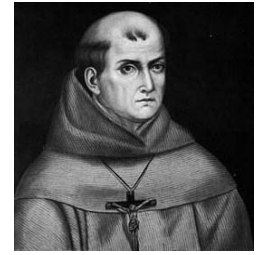




SERRA CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



February 2012

REGION 11

DISTRICT 127

CHARTER 438

NEWSLETTER

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

FUTURE EVENTS

- Feb. 2 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Billy O’Connell
- Feb. 5 – World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life**
- Feb. 16 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Bao Thai
- Mar. 3 – Day of Recollection**
- Mar. 18 – St. John Seminary Visit**
- Mar. 1 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD
- Mar. 15 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Vincent Gilmore
- Apr. 5 – Holy Thursday – No meeting
- Apr. 19 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD
- May 3 – Club Meeting, Speaker: TBD
- May 17 – Club Meeting, Speaker: Fr. Chris Heath

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Dear Serran Friends,
As we begin this New Year, many people make New Year’s Resolutions which in most cases are never kept or ever thought about by the end of January. A New Year’s Resolution that we need to consider is to pray daily for an increase of religious vocations, and for

all of our religious who faithfully serve us throughout the year.

Our Essay Writing Contest began in full swing during Vocation Awareness Week with the sixth grade class at St. Cecilia School. The topic they are asked to write about is: What are the qualifications/qualities to be a Sister, Priest, or Brother? Mary Alvarado, St. Cecilia School principal, suggested the contest be with the sixth grade students this year because it is never too early to plant the vocation seed in our young people. The Vocations Committee is: **Warren and Rosa Kato, Eileen Loonam, Mary Brockschmidt and yours truly.**

The Serra Clubs Lenten Day of Recollection will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at Holy Family Cathedral Parish Center. There is more on this later in the newsletter. There will be a sign-up sheet at the February 2 meeting.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

We pray that all priests might live and love to bring Jesus to others - that they might be the merciful, healing presence of Christ as they visit the sick, the elderly, the imprisoned and the dying. We pray that all priests might work reverently and tirelessly to protect and defend all human life.

Please plan to attend. The Day of Recollection is an ideal way to prepare our hearts for the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday.

Another special date in March is our annual visit to St. John’s Seminary on Sunday, March 18. We will travel on a comfortable bus leaving CSJ Motherhouse at 8 AM. Coffee and doughnuts will be available in the parking lot as we prepare to leave. The bus holds 56 passengers and reservations are on a first come basis. The price is \$15.00 per person. At the seminary we will attend Sunday Mass followed by a lunch buffet and tour of the facility. We will meet all the seminarians at St. John’s Seminary. It is always a lovely event to attend. You won’t want to miss it. I do hope we will have many of our club members attend.

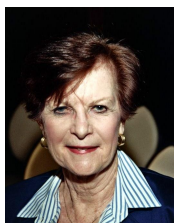
At the Serra District Board Meeting held on 17 January, **Julian Cangelosi** reported on the Msgr. John F. Sammon Endowment Fund that originally started with \$60,000. As of November, the total of the fund is only \$68,410. Julian’s concern is that not much is happening with the fund. Our goal is to build it up to at least \$100,000 so that we can use the

interest of the endowment for the seminarians. He is asking for a representative of each club form a committee that will brainstorm to find ways to build the fund. He stated that an anonymous donor will match a donation of \$2500 with another \$2500. Quite an incentive! Who would like to be our club's volunteer to serve on this committee?

As we begin the month of February, our thoughts turn to hearts. It is National Heart Month and Valentine's Day. Let us show our love for Christ, and for others, always keeping in His words, *what you do for the least of my people, you do for me.*

Virginia Mort, President

VOCATIONS REPORT



Our seminarian who received the gift card for December, donated by **Mary Wells**, is John Nguyen. John is doing his pastoral year at St. Norbert's. John is from St. Columban's parish and is Mary Wells's adopted seminarian. John sent a note thanking the Serrans for their prayers and support. He sends best wishes to the Serra Club of Orange County.

The January gift card, donated by **Jane Virgilio**, was sent to Tony Park. Tony is in pre-Theology 2 at St. John's in Camarillo. Tony is **Silvia Uriarte's** adopted seminarian. Tony writes that he especially appreciates the Serran's prayers, generosity and support for vocations. He prays for all of us.



