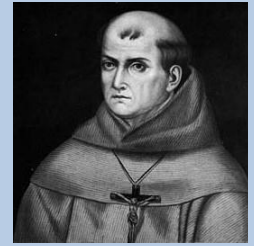




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



September 2024

Pacific Region

District 79

Charter 438

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

FUTURE EVENTS

Sept. 5 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Father Erialdo Ramirez Alfaro

Sept. 16 – 17th Annual Monsignor Sammon Golf Outing

Sept. 29 – Priesthood Sunday

Oct. 3 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Father Martin Nguyen

Oct. 18 – Day of Prayer for Health and Wellness of Priests and Religious



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As our August event, the Ordinati, was executed successfully with the help of my fellow Serrans here at the County and City Club, I must express my unending gratitude to the intercession of our Blessed Mother for having sent such lovely angels to my aide. Our next big event is the Monsignor Sammon Golf Tournament on September 16th for which I will again ask for prayers and assistance to make this another winning event honoring our Religious in the Diocese of Orange.

I would like to honor Our Lady on this, her birthday month, by sharing the following article from Catholic

News Agency (September 8, 2023) which I found very interesting and I'm certain you will enjoy:

The circumstances of the Virgin Mary's infancy and early life are not directly recorded in the Bible, but other documents and traditions describing the circumstances of her birth are cited by some of the earliest Christian writers from the first centuries of the Church.

These accounts, although not considered authoritative in the same manner as the Bible, outline some of the Church's traditional beliefs about the birth of Mary.

The "Protoevangelium of James," which was probably put into its final written form in the early second century, describes Mary's father Joachim as a wealthy member of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Joachim was deeply grieved, along with his wife Anne, by their childlessness. "He called to mind Abraham," the early Christian writing says, "that in the last day God gave him a son Isaac."

Joachim and Anne began to devote themselves extensively and rigorously to prayer and fasting, initially wondering whether their inability to conceive a child might signify God's displeasure with them.

As it turned out, however, the couple were to be blessed even more abundantly than Abraham and Sarah, as an angel revealed to Anne when he appeared to her and prophesied that all generations would honor their future child: "The Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall conceive, and shall bring forth, and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world."

After Mary's birth, according to the Protoevangelium of James, Anne "made a sanctuary" in the infant girl's room, and "allowed nothing common or unclean" on account of the special holiness of the child. The same writing records that when she was one year old, her father "made a great feast, and invited the priests, and the scribes, and the elders, and all the people of Israel."

"And Joachim brought the child to the priests," the account continues, "and they blessed her, saying: 'O God of our fathers, bless this child, and give her an everlasting name to be named in all generations' . . . And he brought her to the chief priests, and they blessed her, saying: 'O God most high, look upon this child, and bless her with the utmost blessing, which shall be forever.'"

The protoevangelium goes on to describe how Mary's parents, along with the temple priests, subsequently decided that she would be offered to God as a consecrated Virgin for the rest of her life and enter a chaste marriage with the carpenter Joseph.

Saint Augustine described the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, and an appropriate prelude to the birth of Jesus Christ. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley," he said.

The fourth-century bishop, whose theology profoundly shaped the Western Church's understanding of sin and human nature, affirmed that "through her birth, the nature inherited from our first parents is changed."

Mary also serves as an example of a mother to the rest of humanity. She supported Christ throughout his ministry. It is important to remember that our ministry

is not only that of prayer but also of service and example to bring about more vocations into the Catholic Church. What better example of service than our Blessed Mother who was willing to drop everything she was doing to help another person in need.

Yours in Christ,
Gabriella Negrete

**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN
SEPTEMBER
MADRIENNE PETERS,
HARRIET DRAZBA
AND LULU PAPAC**

SPEAKER



As past Chaplain to our club for many years, Father Al Baca is family to us. In the words of our Membership VP, Virginia Mort, "Father Al inspired us and to know him is to love him." Our August meeting was like a family gathering to catch up with each other. After a good meal we settled into comfortable conversation starting with current events. Father Al began by talking about the "good world news". The Paris Olympics suffered a black out when they lost electrical power. ONLY the Sacre-Coeur Basilica de Montmartre (Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Montmartre summit) remained illuminated as a light to the world and a beacon of hope a-top a mountain. This basilica has maintained a perpetual adoration of the Holy Eucharist since 1885. Also, many Olympic Athletes gave public gratitude to their Creator, Lord, and Savior for their success in the competition. Fr. Al reminded us not to get angry

because “God wins all the time.” Father exhorted us with this quote from John Vianney: “When the devil comes you laugh at him. You laugh and he shrinks away.”

Then the conversation turned to local events. “Lots of good” going on in the Diocese. In his roles as the Episcopal Vicar for Ecumenism and Inter-religion and as the Secretary for The Pastoral Provision in our Diocese, Father speaks with authority when he says we are doing well as evidenced by this year’s Ordination to the Ministerial Priesthood of a former Anglican Priest, Father Greg Walgenbach. Father Greg is married with 2 children and was the first Priest in our Diocese to be ordained under rules of The Pastoral Provision. Praise God, vocations are increasing. We have five seminarians discerning their move into the diaconate in one year. And eight more seminarians discerning for two years from now. There were 3 women consecrated into the religious order of “Lovers of the Holy Cross”. This is a Vietnamese order. Two of the three consecrated were not Vietnamese speaking. They sacrificed to learn and now speak this difficult language. As for the Laity, Bishop Vann made a serious commitment of \$1 million to grow the Young Adult and Youth Ministries in our Diocese.

