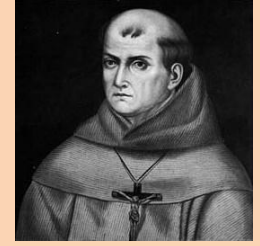




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



October 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

Oct. 6 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Father Domenico Di Raimondo

October 8 - "Serra Meets" 9am Zoom - Fr Paul Hoelsing, President and Rector of Kenrick Glennon Seminary in St Louis

Nov. 3 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Rev. Khoi Phan

Nov. 4 - Feast Day of St. Charles Borromeo, Patron of Seminarians

Nov. 6-12 - National Vocations Awareness Week

Dec 1 - Christmas Party



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Serrans Together

Serra Club members joined together for a fun day of golf, dining, and camaraderie with friends and the clergy of the Diocese of Orange at our 15th Annual Monsignor Sammon Golf Outing on September 12, 2022 at the Tustin Ranch Golf Club.

We had a total of 94 Golfers. An additional 32 just attended dinner. Our golfers this year included 9 priests and 15 deacons.

The winners with a score of 63 were the foursome of Steve Watson, Joe O'Hara, Father Cheeyoon Chun and Kwang John Chun. In Second Place was Hank Wesseln, Deacon Victor Valenzuela, Michael Wesseln and Gary Masciel. Closest to pin - Ian Welsh. (No women qualifiers.) Longest drive for a woman - Carol Kirk. Longest drive for a man - Tim Champagne.

It was nice to see Bishop Vann who stopped by for lunch this year. Our former Chaplain Father Bruce Patterson attended our dinner. He expressed an interest in making this event and Serra in general known more among the priests, deacons and religious.

A big thank you to Golf Chair Maureen Kosinski. This great event couldn't have happened without her and her hardworking volunteers. And thank you to all of you who attended or donated to the occasion. Your support will further vocations in our Diocese.

Serra was represented at St. Cecilia's celebration of Priesthood Sunday at a booth with brochures and sign-up sheets as the parish served coffee and donuts and gave the priests thank you messages.

A new Missionaries of St. Junipero Serra Membership contest has begun for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Incentives will be announced soon in various categories. We have one member so far toward our goal. After having lost some members due to changes in their lives as a result of COVID, we've stabilized and are slowly rebuilding our membership. I anticipate a good showing this year.

In God's Love,
Catherine Walton



Joe O'Hara and Steve Watson
Two of the four members of the first place team.

SPEAKER



This month the Serra Club welcomed our former Chaplain, Fr. Bruce Patterson, as guest speaker. Fr. Bruce was also Pastor of St. Norbert's for three years and is presently Vicar for Priests for the Diocese of Orange where he occupies himself in various duties that will certainly appeal to our future priests.

For over three years Fr. Bruce has been responsible for the ongoing formation and physical and mental well-being for our priests. Naturally, priests are confronted with challenges such as feelings of anxiety and so many other issues where many might just "hit a wall" and they need help. Fr. Bruce is there to help them with their sense of purpose and to focus on their ministry and soldier on. He accompanies them on this journey and is filled with pain when he finds resistance to the help offered. Fr. Bruce has resources to help his brother priests and informed us that the Archdiocese of San Francisco (through St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park) has free services for priests. They only need to be referred by a bishop and receive a one-week residential assessment.

Another service available through Fr. Bruce's office is residential care. Fr. Bruce is in charge of managing the budget as most of these facilities are located on the East Coast and quite costly. At present the Diocese is renovating a convent which upon making it ADA compliant will serve as a home for retired priests. Fr. Bruce's goal is to make 20 or 30 units available for priests. As is to be expected, priests would rather live in a parish community and not alone in a home.

Fr. Bruce informed us that at present we have approximately 150-160 active priests and 40 retired priests, with another 40 priests set to retire within the next ten years. As Vicar for Priests, Fr. Bruce is committed to their ongoing training, growth, sabbatical, human formation and to assist them in whatever they need.

Gabriella Negrete

VOCATIONS REPORT



The seminarian who received the gift card for October, donated by Gabriella Negrete, is Samuel Nguyen. Samuel is Gabriella's adopted seminarian. Samuel is from Blessed Sacrament Parish and is in Pre-Theology 2 at St. John's Seminary.

Rev. Benjamin Nguyen thanked our club for our support and asks that Our Lord and our Blessed Mother bless all of our good deeds.

Rev. Ian Gaston wrote from Mt. Angel that he has five very challenging classes. He knows they are all vital and helpful as he nears ordination. He especially appreciates the class on preaching. For his spiritual reading, Ian is reading St. John of the Cross. He recommends that we all read the Saints for spiritual guidance and inspiration. Ian is my adopted seminarian.

The monthly gift cards for the seminarians are taken care of through the end of the year.

We now have twenty-three seminarians studying for the Diocese of Orange. Four seminarians were adopted last month; just six have not been adopted by our club members. If anyone is interested in adopting one of them, I will have the information at our meeting.

Thanks to our member Virginia Mort, her adopted seminarian, Francis Ang, invited his mother to attend our September meeting. It was very inspiring to have her share about her son's desire to become a priest. She also commented how much the prayers and support of the Serra Club members mean to the seminarians. I think this is the first time we have had a parent of a seminarian attend our club meeting.

Any questions concerning discernment, contact our Vocations Director, Father Brandon Dang, at 714-282-3036 or bdang@rcbo.org Father will be beginning a six week discernment series at the Pastoral Center on October 10th. It is required that anyone who is interested pre-register.

VOCATIONS PRAYER: Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and divine love, impart your knowledge, understanding, and counsel to youth that they may know the vocation wherein they can best serve God. Give them the courage and strength to follow God's holy will. Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen their resolutions, shield their chastity, fashion their minds, conquer their hearts, and lead them to the vineyards where they will labor in God's service. Amen.

Mary Brockschmidt
Vice President, Vocations

SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER MARY HORAN VIRGINIA MORT AND SUE SILVESTRI