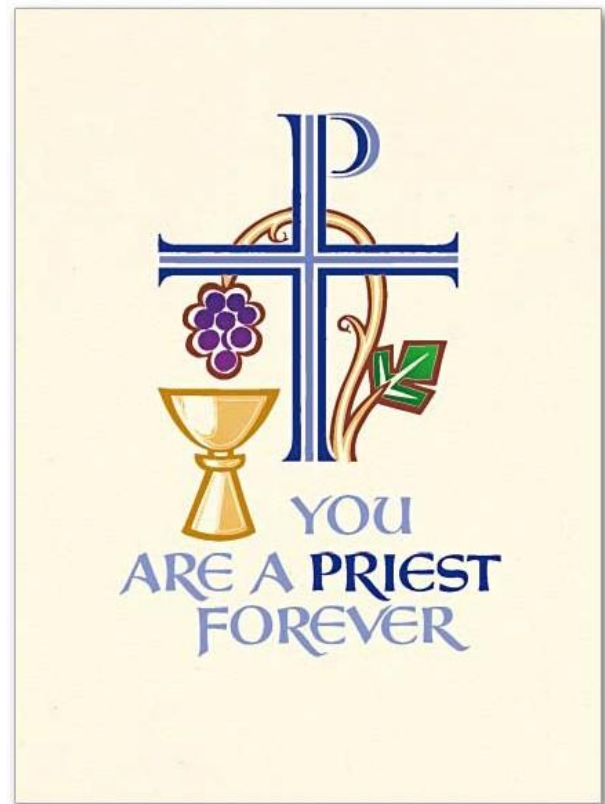


I've had the honor of being your President for one year now. During this time, which has coincided with the pandemic, we've been somewhat restricted in what we can accomplish as a club. I believe we have done quite a bit, however.

We've continued to meet monthly, albeit virtually. We've had 12 Zoom Meetings brought to us technologically by Pat Manzo.

Administratively we formed a new set of bylaws and Pat has been overhauling our finance and tax filing systems.

We've started sending birthday cards to members thanks to Lily Hanson.



Mary Brockschmidt has kept the Adopt a Seminarian Program thriving and has formed a Prayer Team to pray for our Vocations Director and our Delegate for Consecrated Life.

Sue Silvestri and Virginia Mort have chosen our speakers this year. I hope you've enjoyed hearing what they've had to say and been inspired or learned something in the process. While it is important for our Serra community spirit and respectful of our speakers for you to attend our meetings, if you ever do have to miss a meeting we have excellent summaries of the speaker presentations in our newsletter thanks to Virginia Mort.

While this past year saw the passing of two stalwarts of our club, we recently welcomed our newest member, Gabriella Negrete. Our club membership now stands at 23. As we hope to start meeting in person soon, we will renew our efforts to invite more people to see what Serra is all about and welcome them as members to join our Serra mission

Last year we could only watch the priesthood ordination online. Livestream and a recording will still be available but capacity levels have been increased just in time for more people to be present for the priesthood ordination this year. Serra Club members are all invited to celebrate in person at Christ Cathedral at 10am on June 12.

What a joyous start to my second year as President!

In God's Love,
Catherine Walton, President

SPEAKER



Deacon Omar Uriarte, our May speaker, complimented Serra Clubs for their continued prayers and support of seminarians and for an increase of needed vocations. He immediately transitioned into the essence of his powerful message, "Do you want to hear the hard truth or the soft truth with sugar and spice and everything nice?" The hard truth can challenge, hurt, and even upset us; however, it can also change us and move us in life altering directions. Are these reasons why the hard truth is so difficult to hear? For the most part, we are happy and do not want to change. If we are content with the way we are, we never really grow. When I am eating chocolate cake, and my mom tells me 'no', that's the hard truth. I am a diabetic. I need to humble myself to the fact that she is right. Hard truth changes the foundation of who we are supposed to be.

