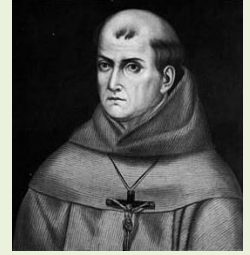




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



March 2025

Pacific Region

District 79

Charter 438

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

FUTURE EVENTS

Mar. 6 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Rev. Joseph Knerr

Mar. 8 – 14 – Catholic Sisters Week

Mar. 23 – St. John's Seminary trip

April 3 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Serrans,

As Christians, this month our Lenten reflections shall likely be about sacrifice, necessary to improve our lives through self-discipline. We may also consider how to be merciful to others and to ourselves, and certainly to remember the love God had for us when He sent His only Son to die for our sins. But beyond all the customary traditions of asceticism, we can also rejoice, for on the 25th we will recall another story of God's love and plan for salvation, and of Mary's openness to that plan. It is a celebration of Mary's "yes" to God and an opportunity for us to respond in the same way.



Reflecting on the story of the Annunciation can offer the openness of mind to receiving all of life's rejoicings, questions and uncertainties. To be sure, we make hundreds of yes or no decisions daily, even if just to ourselves and there are good reasons for either one of our responses, and either one can lead us to wholeness and holiness. Personally, my "yes" to God's call to serve by promoting and praying for vocations has been certainly fulfilling. The Serra Club is my family and as such will always be a part of me and I assure you I will continue as a member for as long as God permits. My other "yes" to a new holy ministry has also filled my heart with joy and bafflement, but as with all things, with God as my constant companion, my "yeses" have led me to a life that I love. I wish and pray that your "yes" to serve may fill you with all the blessings and joys of the promises of Christ

God bless,
Gabriella Negrete

SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH
JEANNE BULLINGTON
AND
JOAN GOLDING

SPEAKER



I will forever remember this about our February Speaker, Monsignor Kerry Patrick Beaulieu. On the Feast of St. Paul Miki & Companions, at 11:30AM, I entered our meeting room to find the room completely set up with gifts, curiosities, family pictures, a slide projector with screen displaying a slide from Japan, and Monsignor. That day I met a joyous Christian; a loving Shephard; a learned and wise Priest. Give. Share. Teach.

Monsignor Kerry is an honored retired priest serving Jesus' flock for just over 50 years. He was raised in the San Fernando Valley by an Irish-German Mother and a French-Canadian Father in a culture of Catholicism. His father supported the family as a Certified Public Accountant. When not working, his father gave his CPA talents to Serra USA and Serra International serving as Treasurer of both. He was the very first treasurer of the Serra USA Council. Monsignor commented shyly to our group of mostly women that the Serra Club was men only in those days. Monsignor lovingly shared with us a photograph of his father meeting then Pope John Paul II.

Kerry Patrick Beaulieu was raised in a Catholic Culture. A rich culture of Serra Clubs and Papal

Audiences. A simple culture of a grandmother who each day drove him and his brothers to a Catholic school far from home where she waited all day for the boys rather than make the long drive home and back. While his grandmother waited, she crocheted a priest's stole which Monsignor brought and shared with us. Raised in a Catholic Culture rich, simple, and familial, Monsignor remembers there were priests at his home all the time. He remembers arguing on his back porch with clergy in the 1960s about the Rites of the Mass, Venacular vs Latin. Wishing never to leave that Catholic Culture which fed him and provided for his growth, he set a goal to become a parish priest and to teach high school. Thus, Kerry Patrick Beaulieu became a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate because they served in the parish and were available to teach in high schools.

During his 50 years as a priest, he served in parishes including St. John's, St. Joachim, St. Bonaventure in Huntington Beach, and currently in residence at St. Justin Martyr. He taught at St John's Seminary College. He served at Marywood Retreat Center and Christ Cathedral, as well as assisting the Archdiocese of Los Angeles on the construction project of Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral. Surprisingly, it is not an old worn-out man before us. Nope, it is a little boy shining out through this joy filled Priest. And like all little boys, he wanted to gift us with the little treasures he picked up on his adventures. In addition to displaying his priest stole and family pictures, he gave us his Golden Anniversary Card with a painting by Muan of Our Lady of Refuge along with the sad statistic that 150 people died on the streets of Orange County in 2024. Our Lady of Refuge, pray for us. He also gave us a Virtual Tour of his adventure to Nagasaki, Japan. Monsignor Kerry is passionate about Japan. We all know so well there are no coincidences in life. Our meeting on the Feast of St. Paul Miki and his Companions who were martyred by crucifixion in 1597 at the now site of St Phillips on the Hill in Nagasaki, Japan, was no coincidence. It was an opportunity for Monsignor to share a virtual tour, gift us with memorabilia from the site, and teach us about Christian Faith and Mercy.

VOCATIONS REPORT



In 1597 there were over one hundred thousand Catholics in Japan and the Japanese Emperor was not pleased. The crucifixion of Paul Miki and his Companions was intended to stop this movement. On our virtual tour we saw the 26 camellia bushes planted at the spot where the 26 martyrs were crucified. We saw the memorial statues of each martyr including a young boy. We heard of the 250 years, from 1597 to the late 1800's when the Japanese Christians were called "Silent" Christians and were without priests. Still in their silence and without clergy, they kept the faith. The "Light of the World" remained burning in them till they could once again proclaim their faith in the open.

Nagasaki was a center for Japanese Christians in the 1930s and 1940s. But like Poland and the Philippines, Nagasaki is an example to the world of Christian Suffering. One of the only two atomic bombs ever dropped hit Nagasaki about one half mile from a Catholic Cathedral. The Church bells were driven 6 feet into the ground by the blast. The people dug them up. Hung them again in the Bell Tower. And rang them to the Glory of God. In Nagasaki, museums and monuments dedicated to never forgetting the horror of the atomic bomb have not one hint of Anti-American sentiment. Monsignor recommended we read a book written by Paul Glynn, S.M., titled, A Song for Nagasaki: the story of Takashi Nagai. Takashi Nagai was a scientist, convert, and survivor of the atomic bomb, who died of radiation poisoning due to his scientific work focused on understanding and finding a cure for radiation poisoning. It is said this book changes haters into healers.

Monsignor shared a few final thoughts with us. Be the best Catholic you can be. Talk positively about the Lord and His Church especially around young adults and children. Don't be afraid to talk to people about vocations, "Plant a seed". Pray – it often surprises you. Support Seminarians in a "concrete" way. This humble and genuine man, so filled with love, peace and joy, which is to be filled with God Himself, shared with us a life well lived. And from all appearances a life that is very far from finished. Thank you, Monsignor Beaulieu.

Jeanne Bullington
Secretary

The February gift card went to Oliver Coughlin and was presented by Phyllis Soloy. As we all know, Oliver received his Diaconate in December and is now serving his duties as Deacon at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Huntington Beach.

The March gift card, donated by Silvia Uriarte, will go to Shane Duffy who is in St. John's Seminary in Camarillo.

Any questions concerning discernment, contact the Vocations Department Director Fr. Cheeyoon Chun or his assistant Elizabeth Sandoval at 714-282-3033.

VOCATIONS PRAYER: O God, You have constituted Your only-begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of Your majesty and the salvation of mankind: grant those whom He has chosen ministers and dispensers of His mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. Amen.

Phyllis Soloy
Vice President, Vocations



FEBRUARY MEETING



