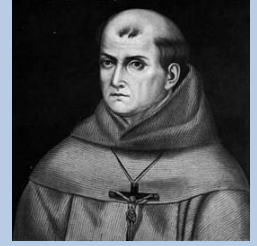




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



August 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

August 4 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Father Cheeyoon Chun

August 13 - "Serra Meets" 9am Zoom - Mother Clare Matthias, CFM

Sept. 1 - Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD

September 12 - 15th Annual Monsignor Sammon Golf Outing

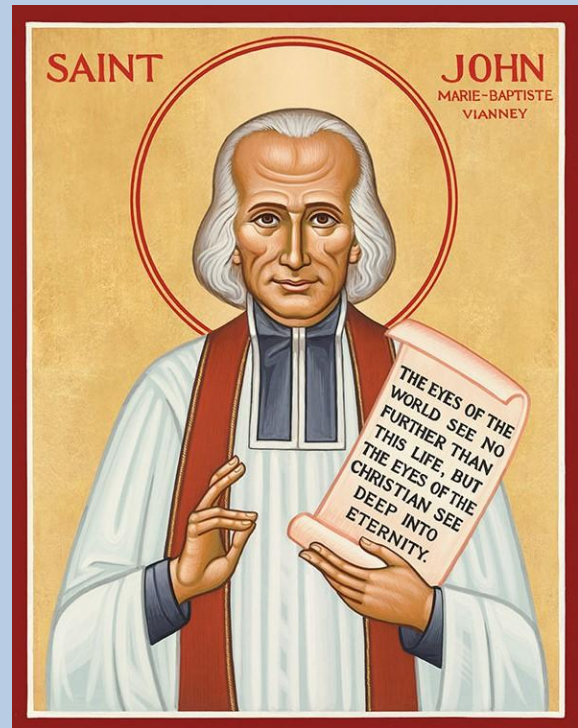
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A Priest's Priest

Our meeting on August 4 this month happens to fall on the Feast Day of St. John Vianney - the patron saint of priests.

St. John Mary Vianney was born in France in 1786. He was a poor student and struggled through seminary. His superiors even considered not ordaining him. When he was ordained in 1815 he was given one of the least desirable assignments - the little town of Ars, France. The young priest was told that the faith was all but lost there and so he would have little to do. He replied, "Then I have everything to do!"



He immediately went about dedicating himself to the salvation of souls. He eventually won back an indifferent people who had abandoned their faith in the wake of the French Revolution.

He spent up to 18 hours a day hearing confessions. He was a true spiritual father.

Pope Benedict XVI declared the Year of the Priest in 2009 - 2010 on the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the death of the holy Curè of Ars.

While Vianney is patron saint of parish priests in particular, Pope Benedict in his closing homily for the Year of the Priest called him the model of priestly ministry in our world.

Read Vianney's "Catechism on the Priesthood." It will inspire you in your Serra mission.

As St. John Vianney stated:
 "Saint Bernard tells us that everything has come to us through Mary; and we may also say that everything has come to us through the priest; yes, all happiness, all graces, all heavenly gifts. If we had not the Sacrament of Orders, we should not have Our Lord. Who placed Him there, in that tabernacle? It was the priest. Who was it that received your soul, on its entrance into life? The priest. Who nourishes it, to give it strength to make its pilgrimage? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, by washing that soul, for the last time, in the blood of Jesus Christ? The priest — always the priest. And if that soul comes to the point of death, who will raise it up, who will restore it to calmness and peace? Again the priest. You cannot recall one single blessing from God without finding, side by side with this recollection, the image of the priest."

In God's Love,
 Catherine Walton

**15TH ANNUAL
 MSGR. JOHN SAMMON
 GOLF OUTING**

*Serra Club of Orange County invites you
 to have a fun day of golf, dining, and
 camaraderie with friends and the clergy
 of the Diocese of Orange*

**Tustin Ranch Golf Club
 12442 Tustin Ranch Road
 Tustin, California 92782**

Monday, September 12, 2022

Entry Fee: \$140.00

Golfing Fee
 Golf Cart Lunch
 Cocktails and Dinner

**Cocktails and
 Dinner Only: \$40.00**

For information contact:
 Maureen Kosinski 714-309-3206

SPEAKER



The July meeting of the Serra Club welcomed Fr. Steve Way of the Salesians of Don Bosco. Fr. Steve is a native Californian having grown up in Pasadena, however it was not a religious household. However, he remembers his grandmother had pictures of the Madonna all over her house and his father was educated in Catholic schools.

