

A Voice for Vocations

May 2008



Serra Club City of Orange

Region 11, District 127, Charter 643

OUR PREZ SEZ Nancy Ivary, President

*Not yet by time completely silver'd o'er . . .
But strong for service, still, and unimpair'd. William Cowper*

My friends, how quickly time has passed! Four years ago next month I became your president elect. I wasn't too nervous because I knew that I had two years to learn the ropes of leadership in Serra. I substituted for the president, Wally Drazba, presiding at a few meetings when he was out of town, but he put together the agendas. I just had to sit in and follow orders. I collected money—your very generous donations to Serra International Foundation—recorded totals and sent in the checks when they were due. Gradually, I came to know many of you better and to love all of you more. I helped out in all of our many events during the year, and learned from the “pros” how our Serra Club operates. I attended Regional and International conventions and learned how we fulfill our commitment as Serrans to promote and support vocations, particularly to the priesthood and religious life, but also to the diaconate and to the lay ministries, including our own commitment to grow in personal spirituality and in our ministry of service to God and his Church. I organized our Lenten Day of Recollection for those two years. That was a demanding responsibility; however, more experienced and knowledgeable members helped and guided me every step of the way, and the results were amazing. What a blessing to work with so many dedicated, sincere, generous people.

Finally, I had the daunting culminating task of all presidents elect: I formed a board of officers to join me in promising to serve City

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.

Officer Roster 2007 – 2008

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

Trustees

Wally Drazba

Carol Aaron

Joe Neglia

Chaplain

Vacant

Spiritual Advisor

Sister Bernice Jordan

District 127 Governor

Wally Drazba

Upcoming Events

MAY 12 – Installation
Mass/Dinner SSJ Motherhouse

MAY 17 - CSJ Bethany Spring
Lunch/Fashion Show

MAY 20 - Meeting,
Speaker Msgr. John Urell

JUN 3 - Carpool - Annunciation
Byzantine Church –9:00am Mass

JUN 7 - Priests' Ordination
Mass at Holy Family Cathedral

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

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

of Orange Serra Club by accepting a two-year term in one of the many important offices. These essential people agreed to handle our money; plan our programs; guide our promotion of vocations; increase and keep track of our membership; edit and publish our newsletter and plan our publicity; arrange for our social events and hospitality; record our meetings; send cards of support to seminarians, priests and sisters and mail newsletters to members who couldn't attend meetings; set up our meeting room; call members to remind us of meetings and events; volunteer as lectors and Eucharistic ministers; provide us with knowledgeable assistance and voices of experience; and supply us with music and spiritual leadership. And, most importantly, agree to take over my job as president-in-training, truly a *four* year commitment. It takes a huge community of Christian leaders to smoothly run a large and successful club such as ours, and it takes a membership willing and able to support these leaders in their many duties and efforts. God greatly blessed us all, and provided us with capable and dedicated officers to serve us these past two years. And now our term has almost passed. It's time to pass the metaphorical gavel.

It is also time to thank these many people for jobs superbly done. Our trustees Wally Drazba, Carol Aaron and Joe Neglia are faithful supports and necessary guides. Early birds Joe Costanza and John Vogt come early before every meeting to set up badges and banners and get things ready (Sr. Bernice sets up the napkins and place mats). *Continued on page 3*

Newz

April 1 - Our celebrant and speaker on was Father John Block, retired priest in residence at St. Cecilia parish. Ordained for the Diocese of Miami in 1963, he went to Rome for a year, returned to Miami to do parish work. In 1967 he returned to Rome for graduate study, earning a Doctorate in Theology in 1970. For several years he did administrative work and seminary teaching, until he was assigned to pastor a parish in 1980. In 1997 he took a sabbatical for a year in California, and liked it here. Gaining permission to stay three more years, he qualified for retirement in 2001. He has worked in the Orange Diocese in many parishes until his permanent assignment at St. Cecilia in 2004. Father John is also an ardent walker and is often seen walking about the streets of Tustin, frequently visiting the sick and bringing the sacraments to shut-ins.

April 15 - Our Mass was offered by Father John Weling, son of Irene Weling, recently deceased, a longtime Serra member. The former President of Mater Dei High School, Father Weling has begun a year of discernment before taking his final vows (after fifteen years with the Society of Jesus.) He is currently ending his assignment as President of Verbum Dei High School, an inner city school that very likely would have closed had it not been for the work of the Jesuits who, using the *Christo Rey* model, have raised the enrollment of the 52% Black and 48% Hispanic school from 142 students six years ago to 353 students today. The goal of the program is to create business leaders of the future from young Catholic men at risk.

