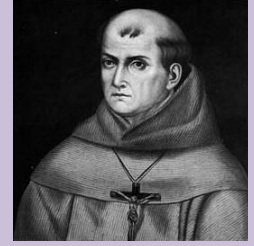




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



June 2024

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 6 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Deacon Bob Alvarado

June 8 - Priesthood Ordination - Christ Cathedral

June 14 - Priests & Seminarians North County vs. South County All-Star Basketball Game - Mater Dei

July 4 - NO MEETING - Independence Day

Aug. 1 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Father Al Baca

Aug 8 - 11 - Serra International Convention

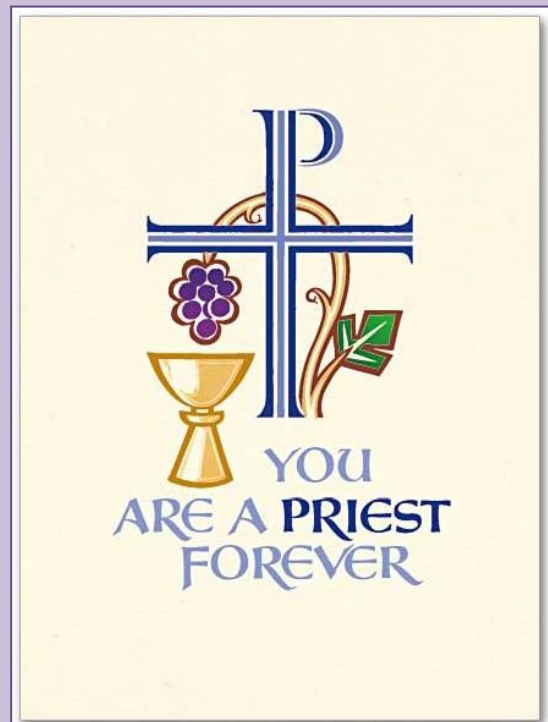
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I end my four years as your President I look back at some of the things we accomplished together as a club.

I entered office during COVID and am very pleased that we were able to have excellent Zoom meetings during that time.

Upon our return to meetings in person we faced the loss of our caterer and were struggling to find a new direction when Barbara Beneville stepped forward and saved the day. She was joined by Lulu Papac



who added her flair. Maureen Kosinski continued her steady help. Jeanne Bullington saw the need for added support and provided it. So we have a great lunch team - a key part of our meetings.

You all participated in our 31 Club, Gift Card of the Month and Adopt a Seminarian programs managed by Mary Brockschmidt, where we spiritually and physically support our seminarians.

We implemented a new Seven Serrans program where we pray for the OC Diocesan Vocations Team - the Director and Associate Director of Priestly Vocations and the Delegate for Consecrated Life.

We started observing Sisters Week and Brothers Day so that in addition to supporting our priests, we can

show our support for those in consecrated life in our Diocese.

As for membership, we have lost 13 members over the last 4 years either due to death or the inability to maintain their membership due to old age complications. While we like to see growth, it is important that despite the turnover in membership, whenever we've lost members, we have gained members. Our membership has remained steady, hovering at around our current 21 over the last four years. We are poised to be in a period of new growth, with one of the goals being an increase in the number of men who join.

Our newsletter won best newsletter in our region twice in the last three years continuing our club's tradition of excellence in that area previously exemplified by Dick Peters. As the editor, I know that content is key and during my term we've had excellent speaker articles penned by Virginia Mort and Gabriella Negrete and Mary Brockschmidt's Vocations column.

As Silvia Uriarte and Virginia Mort did the hard work of planning our programs each month, we began a tradition of gifting a stole to newly ordained priests when they come to speak to us.

Lily Hanson initiated sending birthday cards to our members.

Treasurer Pat Manzo overhauled our finance and tax filing systems.

Maureen Kosinski spearheaded our Golf tournament as it returned after COVID. As we rework aspects of it, we hope to improve it as a successful means of supporting vocations.

Our talented Secretary and President elect Gabriella Negrete will now assume the office of President. We look forward to her leadership. We are thankful for her acceptance of this great responsibility.

It's been an honor to serve as your President.

I will continue to do what I can to further the goals of our Serra club.

