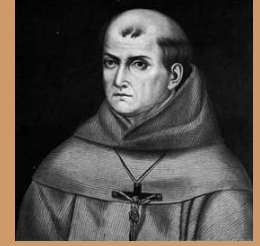




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



November 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

Nov. 3 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Deacon Tony Patronite

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

Nov. 6 - Vocation Fair -8am-1pm -St. Edward the Confessor - Dana Point

Nov. 6-12 - National Vocations Awareness Week

Nov. 12 - "Serra Meets" 9am Zoom - Fr Brett Brannen, author "To Save a Thousand Souls"

Dec 1 - Christmas Party



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thanksgiving

As we approach Thanksgiving, let us count our many Serra blessings.

Thank you to all of you members of our Serra club. Your generosity in donating gift cards and offering your prayers is a source of strength to our seminarians.

We give thanks that we have been able to start rebuilding our membership. We are thankful for our newest members who have contributed so much in their brief time with us.

For those members who can no longer attend our meetings due to health reasons but continue to support us financially and with their prayers, we give thanks.

For those members who after years of faithful service to our club had to discontinue their membership, let us give thanks. Let us never forget them.

Thank you for our deceased members - those who have gone before us and who established this club and those who kept it going all these years.

Finally, we are thankful for our "parent" organizations - Serra International and Serra USA - that continue to supply support and resources for our Serra mission.

We give thanks for this, our Serra community.

Happy Thanksgiving!

In God's Love,
Catherine Walton



We were pleased to have Father Domenico Di Raimondo participate in our Induction Ceremony for new member Lulu Papac at our October meeting.

SPEAKER



This month the Serra Club of Orange County was pleased to welcome Fr. Domenico Di Raimondo from the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit and Director of the House of Prayer for Priests in Orange. Fr. Domenico delighted the Serrans with stories of his childhood and the meaningful experiences which taught us all how important it is to continue the Serran mission for vocations.

Fr. Domenico’s father, Giuseppe, was an Italian sailor who traveled the world and landed in Mexico during the start of World War II, which prevented him from returning home to Italy. While working in Mexico, he met a lovely girl named Martha. He asked her if she could be his girlfriend and she accepted. They later married and had ten children. As Sundays were Martha’s day-off, Giuseppe would do the cooking and Martha would take the children to Mass. Giuseppe not only taught the children to prepare Italian dishes but he would also regale them with stories of his adventures in exotic places like Japan, Africa and India. Giuseppe even bought a globe to point out the locations of these faraway lands. This all served to whet Fr. Domenico’s desire to visit the world. From kindergarten through first grade, Fr. Domenico attended a school run by nuns who during the school year would ask for money to send to the children in Africa. Fr. Domenico willingly gave the few pennies he had saved because he knew where Africa was located. He was also motivated by his love of the poor and his dream of travel.

Fr. Domenico was only 11 years old when in his heart he felt called to the priesthood. He approached his confessor, Fr. Maurilio Arellano, to ask if he could attend the seminary in his hometown. Fr. Maurilio, a diocesan priest, felt the young boy would benefit greatly by attending a seminary which he considered the most beautiful, that of the Order of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit. Along with Fr. Emilio Maldonado, Promotor of Vocations for the Order of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, the priests visited the Di Raimondo household to ask permission to enroll the young Domenico into the seminary. Giuseppe’s main concern was that his son should be happy, and if this was the case, he would give his half of consent. However, they would have to wait for Martha to return and give her consent, as well. Since Domenico was her first born son and still very young, Martha was not going to let her boy leave home just yet. In fact, when first approached she responded with a definite “NO!” Fully understanding a mother’s dilemma, Fr. Emilio proposes a compromise: Would she consider giving permission to have young Domenico attend seminary for two weeks and then return home? Martha accepts

this condition but, alas, day 13 rolls around and young Domenico refuses to be taken back home. Upon asking the Holy Spirit to intervene, young Domenico agrees to go home as long as Fr. Emilio comes back for him after two week's time.

Fr. Domenico returns to seminary and is sent to Guadalajara to complete his high school. Upon graduation, he is sent to Mexico City to complete 3 years of novitiate studies. Thereafter he is assigned to the U.S. where the plan is to establish communities for the Order throughout the nation within the next 30 years. He is sent to St. John's Seminary in Camarillo and later Rome for 3 years to study Theology. In 1978 he returned to Mexico for his ordination and was assigned to the U.S. to be a parochial vicar in Oxnard, California. After 4 years in California, he returned to Mexico to learn about opening novitiates in the U.S.A. In 1985, the Order's first novitiate house opens in the U.S. and in 1992 the first theologate house of his congregation opens in Camarillo. His next assignment is Canada, arriving in 1995 to be a parish pastor. Enamored of Canada and his parish, he is confronted with the difficult decision to leave Canada and head for Rome to begin the process for the beatification of the founders of his congregation, Conchita Cabrera and Fr. Felix Rougier. Seeking advice from his father, Giuseppe reminds him of how good the Order has been to him, and so in 1998 he arrives in Rome and after six years gave report to the Pope of the virtues and heroisms of Conchita and Fr. Felix. In 2004 he is made Superior General of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit. By serving God's people, this sailor's son has truly fulfilled his childhood dreams of travel.