Father Weling's new job description is not yet formalized, but Bishop welcomed him home, and is helping with his transition. His preference is working with the Catholic High Schools in the Diocese. Father Weling admitted that his mother might very well be wielding her influence from above. He expressed his gratitude to the Serrans for their continued support through all the years of his priesthood.

AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS -

On April 20th the members of Serra hosted the Sisters of St Joseph with an evening of celebration and cordiality. It was a warm and hospitable way of saying 'thank you' for extending Serra the opportunity to use the Motherhouse as our meeting place through out the year.

What a beautiful time had by many. As the guests entered the formal community room of the Sisters of St Joseph, the guests were greeted by the talents of Greg Davis, playing a continuous string of music selections enjoyed by all. With over 50 guests in attendance it was truly an evening among friends.

In true tradition, the Serran members out-did themselves in providing sumptuous hors d' oeuvres, and warm and flowing conversations among friends. Thanks to all the Serrans, their spouses and many guests who so graciously made the evening a huge success.

Uncle Amos' Amblings

The GREAT "I AM"

When I was very young and on occasion, would try to take advantage of one of my siblings, I can remember my father asking me, "Who do you think you are, the GREAT I AM?" I had no idea who that was, but I did get the point that I had tried to assert too much authority. I finally learned many years later who this referred to after hearing the story of Moses with **God** telling him from the burning bush that His name was "**I AM**"! ... the Source of all that is for all time!

The more I thought about it, the more I realized what an Awesome response this was! It was not descriptive of what He *had been* or *would become*, but what **HE IS** for all of eternity! As we are still in the Easter Season, the readings have made me more aware of how Jesus has been describing Himself to His disciples.

I AM the vine, you are the branches.

I AM the light of the world.

I AM the bread of life.

When Jesus says to His disciples that He is going to his Father's house to prepare a place for them and they also should know the way, Thomas says to Him, "We do not know where you are going, how can we know the way?" Jesus says: **I AM** the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." When Phillip says to Him, "Show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus replies, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. ...Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me?"

Jesus and the Father are ONE! How many times have I read and heard this? ... but do I think of this when I receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in the great gift of the Eucharist? **AM I** aware at that time that I also have become ONE with the Great **I AM**?

IMPORTANT DATE -JUNE 7TH

Ordination of New Priests

On June 7th our City of Orange Serra Club will be co-ordinating the reception for the newly ordained seminarians. Ordination will be at Holy Family Cathedral at 10 a.m. with the reception immediately following. Our club will be in charge of set up and presentation. We will need a solid team of at least 14-15 men and women.

Please mark your calendar and plan to be of assistance for this very important moment in the lives of these two blessed young men. The sign up sheet will be circulated at the May meetings.

If you cannot attend the meetings please give Rosalie a call at

714 (639-2430).

Prez Sez, Cont'd from p. 1

Carol Cagle handles our correspondence dependably and well. Lynn Haske not only records accurately and thoroughly our general meetings and board meetings, she gets the reports out by e-mail the same day. Rosalie Ricci is the best hostess imaginable: organizing events, remembering details, lining up volunteers, decorating beautifully and even hosting our amazing annual club Christmas parties. Don Morris has designed a beautiful newsletter and puts together an interesting and attractive edition each month. Harriet Drazba arranges to encourage and then to initiate new members, to recognize existing members' anniversaries and to provide materials on Serra to surrounding parishes. Barbara Caraccio heads the group that organizes our annual Vocations Essay Contest and arranges for the prizes as well as promoting special Vocations events in our parishes. Dick Aaron has done a fantastic job getting us priests and speakers (we've had some extraordinary homilies and talks). Stan Espenship has most capably kept track of our funds and has served in an advisory capacity on management of our money. Sister Bernice has been faithful in her many acts and words of support, particularly the beautiful music she provides at our masses and the entertaining and enlightening spiritual commentary she offers at our meetings. Jim Baer has been a good friend and a dependable support, and he has put on two beautiful Lenten Days of Recollection for our members as well as guests from the other clubs in our district. This brief acknowledgement doesn't do justice to their many hours of service to our club, nor does it name many others of you who have assisted in these efforts and have offered your time, donations, prayers and friendship. As God uses us to do his work for vocations, he blesses us greatly with priceless Christian companionships and experiences. I continue to be deeply blessed by all of you.

