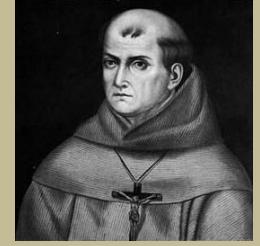




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



June 2022

Pacific Region

District 79

Charter 438

Newsletter

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

FUTURE EVENTS

June 2 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Deacon Bill Weeks

June 11 - "SerraMeets" 9am Zoom.

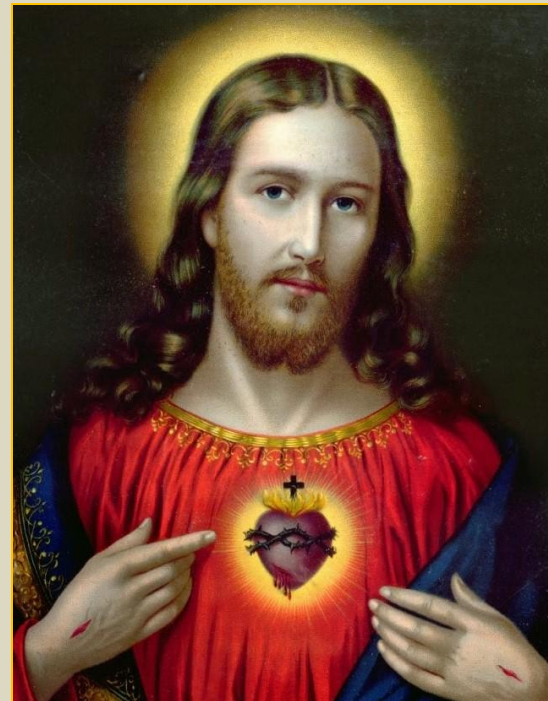
June 17 - Priests vs. Seminarians Basketball Game - Mater Dei - Food - 5pm; Game - 7pm

June 24 - Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests

June 25 - Transitional Deacon Ordination

July 7 - Club Meeting

July 14-17 - Serra International Convention Toronto



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hearts Afire

"The month of June is dedicated in a special way to the veneration of the divine Heart. Not just on one day – the liturgical feast, which generally falls in June – but every day" (St. John Paul II, Angelus, 27 June 1982).

The Feast of the Sacred Heart, formally known as the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, falls on the Friday that follows the second Sunday after Pentecost, which usually occurs during the month of June.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus began in earnest in the 11th and 12th centuries. In the 13th century, on his own feast day, St. John the Evangelist appeared to St. Gertrude and placed her by the wounded side of Jesus, where she could hear His beating Sacred Heart. For the next three hundred years the devotion was primarily a private devotion until it took on a new life in the 1600s due to the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Jesus appeared to her several times, and granted her the

SPEAKER



same privilege he had granted to St. Gertrude: she was allowed to rest her head upon his heart. He revealed 12 promises to those souls who would honor the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. He requested to be honored under the figure of His Heart of flesh, as well as by frequent Communion, Communion on the First Friday of the month, and the observance of the Holy Hour. He asked her for a feast of reparation. Margaret Mary's account was published in 1684 and was widely read. Many practiced the devotion. It wasn't until 1856 that Pope Pius IX would extend the feast to the whole church. Finally, on June 11, 1899, by order of Leo XIII, all mankind was solemnly consecrated to the Sacred Heart. St. Margaret Mary was canonized by Benedict XV in 1920.

The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is also a special day of prayer for the sanctification of priests. The World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests will be marked by the universal Church this year on Friday, June 24. This celebration was established by Pope John Paul II in 2002 and encourages priests to reflect upon the importance and dignity of their vocation. In 2009, the feast also marked the beginning of a "Year for Priests".

The Church encourages priests to reflect upon the gift of priesthood they have received from Christ; and the faithful are encouraged to pray for their priests that they may be strengthened in their ministry and remain steadfast in their commitment to the Lord.

In his General Audience, June 6, 2018 address, Pope Francis said: *"I invite you to pray to the Heart of Jesus during the month of June and to support your priests with closeness and affection, so that they are the image of this Heart full of merciful love."*

Let us pray for our priests this month in this special way.

The month of June is also traditionally when priesthood ordinations occur. We do not have any ordinations of priests this year in our Diocese but three seminarians will be ordained as deacons. Serrans are invited to this transitional deacon ordination on June 25 at 10am at Christ Cathedral.

In God's Love,
Catherine Walton

This month the Serra Club of Orange County was pleased to welcome the very energetic Fr. Kiet Ta, Parochial Vicar at St. Thomas More in Irvine, whose life story was filled with interesting turns of events which eventually led him to his calling to serve as a Catholic priest.

Fr. Kiet was born in Vietnam to a Chinese Buddhist father and a Catholic mother. His father converted to Catholicism to marry his mother. The couple had 4 children and Fr. Kiet is the second born. However, after 15 years of marriage, his parents decided to divorce and Fr. Kiet's father returned to Buddhism and forced his children to do the same, except for Fr. Kiet who refused to deny his Christian faith. His father became indignant and kicked his son out of the house. However, Fr. Kiet was very applied to his studies and was able to find a good job, continue his studies with a scholarship and still attend Mass once a week, which he felt was his responsibility to God.

