



SERRA CLUB OF DUPAGE COUNTY

THE SERRA NEWS – Diocese of Joliet – Illinois / January 2006

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

When you don't attend the monthly Serra meeting you miss praying for vocations

One of the three objectives of Serra International is to foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support priests in their sacred ministry.

Your Serra Club offers a unique environment at the Loretto Convent to pray for vocations through the recitation of the rosary and attending mass offered for vocations.

All that it takes is for each of us to set aside only **3 out of over 600 hours of our time** each month to attend the monthly Serra evening.

Please prioritize your time for vocations by marking your calendar now.

Quarterly Invoicing

Hugh Toner will be mailing the quarterly invoice in the New Year which will include dues for the first quarter of the year and for snacks and beverages taken during the period October through December. The cost per meeting has been reduced from \$15 to \$11. As in the past a fee for the use of the Loretto facilities is included which encompasses the chapel and meeting/dining room. We will continue to assess the new food format in order that we might be able to further reduce our costs.

The invoice also includes the *annual* special assessment of \$10 per member which is presented to the Sisters of Loretto at Christmas time as a thank you for inviting us to meet at their facilities.

Loretto Dining Room

For those who could not attend the December meeting, we have now returned to the dining room for food, beverages and meeting following rosary and mass.

A MESSAGE FROM PETER CAREY VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP

Your Serra Club of DuPage County continues to encourage prospective new members and friends to attend our meetings. On Monday January 16th Father John Regan, Vocations Director for the Joliet Diocese and Immediate Past President of the National Association of Vocation Directors will be our co- celebrant and our speaker.

What a wonderful opportunity for Serran's to invite interested individuals to attend a Serra function. Father John is a wonderful speaker and he will update us on the status of vocations today and for the immediate future... Now is the time for you to get those invitations out. Don't wait. Feel free to call me if there is anything we can do to help.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

16 Monday 6:00 PM. Rosary, mass, fellowship and meeting at the Loretto Center, Wheaton

Fr. John Regan, Vocation Director for the Joliet Diocese will provide an update on our seminarians and projections for the coming year. He will also speak about the international students and his experiences the past couple of years of inviting men from South America to join us as well as talk a little about our projects with encouraging vocations within families.

21 Saturday 8:15 am. Officers meeting beginning with mass at Visitation Parish in Elmhurst. Members welcome.

FEBRUARY

20 Monday 6:00 PM. Our speaker will be **Fr. Tom Botheroyd** who was our club chaplain until May 2005 when he joined the Benedictines at Marmion Abbey for a year of discernment.

NOTE PHONE NUMBER CHANGE AND ABSENCE

Ron Beaumont's phone number 858 4666 will be discontinued January 1st. Please use 858 4646 or cell 430 4206.

Ron Beaumont will be away from January 6 through January 17. Please do not send meeting confirmations to him.

VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK – JANUARY 7-15, 2006.

National Vocation Awareness Week is January 7 – January 15. Serran's & Parish Vocation Contacts should discuss with their pastors regarding a project for Vocation Awareness Week. Consider scheduling a diocesan seminarian, transitional deacon or religious to speak in conjunction with the homilist at the weekend Masses.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are ill: Serran's Marge Hangsterfer, Bernadette McGowan and Joe Baier. Also Jim & Rita O'Toole, Lydia Overton, Fr. Carl O'Rourke and Ann Dooley, mother of Serran Kathleen Dooley

SERRA REGIONS 6 & 7 CONFERENCE AT NOTRE DAME OCTOBER 27-29.

Following is a message from Dick Dornbos, President of the Serra Club of South Bend. Members of the DuPage Serra are urged to consider seriously attending the Annual Regional Conference. There is no reason that our Club cannot be well represented.

The two regions encompass eight states and are sponsoring the 2006 conference at Notre Dame Indiana. Serran's will meet at St. Mary's College and conclude on October 29th at the Basilica at Notre Dame, Indiana and the Grotto of the campus of the University of Notre Dame.

Serran's have the opportunity to serve Jesus in an extraordinary manner. The hands Christ has now are the hands of people including Serran's. On behalf of Jesus and His Church, we ask you to join us at this inspiring Conference.

Registration is \$100 per person and includes one lunch and two dinners at an extraordinary Conference Center. Lodging is \$64 to \$75 per night for two persons plus tax and includes breakfast.

Members, priests, religious and guests are all welcome. For a registration form contact Ron Beaumont at rrboards@aol.com or phone 858 4646.

DECEMBER SERRA MEETING FOLLOW UP – VOCATION CROSS

George Carr, Programs Vice President for the DuPage Serra Club shares the following message.

Sister Helen Jean Kormelink, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Joliet Diocese and our speaker for the December meeting, called me shortly before Christmas. She told me that she took the Vocation Cross program that was explained to her during our meeting and presented the idea at her quarterly meeting with the school principals. Mike Boyle, Principal of St. Michael School, Wheaton, helped her present the program. (FYI, the program has been operating at St. Joan of Arc and St. Michael schools during the past year.) *Sister reported that all 57 principals thought the program was great and agreed to implement it in all their schools after Christmas break.*

This is great news! Let us all pray that Sister Jean and the principals discover even more ways to foster and promote vocations in our parochial schools.