I could write a whole column on the faithful work of each one of these people who served on our board for the past two years. However, this will have to suffice for now to acknowledge and applaud them. I also list them here to remind all of us how many different jobs need to be accomplished in order for our Serra Club to fulfill its purpose. Our club needs every member to participate in some way, or our mission will fail to be achieved. Do volunteer to help. Do attend local events and regional, USA and international conferences. As you do so, your blessings will surely multiply, and our Serran mission to support and encourage vocations will surely be successful.

As the poet William Cowper said in the 18th century, I'm "*strong for service still*" and perhaps I'm even "*unimpaired*." I'm honored to have served as your president these past two years, and I look forward to continuing participation in the projects and events of our organization. Thank you for giving me your trust and providing me with this opportunity. I will be eternally grateful. God bless us every one.

*Proud of Being Catholic***(Excerpts of an article written by Sam Miller, Prominent Jewish businessman - NOT Catholic)**

Why would newspapers carry on a vendetta on one of the most important institutions that we have today in the United States, namely the Catholic Church?

Do you know - the Catholic Church educates 2.6 million students everyday at the cost to your Church of 10 billion dollars, and a savings on the other hand to the American taxpayer of 18 billion dollars. Your graduates go on to graduate studies at the rate of 92%, all at a cost to you. To the rest of the Americans it's free.

The Church has 230 colleges and universities in the U.S. with an enrollment of 700,000 students.

The Catholic Church has a non-profit hospital system of 637 hospitals, which account for hospital treatment of 1 out of every 5 people - not just Catholics - in the United States today. But the press is vindictive and trying to totally denigrate in every way the Catholic Church in this country. They have blamed the disease of pedophilia on the Catholic Church, which is as irresponsible as blaming adultery on the institution of marriage.

Let me give you some figures that you as Catholics should know and remember. For example, 12% of the 300 Protestant clergy surveyed admitted to sexual intercourse with a parishioner; 38% acknowledged other inappropriate sexual contact in a study by the United Methodist Church, 41.8 % of clergy women reported unwanted sexual behavior; 17% of laywomen have been sexually harassed. Meanwhile, 1.7% of the Catholic clergy has been found guilty of pedophilia. 10% of the Protestant ministers have been found guilty of pedophilia. This is not a Catholic Problem.

A study of American priests showed that most are happy in the priesthood and find it even better than they had expected, and that most, if given the choice, would choose to be priests again in face of all this obnoxious PR the church has been receiving.

The Catholic Church is bleeding from self-inflicted wounds. The agony that Catholics have felt and suffered is not necessarily the fault of the Church. You have been hurt by a small number of wayward priests that have probably been totally weeded out by now.

Walk with your shoulders high and your head higher. Be a proud member of the most important non-governmental agency in the United States. Then remember what Jeremiah said: 'Stand by the roads, and look and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is and walk in it, and find rest for your souls'. Be proud to speak up for your faith with pride and reverence **and learn what your Church does for all other religions. Be proud that you're a Catholic.**

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Installation Mass and Dinner

May 12th our new Serra officers will be installed in their newly selected positions. The evening will begin with Mass in the Chapel at the Sisters of St. Joseph Mother House at **6:30 p.m.** Immediately following the Mass, all members will attend a lovely celebratory dinner in the Mother Louis Room. The event and dinner is being presented by the 'South County' Serra Club. The Dinner price is \$30.00 per person. Call Rosalie Ricci (714 639-- 2430) for reservations and more information. **SAVE THE DATE!**

Addition to Last Month Picture

Received a note from former Members Tom and Jean Flynn referring to the twenty year old picture of some of our founding members in last month's Newsletter. One beautiful lady's name was missing and Tom sent the following message:

"The lady standing in front of you in the 20 year photo is deceased member Celine Prevost. She was born just two months after me. We often joked that she would always be younger than me! She was born on April 28, 1929 and died March 15, 1995. She was a member of St. Irenaeus Parish."

An Irish priest is driving down to New York and gets stopped for speeding in Connecticut. The state trooper smells alcohol on the priest's breath and then sees an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He says, "Sir, have you been drinking?"

"Just water," says the priest. The trooper says, "Then why do I smell wine?"

The priest looks at the bottle and says, "Good Lord! He's done it again!"

Ministers for Serra Masses

MAY 20-- EMs

JUNE 3— LECTORS

Helen Regan (host)
Chic Ryan (cup)
Joe Neglia (cup)
Ruth Sallot (cup)

Maureen Neglia
Don Morris
Nancy Ivary

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



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