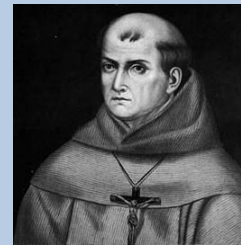




# SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



August 2024

Pacific Region

District 79

Charter 438

Newsletter

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

## FUTURE EVENTS

**Aug. 1 - Club Meeting, Speaker: Father Al Baca**

**Aug. 4 – Feast of St. John Vianney, Patron Saint of Priests**

**Aug 8 - 11 - Serra International Convention**

**Sept. 16 – 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Monsignor Sammon Golf Outing**

**Sept. 28-29 – Priesthood Sunday**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The month of August has so many important celebrations, but it is especially dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and therefore, the Immaculate love of our Blessed Mother is a glorious gift from God. She is the instrument through which Salvation Himself came into our world. She is also, therefore, the continuing instrument through which all the grace given by Christ comes into the world. The Immaculate Heart of Mary draws us closer to God, as Pope John Paul II stated in a homily given in Washington D.C. on October 6, 1979:

*“This woman of faith, Mary of Nazareth, the Mother of God, has been given to us as a model in our pilgrimage of faith. From Mary, we learn to surrender to God’s will. From Mary, we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary, we learn to love Christ, her Son and the Son of God. Mary is not only the Mother of God, but she is also the Mother of the Church as well.”*

Over the course of her lifetime, Mary endured many trials – but throughout it all, her attitude was one of steadfast faith and unflinching obedience, reflecting her Immaculate Heart. Her example gives us strength to surrender to God’s call to service, especially if it demands for sacrifice of our time and treasure.

Let us continue to follow the appeals of Our Lady by living lives of prayer and service. As St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta reminds us: “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

Yours in Christ,  
Gabriella Negrete

**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN JULY  
LILY HANSON, JAMES PAPAC,  
AND BARBARA BENEVILLE  
AND IN AUGUST  
GABRIELLA NEGRETE**

**SPEAKER**



Our guest speaker for June, Deacon Bob Alvarado, graciously presided at our communion service where he spoke to us about the 3-E's, Enlighten, Engage, & Empower. Deacon Bob is a Cursillista, enkindled with the fire of the Holy Spirit, who along with his wife Olga worship at St. Joseph Parish in Placentia. In the Deacon's words, "Olga is a partner, a confidant, and the best half of this Deacon Couple." Both Olga and Bob were born in Texas but consider themselves Californians because they moved to California as young children. Olga came here when she was 3 years old and grew up in Anaheim Hills. Deacon Bob arrived when he was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and grew up in Pico Rivera. Together they raised 2 children born 19 months apart. They have 3 grandchildren, one of whom is a member of the Church Triumphant having died in the womb at the 8<sup>th</sup> month of the pregnancy. Deacon Bob's pilgrimage to the Diaconate may be understood through those 3-E's. ENLIGHTENED by the Holy Spirit. ENGAGED as a man with a plan. EMPOWERED to work God's plan.

**ENLIGHTENED:** A cradle Catholic, Bob was baptized as an infant. His Uncle was a father figure to Bob who enforced regular Sunday Mass attendance and enlightened Bob to the basics of his faith. From her house on the corner, Bob's Grandmother, Mama Lupe, kept a close watch over Bob. Her watchful eyes along with her practice of the daily rosary helped Bob, a child of divorced parents, to experience security and stability. Through the observation of Perpetual Adoration at St. Hilary's in Pico Rivera, Bob saw souls always present and always praying to our Lord which gave Bob an experience of calm and continuity.

**ENGAGED:** The busy time of engagement began in High School where Bob was active as a drummer in the concert and marching bands and in sports, especially Basketball and Volleyball. It was in high school that Bob set his life goal. He would be an engineer. Life got busier at college. At Cal State Long Beach, Bob studied to become an engineer, played co-ed intercollegiate volleyball, met Olga and married. Busy accelerated to very busy after college. Bob, now the engineer, began to engineer everything about his life. Job, marriage, house, 2 kids, career advancement, perfunctory Sunday Mass were the raw materials Bob used to build the "good life" he had engineered. Then very busy became crazy when Bob started work on a Master's Degree at USC while living in Chino Hills with 2 children both in diapers and working a full time job in Los Angeles. This "man with a plan" for the good life was spending more of his time commuting the freeways than he was living the good life with his family. Satan knows how to tempt the good with the good and Satan was pleased. Bob's marriage, family, and Bob himself were on the eve of destruction.