About the Cathedral, we heard the St. Callistus Chapel & Crypt are near completion. The Marian Gardens are open. This prayer garden is one of only 2 other gardens in the world with stations for all 4 Mysteries of the Rosary. A Pilgrimage to Turkey & Rome celebrating the Creed is being planned. The Cathedral is hosting a digital image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in November. This digital image is 1 of only 4 approved in the World. Current plan is to host the Image at St. Jude Hospital, various Churches, the “kids jail”, and in Procession. Planning underway for two music concerts in 2025 to celebrate Sacred Music from the Catholic, Lutheran, and Anglican traditions. On a personal note, Father was the event organizer for the veneration of the St. Jude Relic. More than 1.5 million people came to venerate the relic. Father humbly shared that those who manage the Relic complimented him for getting the word out and beautifully managing such a large number of people. Be aware, we may have a miracle in Orange County through the intercession of St. Jude. A woman diagnosed with cancer and touched by a medal that had been in contact with the relic was on the operating table. The doctors opened her to remove the tumor.

Those doctors could not find a tumor and subsequent tests indicate she is cancer free. Miracles happen where there is much Faith. God is good all the time! All the time God is good!

Visiting time came to an end and Father Al Baca was off to bless a house in service of his Deliverance Ministry.

“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15

Jeanne Bullington

VOCATIONS REPORT



The Seminarian who received the Gift Card for September, donated by Phyllis Soloy, was Francis Ang from St. Boniface Parish in Anaheim. He is at St. John Seminary.

Elizabeth Sandoval at the Cathedral Vocations Office advised that she is updating the Seminarians List, as we have some names to be added and some to be changed. She will provide the updated list as soon as possible.

In a discussion with some of the Seminarians, I discovered that they would enjoy receiving gift cards to places to eat and share with their companions.

Sign-up sheet (maybe updated later) will be available at the next meeting.

VOCATIONS PRAYER: Father, stir up the grace of a religious vocation in the hearts of many men and women. Grant them the willingness and generosity to give of themselves, their lives, their time and talent to the service of Jesus Christ. Amen

Phyllis Soloy
Vice President, Vocations

NEW MEMBER PROFILE



TOM WOORE

I am very happy to be a Serran. A cradle Catholic, yet I had never heard of the Serra Club until I met Virginia Mort. In a nutshell, I am a graduate Electronic Engineer from Cal Poly Pomona and have a master's degree in electrical engineering from CSUF. My entire career was 33 years with Northrop Corporation where I held several Managerial Positions, (and I met Virginia Mort 44 years ago). I have been retired since 2000.

I have always been active in the Catholic Church from grade school and college and have been very active as a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Placentia. I have been a Choir member, cantor, and Eucharistic Minister for both hospitals and Masses. I am an active member of the Knights of Columbus and have held several offices including Grand Knight. I actively participate as a cashier at Pancake Breakfasts and Fish Dinners. Additionally, I have been parish retreat Captain for the Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center for over 30 years.

I enjoy spending time with my four grandsons. Travel continues to lure me to faraway places as well as returning to my favorite destinations.

I look forward to being an active Serran and will do my best to recruit new members to the Serra Club of Orange County.

NEW MEMBER PROFILE



JIM PAPAC

I was born in 1952 and grew up in Van Nuys, California. I have one brother. I met my wife, Lulu, in high school. We were both 17 years old. After graduating from college, we married and moved to Orange County. We now live in Yorba Linda. We have 2 wonderful sons and 6 awesome grandchildren.

I am a mechanical engineer and worked at Northrop for 14 years until they closed the Anaheim facility, then moved to McDonnell Douglas (which merged with Boeing) for 26 years. I worked on the Space Station and I am now retired. I was a Boy Scout and then a Boy Scout Leader for my sons. Lulu and I enjoyed square dancing, and I was President of the Buttons and Bows Square Dance Club for 5 years. We have a motorhome and enjoy taking vacations with our sons and their families every summer and holiday weekends.

Lulu and I belong to St. Martin de Porres parish in Yorba Linda. We met Virginia Mort at one of our annual Northrop Christmas luncheons, and she introduced Lulu to the Serra Club. Lulu has enjoyed being a member so much that I decided to join the Serra Club too. I am looking forward to promoting vocations through Serra Club and supporting our young seminarians on their journeys to the priesthood.



**Jim Papac and Tom Woore are inducted as our newest members.
l. to r. – Jim Papac, Tom Woore, Virginia Mort, Gabriella Negrete and Father Al Baca.**



Pat Manzo attends the Serra International Convention in New Orleans and brings home the awards.

(l) - Serra International President Kurt Metyko presents award to Pat in appreciation for her outstanding contribution and selfless service in promoting Serra International and its objectives.

(m) - Pat also received the Missionary of St. Junipero Serra Award given for leadership in Serra. Pat has been Regional Director and served on the Serra International Board, the Serra International Foundation Board and the USA Board where she was VP and Executive Board member.

(r) - Pat with the Banner Award our club received for its generous support of the Serra International Foundation in 2023.