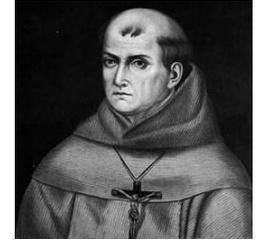




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



February 2024

Pacific Region

District 79

Charter 438

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

FUTURE EVENTS

Feb. 1 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Brandon Dang

Feb. 2 - World Day for Consecrated Life
(celebrated in parishes Feb. 3-4)

Mar. 2 - Lenten Morning Reflection - 8:15am-12:30pm - Holy Family Parish

Mar. 7 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Ben Nguyen

Mar. 8 - 14 - National Sisters Week

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to 2024! We started our year off by honoring some of our Serrans. Serra offers pins of service for 10, 25, and 50 years. At our January Serra meeting we gave some belated 10 year pins to Virginia Mort (2009) and myself (2009) and 25 year pins to Maureen Kosinski (1999) and Pat Manzo (1998). Some members were absent so we will distribute the remaining pins at upcoming meetings. These pins don't say 'years of membership', they say 'years of service'. You're not just a member of a group; you are a servant of God, encouraging and affirming vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life and answering God's call



to holiness in your lives. So no matter how many years you've been a Serran, thank you for your years of service

Lent will be coming soon and this year Ash Wednesday is the same day as St. Valentine's Day. If you'll recall, this last happened in 2018 and will occur once again in 2029. There will be no dispensation from fast and abstinence on that day, so how should we celebrate? You, of course, could celebrate on Mardi Gras - Fat Tuesday. That would certainly be appropriate. However, since the idea of sacrifice is common to both days, you might just

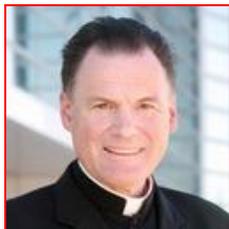
celebrate them together on Wednesday in a manner that doesn't violate the rules or spirit of the occasions. Whatever you do, remember the Saint after whom this holiday (holy day) is named.



Happy Saint Valentine's Day!

In God's Love,
Catherine Walton

SPEAKER



As our first speaker of 2024 the Serra Club of Orange County was honored to welcome Msgr. Stephen Doktorczyk, Pastor at St. Martin de Porres in Yorba Linda.

Msgr. Doktorczyk was born in Long Beach, California in a Polish/Croatian household. He grew up in San Pedro as this was his mother's hometown and where she resides present day. As a boy, Msgr. Stephen attended parochial school from 7th-12th grade and attended Cal State Long Beach where he earned a degree in Business Administration. While attending university, he worked at Vons supermarket and in 1988 moved to Huntington Beach as the former Safeway markets had been purchased by Vons and he was promoted to Grocery Manager for the Los Alamitos stores. Upon graduating, he became a full-time employee and applied to USC for a course in Food Management but was not accepted. Therefore, he continued at Vons and as his brothers

were attending UCI, they all moved in together. He would attend Mass at St. Bonaventure while working at Vons.

Msgr.'s theological curiosity piqued when he met some Protestants who said that as a Catholic, he was going to go to Hell. He found he could not adequately defend the faith so he began to read Catholic books as well as the Catechism of the Catholic Church which came out in 1993.

Along with his brothers, he began teaching 8th grade religious education whereby answering the students' questions he learned a great deal. He began discerning the possibility of the priesthood of which his parents were not enthused, so when a Masters Program in Business came up, he took it yet "kicking the can" at a vocation.

In 1997 a Human Resources position became open and although they were long hours he took the job as it was office level and gave him time to reflect and be more involved in the Church. Soon afterwards, his brothers married and he was left alone at home. He wondered about his life's purpose and realized he had wasted much time, so he canceled the cable and television and found "extra" time. His prayer life increased and he studied the Bible and Catechism.