Fr. Steve was a late vocation as he was ordained at 32 years of age. While living in Oklahoma earning a living as a teacher at a Catholic high school, he was inspired by the Benedictines and the Franciscans by how they ran the school as a community. Although he loved teaching with the Benedictines, he felt it was just too far away and returned to California. Further inspiration was achieved while attending a silent retreat at the St. Joseph Salesian Retreat Center with his students. He was impressed by the modern music, guided meditation and good food (which was unexpected). Upon returning from the retreat he moved to St. Don Bosco and learned how to deal with young people by following the Bosco philosophy of "like what they like and teach them what you like." Here he was invited to join the Order of St. Don Bosco.

Fr. Steve studied Philosophy at Seton Hall and Theology in Berkeley at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology as well as a Sabbatical Program for Salesians from around the world where he was taught a global perspective on charisms.

While in Berkeley, he taught RCIA for six years at St. Ambrose Parish, as well as teaching English and Spanish. He has also taught in the Salesian High School in Boyle Heights and is currently Director of Student Activities at Bosco Tech.

Fr. Steve has celebrated 18 years of ordination and is happy to just "go with the flow" with no plans for retirement.

Gabriella Negrete

VOCATIONS REPORT



The seminarian who received the gift card for August, donated by Pat Manzo, is Benjamin Minh Nguyen. Benjamin is from Christ Cathedral Parish and is studying at St. John's Seminary. He is Lil Hanson's adopted seminarian.

During the summer months most of the seminarians are away from their respective seminary on various assignments. Soon they will be returning to their seminary. Our Director, Father Brandon Dang, has said there will be eight new seminarians entering. Our Diocese of Orange has seminarians studying at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, CA, Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Oregon and Bishop White Seminary in Spokane, Washington.

Father E. Scott Borgman from our Diocese of Orange has been assigned as Formation Director for Mount Angel Seminary. He will continue serving the Diocese as Judicial Vicar, Office of Canonical Services. Father Borgman has a very interesting vocation story. Father was raised in West Africa by Pentecostal Missionaries. They lived with the poorest of the poor. There were twelve in a house and they had one meal a day. His father counseled congregants, visited prisons and was devout. He memorized portions of the Bible and could recite the Book of Romans from memory. When he was old enough for college, Father enrolled in Southern California College, an Assemblies of God school that is now Vanguard University. However, despite all his father's teachings, Father was drifting away from religion. He thought he had enough religion. He pursued a film production career working in the film industry in Hollywood. And yet he was adrift.

After ten years, he was looking for something; he was searching for significance. It started with a phone call from Dad. In 1999, Borgman's parents, who had moved from Africa to France, announced that they had converted to Catholicism. Although still involved in missionary work, his Father had also been searching. Through his missionary work, Richard Borgman had witnessed the love and kindness priests delivered, essentially practicing what he had preached. Although stunned by his Dad's announcement, Father said one thing he had never doubted was his father's beliefs or sincerity. So he began searching for what his father had found. He started to read and study the faith. He began attending daily Mass at a Catholic convent. It gave him a deep sense of peace and the tipping point was when he fell in love with the Eucharist.

Father began a process of discernment to discover whether he was called to be a priest. As he started to contemplate the priesthood, he thought, "Wow, what a great way to abandon yourself in God." Father and a friend dressed in burlap robes and went on a pilgrimage of extreme poverty, relying on God's providence for food and shelter. This led him to Rome and the University of the Holy Cross. He would be ordained a priest in 2010, finish his studies in Canon Law and eventually be loaned to Orange County in 2016 where he serves the Diocese Office of Canonical Services. Father said, "We take the same Eucharist that the disciples received. This is where we find the grace, the intimacy with Christ. This is where we get the fullness of the Catholic faith."

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

VOCATIONS PRAYER: Dear God, bless each of us as we respond to your call. May we encourage and support one another in discerning and living out our vocation. Help us to foster a culture of vocations in which your seed will bear much fruit. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen

Mary Brockschmidt
Vice President, Vocations



**Above: Gabriella Negrete and Silvia Uriarte were installed as officers at our July meeting.
L to R - Catherine Walton - President, Gabriella Negrete - President Elect, Secretary,
Silvia Uriarte - Vice President Programs, Father Steven Way - July speaker.**

**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST
ROSE FALBO AND
GABRIELLA NEGRETE**