SERRA CLUB CITY OF ORANGE

Reg. 11, Distr. 79, Charter 643

SPECIAL EDITION

COVID SHUTDOWN ISSUE

MARCH 2021

A Voice for Vocations



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Sister Louise Ann Micek, CSJ

OUR MISSION is to foster, affirm and promote vocations to the priesthood, religious life, deaconate and lay ministries and, through this, to deepen our members' personal faith. life.



MARCH

3rd Anne Champagne

10th Gloria Suess

13th Loretta Callopy

20th Sister Louise

28th Raul Serna

PREZ SEZ



MARCH WILL BE BOTH BUSY AND BLESSED

Since my previous writing, we are well into this new year. We are all on a journey, each day unsure of what's around the next bend. Yet we go in confidence, knowing that God goes with us. Some of us by now have experienced "V-Day," when we roll up our sleeves and get vaccinated! Jim and I have received our first one, and will have had the second one by the time this article is printed. Being vaccinated promises to be one of the most significant events of 2021! This year can hopefully end far differently than the way it started!

We're in the midst of Lent now. It's always about "doing more": increased prayer, more fasting, more almsgiving. Does this mean that in other seasons, we are inactive? Many of us avoid taking risks: taking fewer chances, learning fewer things, becoming less willing to step out and "do" what's invited. Pope Francis asks us to take action differently, action for our fellow men or women, as we see Jesus doing in his life.

His ultimate victory over the sin and evil that imprisons us was won not by violence but by love--a love that led him to lay down his own life so we could enjoy everlasting life. His resurrection is the only reward worth fighting for, not for ourselves alone, but for all our brothers and sisters everywhere. It is the ultimate action of service. And we are all in it together! God bless us as we continue together on this journey.

The middle of the month gives us pause for celebration. We commemorate St. Patrick here in the United States to honor the gift to our

SEE PG 2, "PREZ SEZ"

DISTRICT DOINGS

Anne Champagne Governor, District #79



MISSION SAN GABRIEL: RISNG FROM THE ASHES

On February 2, 2021, Ed Lupton, our Regional Officer for the Serra Pacific Region, visited Mission San Gabriel, along with other officers from Serra Clubs in Los Angeles and Orange Dioceses, to present an additional check to the pastor of the mission. The total amount donated to the mission effective Feb 2, 2021 was \$34,321.78. We were warmly greeted by the pastor, Rev. John Molyneux, CMF and by Rev. Ray Smith, CMF. As you see in the photos (p.3), there was elaborate scaffolding on both the outside, and the inside, of the church and Fr. John informed us that there had been a temporary roof installed to protect the remaining structure.

It was clear at first glance of the outside that there had been significant damage to the church. Fr. John informed us that the entire roof had collapsed and that the majority of the damage that was done, was from water damage, making the inside of the church quite treacherous to negotiate; the flooring was very uneven. As we walked through the courtyard, we saw that the vines covering the trellis were just beginning to recover from the disaster.

In the course of the conversation with Fr. Ray Smith, he recounted many anecdotal stories that would be interesting to us, as

SEE PG 3, "PREZ SEZ"

A Voice for Vocations

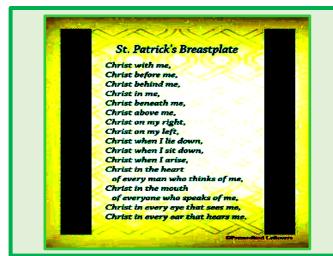
DRF7 SF7 CONT.

to our society of rich Irish culture and traditions. We may still have to treat this day in a COVID-style way. I offer a blessing to all you Irish members and to the rest of you who wish you were: May your neighbor respect you, may trouble neglect you, may the angels protect you, and may heaven happily accept you.

March 19th is a very special day, as this year is dedicated to St. Joseph. I quote here from Pope Francis: "The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that explains, but accepts". The Pope tells us that the purpose of his Apostolic Letter is "to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal." O blessed Joseph, yourself a father, guide us on the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

THE SPECIAL INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR MARCH:

Throughout this season of Lent, we pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded. We also pray throughout Lent, that each of us may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.



Lenten Blessings!



Do You Want to Fast This Lent?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

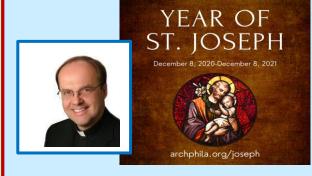
Fast from words, be stient and listen.



City Club Newz

MARCH SPEAKER

MAR 16 Fr. Felix Just, OFM
Subject: "SAINT JOSEPH"



DISTRICT DOINGS CONT.

as Serrans. When he had been ordained, he said his first Mass at the church; therefore, it had tremendous significance for him. Also, Fr. Ray joined Serra Club back in 1985, and he was quick to point out that our plaque, which had been affixed to the entrance of the church upon the 200th anniversary of St. Junipero Serra's death--and also the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Serra Clubs--had survived the fire, even though it was located just to the right of the side entrance door, which currently is closed off with plywood.