For example, in Hebrews 4:12-13. "For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit of both joints and marrow and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him to Whom we must answer."

The soft truth we can easily accept, but it does not have the same effect as getting to the very marrow of our bones, penetrating like a double-edged sword into the depths of our soul just like Hebrews 4:12 tells us, that is the power of God. It is there to make us change and improve. We need to ponder that hard truth of Jesus Christ to help us become closer to Him.

I am a diabetic, so I am not one to sugarcoat the truth. If I did so, I would be doing a disservice to the Church because of the confusion we overwhelmingly have among our Church members. For example, some say we should keep our morality to ourselves. We hear that whatever is good for those people out there, that's between God and them. Whatever is good for me is between God and me.

Another example, where are the young people at Mass? The churches are packed at Easter, Christmas, and Ash Wednesday. Where are these same people at Mass during other times of the year? Where are the future generations? Many young parents think that soccer is more important, although they do get the sacraments of initiation for their children. They do take responsibility in that.

Why is there so much confusion out there? I present my theory to you for your reflection. One potential reason out of many, and I am speaking in general terms only, is that clergy put too much fluff in their sermons. There is too much emphasis on the mercy, compassion, and love of Christ. We are called to evangelize and help people connect with the true love of our God and to help them experience His awesome love, but where is the challenge? Where is the hard truth of Jesus Christ? We don't hear that enough at our Sunday homilies.

The Gospel of John 15 says, "I am the vine and you are the branches. Remain in Me and I in you." We need to be connected to the vine. To remain connected means that we should always receive His body at the altar of the Mass. We need to keep the Commandments to be good examples of His love to produce the good fruit. The Church is connected to the vine that originated in Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

As a Church, we need to stay connected by always sharing the truth through the scripture and tradition by which God's divine revelation comes to us. We should constantly receive the Eucharist and go to confession regularly. God will prune us. He is the gardener. We are the branches that need to be pruned from time to time so we can produce fruit. We need to prune things out of our lives that make us sin.

What is the hard truth of Jesus Christ? When did our merciful Savior say the hard truth? We are the branches. Anyone who does not produce fruit will wither away and be burned up. Every word has meaning. Jesus said, "I am the truth and the life." Where is the joy? Aren't we supposed to be joyful? Another example is the third Commandment. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath. Yet how many able bodies don't go to church? They don't have time to go to church. Soccer games, TV, or other athletic events are more important than attending Mass? They die in mortal sin. If we break the commandments, we need to go to Confession. There is no sugar coating this fact. This is the hard truth. We are asked to produce fruit. We get pruned to produce more good fruit. There is a heresy theory, once saved, always saved. Why do we have many Catholics confused about our faith? Why are there so many people who don't go to Mass? Most of them just disappear. "If you don't remain in me, you will be thrown in the fire to be burned."

What if the Bishop talked to parents and asked them to keep the second Commandment. Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in Vain. When we keep His Commandments, we remain in Him. Clergy are called to speak the hard truth of Jesus. Clergy need to keep balance in their homilies. In Mark 19: 21-22 Jesus told the young man, "Go and sell all your possessions. You will have treasures in heaven." It is very difficult for a rich man to get to heaven. We have too many clergy afraid to speak the hard truth. Parents need to keep their promises they made when they baptized their children.

Serra Club members need to keep the truth going. How do we make sure we live the hard truth? Keep the Commandments, and you will remain in Me. The Commandments help us to become good branches. We need to go to Mass every Sunday. Locate prayer cards that have the 10 Commandments on them. Pray the 10 Commandments on the cards. The Commandments naturally admonish the sinner.

For example: Parents choosing to do soccer rather

than going to Mass is they have made soccer above God, but nothing is above God. Commandment #3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath. There are many Masses. There is no excuse why parents can't take their kids to Mass. Commandment # 2. Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Commandment # 8. Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Are you implying that soccer is more important than false witness? It is so easy to break the Commandments. The Commandments tell people to Keep the Commandments.

