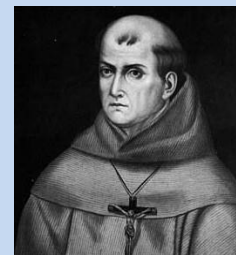




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



August 2025

Pacific Region

District 79

Charter 438

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

FUTURE EVENTS

August 7 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Father Sy
Nguyen

September 4 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD

September 8 – Annual Msgr. Sammon Golf Outing

September 28 – Priesthood Sunday

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Serrans,

God Bless America – God's Country! What a magnificent world we live in! God has surrounded us with beauty. Jim and I and our son Michael and his family caravanned in our RV's all the way to Tennessee and back this July. Along the way, we experienced 9 thunderstorms, animal sightings of black bears with their baby cubs, deer, magnificent elk, wild turkeys, cows, horses, pigs, chickens and a beautiful Rhode Island Red rooster in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We also saw lightning bugs for the first time! We frolicked in the white sands of the White Sands National Park. Every state we crossed had its own beauty; the green



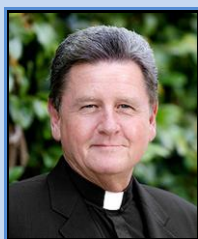
pastures of Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi dotted with cows and horses surrounded by walls of green trees, farm houses along the country roads, small lakes here and there, cornfields stretched out for miles, churches everywhere. And then there were the cities; Fort Worth, Texas, Nashville, Gatlinburg, Elvis' Memphis in Tennessee, and the hot deserts of Arizona and New Mexico. We crossed the Continental Divide twice. And for the first time ever we visited 3 Buc-ees! Those who know Buc-ees, know! We had a fabulous vacation. If you haven't already travelled our country, go out and witness the world God has given us. Enjoy and explore the cities where the Serra Conventions are held. Take in this glorious world while spreading the Word of the Lord.

And now as our vacations are coming to an end, we turn to our upcoming events. The Ordinati was a beautiful event according to Beverly Truzzolino, President of the Serra City Club. Thank you to our Flower Committee and all who attended. Now we must get busy and make our Annual Msgr. John Sammon Memorial Golf Outing a success on September 8. This is our Club's most important fundraiser. I hope that everyone is able to attend, if not golfing, attend the dinner. We need to spread the word and invite people to come. Let's make this 50th year of our Club a good and memorable one!

May our Lord bless us all,

Lourdes (Lulu) Papac
President

SPEAKER



When talking with your retired friends, how many times have you heard "Retired! I am busier now than when I worked for a living." Did you hear it once again from our July Speaker, Monsignor John Urell? Monsignor John retired as a Parish Pastor in 2016. It was laugh-out-loud funny and rather touching to hear Msgr. relate the questions he gets while swimming in his community pool. Questions like, "Are you that former priest?" or "Do you still do things?" Have you ever seen Msgr. John still or unable to give to everyone he meets that signature JOY through eyes glistening bright with irony? Alright, maybe once, but after all he is just human. However, his reputation for intelligence, counsel, and humor are known to be superhuman.

July 3rd is the Feast Day of the Apostle, Thomas. On that day, Msgr. John delivered St. Thomas' call to action with the same irony I imagine Saint Thomas displayed when he declared to the disciples, "Let us go to Jerusalem with Jesus to die with Him." Following that call to action, Msgr. reminded us that Saint Thomas did not die in Jerusalem with Jesus

Instead, he travelled to the ends of the known world and founded the Church in India. And when his work was complete, he died as a red martyr for my Lord and my God, Jesus. As for Msgr. John, he said July 3, 1978, was the day he celebrated his first Mass at then Holy Family Cathedral in Orange.

Msgr. was ordained in June of 1978. The same year the Diocese of Orange was established and the then Father John Urell, was honored to be among the first men to be ordained as priests in the newly created Diocese of Orange. He was assigned to the Cathedral and worked for Bishop Johnson. On June 16, 2025, Msgr. John was among the many, many, many priests that con-celebrated the funeral Mass for our beloved Wally Drazba at now Holy Family Church. The same church at which Msgr. John was ordained a priest in June of 1978. Msgr. John con-celebrated the funeral mass using Bishop Johnson's chalice; accompanied by a flood of memories; and wondering what Msgr. Sammon would have thought about priests in retirement. "That was not a thing done in Msgr. Sammon's day," was all he said on that subject.

But on the subject of memories, he told us about the day he was summoned to Bishop Johnson's office with the statement, "Bishop wants to see you as soon as possible!" It was July 1, 1983. By then Father John had been a priest at Holy Family Cathedral for five years. Making time expand between assignments is one task every priest must learn. This priest raced to the Bishop's Office. The Bishop had two requests of Father John and the Bishop prefaced those requests with this statement: "The only answer to these requests is 'YES' unless leading the parish ministry would be a threat to your salvation." And at that Father John was made a Leader of Ministries and began work toward an advanced degree from USC School of Social Work.

After Bishop Johnson came Bishop McFarland, followed by Bishop Brown and then our now Bishop Vann. After working many years at the Cathedral, Msgr. John was assigned to St. Norbert Parish in Orange and there he served for five years, followed by an assignment to St. Timothy in Laguna Niguel where he pastored until his retirement in July 2016. And now he is busier than he ever was as a pastor celebrating Masses, leading retreats, and mentoring seminarians. His retirement advice to us:

Each morning as your feet touch the ground say
Thank you Lord for today.
Please let me know how I can serve you.

Monsignor John Urell serves his Lord, his Diocese, and his Bishop well. I'd like to meet an Orange County Catholic who has never heard of Msgr. Urell. I wonder if anyone has ever counted the number of priests serving the church who can trace their vocation back to Msgr. John Urell.