In God's Love,
Catherine Walton

**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE
PHYLLIS SOLOY, SISTER NADINE,
ETHEL REYNOLDS, MARGOT ANG
AND JUNE CRAIG**

SPEAKER



The beautiful month of May, Our Lady's month, brought us a wonderful guest speaker, Francis Ng, former Detention Ministry Chaplain and presently the Parochial Vicar at St. Timothy's in Laguna Niguel.

Fr. Francis was born in Hong Kong and educated by the Salesians whose philosophy was to teach students to be joyful, intelligent and obedient, an idea he greatly admired. He was taught through the Baltimore Catechism and remembers he had to pass an exam containing 320 questions in order to be baptized. From an early age young Francis knew he wanted to become a priest and therefore asked his mother for her permission. According to Chinese culture, his mother responded by telling him to first ask his grandfather, as Francis belonged to a family and not just his parents. The grandfather's response was to send an 18 year-old Francis to Venezuela to live with an uncle while his 2 brothers were sent to the U.S. and 2 of his sisters were sent to France.

In Venezuela, Francis worked in a restaurant where he learned Spanish and met the Daughters of Charity, a worldwide congregation, whose order inspired the T.V. show "The Flying Nun." The sisters were all Philipinas and they led Francis to their male counterpart, St. Vincent de Paul, where he attended Seminary to take a Philosophy course.

Upon learning that Francis would enter the Seminary, his uncle locked the door behind him asking him to never return as he exclaimed, "The priesthood is not productive!" His uncle wanted him to leave the seminary and as it all became too problematic, Francis left the seminary.

After having lived 7 years in Venezuela, Francis arrived in the U.S. to join his brothers and sisters. His desire to become a priest never left his mind and in the year 2000 he joined St. Andrew's Abbey in Vallejo, California via the internet and he studied for 5 years in Camarillo. As there were very few monks left and no community, he left the monastery and was ordained a diocesan priest. His hobbies include cooking and he enjoys working at rescue missions, as getting in touch with people is very important to him.

Fr. Francis asks us to focus on the power of prayer. "Pray, pray, pray!" he exclaims. "Otherwise, it is like we are charging our phones and not using them."

Gabriella Negrete

VOCATIONS REPORT



Mary Ann Brockschmidt
February 15, 1936 - May 21, 2024

We lost a dear member of our Serra Club this past month.

Mary joined Serra in 2006. She quickly embraced the support and encouragement of vocations which is the heart of our club's goals. As a result, she has been VP of Vocations for the past 17 years. She will truly be missed. Please pray for the repose of her soul and pray for us as we seek someone to carry on the work she did for us.

MEMBER PROFILE



We welcome our new member
Phyllis Soloy

I came to California in 1963 and along with my husband went into the appliance business. Upon retiring from business we moved to Orange County. After awhile I got tired of retirement and went to work for the husband of a friend from St. Justin Martyr Church.

I had sent resumes to the Diocese of Orange at Marywood and was then hired to fill in for a person who was on disability. She decided not to return and I was asked to stay on full time working for the construction department and the finance department under Bishop McFarland and then Bishop Brown before retiring.

I had the honor of knowing Msgr. Sammon and helped to provide "Red Vines" for him and enjoyed the Ice Cream Socials in his office.

I have recently worked with the new seminarians at St. Justin Martyr Church.

Editor's Note: There will be no club meeting in July due to the celebration of Independence Day. Our newsletter will also take a break and resume with the August edition.



BACK WITH US

Our club was recently contacted by Father Christopher Heath, Director of the Archives of the Diocese of Orange located in the bell tower of Mission Basilica San Juan Capistrano. He informed us that as he was going through Monsignor Sammon's vast array of possessions he came across the charter for our club. He felt that since it is a living current document it should be in our possession.

I arranged to pick up the charter from him at Saint John Neumann in Irvine, the parish where he is in residence.

We now have it back with us just in time to celebrate our club's 50th anniversary in 2025.



**Phyllis Soloy is inducted as our newest member at our May Meeting.
Left to Right: Father Francis Ng, President Catherine Walton, VP of Membership Virginia Mort,
Phyllis Soloy**



Registration Link:

[New Orleans Convention - Serra International](#)