Fr. Domenico reminds us of how important our Serran ministry is for our seminarians by recalling an event in his early years at seminary. It so happened that his tuition at seminary was 125 pesos a week (which at the time amounted to approximately \$5.00) and Giuseppe needed to also pay tuition for the rest of Fr. Domenico's siblings, which became a strain on the household budget. Fr. Emilio found a benefactor, Elenita Solorzano, who was eager to meet her "adopted" seminarian. Although sick in bed, seminarian Domenico got up in order to meet her. During their conversation, he learned how she had figured his fees would be covered. She made little baby booties which sold very well and she

knew that by making a dozen or so more per week, this would easily cover the costs. Of course, Elenita was present for Fr. Domenico's ordination. The heart of a true Serran can be found in loving hearts everywhere, as that of his mother, Martha, who would send him off with these words: "Go, even if I have to die without you. Be holy, be good and love the people you are serving." As Fr. Domenico asserted, "Vocation comes from the family" and he thanks us all for our prayers

Gabriella Negrete

VOCATIONS REPORT



The seminarian who received the gift card for November, donated by Mary Brockschmidt, is Ethan O'Campo. Ethan is Molly Thomas' adopted seminarian. Ethan is from St. Joachim Parish and is in College 4 at Mt. Angel Seminary. The gift cards are covered through the end of the year. At our meeting, I will have members sign up for next year's gift cards.

We all know that this past year because of the Pandemic, many in-person events have been limited. In spite of this, our Director of Vocations, Father Brandon Dang, has done an outstanding job discerning seminarians. We had eight new seminarians enter the seminary in September. This year Father has started a Propaedeutic Year. This is a year for a seminarian to be at the seminary discerning if he really has the calling to become a priest. There are two in the Propaedeutic year, both at Bishop White Seminary. Additionally, in September, Father Brandon started a six week discernment series at the Pastoral Center. Recently Father visited our seminarians at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, CA and Mt. Angel in St. Benedict, OR.

Any questions concerning discernment, contact our Vocations Director, Father Brandon Dang, at 714-282-3036. Father's assistant, Elizabeth Sandoval, can be reached at esandoval@rcbo.org

VOCATIONS PRAYER: God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's kingdom as priests, deacons, religious and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Mary Brockschmidt
Vice President, Vocations

MAUREEN KOSINSKI FEATURED IN OC CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER



Our own Serra Club member Maureen Kosinski was featured in a recent article in the OC Catholic newspaper

The series of articles called "Living Life to Its Fullest" feature those who see retirement as the next exciting chapter in life.

The article covers her work as a seamstress, her real estate career and her love for travel and sports, including tennis and skiing.

Did you know she won gold medals in skiing at the US Pan American games?

Maureen's dedication to St. Cecilia parish activities is featured as well. Her heading-up of the Serra club golf tournament gets a special mention.

Maureen's life experiences led to her developing a strong work ethic.

She is truly a treasure of our Serra community.

Check out the full article here:

<https://ocatholic.com/living-life-to-its-fullest-2>

SERRA INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT VISIT

Greg Schwietz, President of Serra International, traveled to Southern California and spoke to a number of Serra Club leaders in October. Greg oversees Serra clubs worldwide



Greg spoke of the challenges facing our Church today and said that they are, therefore, the challenges of Serra. One challenge we want to focus on is to increase Hispanic vocations, simply because of the high percentage of Catholics who are Hispanic compared to the low percentage of Hispanic priests. Attracting youth to Mass and therefore to Serra is another challenge. We are also challenged in dealing with the legacy of Saint Junipero Serra amidst the attacks on him. Attacks on him are really an attack on the moral authority of the Church. Serra will provide resources to deal with each of these challenges and more.

Greg encouraged us to work with existing parish vocations groups and seek the establishment of others. We can work with them using our SPARK activities. Our programs may then attract them to become members of Serra.

Just as with any vocation we must be called by God. Everyone is called by their baptism to support priests but not everyone is called to Serra. Serra is our vocation.