

# A Voice for Vocations

March 2008



Serra Club City of Orange

Region 11, District 127, Charter 643

## OUR PREZ SEZ Nancy Ivary, President

### HOW'S YOUR LENT GOING?

It's hard to believe that Easter Sunday is only 2 ½ weeks away. I must admit that I had expectations of doing something more than I've managed to accomplish during this Lenten season. Rather than give up something to eat or drink, this year I decided I would try to do something special for someone every day. Usually it's just a phone call or a card or taking time for a conversation. Occasionally, it's an invitation to dinner or the like.

A couple of Sundays ago, Fr. John Neneman, our new diocesan Director of Vocations, offered the homily at all masses at St. Cecilia Church. Taking advantage of the heightened spiritual self-examination of the Lenten season, he was encouraging all parishioners to promote vocations within their own homes and families—something close to the hearts of all Serrans. Surely the first people in whose hearts and minds we might plant the seeds of vocation are those in our own families.

While encouraging us to help promote vocations among prospective young people, Fr. Neneman also brought up how important it is for us to support those who are discerning their possible call to the

**Our Mission..** to foster and affirm vocations to the ordained priesthood and vowed religious life in the United States and, through this ministry, our members' common Catholic faith.

priesthood, noting the presence at that mass of the seminarian who had been assigned as pastoral assistant at St. Cecilia last year, Khoi Phan. (It was great to see him.) Fr. Neneman suggested something that falls right into my personal plan for Lent. It's such a simple thing: send a greeting to at least one of the seminarians for our diocese. He even suggested a simple way to do so. It works for me; perhaps it could provide a special activity for you, as well, as we complete our Lenten promises.

Just go online, google [rcbo](http://rcbo.org) (Roman Catholic Bishop of Orange), and you'll get the diocesan website. From the column on the left side you click on [Diocesan Offices](#). There you will see 2 columns of office headings. At the bottom of the right hand column, you'll find [Vocations](#). Click on that name. You'll get the Vocations Office Home Page.

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## Officer Roster

2007 – 2008

President	Nancy Ivary
President Elect	Jim Baer
Treasurer	Stan Espenship
Programs	Dick Aaron
Vocations	Barbara Caraccio
Membership	Harriet Drazba
Communications	Don Morris
Hospitality	Rosalie Ricci
Recording Secretary	Lynn Haske
Corresponding Secretary	Carol Cagle
Roll Taker	Carol Cagle
Sergeant-at-Arms	Joe Costanza

### Trustees

Wally Drazba

Carol Aaron

Joe Neglia

Chaplain

Vacant

### Spiritual Advisor

Sister Bernice Jordan

District 127 Governor

Wally Drazba

## Upcoming Events

**MAR 9** - Bus Trip to St. John Seminary

**MAR 15** - Lenten Day of Recollection – Fr. Chris Heath

**MAR 18** - Meeting

**APR 1** - Meeting

**APRIL 20** - Cocktail party for Sisters of St. Joseph

**MAY 17** - CSJ Bethany Spring Lunch/Fashion Show

**AUG 14-17** - Serra Int'l Convention Sao Paulo, Brazil

**OCT 17-19** - Western Region Conference, Reno, Nevada

## “Serra District 127 Doings” Wally Drazba, Governor

I spent last weekend in Kansas City MO, hopefully learning more about how to better serve our Serra District. The USAC (USA Council) chose as their vision and mission statements for this year as follows:

*Our vision is:*

*To have all people respond to God's call to their religious vocation*

*Our mission is:*

*To foster and promote vocations to ministry in the Catholic Church*

I will be serving another year as District Governor, and ask your support and God's grace to do the work God wants me to do. I hope to guide us in this vision and mission.

Your clubs are in the process of choosing officers for the coming year. Please be generous with your time and talent. Christ is depending on us to grow the Church. One good way is through work as Serrans.

We look forward to our visit to St John's seminary. Maria Montoya, who has worked in the Vocations Office for 8 years, will be joining us. Please make her acquaintance; she does a lot of wonderful work supporting our Diocesan Vocation Directors in their very important work.

**SAVE THE DATE Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – “Evening with the Sisters.”** This should be a great evening and a wonderful way to thank the Sisters of St. Joseph for their hospitality to us in the past year and the work they do in the community. Cocktails and substantial appetizers will be served in the Sisters’ Community Room. Please plan to attend.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Lloyd & Ruth Sallot, Don & Theresa Morris, Polly Haines and John Vogt who received 20 year member pins and Carol Cagle and Marge Milton who received 10 year member pins. Thanks for all the years (140) of hard work.

