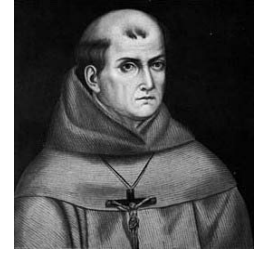




# SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



July 2010

REGION 11

DISTRICT 127

CHARTER 438

## FUTURE EVENTS

- July 1 – Junipera Serra Feast Day
- July 1 – Club Meeting, Club Plans for 2010-2011
- July 15 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD
- August 5 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD
- August 19 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Paul Gins
- August 23 – Ordinati Mass and Dinner
- September 2 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD
- September 2 - 5 - Serra International Convention,  
Anchorage, Alaska
- September 13 – Golf Outing
- September 16 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD
- October 1-3 - Regional Convention, San Jose, CA

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Serran Friends,

“ There can be no more fruitful investment in the life of Holy Mother Church than time spent in prayer for Her priests and vocations to the priesthood.” This quote is from the opening line from the introduction of the book, “Praying for Our Priests.” On Sunday June 20, as I watched the procession of so many priests walk down the aisle at St. Nicholas Church in Laguna Woods to honor Father Tim Mac Carthy on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood, my eyes filled with tears of joy for so many reasons. I was overjoyed at the magnificence of the music I was listening to as the choir sang, the trumpets played and the cymbals clanged joining together and praising God on this joyous occasion. I was overjoyed that Father Tim, who has been in ill health lately, was smiling at his family who had traveled from Ireland, Switzerland, and Philadelphia, and to all his many friends from St. Cecilia Parish who were in attendance. It was one of those “moments” that as I was absorbing all that was happening around me, I thanked God that our Diocese is blessed with so many dedicated priests that faithfully serve us

## FR. JUNIPERA SERRA FEAST DAY July 1

### PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED JUNIPERA SERRA

Heavenly Father, we ask you to look lovingly on the missionary journey of your faithful servant, Junipera Serra.

His steadfast efforts in founding nine missions in California and the conversion of thousands of Native Americans have inspired the formation and work of Serra International.

This ministry in Father Serra's name is to encourage and affirm vocations to priesthood and vowed religious life.

We pray that you bless this holy and courageous missionary and grant him the ultimate honor of Sainthood in your heavenly kingdom.

We ask this in the name of Thy Blessed Trinity and of Mary, Queen of vocations.

Amen

Many of us have participated in seeing an Ordination which is a very special occasion. The newly ordained priests have an open slate as they begin their service. On the other hand, joining in a celebration of a Golden Jubilee, one can recall the fifty years of dedicated service that the priest has completed. The comparison is like a sunrise to a sunset. Though we Serrans have not experienced 50 years as a religious, we have the privilege to support and promote religious vocations in so many ways from prayers to participating in a golf tournament with proceeds going to assist the religious. Keep September 13 open for our golf tournament. Ask your golfing friends to join us for a fun day. Now don't promise them a hole in one on the 12<sup>th</sup> hole, but who knows, anything is possible with God.

At our next meeting, July 1, all the officers will present what their role is, and what they plan to accomplish in this coming year. Everyone will have an opportunity to offer suggestions on how to grow

our club and what activities you might suggest for the board to consider. Let us thank our Blessed Lord for keeping us safe, and let us say a special prayer for our troops who are protecting our freedom and our independence. God Bless America and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Virginia Mort, President

VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for May, donated by Jane Virgilio is Joseph Jang. Joseph is from St. Thomas Korean Catholic Ctr. in Anaheim. He is in Theology I at St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park. Many of our club mem-

Bers along with members of the other Serra Clubs served at the reception after the Ordination Mass at Holy Family Cathedral on June 12<sup>th</sup>. One priest was ordained, Kiet Ta. Kiet is from St. Barbara's parish in Santa Ana. Please keep Father Kiet in your prayers as he begins his ministry.

The next Priesthood Discernment Meeting at Marywood Chapel will be on July 13 at 6:30 p. m. Please continue to pray for all the seminarians and young men discerning the priesthood. Also, remember your day in the 31 Club.

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

SPEAKERS



Our speaker on June 3 was Sr. Ernestine Velarde CSJ (on the right). Sr. Velarde has been appointed successor to Msgr. John Sammon as head of the Propagation of the Faith in the Diocese of Orange.

Letters from all over the world still arrive at the office thanking Msgr. Sammon for the help he gave. The Pope's encyclical decrees that all Catholics must "love our neighbor as ourselves". This is what the Propagation of the Faith tries to do. Sr. reminded us of the "pagan babies". Catholic school children used to give their pennies during Lent through Holy Childhood for these "lost children" in foreign lands. Sr. Ernestine disclosed that she would go anywhere to help children. To this end, she taught at St. Jean's for 25 years before going to Africa and Japan. She has been in Rome for the last 12 years and will go to India in September.

St. Jean's is a 400-year-old order of nuns. They were the first woman's religious order for teaching. They are now in 26 countries.

