



SERVING PRIEST AND RELIGIOUS SINCE 1935

VOLUME 4, FEBRUARY, 2008

# Serra South NEWS

## SERRA CLUB OF SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY

### SERRAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

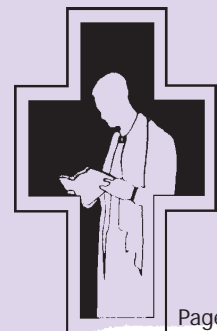
**Board Meetings  
Third Monday  
of the Month  
Regular Meeting  
3rd Monday  
of the Month**

"Always to go forward  
---  
Never to turn back"

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner \*  
but rather that he be converted and live \* grant  
we beseech you \* through the  
intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin \*  
Saint Joseph, her spouse \* Blessed Junipero  
Serra \* and all the saints \* an increase of labor-  
ers for Your Church \* fellow laborers with Christ  
to spend and consume themselves for souls \*  
through the same Jesus Christ \* Your Son \*  
who lives and reigns with You \* In the unity of  
the Holy Spirit \* God forever \* and ever. Amen



**FOSTERING  
VOCATIONS  
TO  
THE  
PRIESTHOOD  
AND  
THE  
RELIGIOUS  
LIFE**



# Serra Club of South Orange County Serra South News

## SERRA CLUB OF SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY

### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Chris Mino	949-218-1733
PRESIDENT-ELECT	John DiMare	949-499-6685
CHAPLAIN	Fr. Phil Hart	
VP-PROGRAMS	Ted Wilson	949-240-8747
VP-VOCATIONS	Rob Wagner	949-842-2277
VP-MEMBERSHIP	Mary McDonald	949-842-3643
VP-COMMUNICATIONS	Teri Harkins	369-6460
BULLETIN EDITOR	Chris Mino	949-218-1733
TREASURER	Joe DeRitis	949-716-6525
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TRUSTEES	Paulette Greenwald	498-0617
	Deana Progar	949-768-8858
	Bob Taylor	949-481-6150
DISTRICT GOVERNOR	Wally Drazba	714-532-4640

## CALENDAR

### February 2008

February 18	Board meeting	St. Edward
February 18	Regular meeting	St. Edward

### Future Events

Sunday March 9	Bus Trip to Seminary in Camarillo
Saturday March 15	Day of Recollection at CCJ, Orange
March 17	Regular meeting St. Edward
October 2009	Regional Convention hosted by Orange County

## Meeting Schedule

The following is the suggested future meeting schedule.  
Our Mass will be at 6:30 pm when at Serra Chapel followed by a program  
Otherwise will be at St. Edward for 5:30 PM Mass followed by a program at St. Edward Knight Hall main room.

April 21	Regular meeting	St. Edward
May TDA	Officer's Installation	SJC
June 16	Regular meeting	St. Edward
July 21	Regular meeting	St. Edward
August 18	Regular meeting	St. Edward
September 17	Regular meeting	St. Edward
October 20	Regular meeting	St. Edward
November 17	Regular meeting	St. Edward
December 15	Christmas Party	TBA

To find out more News about Serra in Orange County visit the website: [www.serraoc.org](http://www.serraoc.org)



AMERICA OUR PRIDE



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - FEBRUARY 2008

Every quarter the Presidents of the Four Serra Clubs meet with District Governor, Don Morris, and District Chaplain, Fr. John Neneman, to lay out activities and programs that the clubs will jointly participate in for the next few months. I would like to bring them to your attention so that you may get ready to participate in as many as is possible.

**Board Nominations** – I've asked President Elect, John DiMare, to present the membership with a slate of officers for the new fiscal year, June 2008 – May 2009. That means he will be calling upon you – the membership – to consider becoming a board member. If the club is going to continue to prosper it needs your support and participation. We are all in this together, and I am sure that the spirit that has evolved with our Charter Year will continue in the new fiscal year.

The new proposed slate of officers will be published in the March Newsletter and it will be voted upon at the March meeting.

**Annual Visit to St. John's Seminary** – On Sunday, March 9, many clubs from Southern California including the four Serra Clubs of Orange County in our annual visit to St. John's Seminary. Here is the invitation from the Rector/President of St. John's –

"We the students, faculty and staff of St. John's Seminary, wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Serra club members for your tireless efforts to promote priestly vocations. In order to show our appreciation of your support over these many years, we would like to invite you to participate in Serra Sunday which will take place on Sunday, March 9, 2009 at St. John's Theology Campus. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 AM, followed by a special brunch."

We have also asked Fr. John Neneman, Vocations Director for the Diocese, to assemble the Orange County Seminarians after the brunch, so that we may meet with them, hear about their vocations, and show our support for them. Hopefully we will see our Seminarian and buddy Dave Klunk.

You have a choice of Car Pooling from South County to Camarillo, which will take about two hours; or meeting at the Sisters of St. Joseph Parking Lot in Orange for a Motor Coach ride to St. John's which takes about an hour and a half from there. The Motor Coach will leave at 8:30 AM and return to the parking lot at 3:30 PM. The cost for the Motor Coach round trip will be \$10.00 per person. We pass the hat for a gratuity for the driver. I will have a sign up sheet at the February 18, meeting. Our Club has been designated as the group setting up this trip, and we will have coffee and Danish available at the SSJ parking lot one half hour before departure.

