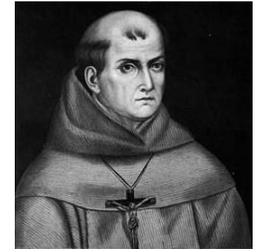




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



February, 2020

Region 11

District 79

Charter 438

Newsletter

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

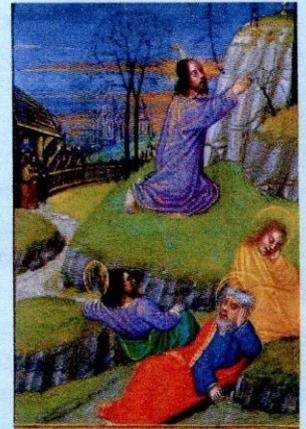
FUTURE EVENTS

- Feb 1&2 – World Day For Consecrated Life
- Feb 6 – Meeting, Communion Service, Deacon Weeks, Speaker: Virginia Mort
- Mar 5 – Club Meeting Speaker: Fr. Wayne
- Mar 14 – Day of recollection Theme: Jesus and Me “An ongoing love story”
- Mar 22- St. John Seminary Trip
- Apr 2 – Club Meeting
- May 7 – Club Meeting
- June 4 – Club Meeting
- June 6 – Ordination at Christ Cathedral
- June 27 – Transitional Deacon Ordination at Mission San Juan Basilica
- June 27 – 2020 International Convention, New Orleans Louisiana
- July 2 - Club Meeting
- July 14 – Ordinati Mass and Luncheon
- Aug 6 – Club Meeting
- Sep 3 – Club Meeting

Vocation Prayer For Priests

Almighty and ever-living God, You govern the universe in your providence and you govern the Church as your family. Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is our Lord, shares his headship of the Church with those whom he calls to ordained priesthood. Do not leave your people without pastors who make visible the presence and love of the Good Shepherd. Call those whom you have chosen and give them the grace to hear that call and cooperate with it. Enlighten all the baptized to discern and support the call to priesthood among those who are prepared to leave all for the sake of the Lord and his Church. Give us joy in our gratitude for our salvation and help us all to live in unity of mind and heart, so that the world may believe that Jesus is Lord, now and forever.

Amen



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Serra friends,
As we begin a new decade and reflect back on all the happenings of the last decade, the one word that can best describe the past is CHANGE. In every area of our lives so much has changed in society, in

our beloved Church, and in our lives. However, the one thing that remains constant is the need for each of us to pray with fire in our hearts and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and other religious. In Luke 10:2 reads, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”

Pat Manzo and I attended the Serra Rally 2020 in Ventura January 15-18. As the program unfolded,

how I wished that all Serrans could have shared this experience and that each of our members could have participated in this outstanding Serra Rally. The theme was Creating a Culture of Vocations.

Bishop Robert Barron celebrated our closing Mass on Saturday evening and share a story that touched my heart. He told of a Chicago priest whose top priority was to work tirelessly in his diocese planting seeds for vocations. He did that extremely well. At his final Mass before he left for his retirement, he took off his shoes and placed them on the altar. As he walked off the altar, in a raised voice, he asked, **Who will fill these shoes?** What a powerful message, both visually and vocally. His question is still resounding in my head, “who will fill these shoes?” Can we imagine...a culture of vocations so strong that each parish produce one priestly

ordination per year? St. Mary's Church in Hudson, Ohio has produced a vocation each year since 2013. One priest in 2013, one priest in 2014, one priest in 2015, one in 2016, one in 2017, one in 2018, and finally one in 2019. I'd say they had quite a roll going at that parish. How did this happen? It took a whole lot of seeds planted for vocations by so many people who pray continually for God to help them pray and plant the seeds along the path. We need so many more good priests. So many older priests are at the age of retirement. Perhaps a new Year's resolution for each of us to make is to continually ask God to show us how to increase our ability to pray for an increase of vocations, and what can we do in our own little world to plant seeds and to help to fill those empty shoes. "The harvest is plentiful and the labors are few." Luke 10:2

In God's love,
Virginia Mort, President

**SERRA RALLY, VENTURA, CA
JANUARY 2020**

Monsignor James Shea, President, Mary University, Bismarck, ND, highlighted the theme of this Ventura Rally 2020, "Creating a Culture of Vocations" is the secret sauce of the Catholic Church, and the grandeur of the life of the Church.