Tony Park

Our second meeting in January was very special for me. Father Nicolas Nguyen was our speaker and he was my adopted seminarian for three and a half years. I have been richly blessed by being in touch with Fr. Nguyen on his journey to ordination. Fr. Nicolas was unable to attend the Ordinati Dinner in August when the newly ordained share their vocation story. He told us that his preparation and studies to become ordained took thirteen years. He is now at St. Boniface parish in Anaheim.

For men interested in Diocesan Priesthood, the Priest Discernment evenings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Marywood Center Chapel.

Remember your day in the 31 Club and try to attend your parish monthly day of Perpetual Adoration. Valentine's Day is just a few weeks away. It would

be thoughtful to remember your adopted seminarian with a Valentine.

January Vocation Prayer: *Loving God, Creator of the Universe you have gifted me with life. You call us to be the light of the world through Baptism. Help me to brighten our world by sharing my gifts in the service of others and respecting all of creation. I ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen*

Mary Brockschmidt, Vocations

SPEAKERS



Belated information from the Dec. 1 meeting. **Fr. Al Baca** spoke at length about the condition of the Crystal Cathedral. He also mentioned that St. Callistus will inherit the Cathedral school. At their present location they were unable to have one. Fr. Baca

also announced that he will lead a pilgrimage to Rome and Turkey in 2012 and also one to Wisconsin where the Virgin has appeared and the Holy See has accepted the visions.

On January 5, 2012 Sr. Eymard Flood was as charming as always. She returned from Ireland just two days before where she went to be with family as her sister-in-law is very, very ill.

She stated that Bishop Cerillo, who is not yet 75, wished to retire (Pope John Paul II made 75 the mandatory retirement age) but Pope Benedict asked Bishop Cerillo if he would accept the appointment to San Diego. He said yes. The Diocese was also called to give their acceptance. He will now be transferred to San Diego as the co- adjudicator of the Diocese of San Diego.

He can choose where he would like to live and will be given assignments and continue to learn about that Diocese .When Bishop Brown retires, in presumably

one year, Bishop Cerillo will become the main Bishop. There will be a Mass of welcome for him on February 13th. Sister also talked about a presentation



Fr. Al Baca



Sr. Eymard Flood



John Nguyen

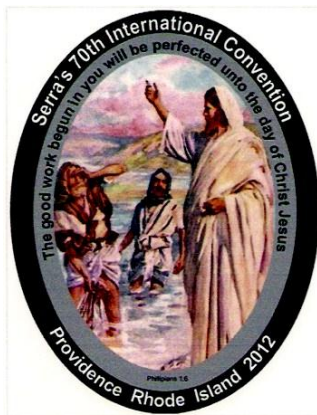
on Elder Abuse given at Marywood. Apparently abuse has increase by 8% in the last year.

On January 5th Fr. Nicolas Nguyen, newly ordained in June 2011 was our chaplain and speaker. It was a 14-year journey to the priesthood. After high school he entered St. Johnø, which surprisingly, was just like a regular college. He was there for 11/2 years but his English was so bad he couldnø get into a college program and also he had no financial assistance ø the tuition was \$50,000 a year! He then heard of the Maryknoll order. The Diocese now covers all costs which are funded by our PSA donations. He wanted to be a missionary in Africa but his plans were thwarted. Instead, he was sent to Maryknoll headquarters in New York for 7 months and then sent to St. Patrickø in Menlo Park. He is now at St. Bonaventure Church. He is **Mary Brockschmidt's** adopted seminarian.

His grandmother was instrumental in getting them out of Vietnam by following a star with a cross. He left Vietnam when he was 10 years old in a boat that was filled with his entire family of 38 members. They sailed for 8 nights and 7 days. They ran out of food and water but were rescued by some fishermen. They landed in Malaysia with 39 since a baby was born on board. After his ordination he went back to Vietnam, as is customary, where friends, etc. honored him. As a side note: his mother escaped 12 times but was always captured and then released.

Sara Adamo, Communications

SERRA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



Serraø 70th international convention will be held in Providence, Rhode Island from June 21 to June 23, 2012.

The theme of the convention is: *The Good Work begun in you will be perfected unto the day of Christ Jesus. (Phil 1:6)*

LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The Serra Clubs of Orange County invite all to a Day of Reflection on March 3, 2012, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. The presenter is Fr. Felix Just, SJ Director of Biblical Education at the Loyola Institute for Spirituality.

