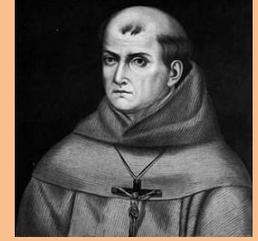




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



October 2023

Pacific Region

District 79

Charter 438

Newsletter

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

FUTURE EVENTS

Oct. 5 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Rev. Hoa Tran

Oct. 14 - Serra Meets - 9am -Zoom - Sister Rosann Ocken OSB, Prioress of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters from Norfolk Nebraska. "Hope for Vocations"

Nov. 2 - Club Meeting, Mass: Rev. Erialdo Ramirez Alfaro; Speaker: Sister Nadine

Nov.4 - Feast Day of St. Charles Borromeo, Patron of Seminarians

Nov. 5-11 - National Vocation Awareness Week

Dec. 7 - Christmas Party

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Serra Club members joined together for a fun day of golf, dining, and camaraderie with friends and the clergy of the Diocese of Orange at our 16th Annual Monsignor Sammon Golf Outing on September 18, 2023 at the Tustin Ranch Golf Club.

We had a total of 72 Golfers. An additional 44 just attended dinner. Our golfers this year included 9 priests and 12 deacons. We had an additional priest

Being a Christian is just like a pumpkin!



First, God picks you from the world and brings you in ...but I have chosen you out of the world. John 15:16

He then washes all the "dirt" off the outside that we received from being around all the other pumpkins. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Then, He carefully removes all the "yucky stuff" out from the inside, all those seeds of sin, doubt, hate, greed, and fear from inside us.

For we know our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with....Romans 6:6

Then He carves a new smiling face. My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You - I, whom You have redeemed Psalm 71:23

Now He fills us with His light.let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds... Matthew 5:16 So you see, we Christians are really like this pumpkin! We will never be the same with Jesus inside of us. We can say like this pumpkin, "Thy presence, my light!"

and three sisters joining us just for dinner.

The winners, which included the spouses of Madrienne Peters' granddaughters, with a score of 61, were the foursome of Ramsey Day, Steven Doxey, Kelly Henderson and Adam King. In Second Place were Tony Magnemi, John Teeter, Fr. Bill Barman and Tom Burhand with a score of 64.

A foursome of priests - Fr. Brandon Dang, Fr. Duy Le, Fr. Cheeyoon Chun and Fr. John Urell - finished third.

Closest to pin for a woman was Maureen's daughter Kara Holland; Lance Garcia won for the men.
Longest drive for a woman - Molly MacMillan.
Longest drive for a man - Tim Champagne.

A big thank you to Golf Chair Maureen Kosinski. This great event couldn't have happened without her and her hardworking volunteers, including Pat Manzo, Lily Hanson and Diane Salinger. A special thanks to the Craigs for donating lunch. And thank you to all of you who attended or donated to the occasion. Your support will further vocations in our Diocese.

Serra was represented at St. Cecilia's celebration of Priesthood Sunday at a booth with brochures and sign-up sheets as the parish served coffee and donuts and gave the priests thank you messages.

A new Missionaries of St. Junipero Serra Membership contest has begun for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. May our work inspire others to join us.

In God's Love,
Catherine Walton

SPEAKER



This month's speaker, Fr. Sy Nguyen, Pastor of Holy Family parish, shared a very unique and inspirational vocation story which exemplified the filial love which makes every difference in a person's life.

Born into a Catholic family in Vietnam, the Sy family was part of a minority, as only 12% of the population is Catholic. Fr. Sy's mother worked at the Communication Center of the only television station in Saigon. At the start of the Vietnam War, the Communists attacked by placing a bomb in a taxi in front of the television station, killing Fr. Sy's mother. Fr. Sy was 4 years old and his sister was

only two years old at the time. Fr. Sy's father, who was in the Army, remarried a Buddhist who converted to Catholicism and in so doing, promised to raise the children in the Catholic tradition. Fr. Sy's step-mother raised him from the age of 6 and she later had two more children whom she continued to raise Catholic. Fr. Sy's father became Mayor of one of the cities in the region and was later assassinated by the Communists. Fr. Sy's step-mother remarried a widower who was a Buddhist with 8 children. By now Fr. Sy was only 9 years old and was being raised by a Buddhist step-father. However, although Fr. Sy's step-mother stopped practicing Catholicism, she never reneged on her promise to raise her children Catholic and she would remind them to go to church and enrolled all four of them in Catholic school, which at the time was free as it was run by nuns and priests. Fr. Sy's step-mother and step-dad welcomed another child making the total count of 13 children.

