



Serra South NEWS

SERVING PRIEST AND RELIGIOUS SINCE 1935

VOLUME 1, MARCH, 2006

SERRA CLUB OF SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY

SERRAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

**Board Meetings
First Monday
of the month
Regular Meeting
3rd Monday
of the month**

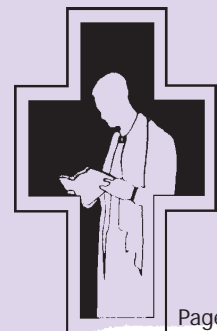
"Always to go forward

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
laborers 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	Joe DeRitis	949-716-6525
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Deana Progar	949-768-8858
CHAPLAIN	Deacon Jesse Michel	949-496-1307
VP-PROGRAMS	Toni Taylor	949-481-6150
VP-VOCATIONS	John DiMare	949-499-6685
VP-MEMBERSHIP	Greg Weiler	949-661-7229
VP-COMMUNICATIONS	Chris Mino	
BULLETIN EDITOR	Chris Mino	949-218-1733
TREASURER	Kent Greenwald	949-498-0617
SECRETARY		
HOSPITALITY	Paulette Greenwald	949-498-0617
HOSPITALITY	Johanna DeRitis	949-716-6525
TRUSTEES	Bob Taylor	949-481-6150
	Joe O'Connor	949-499-0468
	Teri Harkins	949-369-6460
DISTRICT GOVERNOR	Don Morris	714-538-3805

CALENDAR

March 2006

March 6	Officer's Meeting Denny's Restaurant
March 12	St John's Seminary Vist 10:30AM Mass
March 20	Saint Edward Church Mass at 5:30 PM Dinner to follow St Edward School, LLR

Future Events

April 1	Day of Recollection
April 8	Leadership Training
May	Officer's Installation

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 School, lower lunch room.

April 17	Regular meeting	St. Edward
May	Installation	TBA
June 19	Regular meeting	St. Edward
July 17	Regular meeting	St. Edward
August 21	Regular meeting	St. Edward
September 18	Regular meeting	St. Edward
October 23	Regular meeting	St. Edward
November 20	Regular meeting	St. Edward
December 18	Christmas Party	TBA



AMERICA OUR PRIDE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - March 2006

Lent – A Time for Reflection

Wednesday, March 1st, begins a period of preparation for the greatest feast day in the Church Calendar, the Celebration of Easter. We go into Lent with different perceptions on how to prepare ourselves for the joy of the Resurrection of the Lord. The good Sisters that taught us preached self denial, and that meant giving up candy, sweets, movies, etc. Another approach is to pick areas where we have to exert ourselves by doing things that we normally don't practice, e.g. Daily Mass, Rosary, Adoration, Stations of the Cross, Works of Mercy, etc. Whichever road we chose, it should include a dialogue with our Lord on a daily basis. A one to one talk in our own words expressing our joys, our thanks, the things we perceive to be our problems, asking for His forgiveness, and His help as we struggle against the temptations of the devil. Sometimes, not saying or thinking anything may help us Listen to what He is saying to us.

Stations of the Cross – On Friday, March 10th, Our Serra club has been chosen to lead the Stations of the Cross at St. Edwards after the 5:30 PM Mass. Deana Progar will lead us from the ambo. Following the stations, we are encouraged to go to Knights' Hall where the Youth Group will serve a delicious soup dinner for the parishioners. We will have a table with Serra Literature and an opportunity to discuss what Serra is all about. Wear your badges and share Serra with those at your table. Invite them to our dinner meeting; guests are free.

Our General Meeting – On Monday, March 20th we shall be celebrating St. Joseph's Feast Day. Our thanks to Stella Grey for a delicious dinner in February. Trinidad Ortega and Deana Progar will be cooking for us in March. I understand a couple of the members are also bringing dessert and coffee. We shall also be holding our election for the Board Members for Fiscal Year 2006 – 2007. The slate of officers will be presented for your review in this newsletter. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Chick Ryan will be speaking to us on the question, "Why Am I A Catholic." Bring a Friend – their dinner is free.

Day of Recollection – On Saturday, April 1st (Yes – April Fools' Day) you are invited to take a break in your busy schedule, and join Serrans from the other three Orange County Clubs, for a mini retreat. We'll car pool over to the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Orange for a morning highlighted by our presenter, Fr. Luke Dysinger, of St. Andrew's Abbey. He will lead us through scripture using Lexio Divino Principles. There will be time for individual meditation and Mass. We start off with a continental breakfast at 8:00 AM, and lunch after Mass, all for a nominal fee. We're on our way back at 1:00 PM

Spring Leadership Meeting – On Saturday, April 8th, our newly elected board members again will car pool over to the SSJ Motherhouse to spend a morning with their counterparts in the other three clubs. They will gain some helpful insight on how to handle the responsibilities of their respective positions.

