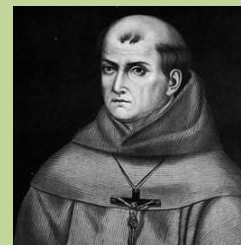




# SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



December 2022

Pacific Region

District 79

Charter 438

Newsletter

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

## FUTURE EVENTS

December 10 - "Serra Meets" 9am Zoom - Greg Schwietz, President of Serra International - Serra Now More than Ever! Challenges and Successes Promoting a Global Vocations Apostolate  
Jan 5 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Father Khoi Phan  
Jan. 12 - 15 - Serra Rally in Irving, Texas

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Christmas Spirit

Virginia Mort once again offered the perfect setting for our Christmas Luncheon. On an overcast day her home provided us with a welcoming warmth. Our reliable Deacon Bill Weeks spiritually fed us with a lovely communion service. As a change of pace we did not have a catered meal. Instead, our members brought an array of delicious items to share, adding to the festive spirit.



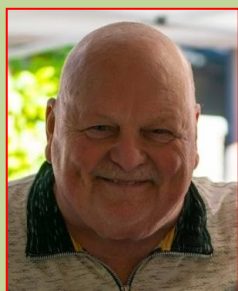
After dessert, our Chaplain Sister Nadine led us in Christmas carols interspersed with her beautiful commentaries.

May you carry the spirit we shared that day with you through this holiday season and forward into the new year.

I wish a Very Merry Christmas to you all and God's Blessings for the year to come.

In God's Love,  
Catherine Walton

## SPEAKER



The Serra Club of Orange County was pleased to once again welcome the newly retired Deacon Tony Patronite. His familiar face and cheerful attitude always makes pleasant company, especially when he shares thought provoking subjects, such as the one discussed this month: Purgatory.

Established by St. Odilo of Cluny as the annual commemoration to pray for all the faithful departed, on November 2nd we celebrate All Souls Day. Deacon Tony reminded us that this is a day we celebrate baptized souls. In contrast, on All Saints Day we celebrate triumphant souls which go directly to Heaven. Of course, the difference being that ordinary baptized souls must first pass through Purgatory. Deacon Tony recommends that we all go visit a cemetery and pray for our dearly departed. When asked by a curious Serran on where to find Purgatory in the Bible, he referred to 2 Maccabees 12:41-46. Although he knows that some people refuse to go to the cemetery because “the dead are with the Lord”, it is important to remember that there is a time of purging and we must pray they leave Purgatory. He also recommends we take out the pictures of our loved ones and show our friends and family how the faith has been passed on. Deacon shared the example of faith being passed on when Fr. Eugene Lee wore a black vestment left by our recently departed Fr. John Jantze, who would often say: “At least if you are in Purgatory, you know you’re going to Heaven.” Passing on the faith is an important thought to consider as Deacon Tony recalls that his children were fortunate enough to meet his godmother who lived to be 100 years old, recognizing they are a good influence.

Deacon Tony closed with this thoughtful reminder from Psalm 116:5-7: “Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.”

Gabriella Negrete

## MEMBER PROFILE

We welcome our new member  
Lulu Papac



My name is Lourdes Papac aka Lulu. I am 71 years young. I have 4 sisters and a brother in Heaven. I have been married to my high school sweetheart, Jim, for 46 years. I have 2 precious sons and 6 beautiful grandchildren. I am a retired legal secretary. I was also the president of an investment club for 25 years. I was my mother’s caregiver until she passed at the age of 93, and now I take care of my grandchildren. I live in Yorba Linda and belong to St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church. I have been very active in my parish and love singing in the choir, but I am still remote since Covid. I am a square dancer and ballroom dancer. I love gardening and I have 12 backyard chickens. My hobbies include paper crafting, bead embroidery, sewing, decorating and cooking. We have a motorhome and we visit the National and State Parks with our children every summer. I just became a member of the Serra Club and have adopted 2 seminarians. I

look forward to learning more about the Serra Club and promoting vocations in the Catholic Church. I thank God every day for all the blessings he has bestowed upon me, and I look forward to supporting my seminarians on their special journeys to the priesthood.

