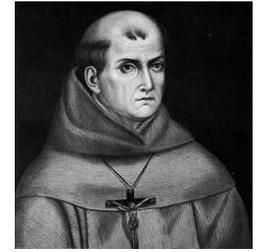




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



December, 2019

Region 11

District 79

Charter 438

Newsletter

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

FUTURE EVENTS

Dec 5 - Christmas Luncheon

Jan 2 – Meeting, Speaker: Deacon Bill Weeks

**Jan 16-19 – The Serra Rally, Ventura Beach
Marriott, Ventura**

Feb 6 – Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Wayne

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Serra friends,
'Tis the season, and Jesus is the reason for this season! Forty-two of us attended our annual Christmas Luncheon at the Grand Catered Events. It was wonderful that our two Serra Clubs joined forces to celebrate

Mass at St. John Maron Church followed by our Christmas luncheon. Orange High School Vocal Music Panthers entertained us wearing Christmas Santa hats while singing many of our holiday favorite songs. Truly this joyous celebration was Exactly the antidote we needed to enliven our 2019 Christmas spirit.

Hopefully, many of you will consider attending the annual Serra Rally, January 16-19, at the Ventura Beach Marriott. This three-day conference truly is a rally similar to the high school pep rallies we enjoyed to cheer our football teams on to victory. Do our Serrans need to be motivated towards increasing our membership and praying for an increase in vocations? You bet we do! There is an impressive agenda slated with over a dozen outstanding inspiring speakers scheduled to speak. Presentations include keynote speaker University of Mary President Msgr. James Shea and Serra International Episcopal advisor, Thomas Cardinal Collins. Bishop Barron will be the closing speaker. Those of us that



Plan to attend, will note that the effort made to attend this rally is well worth the effort.

Serra International is offering a St. Junipero Serra Contest with the objective to increase the membership of each club. To enhance participation, there are money rewards offered. The large club category of 25 memberships or more, (that's us) with largest net increase in new members will be awarded \$3,000.00. The club with the second largest net increase in new members will be awarded \$2,000 . The club with the third largest net increase in new members will be awarded \$1000. Finally, all remaining clubs who show a net gain of 5 or more new members will receive a 10% rebate of club dues for one year starting July 1, 2020. In addition, all clubs who gain 5 or more new members will receive one free registration to the next Serra International Convention in New Orleans June 25-27, 2020. Now, my dear wonderful friends, can we at least bring in 5 or more new members? You bet we can!! Instead of making a New Year's resolution that we may or may not keep, instead, if each of us brings in one new member we could be a HUGE prize winner. This is our challenge! Like the little engine who said, "I

think I can, I think I can, “when he reached the top (his goal) he shouted “I knew I could, I knew I could!” What are we made of? Let’s show our Serra Spirit, and engage St. Junipero Serra to help us identify potential Serrans that we can ask to attend one of our meetings as a guest, and hopefully join our illustrious group. Remember how you became a member? Someone asked you, and each of us can pass it forward and ask someone. It never hurts to ask. I’m counting on each of us to make this happen! You and I can make known the miracle of God’s love through the love we give to others, our family and friends, and even strangers. May this coming season that tells the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus, our loving Lord and savior, fill our hearts with acts of kindness. May the miracle of Christ’s birth fill the hearts of those we love as well as your own with God’s love and peace. I Wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Very Happy and Healthy 2020.

In God’s love,
Virginia Mort, President

P.S. Think prospective new members!!

VOCATION REPORT



The seminarian who received the gift card for December, donated by Sue Silvestri, is David Moreno Noriega. David is from Our Lady Of Guadalupe Parish and is in Theology 1 at St. John’s seminary.

Our Serra Club of Orange County and the City Club joined to have our Christmas Luncheon together on December 5th. Father Antoine Bakh celebrated Mass for us at St. John Maron Church. After Mass the luncheon was held next door at Grand Catered Events. Father Brandon Dang, our Vocations Director was able to join us. Father shared that our Diocese has 29 men studying for the priesthood at six different seminaries. He has been busy visiting the different seminaries and will soon travel to the seminary in Mexico. Father said that he is blessed to be in the position to help these men determine where the Spirit is working in their lives. Presently, there are five seminarians in their Pastoral Year, we hoped they could join us but many had responsibilities during the day. Seminarian Michael Fitzpatrick was able to attend and he did an excellent job serving Mass with Father Bakh. is the adopted

seminarian of our member, Maureen Kosinski. Following lunch, we entertained by the carolers from Orange High School, talented and enthusiastic group.

Please continue to pray for all the seminarians and young men discerning the priesthood. Any questions regarding discernment, please contact Father Brandon Dang at the Vocations Office at 714-282-3036 or bdang@rsbo.org. Discernment will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 9 Hillgate Irvine. Holy Hour 7 p.m., gathering 8 p.m. Inquiries call 714-282-3046. Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of Perpetual Adoration.

VOCATION PRAYER: Loving God, you gift us with your Son, Jesus. At His baptism, You affirmed Him as your beloved Son. Jesus responded by proclaiming the Good News about your reign. Gift us all with generous hearts to further Your reign here on earth. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

Editor’s Note: Virginia Mort, the clubs thank you for another wonderful Christmas program.

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

SERRA CLUBS OF ORANGE COUNTY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Photos courtesy of Joan Golding