He had worked 17 years in the grocery business, dated here and there but with the guidance of Fr. Bob Vidal, who was pastor at St. Anne's in Seal Beach, he decided in 2000 to enter St. John's Seminary. At that time, Bishop Tod Brown wanted to send a couple of seminarians to Rome so he went on August 24th, 2001 and 2 ½ weeks after arrival...9/11 happened!! He moved from the seminary to Casa Santa Maria in Rome and was ordained in 2005. He did his undergraduate studies in Rome and the U.S. program for priestly formation was 3 more years of Theology, and for the fourth year Bishop Brown asked him to study an extra 3 years of Canon Law. He spent two Summers at Holy Family, four years at St. Joachim's and 4 years in the Marriage Tribunal for the Diocese.

On December 8th, 2010, Bishop Brown told him that Cardinal Levada needed a person in Rome (a Canon Lawyer who spoke both English and Italian). They got together for lunch on January 1, 2011 and Cardinal Levada said it would be a good move and to get a doctorate, which he worked on during the

Summer of 2011. In November 2011 he received a call from his director telling him a Spiritual Director is needed at seminary, so from the Summer of 2011 to December 2016, he worked on his doctorate at the NAC and was Spiritual Director at Seminary. He later moved into St. Polycarp while working at the Diocese. In 2018 he was Vicar General at St. Polycarp and oversaw the Vocations Director at the Diocese. In July 2022 he was assigned to be Pastor at St. Martin de Porres. He has just been appointed to be the Local Secretary at the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See to the United States.

Msgr. Stephen has been a priest for 18 ½ years and still remembers the first time he encountered the Serrans when in 2001 the Serra Club went up to St. John's Seminary. He is grateful for our prayers and asks us to continue as the need for vocations is great.

Gabriella Negrete

Ordination is long and challenging at times. The fruit of the Serran's prayer is support of those who respond to God's call with selflessness and faith. Our world needs well-formed priests. As Serrans, it is so important that we continue to support our seminarians through our prayers and our generosity.

VOCATIONS PRAYER: O Mary who raised your Divine Son with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, intercede for all young people, especially those clouded by doubt about their vocations. May the light of grace pierce their hearts so they may answer Your Son's call, especially those whom he is inviting to the priesthood and consecrated life. Amen.

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.

Mary Brockschmidt
Vice President, Vocations

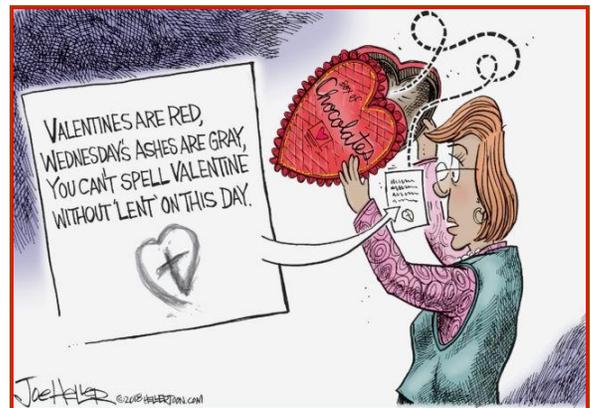
VOCATIONS REPORT



The seminarian who received the gift card for January is Jose "Trino" Juarez. Jose is from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and is in Pre-Theology/Discipleship Stage 3 at Mt. Angel Seminary. Jose is Virginia Mort's adopted seminarian. The seminarian who received the gift card for February is Seth London. Seth is from Holy Spirit Parish and is Pre-Theology/Discipleship Stage 4 at Mt. Angel Seminary. He is Maureen Kosinski's adopted seminarian.

Seminarian Alvin Huynh who received the December gift card appreciates our support and he will continue to pray for us, his benefactors. Alvin is at St. John's Seminary. He also wished us a wonderful Christmas season.

As we begin a new year most of our seminarians have returned to their seminary. God still fires the heart of young men and asks them to dedicate their lives in service to His Church. The road to



**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY
SOPHIA WICKSON,
MARY BROCKSCHMIDT
AND
BRUCE JUNOR**