One day late in the afternoon while teaching in Japan, a young Buddhist girl came to see her. "Tell me about your God", she said. "You leave your family and your country to tell this story of salvation".

After recently returning from Africa, she says it is still the same after 20 years, poor and hungry children in the streets begging for food. "How easy it is to forget how the poor suffer".

Sister will visit 40 schools this year to talk about the missions. Fifty missionaries will come to the diocese this summer to ask for money.

Sr. Rosianna, her companion is a young nun from Paraguay. Sr. Rosianna was a practicing veterinarian before entering the convent. She will soon leave for Columbia where she works with the Christian Base Community teaching them to grow their own food. They also have a co-op garden of herbs for natural medicine so that they can take care of their aches and pains without a doctor.

She asks for our prayers as she prepares to take her final vows.



Father Richard Kennedy, Pastor of St. Barbara's Church was our chaplain And speaker on Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup>. He was born in Pittsburg, raised in Altadena and ordained in 1973. Lived with Irish priests for 10 years, thus the slight Irish brogue. At one time half of the priests were Irish. Today, half are from Vietnam. There is only one seminary in Ireland!

Father went from high school to the seminary because he was introduced, through Serra sponsored trips, to the seminary. What a great idea! Father had to work many jobs to pay for his tuition. – roofing, landscaping and counting screws in a factory. He introduced us to the 1956 book, “Life & Liturgy” which also applies to today. Liturgy is the whole congregation the priest only presides. It is prayers and rites traditionally taught by the Church. The Diocese suggested that the wall behind the altar tell a story in a series of 12 icons. It would be meaningful and would help us to realize we are united with the Church in heaven; we are part of the heavenly body. Any person from any country would understand these pictures. The center of these icons would be a large risen Christ.

Sara Adamo, Communications

#### FATHER JUNIPERO SERRA

On November 24, 1713, a very tiny, very weak little baby was born on the island of Majorca. He was baptized quickly because everyone was afraid he would die. Miguel Serra did grow up to be a small man. But this small man walked thousands of miles through the Mexican and California wilderness in the service of Spain and his own religious beliefs.

Miguel’s parents could not read or write, but they wanted their little boy to go to school. There was a school near their home, the Order of St. Francis. It was run by Franciscan friars. Tiny Miguel turned out to be one of the best students the friars had ever seen. When Miguel was fifteen, he was sent to Palma to continue his studies. There he worked hard and lived the life of a Franciscan Friar. After two years he joined the order. He took the priestly name of Junipero. He named himself after a friend of St. Francis of Assisi. The original Junipero was a man known as “ the little jester of God.”

Fr. Junipero was a famous teacher (Dr. Serra, or Dr. Junipero was what his students called him at the University). In August of 1749, Father Junipero was sailing to Cadiz to fulfill his lifetime dream of being a missionary.

After (99 days) he arrived in Vera Cruz. Horses and mules were waiting to take the missionaries to Mexico City. But Fr. Junipero said he preferred to walk. It was a rule of the Franciscan order that friars were supposed to walk unless they were sick or injured. After many days of walking, Fr. Serras’ legs became swollen, blistered, and badly infected. On December 31, 1749, he arrived in Mexico City to

begin training. They were taught about native American customs.

Native Americans, of course, had their own religion and way of life. But Christians believed that, if these people were not told about Jesus, they would be doomed. Miguel wanted with all his heart to save them.

His first assignment was in the wild mountains of Sierra Gorda. King Charles III of Spain decided that the Jesuit priests who have built missions in lower California were dangerous to the Spanish Crown. He decided to replace them all with Franciscans.

In 1767, Fr. Serra was sent to Baja California as the President of the Baja California missions. Fr. Palou and Fr. Crespi were also assigned to these missions. From that time on, Father Junipero was part of a team, which included Jose de Galvez, the Spanish Inspector General and Gaspar de Portola, the military Governor of California. Together, Galvez, Portola and Serra planned to set up missions all the way up the coast of California to San Francisco. Since there was nothing Spanish in California for Portola to govern except the missions, he and Father Junipero were partners. The first mission was founded at San Diego in 1769. He went on to establish eight other missions.

The purpose of the Spanish missions was not to convert native Americans to Christianity. The missions were seen as the first step toward Spanish settlements in the area. Fr. Junipero brought to his task an undying enthusiasm. When he found the soldiers abusive to the natives, Serra decided that something must be done. Soldiers assigned to protect the missions led unhappy and often very boring lives. Serra believed this was part of the problem. He asked that the soldiers be allowed to bring their wives and families to live with them. He also asked for other changes in the missions. He was so convincing that the viceroy agreed to everything.

Life at the missions was very different after the families came. And they were followed by other Spanish settlers. Soon there were farms on rich land. The missions – San Diego, San Francisco, San Antonio and Luis Obispo and others became towns. Father Junipero worked side by side with one governor after another. Then, finally, there came a governor who took away Fr. Junipero’s position, refusing to allow him to found another mission. Two years later, at the age of seventy, Fr. Junipero died.

**SERRA MEMBER BIRTHDAYS IN JULY**  
*Sheila Blake Dick Peters*