In 1994 Fr Kiet's mother arrives in the U.S. by herself and immediately starts paperwork to bring her children as well. In order to make a living, Fr. Kiet's mother has become a palm reader and consequently stops going to Church. In 1995, Fr. Kiet arrives with his younger brother and he starts working a full-time job. Having only attended two years of college, Fr. Kiet returns to study at Goldenwest College as a Business Major. He later transfers to Cal State Fullerton to complete his undergraduate work and it is here that he hears students singing Christian songs in which the lyrics attack Catholics. His pride is hurt and leads him to establish the Vietnamese Catholic Student Association which brought assistance to nursing homes and other charitable works. His thoughts of

having a vocation came about when his girlfriend noticed he spent more time with his friends and charity works than with her. He loved doing God's work but upon graduating in 2002 he makes a plan to live the "wild life" in Vietnam to see if God is still calling. That thrill only lasted five weeks, whereupon he returned to the U.S. and directly to the Vocations Office. He becomes more involved in the Church and begins by attending World Youth Day Canada, participated in by Pope John Paul II.

In January 2003, Fr. Kiet enters St. John's Seminary at 27 years of age and is ordained in 2010 (the only priest to be ordained that year). St. Norbert's is Fr. Kiet's first assignment. However, Fr. Kiet's English is so bad that he is sent to Queretaro, Mexico to study Spanish instead. In 2014 he is assigned to Mater Dei High School as Spiritual Advisor and also serves 5 years at Christ Our Savior Parish in Santa Ana. This is a new experience for him, as he never went to a Catholic High School in the U.S. He absolutely loves it and remembers it fondly.

His present assignment at St. Thomas More arrives in 2019 and Covid brings in a new challenge - not knowing how to serve the community. Drive-through confessions are put into effect and are a big success.

Fr. Kiet's mother was doubtful her son would ever become a priest and offered no support. However, after Fr. Kiet's ordination, his mother quit her job and has returned to the Church. Fr. Kiet gives half of his salary to his mother and the other half to charity.

Gabriella Negrete

VOCATIONS REPORT



The seminarian who received the gift card for this month, donated by Virginia Mort, is Ivan Lopez. Ivan is from St. Polycarp Parish and is in

College 1 at St. John's Seminary. Ivan will be leaving for the Holy Land very soon and will be in residence at St. Martin de Porres in Yorba Linda at the beginning of July. Ivan came from a devoted Catholic family and feels his vocation started at home. Ivan attended the youth group at his parish, served as an usher and altar server which helped him grow in his faith. In high school Ivan wanted to grow stronger in his faith and began attending daily Mass. When he was in college his parents helped him to go on a mission trip to Peru. Ivan observed how the children there had almost nothing materially and yet were so happy because of the love of God. That was a defining moment and he decided to enter the seminary. He credits Monsignor Doctorczyk in helping him in his discernment.

Our Serra Club received a nice note from seminarian David Hoang, thanking us for the gift card. David graduated from Bishop White Seminary, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. The next step for him will be Theological Studies at Mt. Angel Seminary. David shared that his journey has been both joyous and challenging. He feels our prayers and support are a special blessing every step of the way. He looks forward to serving the people of the Diocese of Orange and has us in his prayers.

On June 25, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at Christ Cathedral, Bishop Kevin W. Vann will ordain to the Order of Deacon, Mr. Ian Michael Gaston, Mr. Jesus David Moreno Noriega, Mr. Benjamin Minh Nguyen. The Serra Club members are invited to attend.

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

VOCATIONS PRAYER: Gracious God, help us realize that we are called by our baptism to continue the mission of Jesus by proclaiming the Good News. We pray that you bless each of us as we respond to your call. Guide those discerning your call and give them the support they need. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen .

Mary Brockschmidt
Vice President, Vocations

**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE
JUNE CRAIG AND
SISTER NADINE MCGUINNESS**



Prayer for Priests

*O Jesus, eternal High Priest, who, in an incomparable love for men,
allowed Catholic priesthood to issue from Thy Sacred Heart,
deign to continue to pour out on Thy priests the life-giving streams of Infinite Love.*

Live in them, transform them into Thyself;

Render them by Thy grace instruments of Thy Mercy;

*Act in them and through them and grant that they may perform in Thy Name
and by the strength of Thy Spirit, the works which Thou Thyself
has accomplished for the salvation of this world.*

Divine Redeemer of souls,

*see how great is the multitude of those who still sleep in the darkness of error;
count the number of those unfaithful sheep who are walking on the edge of an abyss;
consider the crowds of the poor, the hungry, the ignorant and the weak,
who are groaning in their state of abandonment.*

Return to us again, dear Sacred Heart of Jesus,

live again in very truth in them;

*act through them and pass again through this world
teaching, pardoning, consoling, offering sacrifice, renewing the Bonds of Love
between the Heart of God and the hearts of men.*

We pray through the intercession of Mary, Mother of all hearts.

Amen