Reflections
On the First 40 Years of the Santiago de Compostela Catholic Church

The Writers Ministry of Santiago de Compostela Catholic Church
Presented to:
Fr. Thomas Paul K. Naval

The Writers Ministry of
Santiago de Compostela Catholic Church
Mission Statement of the Writers Ministry of Santiago de Compostela honors the writings of Trappist monk, Thomas Merton, who wrote the following in his 1966 journal.

“The work of writing is to inquire and to praise, to reflect and to reveal. To know and be known. To speak with an open heart and say what seems to me to have worth for my fellow man.”
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Walking the Camino with St. Ignatius
By Ruthanne Inscore

Imagine a people speaking
Their deepest desire
For the way things can be
In the world at this time
Of God in all things
In joy and in pain
Emerging
Inviting the other
With no competition
With no striving

Imagine listening
And holding as precious
The gifts of the other
The dreams of the other
Inviting the other to speak
To challenge, to be challenged
What can only be spoken
In safe space

Imagine discernment
The uplifting grace of love
That will not allow
Stinginess.
A communion of souls
Lifted and offered
To the mystery of life
Only a simple ‘yes’
A ‘yes’ to the risks of the storms
Which try to drown us.
Imagine the ‘yes’ of Jesus
Tipping tables and healing hearts
The “yes” to trust in hope
That took Him to Gethsemane

Imagine a cloud of witness
A Penticost people
Living the resurrection promise
Santiago de Compostela
By Richard Mills

From humble beginnings which began celebrating Mass inside of two different local secular schools, until finally moving into the beautiful church and campus which we are now celebrating our 40 year anniversary of faith, fellowship and worship; we salute the diocese of Orange, along with all clergy, parish family members and guests that has ever been blessed with the opportunity to work, visit or spend time in prayer and worship with-in the walls of this sanctuary.

Santiago de Compostela is much more than just another catholic church; for we are a diverse family of brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, which is the church...And it is the pride and work of all of our men, women and children that dedicate and donate their time, talents and financial support along with exceptional clergy leadership over the years, which has made the past 40 years the true blessing that God intended it to be...

We must also offer-up a congratulatory prayer and blessing for father Thomas Naval inaugural [Santiago de Compostela] Camino, which has just celebrated a five year anniversary; truly bringing our diverse community of brothers and sisters together to [literally] walk the walk and talk the talk!

I for one am truly grateful for the 30 [+] years that I have been so lovingly welcomed and accepted to be a part of such a dynamic Christian family---and the Camino has only helped to solidify my walk with the Lord.
For many, the Camino is a time of fellowship, pray and reflection as we approach the different stations; for me, it is about all of these aspects, with a huge emphasis on prayer.

In short, Santiago’s legacy of 40 years is an enormous foundation of financial support, sweat and prayers offered-up and carried-out by all of our faithful family members and clergy. --- With God’s grace may we continue to be blessed with each additional year of growth...Bueno Camino!
Haiku Poetry
By Melchor Perez

Created by God
you and I will walk this trail
Saint James is waiting.

In America
we continue this long walk
through a brief forest.

The sun will burn you
and you know that it is tough
But you are tougher.

Congratulations
trees and birds have guided you
due to His Kindness.

A pebble, a rock
a stepping stone through this trail
will lead me to you.

Now that I am here
you are now a cathedral
all from a small stone.
Santiago de Compostela – A Brief History
By Jim Bailey

Forty years ago, a group of Catholics began to meet for mass at Los Alisos Middle School in Mission Viejo. Santiago de Compostela began, led by Father John Shetler. The congregation soon moved on to the El Toro High School gym. A choir was organized and conducted by current Deacon Dan Diesel.

Inspired by Father Schetler’s Charismatic movement, our church was built. Soon after, in the early 1980’s, Father Bill Kreckelburg became the new pastor.

Linda Gatlin became the new choir director. A great leader, Linda grew the choir to 70 plus members. She organized and led the choir on two European tours where the group sang mass at many cathedrals including the Vatican. Noel Night was Linda’s invention and continues to be a tradition at Santiago.

Father Ken Schmidt succeeded Father Bill and with his leadership Santiago continued to grow.

The patio and our parish hall were built. The patio was actually built by parishioners under the direction of Ray Puzio.

Father Ken moved on succeeded by Father Dave Gruver, Father Capone, and current pastor, Father Thomas Navel.

In the early 1980’s the Knights of Columbus was formed. The first Grand Knight was Dick Greg who can be seen at mass every Sunday to this day.

Where our church stands today was a dusty vacant lot. Lake Forest Drive ended at Trabuco Road. Both roads had only two lanes.

