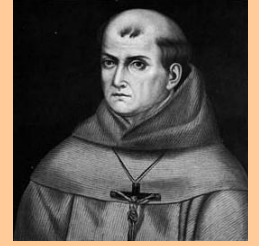




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



October 2024

Pacific Region

District 79

Charter 438

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

FUTURE EVENTS

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

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

Nov. 3 – 9 – National Vocation Awareness Week

Nov. 4 – Feast of St. Charles Borromeo, Patron Saint of Seminarians

Nov. 7- Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Robert Capone

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I write this article my heart bursts with equal amounts of pride, gratitude and relief for the success of our Monsignor Sammon Golf Tournament on September 16. A huge applause to our golf champions, you are all worthy of praise and admiration for your athletic prowess and sportsmanship. As with all events, a few minor hiccups tend to occur but due to the unwavering support of our county and city club members, sponsors, guests and Divine Providence, we accomplished our goal of supporting our clergy and ministry. It is through our unwavering commitment to serve our Church that we can proceed with our Serran commitment of “Always Forward, Never Back.”



Mere words cannot express my gratitude to all those who assisted in the Golf Tournament, therefore I will return your kindness by keeping you in my prayers. In prayerful thought, the month of October is especially significant for prayer life as it is that which the Catholic Church dedicates to the Holy Rosary, my favorite prayer meditation. October 7th is the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary, established by Pope St. Pius V in 1571 to commemorate the victory of the Christian forces over the Ottoman Empire in the Battle of Lepanto, proving it to be a powerful weapon against the enemies of our faith. As I meditate on each bead, the name of every one of you will be in my thoughts. I encourage you to please pray the Rosary daily during this month in order to defeat the evil one. It is through our works and prayers that we can practice our role of baptized persons to be “priest, prophet and king.”

God bless you all,

Gabriella Negrete

SPEAKER



Father Erialdo Ramirez Alfaro, our September Speaker, is 35 years old. He has been a priest for 5 years serving first at St. Cecilia's in Tustin and presently as Parochial Vicar at St. Norbert's in Orange.

A question for you: What is time? We all know what it is till we are asked to tell someone what it is. Even more difficult: What is God's time? Eternity. Eternity is ALL "time" in one present moment. No past. No future. Only one total present moment. At our September gathering Fr. Erialdo gave us the Liturgy of the Word and his personal testimony ALL together in the one present moment. The result was a preaching both touching and instructive. The Readings for that day, September 5, 2024, were the Gospel from Luke 5:1-11; the Responsorial Psalm 24; and the reading from First Corinthians 3:18-23. With the crowds pressing in on Him and while Simon, Andrew, James, and John were about their daily duties, Jesus singles out Simon. Uninvited, Jesus gets into Simon's boat. He asks Simon to push away from the crowds. He sits down and begins to teach. Are you listening?

Jesus got into Fr. Erialdo's "boat" when Father was very young. Jesus sat down and began to teach the young Erialdo, who was bored by his daily duties of assisting his mother in her dental practice. At the age of 12, Fr. Erialdo fell in love with the Word of God and with the stories told to him by a mother-of-a-friend about Missionaries in Africa. Those stories and the love of God's Word started a fire in Erialdo's heart. He desired to be a Missionary of the Gospel in Africa. Then Jesus commanded Erialdo take his boat

out into the deep waters. The deep was rough waters. He was battered by the discouraging waves of Mother, Father, Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins, who did NOT want Erialdo to become a priest. Erialdo's family were all dentists. Erialdo Ramirez Alfaro's future was set. He was to be a dentist. Even that mother-of-a-friend who planted that seed of missionary zeal was discouraging. She said Africa was very hard and not a place he should aspire to work. Only his Grandparents were supportive.

In spite of all the opposition, in 2007 at the age of 18, Erialdo entered the seminary in Guadalajara, Mexico, where he earned the equivalent of a Master's Degree in philosophy. The waters were still deep and rough. No mission to Africa. Instead, a mission to the United States. His Bishop in Mexico sent then Seminarian Erialdo to Saint Joseph's Seminary in New York where he studied English and completed 3 years of Theology. Erialdo was protected in the rough waters by his boat and guided by his navigator, Jesus. Father told us there are times he is "melancholy" that Africa is not his mission field. But as the Responsorial Psalm 24 says "To the Lord belongs the earth and all that fills it." Father has surrendered all to Jesus. Father has left everything to follow Jesus. And Jesus said "Do not be afraid, from now on you will be catching men."

Our own Bishop Vann has recently added to Father Erialdo's responsibilities. In addition to his duties as Parochial Vicar at St Norbert's Parish, the Bishop has asked Father Erialdo to work within the Hispanic Community to help more Hispanic Men to hear and to respond to the call of Jesus. Men who will put out into deep water and who will lower their nets for a catch. Hispanic Men who will fear not and will become Ministerial Priests in our Diocese of Orange, CA. We wish Father much success with his mission and ask Jesus to keep Father Erialdo close to His Heart, and to bless him abundantly both in time and in eternity.

Jeanne Bullington

**SERRAN BIRTHDAY IN OCTOBER
VIRGINIA MORT**

VOCATIONS REPORT



The Seminarian who received the Gift Card for October, donated by Jeanne Bullington, was Tyler Alt from St. Joseph Parish in Placentia. He is at Mt. Angel Seminary.

I received a note from Francis Ang thanking us for the gift card, commenting that he could share it with a friend at the seminary. Francis is at St. John's Seminary and has recently completed his Pastoral year at St. Justin Martyr Church. He is grateful for our prayers and prays for us as we continue to support all seminarians.

I received the updated list of seminarians from the Vocations Office and hope to have a version of it ready for our next meeting.

Any questions concerning discernment, contact our Vocations Director Fr. Cheeyoon Chun, at 714-282-3036 or Father's assistant Elizabeth Sandoval at esandoval@rcbo.org.

VOCATIONS PRAYER: O God, You have constituted Your only begotten Son and eternal Priest for the glory of Your majesty and the salvation of mankind: grant that those whom He has chosen ministers and dispensers of His mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. Amen.

Phyllis Soloy
Vice President, Vocations



Day of Prayer

October 18, 2024

2024 Day of Prayer for the Health and Wellness of Clergy and Men and Women Religious will be held online on Friday, October 18.

This day fittingly coincides with the Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, Patron Saint of physicians. All Serrans are being asked through prayer this day to provide spiritual support to those who tirelessly serve the Church and the people of God. The day is being hosted by St. John Vianney Center, the only behavioral health and addictions treatment and resource center providing holistic care and support exclusively for Clergy and religious worldwide.

The free online event includes guided prayer, a talk entitled "Nourishing Our Ministers with Compassion and Gratitude" and Mass.

For the full schedule see their website:
www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer





Longtime members of Serra but new to our club, Wally and Harriet Drazba transferred from the City Club to our County club. We welcome them! Such a blessing to have them join us.



MONSIGNOR SAMMON GOLF OUTING

Pat Manzo presenting award to Kevin Manzo (no relation to Pat) and Armando Peña, two of the winning foursome with a score of 57.

Not pictured are Deacon Summerfield and Jason Jilk (Cathy Walton's son-in-law).