We Serran's do not always know how the Lord answers our prayers and works for vocations, but, in this case, we should be pleased in knowing that we supplied the spark that ignited the action of Sister and the principals. We give thanks to the Lord.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SEMINARIANS IN FORMATION FOR THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Alejandro Flores - Sacred Heart School of Theology - Hales Corners Wisconsin

I was born in Tarija, Bolivia on January 1, 1973. My mother died when I was two years old and my father abandoned the family. I was educated in an orphanage as were my two brothers and a sister. We were raised in different orphanages, but recently as adults we were reunited in Tarija, Bolivia. I am the youngest of the four children.

My vocation to the priesthood was discerned when I was eight years old, as I was also an altar boy. My vocation was further reconfirmed when Pope John Paul II visited Bolivia in 1988.

Upon entering the seminary in Bolivia, I became aware that the priestly life was a human down-to-earth life. With all the problems that I had to live through, I became aware that my preference for the priestly life is something divine for the love of Jesus Christ. After the completion of my theological studies in the seminary in Cochabamba, Bolivia; I feel very strongly about the mission commended by Jesus to be a shepherd in God's Kingdom. I assist on many weekends and during my Christmas break at St. Mary's Parish in West Chicago.

With God's blessings and your support with prayer, I will be able to realize my long desired dream - that of being ordained a priest after 14 years of studying and waiting for that special day.

Alejandro's Birthday is on the 1st and his pen pal is Len Felder.

Michael Kilker - Conception Seminary College - Missouri

Mike Kilker Jr. is in his senior year at Conception Seminary College. He entered the seminary immediately after graduating from Glenbard West High School in Glen Ellyn. His home parish is St. Petronille, also in Glen Ellyn.

This past summer he worked at his parish doing general maintenance. He chaperoned a trip to Neon, Kentucky for the youth ministry, and also attended World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany. While in Germany he had the privilege to pray Evening Prayer with the Holy Father, along with an estimated five thousand other seminarians. It was an experience he'll never forget.

In May, Michael will be graduating from Conception with a Bachelors degree in Philosophy. If all goes as planned, he'll then go on to Mundelein Seminary for his theology studies. He thanks all those who have prayed for his vocation, as well as all vocations, and urges them to continue their much-needed support.

Michael's birthday is on the 10th and his pen pal in Wally Braunshausen

William Vagenas - St. John Vianney Seminary – St. Paul Minnesota

Greetings from Saint John Vianney! It is such an honor to be able to be at such a terrific Seminary. Saint John Vianney has grown to 112 seminarians making us the largest College Seminary in the country. My love for Christ and His Church has grown ever richer and greater this year and hope that it continues.

Of course there are struggles along the way, but with our Blessed Mother, all the Saints and Martyrs, and Christ Himself at my side, nothing is impossible. I thank all the Serran's for their prayers and support.

Please keep praying for me, for all the priests and seminarians, and for an increase in vocations to God's Holy Priesthood. I will continue to pray for you

William's birthday is on the 16th and his pen pal is Jim Maloney

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS CLERGY IN THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET

1 Rt. Rev. Dismas Kalcic, OSB	St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle
1 Rev. William Dugal	Provena Villa Franciscan
2 Rev. Young Hwan Yeo	Our Lady of Korean Martyrs, Darien
4 Rev. Michael O'Keefe, O.Carm	St. Matthew, Glendale Heights
5 Rev. Michael Mc Millen, SCJ	Elmhurst Hospital, Elmhurst
5 Rev. Theodore Weitzel	St. Raphael, Naperville
8 Rev. Gavin Quinn, O.Carm	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Darien
10 Rev. John Antczak	St. Joseph, Bradley
11 Rev. Jose M Valenzuela, OFM	St. John the Baptist, Joliet
11 Rev Thomas Borkowski	Wheaton Franciscans
12 Very Rev John Welch, O.Carm	Carmelite Provincial Office, Darien
15 Rev Lee Bacchi	St. Peter, Clifton
15 Rev. Steven Bondi	St. Rose, Wilmington
20 Rev. Adam Bobola, SCh	Divine Mercy Polish Msn, Lombard
22 Rev. Joseph Kudilil	Provena St. Joseph Med Center Joliet
25 Rev. David Dillon, O.Carm	St. Matthew, Glendale Heights
28 Rev. Louis Antl, OFM	St. John the Baptist, Joliet
30 Rev. Thomas Botheroyd	Benedictines, Marmion Abbey, Aurora
30 Rt. Rev. Hugh Anderson, OSB	St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle
30 Rev. Roger Kutzner	St. Mary, Mokena

OBJECTIVES OF SERRA INTERNATIONAL

To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support priests in their sacred ministry.

To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church; and

To assist its members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

THE SERRA NEWS

The Serra News is distributed monthly by the Serra Club of DuPage County. Contact Ron Beaumont at rrboards@aol.com or phone 630 858 4666 to be removed from the mailing list.

The website address is www.vocations.com/dupageserra.

Wishing all readers a Very Happy and Blessed New Year!

Ron Beaumont