## VOCATIONS REPORT



The seminarian who received the gift card for December, donated by June Craig, is Francis Ang. Francis is from St. Boniface Parish and is in Theology 2 at St. John's Seminary. Francis's Mother, Margo, recently joined our Serra Club. It has been awhile since our club has had the Mother of a seminarian as a member. Our club had our Christmas Luncheon at Virginia Mort's home earlier this month. Margo made delicious appetizers and gave a lovely Christmas pin to each of our members. There is a special place for the Mothers of seminarians.

In a few weeks the seminarians will be having their Christmas break and they will gather for a Christmas dinner on December 19th. Father Brandon has started a six week Discernment series held at the Pastoral Center. Those interested sign up for the series and that is working out very well. In September we gained eight new seminarians.

Rev. Ian Gaston, who will be ordained in June, shared his thoughts for Advent with our club. He hopes Advent is fruitful for our members and their families. The Advent scriptures remind us of the promises of what God wants to accomplish in our lives. The Messiah came on Christmas day. He is here now with us in the Spirit. What we are waiting for is when He will come again in all His glory and the Kingdom of God will be completed.

Newly entered seminarian Cody Schurter shared that it is a blessing to be supported by the Serra club prayers. Cody was born in California and then his family moved to St. Louis and then Pittsburgh. He graduated from Franciscan University and then lived in Chicago where he worked as a youth minister. He returned to California and taught math, chemistry and theology at Servite High School. He is now at St. John's Seminary. He brings an interesting background to his vocation. He is praying for the Serra Club members and their families. He hopes he will have the opportunity to meet the Serrans. Keep Cody and all the seminarians in your prayers. The road to ordination is challenging for them.

Any questions concerning discernment, contact our Vocations Director, Father Brandon Dang, at 714-282-3036. Father's assistant, Elizabeth Sandoval, can be reached at [esandoval@rcbo.org](mailto:esandoval@rcbo.org)

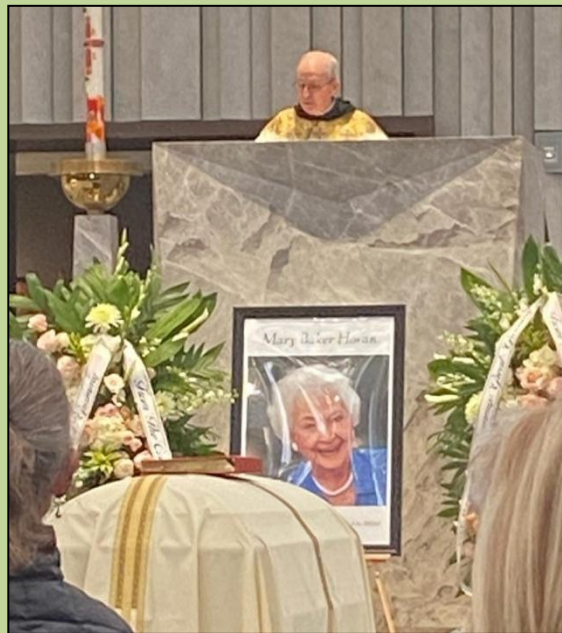
**VOCATIONS PRAYER:** Loving God, you gift us with your Son, Jesus. At his baptism, you affirmed him as your beloved Son. Jesus responded by proclaiming the Good News about your reign. Gift us all with generous hearts to further your reign here on earth. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mary Brockschmidt  
Vice President, Vocations

**Editor's Note:** 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.

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





**RIP**

**MARY BAKER HORAN**

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At the Rally, you will

- Engage with fellow Serrans to strengthen your network for sharing ideas, solving problems, and building morale
- Be inspired by top-notch lay and religious speakers who work on the front lines calling laborers to the Harvest
- Ignite and renew your dedication to our vocations apostolate via opportunities for spiritual development and conversion

Sign up before December 21st for the early registration discount

<https://serraus.org/serra-rally-2023/>

Hotel reservations at the Serra group rate must be submitted before December 21



## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 2022







*Lulu Papac's beautiful centerpieces evoking the "Reason for the Season"*