### Hurry Up and Slow Down

A middle-aged man arrives at the scene of an accident. Near one of the damaged cars, a woman's body lays in the street. Parking his car, the man rushes to the body, to see if he can be of assistance. Kneeling over the body is a young woman. The man kneels beside her and says brusquely, "Please step aside, I've just finished a first aid course, and need space to help this woman." The young woman moves aside and makes a space for the man. The man begins to consult his first aid booklet. After ten or fifteen seconds, the young woman taps him on the shoulder. He says, "Not now, please, this is urgent. I have no time to waste." A few more seconds pass, she taps him again, and says, "When you get to the part in your book where it tells you to call the doctor, I'm already here."

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Did you know that we have fast food restaurants with express lines? Did you know that the majority of people who enter an elevator repeatedly press the "close doors" button, because the doors are not closing "fast enough?" Did you know that the CEO of Dominos credits, "We don't sell great pizza. We sell great speed," as the reason for their success?

When we bow at the altar of *all things hurried*, we are less present.

Terry Hershey –“Sabbath Moments” Feb 2008

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Take time to slow down this Lent and be present to God and each other. But hurry up there is only 2-1/2 weeks until Easter!!

### Uncle Amos’ Amblings

#### Setting the Table

I remember when I was very young, coming in from playing outside, to the wonderful smell of home-cooked dinner. After telling my mother how good everything smelled, she would ask me to *set the table for the family*. I also remember my father coming home after a long day’s work and appreciating the fact that he cared enough to work that hard for all of us. I have also always loved entering the Church at Christmastime seeing the beauty of the trees, the beautiful Nativity scene and all the lights. I have always considered it an expression of joy and wonder that enhanced our appreciation of the Season!

In each of these situations and many, many more besides, I have greatly enjoyed the gift of that moment without adequate appreciation of the time, effort and great love that went into their preparation. They were just there, and wasn’t that great! When we had a chance to work on the liturgy committee for several years, it was an eye-opener for me. There is a great deal of time, thought, and love from many caring people, involved in making good things happen.

It is only recently that I have applied that lesson to the Sacrifice of the Mass. I have loved the Mass and it has always just been there! But what was the price paid to make it happen? How did his Father ask him *to set this table*? I see Jesus’ terrible agony in the Garden as he faced alone (his disciples sleeping) what he knew was coming. I believe he could see each one of us he wanted to save in the centuries ahead, suffering the pain of our ambivalence and nonchalance to what it would cost him. He was mocked, scourged mercilessly, and then nailed to a cross. *He sets the table for us* every day now, with this unbelievable offering of his body and blood.

In our dining room, we have an artist’s concept of the heavenly banquet set in the clouds of Heaven. It will always be our prayer that our children will look beyond our earthly shortcomings, and see the great love and hope we have for them. We hope to be in a position to *set a place for each of them some day at that heavenly banquet table!*

*How's your Lent going?, Cont'd from p. 1*

In red, you'll see under "Resources": **List of Seminarians, Recently Ordained, Diocesan Vocations Advisory Committee Members and Seminaries 2007-2008**. Click on that, and "pop!" you'll have the names, photos, status, and e-mail addresses of all our seminarians, for example: Khoi Phan - [ankboi@yahoo.com](mailto:ankboi@yahoo.com); Francis Ng-- [alfonsong@yahoo.com](mailto:alfonsong@yahoo.com); and Loc Tran--[lqtran01@yahoo.com](mailto:lqtran01@yahoo.com). If you scroll all the way down that long page, you'll also find the street addresses of all diocesan seminarians. It's easy! I challenge you to pick at least one seminarian and send him a card or an e-mail. [If you don't use computers, ask a friend to follow the above instructions, select a seminarian for you to contact, and copy down his address.] Maybe you can do it before we make our **March 9<sup>th</sup> bus trip** out to St. John's Seminary as invited guests of those very young men to whom we're sending seasonal greetings and encouragement. Very possibly, you'll encounter that particular seminarian on the day of our seminary trip.

I do hope all Serrans who are physically able and who don't have important conflicts will participate in our trip. It's one important way that we show our support and our gratitude to the young men who are considering giving their lives to God and the Church—that is, giving their lives in service to US.