When the young Sy was 14 years old, his family escaped Communism. Being such a large family, they were split into 5 groups spread throughout the United States. It took 5 years before they would reunite. In 1979, St. Hedwig's in Los Alamitos sponsored the family and he was enrolled in Los Alamitos High School where he learned to speak English. Fr. Sy commented that his old schoolmates would not recognize him today as he was very shy and withdrawn due to the language barrier.

During his Senior year in High School, he attended a Lenten Youth Retreat at St. Hedwig's. The result was a spiritual experience in which he became intimate with the reality that Jesus died on the cross for him! What could he do to give back to God? The setback for the young Sy was his shyness, lack of English and thereby, fear of public-speaking. That Fall, Sy became an alum of Cal State Long Beach as an Engineering major which he felt suited his temperament. Depression befell him two years into his studies as he was not doing what he was supposed to do. God was calling him to become a priest! He confided to his step-mother his dilemma upon which she informed him that his birth-dad had said to her that if any of their children had a vocation, she would need to let them go.

Upon entering St. John's College and Seminary, he knew that was where he belonged. He was ordained

in 1991 at the age of 26 and was first assigned to St. Vincent de Paul where he learned Spanish. He was later assigned to Blessed Sacrament and afterward Bishop Vann sent him to Rome to learn Canon Law in Italian and Latin. At present, he is one of the few Canon Lawyers of the Diocese of Orange.

Fr. Sy recognizes that it is not his talent or gift but what God does for him. God uses him for His own mission and that brings about his confidence when he preaches. God is speaking through him and it is God's grace that has helped him overcome his shyness and given him the ability to learn and speak several languages. He feels it is such a privilege and blessing to be a priest. Fr. Sy's advice to seminarians is to not rely on your own talents and gifts and to pray for everything! It is very powerful. Fr. Sy is grateful for any support the Serrans can offer seminarians. He is in debt for our prayers and support for vocations.

Gabriella Negrete

VOCATIONS REPORT



The seminarian who received the gift card for October is Alan Hoetker. Alan is from St. Timothy's parish in Laguna Niguel. He is in Theology 1 at Mt. Angel Seminary.

Our three new seminarians are in their Propaedeutic stage at St. John's Seminary. Our seminarians are introduced to an integrated journey grounded in community and missionary in spirit. They are integrated into each of the four stages of seminary formation; propaedeutic, discipleship, configuration and vocational synthesis. In each step, the seminarians are expected to achieve specific benchmarks to move on to the next stage. The goal of priestly formation is to form missionary disciples consecrated as shepherds for God's people, sharing

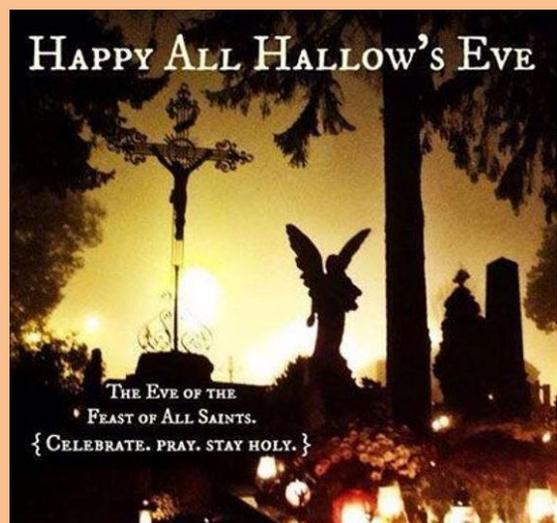
in the authority of the Redeemer who sent the apostles to preach and heal. It is important that the Serrans continue to pray for the successful implementation of the formation programs. The seminarians really appreciate our prayers and support.

Any questions concerning discernment, contact our Vocations Director, Father Brandon Dang, at 714-282-3036 or bdang@rcbo.org or Father Brandon's Associate, Father Cheeyoon Chun. Father's assistant, Elizabeth Sandoval, can be reached at esandoval@rcbo.org

VOCATIONS PRAYER: Father, in every generation, you provide ministers of Christ and the Church. We come before you now, asking that you call forth more priests to serve our Church. Give us priests who will lead and guide your holy people gathered by Word and Sacrament. Bless us with priestly vocations to continue to be a truly Eucharistic Church, strengthened in our discipleship of Jesus Christ, your only son. Raise up, and we pray for priests who are generous in their service, willing to offer their lives and all their gifts for your greater glory and the good of your people. We make our prayer in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Mary Brockschmidt
Vice President, Vocations

SERRAN BIRTHDAY IN OCTOBER VIRGINIA MORT





With Father Sy



Golf Tournament Winners