This trip will take up your whole day and Families are encouraged to attend. When you look at spending one day a year to show support for our Seminarians, it is insignificant when you consider that they are devoting their life for us. Without Priests, we can't Celebrate the Eucharist. See you there!

Day of Recollection - **A morning when members of the four clubs gather together at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse for what may be called a "Mini Retreat."** A Priest from the Diocese will have two sessions where his talks will center around a theme selected for the retreat. They are inspirational and give us food for thought as we take a walk around the grounds. We finish up the retreat with Mass in the chapel. A continental breakfast is served and a lunch after Mass. We are on our way home about 1:00 PM. Mark your calendars for March 15, 2008. Fr. Chris Heath will be our moderator.

Spring Leadership Training - **In April the members nominated for our new board will meet with their counterparts from the other three clubs for a session designed to bring them up to speed with their new responsibilities. Former Board Members from the four clubs conduct a seminar where they pass on their experience to the newly elected. You have an opportunity for questions and answers and feel better equipped to handle your new position.** Remember, that the person you are replacing on the board is also available during your tenure to assist you. This event will also take place at the SSJ Motherhouse. Date to be announced.

Joe & Johanna DeRitis will be preparing dinner for our General Meeting on Monday, February 18. Mass at 5:30 PM in St. Edward's Hall followed by dinner and our meeting. Bring a guest and treat them to a Serra Experience.

Chris Mino, President

## Words from the District Governor District 127 Doings

Greetings in the New Year. All four clubs had Christmas celebrations, and this is as it should be. Christmas is the Holyday that most of us have the fondest memories. Easter is certainly the most profound Holyday, but I think most of us think back to friends and family memories more at Christmas than at any other time.

The new year started off fast with both the Altar Servers Recognition Mass, followed immediately by Vocation Awareness Week.

Again we were privileged to host the reception after the Altar Servers Mass. The Vocation office headed by Fr. John Neneman as usual did a great job providing the certificates and orchestrating the beautiful Mass, St. Columban's Church was filled to capacity. The West Club with Joe Sullivan chairing the event with the help of Jean and Ernie Ramirez's help, did an outstanding job. Thanks also to the 30+ people that helped that day.

A few parishes had special prayers during Vocation Awareness Week. We just need to spread the word better so we all are praying for and acknowledging the need for Vocations to the Priesthood, Religious life, the Diaconate, and good married and single people dedicated to serving the Church.

The Msgr. John F Sammon Fund continues to grow, and the committee comprised of members of the clubs will be meeting to map out plans for

further promoting the FUND, not only in the Serra Community, but also the wider community which Msgr Sammon touched. There aren't many priests who touched as many lives as Msgr. Sammon.

This is also the time of year when each club is looking at their board for the coming year. Don't wait to be asked. Find a job you think you'd like, and volunteer.

Waqlly Drazba  
District Governor



### Prayer Corner

**Please Pray for All Our Serrans,  
especially –**

**Jessica Michel  
Trinidad Ortega  
Carl Kacher, R.I.P.  
Msgr. John F. Sammon, R.I.P.**

## Preparation for Lent

### Read Mt. 6

- Praying in secret
- Fasting
- Alms Giving

### 1. **Model for Penance – St. John Vianney – Cure d’Ars**

Recommended Book - St. Jean-Marie Baptiste Vianney”By: Abbe Francis Trochu Life of Cure d’Ars:

- Had great difficulty becoming a priest. The Bishop sent him to Ars because it was out in the middle of nowhere & he didn’t think St. John Vianney would stir up much trouble there
- Sinful times – during French Revolution
- Very few people in Ars practicing their faith – town full of vices – pagan
- He decides to convert Ars – he starts his mission there by long hours in prayer.
- He asked the Lord to send him any suffering to convert his parish.
- He did much penance
  - o Lived on eating 1 (or less) potatoes per day
  - o Slept on a hard board
  - o Scourged himself & “painted” his room’s walls with blood
  - o He was mocked and tormented by Satan (moved house around, lit bed on fire)

- o He did extreme penance to save souls
- o Spent many hours daily hearing confessions

Fr. Broom regarding St John Vianney’s penances: “The lives of the saints are sometimes for our edification – not always for our imitation” Seek the advice of your spiritual director before embarking on significant penances for yourself. (ie. Scourging yourself to the point of bleeding may not be appropriate...🙄)

St. John Vianney became a saint because:

- o His deep prayer life
- o Life of sacrifice
- o Filled with love for the salvation of souls

### 2. **Motivation/Reasons for Penance**

- We call ourselves Christians - follow our Master
- Mt. 4 – Jesus praying & fasting in desert for 40 days & 40 nights
- We are not fighting flesh – we’re fighting principalities & powers (Devil & demons) – See :
  - o St. Ignatius’ meditation on Two Standards
  - o Mark 9:29
  - o John 8 (speaking of the Devil) – “He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him.”
- Galatians 5:17  
flesh & spirit are diametrically opposed to each other

- o Fight temptation – when we resist temptation, we grow in grace
- o We either conquer our flesh by prayer & fasting – or the flesh conquers us.

