

A Voice for Vocations



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Anne Champagne
2020-2022

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Father Nicolaus Thai

Spiritual Advisor:

Sister Louise Ann Micek, CSJ

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

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

AUGUST

8th Brigid Noonan
17th Carol Frank
22nd Maureen Neglia
29th Betty Padilla

PREZ SEZ

Patty Baer, President



TIMELY INSPIRATION

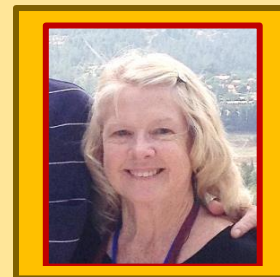
We're in the "dog days of summer" right now as we all feel more intensely the sun's warmth. So... we need a "feel good" story to distract us. My article in last September's newsletter was about the short life of a young Italian man, Venerable Matteo Farina. This month I will tell you about Blessed Carlo Acutis, a young boy from Milan, Italy, who died in 2006 at the age of fifteen. He had an extraordinary talent for technology, and he used it to spread the Gospel by creating a website and exhibition that has touched millions.

Carlo Acutis was a baptized Catholic. However, his mother rarely went to church and his father had little time for him. It is remarkable that he developed a deep love for God early on. Some speculate that the family's Polish nanny told him about Jesus. The center of his devotion was the Eucharist, which he called his "highway to heaven." He never missed daily Mass and always spent time praying before the Blessed Sacrament. He told his mother that when he was in front of the tabernacle, he felt "elevated...like being in front of a source that took his soul to great heights." (I am reminded of Matthew Leung telling us at our last meeting of his deep longing to sit for long periods in Adoration.) Carlo added the practices of daily rosary, scripture reading, and weekly confession. He was very outgoing, with a strong desire to evangelize. Said his mother: "Many people in the church today have a way of disturbing others. They feel they are overbearing, often not knowing when it is a good moment to evangelize, or how to speak. With Carlo, he was really balanced; he understood how to attract people."

SEE PG 3, "PREZ SEZ"

DISTRICT DOINGS

Anne Champagne
Governor, District #79



CALLING ALL SERRANS TO ACTION!

This District Doings column represents a "Call to Action" to all of our Serrans, who are club members of different parishes within District #79, which includes Orange County, the Inland Empire, North Coast San Diego and Hawaii.

A future plan of action which is being encouraged by our acting Serra Pacific Region Director, Ed Lupton, would be to have a Serra representative for every parish in our District, who would hold the title of "Serra Ambassador". The impetus for establishing this role is to have a Serra representative, within each parish, who can be the point/contact person to assist parishes in implementing and utilizing our valuable Serra "S.P.A.R.K." vocation programs in each of our parishes. Most certainly this is a strong move forward in promoting vocations at the parish level, and would increase our Serra apostolate's presence within our respective dioceses.

Therefore, since each of our clubs have members who represent multiple parishes, the "ask" is that you approach your club's individual members, and suggest that they answer the call to facilitate this very crucial role, which our Region Director wishes to put into place ASAP.

Ed asked a very pointed question: "How can we implement our Serra S.P.A.R.K. vocation programs in a parish with no representation?" This is a good question indeed!

Please pray about this and ask yourself

SEE PG 3, "DISTRICT DOINGS"

City Club Newz

Goodbye,
Father
Nicholas!



We'll
miss you!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY
OF ALL THOSE WHO WILL ATTEND

**Serra International Convention
in Chicago, October 7-10, 2021**

Matt & Nancy Ivary – Anne & Mark Champagne

A TIMELY MEDITATION

Brian McLaren [*We Make the Road by Walking*, 2014] reflects on Luke's Gospel and God's justice through the stories of Mary and Elizabeth's miraculous pregnancies [Luke 1]. He understands these stories as invitations to join an adventure with God in which another world is possible:

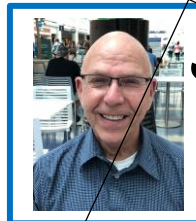
"What if their purpose is to challenge us to blur the line between what we think is possible and what we think is impossible? Could we ever come to a time when swords would be beaten into plowshares? When the predatory people in power—the lions—would lie down in peace with the vulnerable and the poor—the lambs? When God's justice would flow like a river—to the lowest and most "god-forsaken" places on Earth? When the brokenhearted would be comforted and the poor would receive good news? If you think, *Never—it's impossible*, then maybe you need to think again. Maybe it's not too late for something beautiful to be born. Maybe the present moment is pregnant with possibilities we can't see or even imagine."

PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY - Fr. Richard Rohr
Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness and hope that we can never comprehend. Thank you for leading us into a time where more of reality is being unveiled for us all to see. We pray that you will take away our natural temptation for cynicism, denial, fear and despair. Help us have the courage to awaken to greater truth, greater humility, and greater care for one another. May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our suffering world. Please add your own intentions . . . Knowing, good God, you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God. Amen.

City Club Newz**AUGUST SPEAKERS...**

AUG 3

Fr. Norbert Wood, O.Praem.



SUBJECT

AUG 17

Tim Porras, Catholic Cemeteries



CATHEDRAL MEMORIAL GARDENS



**TO
CHANGE**

See back page for meeting instructions.

Prez Sez *continued*

Carlo's evangelistic spirit was reflected in acts of charity--gathering food, blankets, and sleeping bags for the homeless, feeding the hungry at the Caritas cafeteria and defending students at his high school who were being bullied. He recognized that charity means speaking the truth. He would warn his classmates of the dangers of pornography, telling them their bodies were temples of the Holy Spirit. During one class debate on abortion, he was the only student to oppose it.

Besides his outgoing personality, Carlo was also known for his skill with computers. At the age of nine, he taught himself to code, using a university-level textbook. He did fun things, but dedicated most of his computer time to developing a virtual exhibition on Eucharistic miracles. He wanted to offer people tangible evidence for their faith, so he asked his parents to take him to the sites of those miracles. He photographed and catalogued them, and four years later had developed a website to display his results. This website was the genesis of the Eucharistic Miracles of the World exhibition, which has toured five continents and been shown in thousands of parishes.

But Carlo would not live to see the full impact of his work. He was hospitalized with leukemia and, knowing he would not leave the hospital, he offered his suffering for the Pope and the Church. "I can die happy," he told his mother, "because I haven't wasted even a minute on things that aren't pleasing to God."

What can we learn from Carlo's life? As he said, "We are all born as originals, and yet many people die as photocopies". Each of us can be our own "original," just as he was, finding ways to glorify and serve God through the talents we've been given. It's not too late; considering all that Carlo accomplished in just 15 years!

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST:

"May the Church receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel."



St. Francis, help us to follow in your footsteps.

District Doings *continued*

if you would be willing to fulfill this role, representing your effort in the "call to holiness" which our Serra Club's Mission Statement suggests.

Any club members who wish to offer their services as we move forward with this initiative should notify their Deputy District Governor, or you can contact me directly.

My contact info is listed below:

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Phone #: 714-721-7137
District Governor #79

*"Always Forward, Never Back!"
St Junipero Serra, Pray for Us!*

City Club Newz**SERRANS WORK AND PRAY FOR
ORDINATION RECEPTION**

City Club Newz

We rejoice over our new priests: Rev's. Cheeyon Chun (NEW CHAPLAIN!), Michael Fitzpatrick and Brandon Lopez (6/12/21). Fr. Brandon gave a special blessing to our own Loretta Callopy!



AUGUST-SEPTEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE

It is with great joy that we can now meet in person. John LeDuc has secured newly ordained Fr. Cheeyoon Chun to be our next Chaplain! Father is the new Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Cathedral and has suggested he offer a 7:00 AM Mass for our Tuesday meetings. John has also been able to get a meeting room for us. He will direct us to it after the Mass. He will also provide coffee and doughnuts for this first meeting. I will bring yogurt cups and spoons. There will be a basket provided for donations. I look forward to seeing all of you this Tuesday morning at Holy Family Cathedral Church: 566 S. Glassell St., Orange 92866.

Remember . . .
Holy Family Cathedral

7:00 a.m. Mass
Meeting in a room there after Mass.