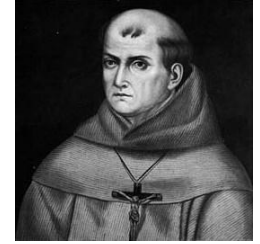




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



November 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

Nov. 4 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Rev. Michael Nguyen

Nov. 7 - 13 - National Vocation Awareness Week

Dec. - Christmas Luncheon TBD

Jan. 6 - Club Meeting

Jan 13-16 - Serra Rally - Irving, Texas



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thanksgiving

As we approach Thanksgiving, let's count our Serra blessings.

We just had a successful golf tournament, we are back to meeting in person and we will once more celebrate at our Christmas luncheon

Our larger Serra family was able to gather again at the International Convention in October, although they, like we, had a reduced number of attendees. Be sure to read Pat Manzo's report on the convention in this newsletter.

Right around the corner is the Serra Rally in January

in Irving, Texas. So things are looking up.

I'm thankful for all of you members who stuck with us through the pandemic.

I'm grateful for the great group of people we have who get the work done and keep things going.

I hope to see you as we come together and start to welcome new members into our Serra family.

In God's Love,

Catherine Walton, President

SPIRIT OF SERRA AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS PAT MANZO!!

At the recent Serra International Convention in Chicago, Pat was given the Spirit of Serra Award for her many years of service to Serra.

**SERRAN BIRTHDAY IN NOVEMBER
LAURA ALFIERI**

SPEAKER



After the long 18-month Covid hiatus, we Serrans were delighted to be back at St. Norbert's Church to hear Monsignor Urell, our guest celebrant and speaker, offer Mass at our regular 12:15 time, followed by lunch and a very casual interaction with our members. Rather than standing behind the podium, Msgr. Urell joined us at our table to just chat.

He started his "chat" with "Give a one-word description of the past 18-month Covid experience." Here are some of the comments: Unbelievable, Peaceful, Grateful, Dark, Isolation, Time, Blessed, Stimulating and Exhausting. Perhaps each of us felt all of these adjectives wrapped up in one experience during Covid. Msgr. added - "magnify these words around the world." We were certainly not alone with these feelings.

His next question for reflection was, "During Covid, what did you notice about other people?" Many were driving like crazy because there were fewer cars on the roads. Many people turned into clams. Some people were nicer, and others were meaner. Many acted like they were shell-shocked.

Msgr. Urell then asked us to list some of the blessings that we experienced during the Covid shutdown. Some responses were: Spent more quiet time with the Lord. More time with my children and grandchildren. At my grandmother's 90th birthday, 70 of our family went to the Great Park to celebrate with her. Went out to dinner with no phones. I noticed a role reversal with my kids. My 80 year old parents were not vaccinated so none of the family could visit them in fear of giving them the virus. Went on a Pilgrimage to Lourdes and when I arrived, I had Covid and was isolated. My family thought it was ok for me to resume golfing with my golf ladies because it was outdoors.

Msgr. Urell went to Massachusetts for an 8 day Jesuit Retreat where 36 attended. During the retreat the participants were immersed in the book of Matthew. Most of the attendees were parish ministers. He experienced a renewed interest in St. Joseph. He shared that Joseph was a real person. Joseph gave up his human life for Mary and Jesus. He was a humble carpenter who worked in the shadows. He taught Jesus how to pray and to live for others. As we all felt disruption during Covid, Joseph too felt disruption when he was told to marry Mary, take his family and flee to Egypt, then told to go back to Israel when it was safe. It couldn't have been easy for Joseph as it wasn't easy for us to be housebound during the pandemic. Joseph trusted that God was asking him to do the "right" thing. How can we learn patience and resolve in our own lives? Perhaps imitating Joseph is a good way to start.

Msgr. Urell closed, commenting that the work of the Serra Club is so important. Our work praying for an increase of vocations is bearing fruit. We all need to put our hope in the Lord, and always "Move Forward." As always, the meeting closed in prayer.

Virginia Mort

VOCATIONS REPORT



Seminarian Zachary Fier received the gift card for November, donated by Lil Hanson. Zachary is in Pre-Theology 1 at St. John's Seminary. He is from St. Timothy's parish in Laguna Niguel. Our club received a nice note from seminarian Oliver Coughlin. Oliver appreciates hearing from our Serra Club and receiving a gift card. Most of all, our prayers help him on his journey to ordination and he prays for the Serra Club members.

Now that our Club is again having meetings, we all need to encourage friends to join us. Members

should set aside one day a month to especially pray for vocations.

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

VOCATION PRAYER: God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that You inspire young people whom You call to the priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will. Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary Brockschmidt
Vice President, Vocations

**WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR
NEW SERRA CHAPLAIN
SISTER NADINE MCGUINNESS**

After serving many years as our Spiritual Advisor, Sister Nadine McGuinness was appointed by Bishop Vann as Chaplain of our Serra Club. We welcome her in this new role and look forward to many years together.



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**SERRA INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
2021
CHICAGO**

The convention opened with Mass. 250 Serrans from the United States attended. Many of us had not seen each other in many years. It really felt good to be together in person again -- to pray, learn, and unite in our Serra mission and friendships. Unfortunately, no international Serrans were present due to covid restrictions, not even our Canadian neighbors. We all look forward to seeing them in person in Toronto and Thailand at future conventions .

The International Foundation Board met two days before the convention began. Our board has been working on ways to raise more funds to respond to the volume of grant requests. The board’s plan includes asking individual Serrans and clubs for additional donations and improving communications about how the donations are used for grants.

Shortly after I checked into the hotel, my purse was stolen. For the next six days in Chicago, I had no access to money, identification or phone, but I was able to get by with help from friends at the convention. I mention this to show the generosity of fellow Serrans who helped me in any way they could! Thank you!

One (virtual) talk that stood out was with Cardinal Collins and Rose Sullivan, head of the USCCB vocations office. They highlighted how valuable Serrans are to the mission of increasing priesthood. They emphasized that they could not do it without the help of Serrans. Seminarians really benefit from our spiritual, emotional, and financial support. Even the smallest gestures such as a letter or email to a seminarian can make a big impact.

On Friday morning, we participated in a retreat led by Fr. Brian Welter, the head of the Institute of Priestly Formation. The retreat included meditation with the Blessed Sacrament exposed.

The Foundation sponsored a luncheon where our club was honored for our recent contributions. Since they could not be there in person, Serrans from the following chapters around the world sent us videos of their activities during the pandemic: Brazil, Canada, India, Italy, Mexico, Scotland, Thailand, and others.

Patricia Manzo