We also hosted two seminarians working this summer in local parishes.

Eddie Huber, thirty years old and a fourth-year seminarian at St John's Seminary in Camarillo has three more years to finish his seven-year priestly formation. Eddie is Lulu Papac's adopted seminarian. As much as Eddie understands that the seven-year formation process is designed to teach and to wash out selfishness, he is continually in a battle with frustration over the tension that exists between "God's Will" and "My Will." God wants Eddie to be ready to be a priest. Eddie wants it to be done. Eddie exhorted us to remember – How it works is this: God is not much interested in what we do. God looks at and cares about HOW we do what we do.

Joseph Nguyen is a first-year seminarian and the youngest at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon. Joe is Gabriella's adopted seminarian. Joe told us when he met Msgr. John along with a couple other retired priests he thought, "Funny old guys." And just the kind of priest I'd like to be. Joseph is funny. His story from passive Catholic boy; heart shattering breakup; lunch in a church parking lot resulting in Adoration Time, that all leads to a verbal deal with our God that results in his acceptance to seminary on Holy Saturday after admission to seminary was closed, and ending this stage of his life in Peace and with Relief was very funny. But you had to have been there to hear his humor. God bless our seminarians. God bless Monsignor Urell.

Jeanne Bullington
Secretary

**SERRAN BIRTHDAY IN AUGUST
GABRIELLA NEGRETE**

VOCATIONS REPORT



The July Gift Card was presented to Alvin Huynh and was donated by Virginia Mort. I received a very nice "Thank You" note from him. I was advised that Alvin had some surgery and immediately sent him a card with prayers for his health and healing from all Serra Club members.

August Gift Card will be presented to Jose 'Trino' Juarez. The card was donated by Teresa Barajas, a prospective member.

Oliver's Ordinati Mass and Luncheon was attended by his parents and Serra members and several of our Seminarians. He gave a wonderful talk on his life and on entering the seminary, giving his thanks to the Serra Club for their prayers and support. Silvia and I have already approached him to say Mass for us, and he has agreed to do so.

Any questions concerning discernment, contact our Vocations Director, Father Cheeyoon Chun or Elizabeth Sandoval, his assistant at esandoval@rcbo.org

VOCATIONS PRAYER: God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.

We ask that you inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will.

Send workers into your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by Your sacraments.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Phyllis Soloy,
Vice President, Vocations

JULY MEETING

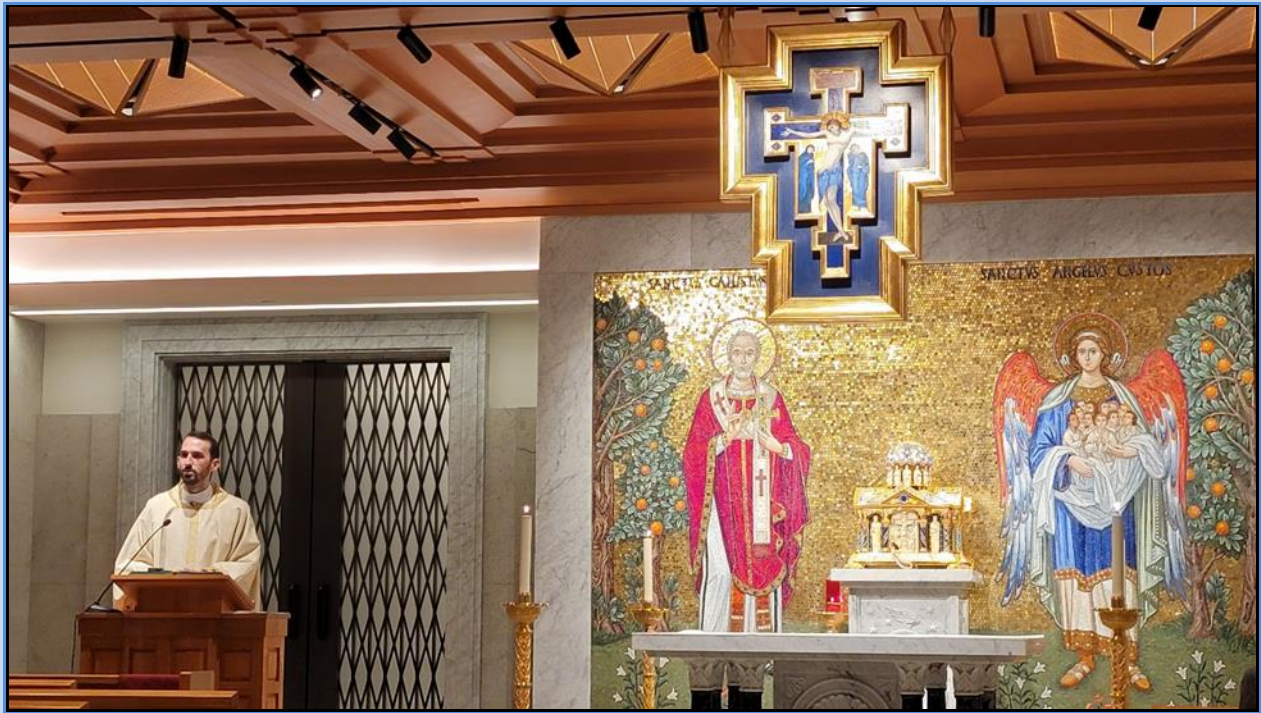






l. to r. – Seminarian Joseph Nguyen, Gabriella Negrete,
Lulu Papac and Seminarian Eddie Huber.

ORDINATI



Mass in Christ Cathedral's Callistus Chapel





Our gift to newly ordained Father Oliver Coughlin.





Father Coughlin addressing our Luncheon guests.



Seminarian Nicholas Meneses and Catherine Walton.