Induction Ceremony – We were happy to have several members who had missed our Charter Ceremony, be formally inducted at our February meeting. Here are the charges all of us have agreed too – **"Will you in union with all Serrans give your time, you efforts and your prayers to the encouragement and preservation of vocations to the Church Ministry?"**
Will you by faithful attendance at the Serra club meetings, and by example of your Christian Life, promote and deepen Christian Justice and charity, and continually strive to fulfill your own Christian vocation to service?"

Joe DeRitis
President

MSGR WILBUR DAVIS MESSAGE
March 2006



The Priesthood Discernment Retreat is held twice yearly at St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, and the weekend of March 10-12 is the date for the next retreat. The Diocese of Orange has five—perhaps six— inquirers attending, which is a good number. The retreat provides a good opportunity for prospective seminarians to get a feel for the seminary because seminarians give informal talks about their experience of the “four pillars” of the seminary program: academic, spiritual, human and pastoral growth. This invariably leads to a spirited question and answer session. The retreatants attend the liturgies, share meals and recreation time with the seminarians.

Those attending the retreat also are asking themselves the question, “Could I belong to such a group of people, not just for a few school years but for life?” This musing is largely an intuitive process. Inasmuch as those attending the retreat are older and more serious about making a decision, we are careful to invite to the retreat only those we believe could be accepted as seminarians, if they were to apply. It is not a weekend that is open to all comers.

From the Diocese of Orange our Bishop Dominic Luong will bestow the Ministry of Acolyte on those who have previously received the Ministry of Lector. Those from our diocese who will receive this ministry are David Klunk, Khoi Phan, Mario Juarez and Kiet Ta. In the fall they will begin their year of service as Pastoral Interns in your parish, or a parish near you.

The retreat is for college students and college graduates. The loss of the seminary college

is a setback in that we no longer have such a weekend retreat opportunity for high school students. Those retreats were always well attended. I am pleased to see that some of our priests are taking interested high school students to St. John's Seminary for a one-day visit.

Serra members are invited to the closing Mass of the retreat, after which lunch is served. Some of the seminarians will be available to meet with the Serrans after lunch.

We have also had some college students and graduates to St. John's for several days during regular class days in order to be part of the usual day-to-day life of the seminary. This is really a fine opportunity, for the classes there are excellent. I recently sat in on a class on Pauline scriptures taught by Fr. Pat Mullen. I thoroughly enjoyed it, learned from it and had some wishes that I could be a daily student again.

As an addendum to the above, we should also note that a seminarian must show a verifiable interest in remaining a student all his life. I tell them that the day they die there should be nearby a serious book that they are reading and underlining. God protect us from those who think that a seminary education-formation gives one a toolbox that gives them all that they need and that therefore further education is unnecessary. The Diocese of Orange offers various workshops for us priests, and there are periodic sabbatical opportunities. In January there was fine attendance at a clergy workshop on Scripture. Our bishops attended, together with a large number of priests.

Wilbur Davis

March 2006

The nominating committee may be giving YOU a call. In March we nominate our officers, in April we vote and in May we install.

These are the offices that are available to our members and the duties involved;

President – Will conduct all meetings, board and general, write and present a monthly message, arrange plans with other officers and attend quarterly district meetings.

Vice President of programs – Will arrange for speakers and introduce them at meetings and act as president in case of need.

Vice-President of vocations – Will keep up to date list of all Diocese of Orange seminarians and other religious in discernment. Write and send birthday cards monthly and keep the club informed of any correspondence received from them.

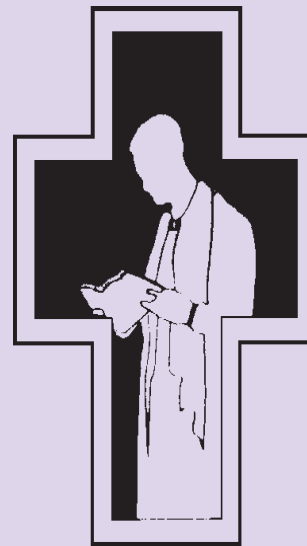
Vice- President of Membership – Will constantly pursue new members by following the suggestions of the club board or the International and Regional offices. He or she will perform the installation ceremony for new members and arrange for the proper documents, certificates and pins to be presented.

Treasurer - Will monitor all monies in the account of the club and give a monthly report for review and approval.

Secretary - Will attend all meeting and take notes for finalizing the Minutes report for review and approval at the monthly board meeting. He or she will mail and record all correspondence sent and received by the club.

Communications Chairman – Will arrange to produce, edit and mail the Newsletter to all members and other club presidents. He or she will make special arrangements for meetings held away from St. Edward Church.

Trustees – Three, The past president is one and two others appointed by new president.



Words from the District Governor



The History of Serra

I have been asked by several Serrans to provide details of the background and history of Serra. For the next couple of months, I will utilize information from the Serra Web-page for most of that information.