Fr. Justø background includes attending the University of Arizona (B.S. 1978, M.S. 1980) studying at Hochschule f r Philosophie in Munich Germany (Bakk.Phil. 1984), studying Theology at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, CA



Fr. Felix Just

(M.Div. 1990, S.T.L. 1994) and doctoral studies of the New Testament at Yale University.

The Day of Reflection will take place at Holy Family Cathedral Parish Center 566 S. Glassell St. Orange, beginning with a continental breakfast at 8:30 am, followed by Fr. Justø presentation including personal reflection time followed by Mass and then lunch. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Non-members and guests are welcome. For reservations please call Maureen Neglia at 714-288-0341 by February 24.

FOREIGN-BORN PRIESTS INCREASE IN NUMBER IN USA

The U. S. Catholic Church is increasingly turning to foreign-born priests to staff the parishes as it struggles with the decline in the number of American men studying to wear the Roman collar.

In 2011, about one-third of the priests ordained in U.S. Catholic dioceses were foreign-born up almost 50 percent from 1999, according to data Georgetown University compiled for the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The number of foreign-born seminarians has varied between 20 percent and 30 percent over the last decade.

The Catholic Church in the U.S. has always relied on immigrant priests, as waves of German, Italian, Poles, and French, for example, brought over priests from their own communities. But now, many immigrant priests work in parishes where they are contending with American culture or an immigrant

culture not their own. In general, there's always a bit of anxiety on any move. And when you throw in the international issues and the language issues that ups it. When we break through those barriers, they are received well. And they are loved.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

An Interview with Archbishop Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York

Catholics hear all the time about a "crisis in vocations." This is usually discussed concerning vocations to the priesthood. But the challenge of discerning a vocation is not limited to the priesthood. Everyone is called to discern what God wants them to do with their lives – be it a young man considering the priesthood, young men and women entering the religious life, a man feeling called to the permanent diaconate, a couple deciding on marriage or someone recognizing a dedicated single life. Today, however, there are many challenges to hearing God's call, and the task of the Church is to assist men and women to discern the path that will lead them to true happiness and eternal life.

As part of the celebration of National Vocation Awareness Week, Jan.9-14, The Catholic Answer magazine interviewed Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York on how to build a "culture of vocations."

Archbishop Dolan served as rector of the North American College, the seminary for Americans in Rome from 1994 to 2001, was archbishop of Milwaukee from 2002 to 2009, and was named archbishop of New York in 2009. In 2010. He was elected president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. His blog can be read at <http://blog.archny.org/>.

The Catholic Answer: Your Excellency, what is the Church's understanding of vocation?

Archbishop Dolan: There is the generic sense of vocation. There is a precise sense of vocation. And I don't think we can talk about the precise sense until we understand the generic sense. We have to believe – it is part of the Catholic worldview – that God has a plan for each of us. He is inviting us to live a life that will bring us back to Him. He is calling us to do that. The Latin word for call is *vocatio*. So, in a way, in a broad way, the whole sense of discipleship, the whole sense of divine Providence, the whole sense that God has a plan for us, stems from what you might call this generic sense of vocation.

And in some ways that is the most pivotal question you must answer: How does God want me to spend my life? Generically, we know that God wants us on a path that will take us back to Him.

A precise sense of vocation is the very particular way that he wants us to do that. And that is where the priesthood, consecrated life, religious life, married life, and consecrated single life come up.

I always think that we miss the boat when we don't speak about marriage as a vocation. I mean, that is, the biggest vocations crisis in the Church today, if you ask me. When only half of our Catholic people are getting married, no wonder we have a crisis in the numbers of vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

I just had a young couple say to me that they had asked their pastor – and he said that they had to ask their archbishop – if it was ok while they were getting married for them to lie prostrate on the floor while they were singing the Litany of Saints. I thought, "Wow, why not?"

Now, that young couple: You talk about having a sense of vocation, they were sealing their vocation. We say to married couples: "What you two are doing is saying that together you want to get back to heaven. You want to help each other get to your eternal goal. And, of course, you want to do that through the vocation of marriage."

Editor's Note: The interview with Archbishop Dolan will continue next month.



**HAPPY
ST. VALENTINE'S
DAY**

**SERRAN BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY
Mary Brockschmidt, Bruce Junor,
John McElligott**



"The fool's paradise is the next gate down."