

## Mardi Gras Royalty Help Raise Funds for Catholic Charities



Gabriel and Maria Ferrucci were crowned King and Queen of Catholic Charities of Orange County's Mardi Gras Ball last month.

Gabriel and Maria Ferrucci, parishioners at St. Nicholas Church in Laguna Woods, were crowned King and Queen of the Catholic Charities 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Mardi Gras Ball on Feb. 17, a key fundraiser for the organization. The devout couple—parents of three and grandparents of six—have made generous contributions to many diocesan and parish projects, and are also active volunteers, currently serving on several parish boards.

Italian-born Gabriel Ferrucci immigrated to the United States in 1957, speaking very little English and knowing nothing about the country he was adopting as his home. With degrees in education and accounting, Ferrucci successfully served in various managerial positions at Raytheon and other corporations before acquiring Keystone Engineering Corp., where he served as Chief Executive. He retired in 2001 and has since dedicated himself to the advancement of ethical business practices and education.

Maria has dedicated her life to her family and to serving her community and faith. In the early years of their married life, she worked to save money for the down payment on their first home. It is Maria's strong faith that helped to support Gabriel in his work and created a loving home for their three children: Rina, Anna and Joseph. Maria ensured that their children had a solid parochial education. In addition to caring for her growing family, Maria managed to find time to devote to many charitable and religious organizations.

"We are blessed as a Catholic community to have such devoted philanthropists and ethical leaders as Gabriel and Maria Ferrucci," said Bishop Tod D. Brown. "Their commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ is truly an inspiration to us all and I am pleased to recognize them as the King and Queen of Mardi Gras."

Catholic Charities of Orange County, Inc. is a non-profit organization that makes available

a broad base of services to all Orange County residents regardless of religious, ethnic, racial and social backgrounds. Catholic Charities works with individuals to define, design, and implement family-friendly programs that promote economic opportunity, educational achievement, family enrichment, community health, and neighborhood reinvestment.

"The Mardi Gras celebration allows our

diocese to honor Catholic Charities as an organization and reflect on their good works throughout the United States," Bishop Brown added. "I am particularly proud of the more than \$1.5 million funneled into relief for the devastated Gulf Coast region."

For more information about Catholic Charities of Orange County, go to [www.ccoc.org](http://www.ccoc.org). **occ**

### Mission Women's Guild Cookbook Features Recipes by Parish Priests

The Mission San Juan Capistrano's Women's Guild's new cookbook, *The Bells are Ringing - A Call to Table*, features 160 recipes contributed by the priests who staff the parish, as well as long-time members of the San Juan Capistrano community. In it, for example, Father Arthur Holquin, Pastor of the Mission, reveals his secret recipe for *pozole*. "Sharing a meal and good food is at the heart of hospitality," he said. "As a place of peace and hospitality for visitors and pilgrims down through the decades, it is appropriate that our Mission cookbook provides another opportunity to come to know and celebrate our rich heritage here in Southern California."

Also included is a recipe for cocoa fudge cookies by the Mission's late pastor, Monsignor Paul Martin.

*The Bells are Ringing* also features historical sidebars on Mission history, early California artwork (courtesy of the Irvine Museum), and



The Very Reverend Arthur Holquin, Padre's Kitchen, South Wing, Mission San Juan Capistrano. The Padre's Kitchen was used to prepare food for Mission priests and guests in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

photographs of the Mission today.

The cost of the book is \$30, plus tax and shipping. Proceeds benefit Mission preservation. *The Bells are Ringing* may be purchased online at [www.missionsjc.com](http://www.missionsjc.com), by calling Pat March at 949234-1322, or at the Mission's Visitor entrance. **occ**

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