Serra began during the fall and winter of 1934, in Seattle, Washington. After meeting informally, four Catholic laymen, Dan Rooney, Richard Ward, Harold Haberle and Leo Sharkey, recognized the need for an association that would advance the cause of Catholicism through lasting friendships among Catholics and continuing education in their Catholic faith. Inviting several of their friends to join with them, they formed the first Serra Club in Seattle on February 27, 1935, with the encouragement of the Most Reverend Gerald Shaughnessy, the Bishop of the Diocese of Seattle. John Janette, an early member of the Seattle club and later founder of the Serra Club of Chicago, proposed the work of fostering vocations to the priesthood. On June 12, 1935, the original purpose of the Seattle club was enlarged to include this work.

The founders searched for a name for the new club. John Bray, also a charter member of the Seattle club, proposed the name of "Serra" after Father Junipero Serra a Spanish Franciscan missionary in the Western United States. Father Serra is referred to as the "Apostle of California." The new Serra Club became a living memorial to the spirit of this humble missionary. During the first four years, new clubs were formed in Spokane, Portland, Tacoma, and San Francisco, under the leadership and direction of members of the Serra Club of Seattle. At this point it was apparent that there was need for unified direction and coordination of their programs. On July 2, 1938, delegates from the five clubs voted to form Serra International, adopting as their common goals the original aims of the founders of the first Serra Club. T.V. Sheehan of Seattle was elected first president. Bishop Gerald Shaughnessy became first chaplain, serving until 1946.

In 1946, the Board of Trustees of Serra International along with Samuel Cardinal Stritch, then Archbishop of Chicago and newly

invited Serra Episcopal Advisor, decided to open a central office in Chicago with full-time personnel to aid in the overall management of Serra International. This decision was ratified at the International Convention in Chicago in April 1947. An Executive Director was appointed by the Board of Trustees. Serra grew extensively throughout the world during the 1950s. Clubs were formed in Canada, Mexico, Peru, England, and Italy. To support vocations work, the *Serra International Foundation* was established. On May 6, 1951, at the request of Cardinal Stritch, then Serra's Episcopal Advisor, Serra International was aggregated to the Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations because it had been closely identified with the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious from its beginnings in the 1930s. During the 1960s, brisk worldwide expansion spread the word of Serra to Spain, Venezuela, Brazil, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Australia. As a testament to its vital role in the Catholic Church at the international level, Serra participated in the First International Vocation Congress in Rome in 1962. Serra's continued success in the 1970s was reflected in the establishment of National Councils in Great Britain and Brazil and the admission of permanent deacons as members. In addition, Serra became a member organization of the National Catholic Vocations Conference. In the 1980s, Serra formed National Councils in Spain, Italy, Mexico, and the Philippines and expanded into Africa, New Zealand, Ghana, Nigeria, and Switzerland. Serra participated in the Second International Vocation Congress in 1981. At the 1986 International Convention in Milwaukee, WI, the Constitution and Bylaws were amended to admit women as members. Serrans around the world have accepted the challenge to become the "Vocations Arm of the Church." With the political changes in Eastern Europe, Serra Clubs were chartered in Hungary, Croatia, Romania, and Slovenia. Today, there are more than 800 Serra Clubs in 37 countries with a total membership of more than 20,000 laymen, laywomen and permanent deacons. Serra International, with headquarters located in Chicago, links Serra Clubs around the world.

Don Morris

A LENTEN REFLECTION

The Spirit of his Father was manifested to the human Jesus at Baptism. "You are my beloved son. On your favor rests", (Mark 1:11). And again at the Transfiguration "This is my beloved Son on whom my favor rests. **LISTEN TO HIM**"

At his baptism in the Jordan Jesus received his call, his vocation.

Supposing that up to the time the young, human Jesus didn't know for sure who he was or what was his mission in the world! He must have been astounded when he saw the sky open and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, and heard the voice coming from on high, This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Immediately he went away into the dessert in solitude on a **40 day retreat** to sort out his thoughts and to reflect on that voice and those words, "**You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased**". Time for decisions. With his talents and the assurance that he is the beloved son of God he knows that he can do and be anything he wishes. Much like our young men and women graduating from college. "**With my talents and my excellent grades I can get scholarships for any University**"

The world is telling them, "With your athletic capacity you can be a professional sport star acquiring money and fame." You can succeed in finances or in politics and become the leader of nations, and be famous, rich and respected."

Yes, for our young men and women the possibilities are endless to serve society in their temporal needs, and for them to receive temporal rewards, but shouldn't we also advise them to look into a career that offers higher and longer lasting benefits?

Let us increase our efforts to encourage, promote, support and pray for vocations to the priesthood, the permanent diaconate, the religious life for men and women and yes, **holy** Matrimony.

In the words of Junipero Serra, "Siempre Adelante" ("always forward")



SOUTH COUNTY NEWS

March, 2006 - Volume 2, Issue 1
Serra Club of South Orange County



- 1) Dinner meeting Monday, March 20th at St. Edward
- 2) Our speaker for March is Chick Ryan.

"HAPPY St. PATRICK'S"

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

(Luke 11: 28)



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