The following were topics of discussion at the rally.

Whatever our vocation, we were meant for greatness.

Pope Francis, "Ours is not an age of change, but a change of the ages.

How is our culture changing under our feet?

We used to be a Christian culture. Now we are in the midst of a technological revolution.

The Holy Spirit is alive and well. We need to recapture the vision of seeing the world and its meaning.

The ruling imaginative Vision of the Human Culture is to maintain in our mind a set of convictions for us to live by in its influence.

The Catholic vision is that we are in a battle for souls.

The Catholic Church has always been a genius in education. Education is meant to open an imaginative vision.

We must remember that different cultures respond in different modes.

Advantages of Christendom endeavors

Success of Missionary endeavors.

Great achievements in fundamental law

Filled with Christian supporters.

The presence of Christ is the sweetness of life.

Disadvantages of Christian endeavors.

Most people are lukewarm Christians.

Profess the faith in a lukewarm fashion.

Greed and corruption can take place in the heart of the Church.

Reforming the Church is no easy task.

Advantages and Challenges of an Apostolic Age.

The Gospel attracts the best with higher standards of holiness in the clergy.

One has the opportunity to suffer for our faith.

More difficult to raise children.

Children drift away from the faith.

A settled life is more difficult.

People tend to profess less faith.

God created us to live in this time, and we have a good time to enrich our faith.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen claims that we are at the end of Christendom because of the breakup of the family.

This is the time to rally to the heart of Christ.

SEMINARIAN FRANCIS ANG

My name is Francis Ang and I am 27 years old. I was born and raised in Anaheim and attended St. Catherine's Academy, Loara High School,. And the Roseman University out in Las Vegas, Nevada. I also completed my master's degree in nursing administration from CSU Dominguez Hills. Prior to entering the seminary, I worked as a Registered Nurse at St. Mary medical Center in Long Beach for five years in the telemetry Department where I specialized with cardiac and stroke patients. I started to seriously discern the priesthood about 1.5-2 years ago as I yearned for more answers to life. My heart was restless for God. The idea of priesthood had been planted as I have always been involved with my Catholic faith, altar serving since I was in the 5th or 6th grade at St. Boniface Church. During that time at St. Boniface, Bishop Freyer was my pastor and up to this day I continue to be his master of ceremonies, when needed. He is a huge part of my priestly discernment and I am blessed to have known such great priests who have been role models in my discernment and formation. Another important influence that has been a huge impact are my parents. By their example, faith and the way they live their life their life out has been a great example to me to develop my relationship with God in this way. I have one brother who is younger and who I also call my best friend. I like to travel, read exercise, and spend time with those whom I cherish. I really enjoy playing basketball, catch and swimming.



Seminarian Francis Ang and Virginia Mort at the Serra Rally, Ventura, CA 2020

VOCATION REPORT



The seminarian who received the gift card for January, donated by June Craig, is Ethan O'Campo. Ethan is in College 1 at Mt. Angel Seminary. In February, Michael Rizzo received the gift card.

Michael is from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish and is in Theology 4 at Mt. Angel. He is Pat Manzo's adopted seminarian.

SEMINARIANS: After their Christmas break, the seminarians have returned to their studies at their respective seminaries, preparing themselves for their future lives in the priesthood. As Serrans we affirm the lives and works of those who have already answered the call to religious life. Serrans ultimately work to ensure the future of the Church.

At our January meeting members signed up for the gift card of the month activity. There are still seminarians who have not been adopted. Members will have the opportunity to do that at our February meeting.

Seminarian Vincent Nguyen, who is in his pastoral year at Santa Clara de Asis parish in Yorba Linda, thanked our club for his gift card and all we do in praying for vocations. He sends his blessings and remembers us in his prayers.

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 oration.

VOCATION PRAYER: Loving God creator of the universe you have gifted me with life. You call me to be a light to the world through baptism. Help me to brighten our world by sharing my gifts in the service of others and respecting all of creation. I ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen

Mary Brockschmidt
Vocations