Finally, remember that the Saturday following this seminary visit, **March 15<sup>th</sup>** will be our annual **Lenten Day of Recollection** led by **Fr. Chris Heath**. What a beautiful way to conclude Lent and prepare for the holiest of seasons, the Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

My friends, may God greatly bless you and your families during the Easter Season.

**Newz -****February 5 -**

A sumptuous "Fat Tuesday" breakfast was prepared by our Serran members and Fr. Pat Philbin was our celebrant and guest speaker. Fr. Pat is a Marianist priest who for the past 18 years has been the Catholic Chaplain at UC Irvine. His message was very positive as he told of the strong Catholic faith of the young people he serves at the University. They celebrate four masses each Sunday plus an additional communion service. The students fill the seats and aisles for the services and Fr. Pat says the students are "awesome."

He has recently stepped down as Chaplain and has assumed the role of Assistant Chaplain because he is now in his 70's and according to him he just doesn't have enough energy to do the job. So to fill his time, he volunteers by traveling to Vietnam to teach English at the Minor Seminary at the Pastoral Center in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). Some slowing down!

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The faith is alive and growing in Vietnam but the seminary can only accommodate 25 students so they are limited to that number. They do, however, have a waiting list of 280 men. Yes the faith is alive in Vietnam! Communist government restrictions are starting to be relaxed somewhat and it is hoped this will open up future space.

**Sister Bernice** left her Saints book at home and instead shared the news that Sister's of Saint Joseph have recently welcomed a new member into their community. Thuy (pronounced *twee*) has recently been the Youth Minister at St. Callistas parish. Her journey began in 1970 when the Sisters helped her family with housing, transportation and other support when they arrived from Vietnam. God has lead her on an interesting path to her vocation and let us pray, with Thuy, that this is where He wants her to be.

**February 19 -**

Fr. Benedict Yang, Parochial Vicar at St. Norbet parish celebrated mass and was our speaker. Fr. Benedict was ordained this past summer and was a guest at our Ordinati Dinner. As a self-described introvert he shared his difficulty of going from the privacy of a seminary student to the more public life he shares in the parish. It has been an interesting challenge for him but one that he feels God has called him to. As a student at UC Irvine he started to feel he was being called to something more spiritual. He didn't feel satisfied as a student but found happiness when he started teaching Sunday school at his parish. When he was reflecting on St. Paul's words in Corinthian's 7:1 "... If you do not marry, it is good" he seemed to find the answer he was looking for and entered the Seminary.

He enjoys playing tennis and draws great satisfaction in playing against his fellow priests. Rumor has it that he is quite good and sometimes has problems finding an opponent because of this.

For Fr. Benedict the most rewarding part of his ministry, apart from offering the mass, is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Through that he can see how God is working in the lives of his parishioners.

**Sister Bernice** shared her "Saint of the Day", St. Dorothy, virgin and martyr, who is the patroness of florists. She was martyred by Emperor Diocletian and scorned by a lawyer named Theophilus who had been used to persecute the Christians. On the way to her death he asked her, in mockery, to send him "apples or roses from the garden of her Spouse" (it was winter at the time). The Saint promised to grant his request and, just before she died, a little child stood by her side bearing three apples and three roses. He took them and presented them to Theophilus with a note saying "I'm waiting for you." Because of this, Theophilus was converted to the faith.

### For the Irish in All of Us - Happy St. Patrick's Day

Seamus O'Hearn walked into a bar and ordered martini after martini, each time removing the olives and placing them in a jar. When the jar was filled with olives and all the drinks consumed, he started to leave.

"S'cuse me," said Paddy, who was puzzled over what Seamus had done. "Sure and what was that all about?"

"Oh t'was nothing," he replied, "me wife just sent me out for a jar of olives"

Christ be with me, Christ be within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger  
Christ in hearts of all that love me  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

FROM THE BREASTPLATE OF SAINT PATRICK

### Ministers for Serra Masses

MAR 18-- LECTORS

APR 1—EMs

Loretta Callopy  
Wally Drazba  
Donna Garza

Dorrie Morris (Host)  
Marge Milton (Cup)  
Lenny Morris (Cup)  
Lynn Haske (Cup)

*"Always forward,  
never back!"  
Junipero Serra*



Carol Cagle  
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