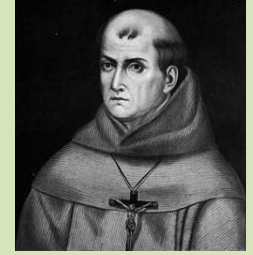




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



December 2024

Pacific Region

District 79

Charter 438

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

FUTURE EVENTS

**Jan. 2 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Bruce
Patterson**

Jan 23-26 - Serra Rally - Miami

Feb. 2 – World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

Feb. 6 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Kerry Beaulieu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As is customary, our annual Christmas gathering was at the lovely home of our generous hostess, Virginia Mort. We enjoyed a cheerful gathering of friends which resembled a family gathering, without the drama. As always, our beautiful and talented Lulu created Instagram-worthy tablescapes and Sr. Nadine prepared an amazing and thought-provoking liturgy for the event.

As the first Advent Wreath candle symbolizes Hope, so are the feelings we Serrans share in our community dedicated to promoting vocations, dealing with the loss of loved ones and I, in particular, looking forward to a new chapter in my ministry life by uniting myself in marriage to my soul mate.



I want to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a New Year 2025 filled with joy. As we observe the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1st, may we all be reminded of her pure love and honor her role in our salvation and her motherhood of Jesus.

God bless you all,
Gabriella Negrete

**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER
MOLLY THOMAS
AND IN JANUARY
JERRY STAUBER, CATHY WALTON,
SILVIA URIARTE AND PAT MANZO**

SPEAKER



Rumor is our November Speaker, Father Robert Capone, is related to the mafia boss, Al Capone. Father doesn't use tommy-guns and extortion as a show of strength. Father shows strength through prayer, an open heart, intentional listening and responding to that "gentle pull" from Jesus to follow God's Most Perfect Will. Father Robert said once you see and hear, your response will be like that of the travelers on the Road to Emmaus, "***It is the Lord!***" You then "make haste" to share what you have learned.

Raised in Orange County, Father was educated in the art of "Resting in Prayer" by his grandfather who regularly took the young Robert to First Friday Eucharistic Adoration at St. Killian's in Mission Viejo to worship in the early morning hours of 2AM to 4AM. It was during those rest-filled hours that Robert learned the "mind stops and the heart opens wide to grace." Unlike most of our other speakers, the young Robert Capone had no interest in becoming a priest. He was never an altar server and never heard a call from God. There was that simple rest in adoration, a heart wide open to grace, and a gentle pull.

In college, at the University of San Diego, Robert's Catholic roots were strong and sustaining. He pursued a career in finance, participated in college retreats, served as a Eucharistic Minister, and enjoyed student trips abroad. On one of his college trips to Italy, he attended Mass at the Duomo in Florence and there had a profound and personally unique experience of God's Love for him after receiving communion. After college, Robert went to work as a financial consultant, but after five years as a financial consultant that "gentle pull" brought him to enter St. John's Seminary.

Father Robert has been a priest in the Diocese of Orange for twenty-five years. For six of those twenty-five years he was on loan to the Diocese of San Diego where he served as Chaplain at the University of San Diego. Today Father Robert is the Parochial Administrator at St. Joachim Catholic Church in Costa Mesa where he serves over three thousand mostly Spanish speaking parishioners. At St. Joachim's Father Robert, together with Father Freddy Mancilla, launched a very successful parish ministry for vocations where young people gather to discern their vocation. Father lives by the motto "Lead in Love, nourished by the Eucharist and the Sacraments." Father says we need grace every day. Grace is like air. We need it to live. Parish life is not an easy life, but it is a highly fulfilling life. Parish life "keeps it real".

Virginia Mort presented Father with a card of Sea Turtle Wisdom - "*Swim with the current*" and with our gratitude for giving us his time and for sharing with us his path to the priesthood. Father joyously received our gratitude. He shared the warmth and appreciation he felt for the Serra Club as a seminarian and with much gratitude he again felt that warm love today. As for the Sea Turtle Card with its words of wisdom, Father said it will be placed next to his picture of the Sacred Heart.

Jeanne Bullington
Secretary

VOCATIONS REPORT



I've just returned from the Diaconate Ordination of our blessed seminarian Oliver Coughlin. Not that I'm partial, but it was the most beautiful Diaconate service I have ever been to. Knowing Oliver personally made it even more so.

I now look forward to his Ordination to the Priesthood which is scheduled for June 7, 2025. What a blessing.

The December Gift Card went to Johnson Bui and was gifted by Pat Manzo. Johnson is preparing for Diaconate in 2026 having completed his Pastoral Service at St. Mary's in Fullerton in June of 2024.

Questions concerning discernment, contact our Vocations Director, Fr. Cheeyoon Chun or his assistant Elizabeth Sandoval at esandoval@rcbo.org.

VOCATIONS PRAYER: Lord Jesus, as you once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men, let your sweet invitations continue to resound: come follow me!

Give young men and women the grace of responding quickly to your voice. Support our bishops, priests and consecrated people in their apostolic labor. Amen.

Phyllis Soloy
Vice President, Vocations



[2025 Serra USA Rally - Serra International](#)

Editor's Note: Traditionally, there will be no newsletter in January so that the contributors can enjoy the Holydays with friends and family. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

MONSIGNOR SAMMON FUND DONATIONS



City Club President Beverly Truzzolino and County Club President Gabriella Negrete present check to Diocese of Orange Director of Priestly Vocations Father Cheeyoon Chun.



City Club President Beverly Truzzolino and County Club President Gabriella Negrete present check to Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange Vocation Director Sr. Karin Nuernberg.

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024