Santiago de Compostela has quite a history and has come a long way.
Reflections of Our 40-Year Parish Anniversary
By Edwin Smith

Our parish stood for forty years
Through tears and fears and cheers

That surely is significant
A feat that’s quite magnificent

The Israelites they wandered
For 40 years they pondered

And never saw the promised land
Of milk and honey, grand

For 40 days and nights it rained
But ultimately, the waters drained

And as I now flash back the years
I’m blessed that I have shed few tears

And the movie I see in my head
Reflects the life I’ve led

Although we worshipped in a gym
We were still able to shed our sin

We drove our kids to CCD
For their religious ed, you see

Because we did not have a hall
That’s how it was each fall

My kids they both were baptized here
Confirmed and left for their career
My wife, she loved to sing
And choired to do her thing

As for me, I started out a Methodist
Of Protestant descent

I joined the flock through RCIA
And came out a Catholic one

The priests they came and went
And each one made their dent

And I now spend my time to serve
The body and blood of Christ

I help teach the Baptism class
And help out with that rite

The Writers’ ministry fell in my lap
But I don’t mind at all

I’m grateful that I have my health
And able to do it all

So that’s the life I’ve had so far
At SDC CC

I hope God let’s me keep it up
Until I have to go back up
Reflections of Gratitude to the Good Shepherd
By Maureen Whalen

Within the unfolding of forty years, the Lord, our loving and gracious Shepherd, formed with His guiding hand our parish home, Santiago de Compostela.

As he called us each by name, we His children, heard, recognized, and responded to the intimate resonance of His voice.

As we drew near, He gathered us as a mother hen gathers her chicks sheltering them under her wing.

His love and joy welcome us in Baptism.

His compassionate mercy calms our fears in Reconciliation.

He nourishes us with His very self in Eucharist.

His constancy strengthens us in Confirmation.

His abiding blessing consecrates us in Matrimony.

His watchful solicitude, through Holy Orders, solemnly entrusts souls drawn from among us to the pastoral guardianship of His own, to feed his lamps, tend His sheep.

As physician, He gently anoints us soothing the vulnerability of sickness.

As he wraps us in His tender embrace at the portal of death, His consolation of peace beyond understanding stands firm as a stronghold for those bereaved.
As the cup of remembrance overflows, with forty years, illuminated by the presence of the Holy Spirit, visions of loved ones, friendships, community, service in ministry, growth in wisdom and understanding stream before us. And we see, He has graced us with blessing upon blessing upon blessing.

And so, with profound humility, we offer our prayer of gratitude.

With outstretched arms, our Shepherd, receives our thankful hearts and meets our gaze with an encouraging smile beckoning us to follow extending His staff to the path ahead.

As family, side by side, we journey forward into the brilliant horizon on the firm footing of faith, hope, and love. We travel secure and at peace in His company wherever He leads.
Elena and I participated in the Camino at SDC again this year. It felt like we encountered Jesus along the way of the Camino. Jesus in the pilgrims we met along the route, that we talked with and shared about life experiences.

The Way of Justice and Peace.

The Way of Salvation.

The Way to the Father.

The Way of Perfection.

The Way of Perfect Union with God.

The Way of St. James, of Santiago!
My 40th Anniversary Reflection
By Patrick Walloch

What do you do when you go to a parish that doesn’t even have a church? You were very involved in your last parish so you just sit on the sidelines watching what is going on. One year you say to Father Bill, “We could have a big carnival with all this land that we have”. He says, “Well, set it up”. I contacted the carnival people who work with churches. We got a date and start planning the first carnival which then became the “Jumpin Jamboree” and I was sheriff. Over the years, the name and theme has changed. Our parish demographics has changed a lot over the years and the Parish Cultural Event was born.

The planning and building of the hall caused us to scale down our carnival because we couldn’t have rides in the parking lot because there would be no room for people to park and enjoy the festivities. So, over the last 33 years, we still come together to share our cultures, our food and our music.
Santiago
By Dave Owens

High on a hill, perched for all to see
Hand made of mortar and stone,
Stands a structure calling each by name
An edifice with links two millennium deep.

By twist of fate, a name is given
Unique throughout this land.
In far off Hispania, Galicia
Buen Camino greets the pilgrim’s plan.

Santiago, Santiago for all to sing,
The apostle, the Great
Lies beneath in marble sarcophagus
For all to pray, to venerate.

A pilgrim walks with burdens heavy,
To carry a stone, a symbol of hope,
It holds for Thee,
All cares, all sorrows and all fears.

The Synergy, the bond, runs deep and strong.
At journey’s end, at faithful reward, Come Lord, my Lord!
Along the Way, not alone, climbs the Faithful Spirit!
As hope takes flight, Faith to Caritas yields, then...
My journey’s done!
About the SDC Writers Ministry

We hope you enjoyed our writings and we’d love to have you join us. It doesn’t matter how much or how little writing experience you have. What counts is that you have an interest in writing or wanting to learn.

Join us. We meet the first Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall Library from 7:00 PM until about 8:30 PM. Come lend your voice!

For more details, please call Ed Smith at 949-207-4575 or Ruthanne Inscore at 949-795-6894.

Current members include:
- Edwin Smith
- Ruthanne Inscore
- David Owens
- Melchor Perez
- John Freeman
- Patrick Walloch
- Maureen Whalen
- Jim Bailey
- Richard Mills

Coming soon!
“The Chronicles of the Broadmoor Hotel”
A collection of short stories. Same characters, different stories.