**EMPOWERED:** Only by the grace of God did they survive that out-of-control season of engagement. Unknown to Bob, Olga waged a battle to save their marriage, their family, and Bob. Her weapon of choice, The Rosary. Olga prayed her way into the grace of loving forgiveness. The raging storm calmed. Now Bob was without a plan, living simply in the comfort of family, home, and distractions like Fantasy Football.

## VOCATIONS REPORT



Then came the TURNING POINT. The comforts and distractions of success could not satisfy a void in Bob's life. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Bob turned to his Faith. Bob's faith had not progressed beyond his 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation. Using the internet as a resource, Bob began to research what it means to be a Christian. Some of his heroes from that research are Patrick Madrid and Bishop Robert Barron. The God-Given-Energy that fueled that busy engagement season was now poured into learning his faith and God's Plan for his life. The beauty of our Roman Catholic Tradition became radiant to Bob. Bob attended retreats, read "33 Days to Morning Glory," attended daily adoration at St Martin de Porres. He consecrated his life to St. Joseph. And as the quality of his prayer life improved Bob moved closer and closer in relationship with Jesus. With light from the Holy Spirit, Bob was beginning to see "God's plan for this man."

Bob joined the Knights of Columbus, where he was asked if he had ever considered the Diaconate. Bob and Olga were invited to a dinner at the rectory with 3 other couples where again Bob was asked if he was considering the Diaconate. During Bob's Cursillo weekend, he was asked a third time. During that weekend, many people prayed over him and Bob began formation for the Diaconate. The next three years were a time of surrender to the Will of God. After 37 ½ years of working for Rockwell-Boeing, Bob retired. The third year of formation was filled with many consolations from God. Bob was given great JOY in service to ministries like Homeboy, Jail, Hospital and the Homeless. Bob was able to recognize the gifts God had given to him and to appreciate how they could be best used in the service of God's plan for the salvation of all creation. Bob exhorted us by saying: "I find the more I rely on God, the better things turn out. I pray that God makes me humble and sends down the Holy Spirit to guide me in being a good servant of his people." Bob, thank you.

*Be still and know that I am God. Ps 46:11*

Jeanne Bullington

The Seminarian who received the Gift Card for June, donated by Virginia Mort, was Acer Salinas. Acer is from Christ Our Savior Parish in Santa Ana and is at Bishop White Seminary in Spokane, WA.

The Seminarian who received the Gift Card for July, donated by Cathy Walton, was Cody Schurter from St. Martin De Porres Parish in Yorba Linda. He is at St. John Seminary.

The seminarian who received the gift card for August is Matthew Wong. The card was donated by Tom Woore. Matthew is studying at Bishop White Seminary. He interned this summer for Father Greg with the Office of Life, Justice and Peace.

Due to the sudden passing of Mary Brockschmidt I agreed to accept the appointment to the position of Vice President of Vocations. I have worked with and supported Oliver Coughlin, Francis Ang, and Acer Salinas during their stay at St. Justin Martyr Parish.

**VOCATIONS PRAYER:** O Mary, who raised your Divine Son with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, intercede for all young people, especially those who are with doubt about their vocations. Grant that they hear your Son's call to the priesthood and to consecrated life. Amen.

Phyllis Soloy  
Vice President, Vocations



## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



**From l. to r. - Virginia Mort, VP Membership, Jeanne Bullington Secretary, Pat Manzo, Treasurer, Catherine Walton, Past President and VP Communications, Maureen Kosinski, Trustee, our new President Gabriella Negrete, MC Lulu Papac, Chaplain and Spiritual Director Sister Nadine, Deacon Bob Alvarado.**

## ORDINATION 2024



**Father Greg Walgenbach, our first married priest through the Pastoral Provision and Father Cole Buzon, our first Filipino American priest.**



## PRIESTS AND SEMINARIANS BASKETBALL GAME 2024



Virginia Mort with her adopted seminarian Francis Ang who won MVP.



Team North County won 52-50.  
3000 gathered to raise money for our Diocesan Vocations Office.

## ORDINATI 2024



**Mass in the Chapel in the Sky.**



**Fr. Cole relating his vocation story.**





**Fr. Greg shares his vocation story.**



**Presentation of the gift of framed Ordination pictures.**