Deacon Uriarte wants the Serra Club to pray for holy parents, that they live holy lives, and be examples to their kids by practicing the faith and keeping the 10 Commandments. We need to pray for our current clergy right now so they can give good challenging homilies from the pulpit. It inspires the congregation to be challenged with a rousing homily. Young people need to hear good homilies that lead to good vocations. Deacon Uriarte concluded his presentation with a question and answer session.

Virginia Mort

VOCATIONS REPORT



Seminarian Vincent Nguyen received the gift card for June, donated by Joan Golding. Vincent is from Blessed Sacrament Parish in Westminster and is in Theology 3 at St. John's Seminary. In recent months our Serra Club has not had in person meetings. Fortunately, our Serra Club members have continued to support the monthly gift card to a seminarian. Soon most of the seminarians will be leaving their respective seminary for their summer assignments. Please keep them in your prayers.

The good news is that the Serra Club members are invited to attend the Ordination to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood for the Diocese of Orange on June 12, 2021 at 10 a.m. at Christ Cathedral.

To be ordained: Reverend Mr. Cheeyoon Timothy Chun, Reverend Mr. Michael Joseph Fitzpatrick, and Reverend Mr. Brandon Robert Lopez. This year there are no candidates for the Order of the Transitional Diaconate. Let us pray for all those called to the priesthood and religious life, in thanksgiving for their lives and service to our Church and our world.

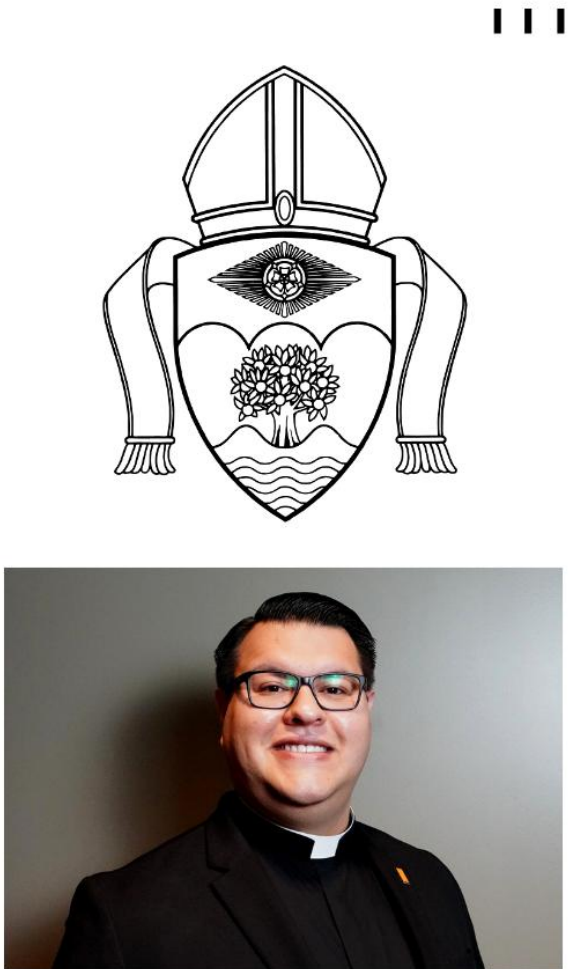
Any questions regarding discernment, contact Father Brandon at 714-282-3036 or bdang@rcbo.org.

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
Vice President, Vocations

SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE
JUNE CRAIG, XOCHI RIZO AND
SISTER NADINE MCGUINNESS



PRIESTHOOD

ORDINATION

REV. MR. CHEEYOON CHUN
REV. MR. MICHAEL FITZPATRICK
REV. MR. BRANDON LOPEZ

June 12, 2021 - Christ Cathedral - Garden Grove, CA

[@ocvocations](https://www.ocvocations.org)
[ocvocations.org](https://www.ocvocations.org)