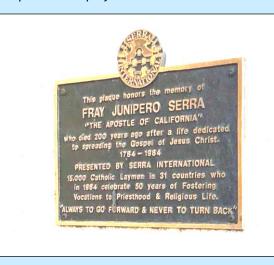
Fr. Ray told us about some unexpected blessings that resulted from the fire. They are quite interesting.

First Blessing: It turns out that this particular mission church had been constructed using different building materials than the previous structures, which were adobe. He said that if it had been adobe the water would have deteriorated the internal structure beyond repair.

Second Blessing: When the roof collapsed, a large section of wall just happened to fall in the front of the wooden altar. This protected and preserved the altar and immediate surroundings from more excessive fire damage.

The parish schools, elementary and high school, are right there in close proximity to the church. I am sure that the students are getting an "up close and personal" lesson from observing the resilience that Fr. John and Fr. Ray have shown in "rising from the ashes" and diligent in their considerable efforts to continue their work of "spreading the good news of Jesus Christ," even during a disaster. They are mirroring the work of the missions' founder, Saint Junipero Serra. His heroic efforts, more than two centuries ago, exemplified similar perseverance for them and for all of us!

To date, the results of the investigation into what caused the fire have not yet been announced. Fr. John told us they had been informed that there had been a press conference scheduled to be held a couple of weeks before, but it had been canceled. He anticipated that the results of the investigation would be released soon, but did not yet have a date for when that might take place. On that beautiful sunny day in San Gabriel it was apparent to us Serrans that we were truly appreciated for our great generosity, and as we left, we all promised to pray for each other.



MAY GOD BLESS OUR
SERRANS FOR LENDING
SUPPORT IN SUCH A
MEANINGFUL WAY,
IN SAN GABRIEL
MISSION'S TIME OF
GREATEST NEED!





Toronto June 2021 Convention Postponed

Serrans to Meet in Chicago, Oct. 7-10, 2021 RESERVE YOUR ROOM

Historic and Beautiful

<u>Palmer House Hilton</u> hotel, at the unbelievable rate of \$149 per night.

Autobiography: Deacon Bill Weeks

On behalf of my wife, Carrie and our son, Brendan Michael, I wish to thank you for welcoming us into this wonderful community here at St. Cecilia's. Over the past few months, we have experienced God's most joyous spirit alive and well in each of you. We have witnessed how God created you in His likeness and image calling you to be His lights in the world today. May you continue to transform it for the greater glory of His Holy name!

Just a little about myself and our family. I was born and raised in the small fishing community of San Pedro near the Port of Los Angeles. I am the youngest of five children - four of which were girls. I am the product of Catholic education having graduated from Loyola Marymount University where I received my bachelor's degree in Business Administration, as well as my Masters of Art Degree in Education. I currently hold a teaching credential here in the State of California, including several professional certifications in Human Resource Management and Accounting. I moved to Orange County in the summer of 2002 and met the love of my life, Carrie, in 2003. We entered into the bonds of holy matrimony in 2004 praising God for uniting us in His love. In 2008, we received the gift of Brendan Michael who now keeps us very busy and on our toes. We have two more (2) loves - Penny (a Jack Russell Terrier) and Gadget (a Beagle) - who also give us a lot joy and laughter. We have been very active in our faith having served in such ministries as Cursillo, Marriage Preparation, Eucharistic ministry, Sacristy Ministry, Jail Ministry, Lector Ministry and have been active members of our local church's Pastoral & Finance Councils. I became a permanent Deacon in the Diocese in October 2017 and very much serving Our Lord and His Church in this capacity. We are excited to now be a part of this very dynamic parish and cannot wait to become more involved in parish life with each of you!





SPRING MEETING SCHEDULE

March 16th, 2021 from 10:15 AM -12:00 PM *IWG ending at 9:45 AM*

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88478273408?pwd=aXltQTNSK1dqOVJWckhoTW5RN1RQUT09

Meeting ID: 884 7827 3408

Passcode: 982031

Join by phone: 1-669-900-9128

April 6th, 2021 from 10:15 AM -12:00 PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86849194962?pwd=ZXRLNnlKWVB0SjlHVDlZcVVKelJ4Zz09

Meeting ID: 868 4919 4962

Passcode: 127291

Join by phone: 1-669-900-9128

April 20th, 2021 from 10:15 AM -12:00 PM *IWG ending at 9:45 AM*

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81379386637?pwd=Y1FSN2ZUaUtSTEk4aTU0LzJqVzhSUT09

Meeting ID: 813 7938 6637

Passcode: 424257

Join by phone: 1-669-900-9128

May 4th, 2021 from 10:15 AM -12:00 PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84212706821?pwd=YzMwbUg2YXNzRmRzNThkcE5iZUU0QT09

Meeting ID: 842 1270 6821

Passcode: 367900

Join by phone: 1-669-900-9128

May 18th, 2021 from 10:15 AM -12:00 PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84049220683?pwd=Q05YZlUwWnVuKzFHcDgrdE1ibFhPQT09

Meeting ID: 840 4922 0683