Motivation - to save souls. Many souls are in danger of eternal damnation.

- o The children of Fatima were shown hell by Mary – they did heroic penance to save souls
- o Contemplate last 4 things (death, judgment, heaven or hell)

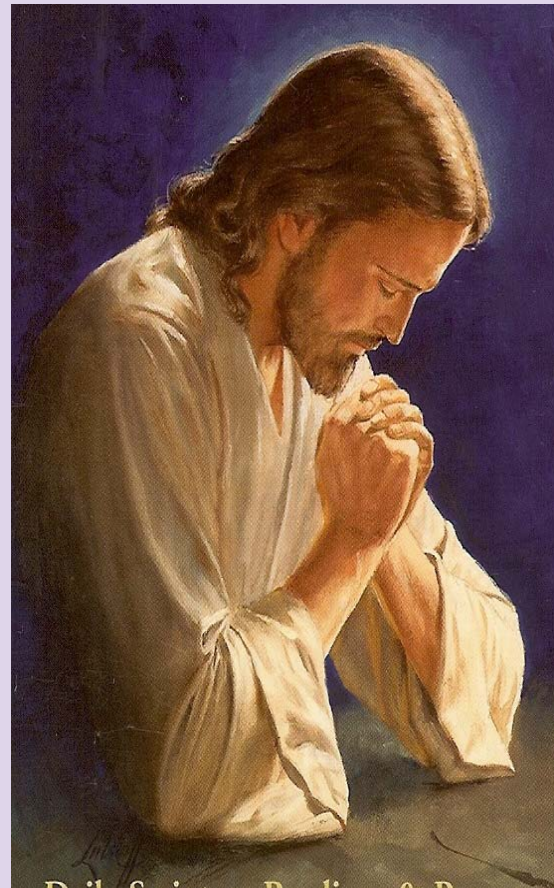
Interior liberty of sons & daughters of God.

- o Liberty from material possessions & passions
- o Poverty, chastity & obedience
- o Set our hearts on things above – not what is down below in the world
- o Cure d’Ars – starting penance is hard, but its constant practice becomes habit.

- Solidarity with the poor
- Start penance small, then grow. Take the 1<sup>st</sup> step
- St. Theresa of Avila: Life of comfort and life of prayer do not go together.
- St. Ignatius – if we are really pursuing a special grace, we must do penance – (we must “pay”)
- Appreciation of what we have grows with penance – absence of specific gifts (ie. Food, warmth,

- etc.) makes us even more appreciative when we have it
- Beg for graces – God will not deny us
- We grow in patience when we do penance.
- By practicing penance, we imitate the Saints
- St. Lucia asked Mary what she could do for penance. The answer was:
  - o Offer **everything** we do in life to God
  - o Do daily obligation(s) well & with greater perfection.
- St. Therese – “Do **ordinary** things in daily life with **extraordinary** love”

## PRAYER PENANCE PERSEVERANCE”



## Vocations Corner

### Lent, Why Bother

By the time you receive this newsletter, Ash Wednesday will be a thing of the past and you may be engrossed in those practices that you have adopted for Lent, or you haven't done any more than show up for ashes on your forehead.

Why bother doing anything different for Lent than we do during the balance of the year? Good Question? What is the purpose of Lent?

According to one source, the purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for the annual commemoration of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, as celebrated during Holy Week. It recalls the events linked to the Passion of Christ and culminates in Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

So, how do we who believe in Christ prepare during this period? Normally through Prayer, Penitence, Almsgiving, and Self Denial. Is it better to do one, or all of these

practices during Lent? That is up to the individual and how they perceive this period. The forty days of Lent represent the time Jesus spent in the desert where according to the Bible, he was often tempted by Satan. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, this year February 5<sup>th</sup>, and ends on Holy Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The six Sundays of Lent are not counted among the forty days because they represent a "mini Easter", a celebration of Jesus victory over sin and death.

Whatever we decide to do during Lent we might consider it as a stepping stone to improve our devotion to Jesus beyond these forty days. A continuing practice say of Daily Prayers and Mass, Recitation of the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Almsgiving, Helping Our Brothers and Sisters in Need, Self Denial, Adoration, etc.

A change in our life, and our devotion to Jesus, will only come when we repeatedly practice these virtues the balance of our lives.

Joe DeRitis

# SOUTH COUNTY NEWS

February, 2008 - Volume 4, Issue 2  
Serra Club of South Orange County



- 1) Our speaker for this month is District Governor Wally Drazba
- 2) Regular meeting at Saint Edward.

"HAPPY  
VALENTINE'S DAY"

*Blessed* are they who hear the Word of God  
and keep it.

*(Luke 11: 28)*



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To find out more News about Serra in Orange County  
visit the website: [www.serraoc.org](http://www.serraoc.org)

