



# SERRA CLUB OF DUPAGE COUNTY

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY

**8 SA** The officers meeting will be held at Visitation beginning with mass at 8.15. All members are welcome.

**17 MO** 6:00 PM Rosary, mass, hospitality at Loretto Center. A new audio visual “Fishers’ of Men” issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will be our program for the evening.

## **FR. BURKE MASTERS – APPOINTED VOCATION DIRECTOR**

*Fr. Burke Masters succeeds Fr. John Regan as Vocation Director for the Diocese and shares the following with our readers.*

First of all, I want to congratulate Fr. John Regan for a job well done as Director of Vocations in the Joliet Diocese for the last 13 years. He has served the Diocese very well in this capacity and I will be learning a great deal from him in my new position which became effective on June 21st.

### **Entering the Catholic Church**

I was born and raised in Joliet, IL. Although not raised in a Catholic family, I attended Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox to receive a good education and to continue my career in baseball, as it was always my dream to be a major league baseball player. It was at Providence that I fell in love with the Catholic Church. One week before I graduated high school, on May 26, 1985 I was baptized, confirmed and received my 1st Communion in the chapel at Providence. It was one of the greatest days of my life.

### **College**

From there I played baseball and studied mathematics at Mississippi State University, where I was fortunate enough to play in the College World Series in 1990. However, my baseball career obviously didn't pan out as I had hoped, so I went back to school and received my master's degree in Sports Administration from Ohio University in 1993.

### **Sports and the Calling**

From 1993-97 I worked for the Kane County Cougars in Geneva, IL. It was during these years that my vocation to the priesthood blossomed by becoming a lector, Eucharistic Minister and frequenting Eucharistic Adoration. The Cursillo movement and Christ Renews His Parish retreats also played a large role in my discernment.

### **Seminary**

I attended Mundelein Seminary from 1997-2002 and was ordained on June 1, 2002. I have been serving St. Mary's Parish in West Chicago over the past four years, where my desire to serve the Lord and the people of God has grown tremendously. I was fortunate enough to sharpen my Spanish-language skills in West Chicago.

### **Looking ahead to my New Goals**

I am sad to leave West Chicago because it has become my second home. At the same time, I am very excited to begin this new venture as the Vocation Director of our growing and diverse diocese. My plan is to continue much of the great work that Fr. John Regan has begun:

1) Recruiting seminarian candidates from our diocese as well as from other countries like Bolivia, Poland and possibly Mexico.

2) Making the Fiat House a place of discernment as well as a place of hospitality. (Cont. P. 2)

**Other goals include:**

1) Starting more Spirit and Truth young adult groups in the diocese. Spirit and Truth is a movement that began in Atlanta, GA and we began the first group in Illinois at St. Mary's in West Chicago. It is a group for young adults (ages 18-39) to gather together for formation (informative talks), adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and social time. In just 8 months in West Chicago, we have at least 5 young people who are discerning a call to the priesthood.

2) Expanding the Kairos retreat (used at most of our Catholic high schools) to public high school students in our diocese. This also is something that I began at St. Mary's and it has a transforming effect on young people.

3) Visiting all of our parishes, youth groups, schools, etc. over a 4 year period.

I look forward to working with the Serran's on many of these projects. Bishop Sartain has expressed a strong interest in promoting vocations and I'm excited to work with him!

**FAREWELL AND THANK YOU, BISHOP IMESCH**

Serrans will remember Bishop Imesch as a strong supporter for vocations, for the Seminarians and the Serra Club. Each year when we discussed setting a date for the Annual Seminarian Sendoff, Bishop Imesch was contacted to make certain that he was available as we knew that he wanted to be there...to be with the men studying for the priesthood.

Over the years he honored the Serran's with his presence at the annual installation of officers and induction of new members. And when he was not available, Bishop Kaffer, Bishop Fitzgerald or Bishop Schlarman would attend in his place.

Bishop Imesch turned 75 on June 21<sup>st</sup> and was succeeded by Bishop Sartain. We will continue to enjoy his presence, his homilies and his stories as he assists Bishop Sartain with assignments such as confirmations. Thank you Bishop for all that you have done for the cause of vocations. A brief sketch of Bishop Imesch's priestly career should be of interest to all of us.

Born: June 21, 1931 in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, to Dionys and Margaret (Margelisch) Imesch

Education: St. Ambrose and St. Paul Elementary Schools, Grosse Pointe, MI

Sacred Heart Seminary High School and College, Detroit, MI 1945-53, BA degree;

North American College, Rome, 1953-57 - STL degree;

Gregorian University 1969-70

Ordained: December 16, 1956, in Rome

Pastoral Ministry:

- Assistant Pastor, St. Charles Parish, Detroit (1957-59)

- Secretary to John Cardinal Dearden, Archbishop of Detroit (1959-71)

- Pastor, Our Lady of Sorrows' Parish, Farmington, 1971 -77

-Ordained as Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, April 3, 1973

- Regional Bishop of the Northwest Region, Archdiocese of Detroit 1977 - 79.

Installed as Third Bishop of Joliet, IL: August 28, 1979

Member Catholic Relief Services Board 1982 - 85; 1997 - 2002

Member Board of Trustees of Archdiocese of Chicago Seminaries 1984 - present

Chairman of NCCB Committee on Women in Society and the Church 1982 - 85

Chairman of NCCB Committee Writing the Pastoral on the Concerns of Women 1983-92

Member of Marriage & Family Life Committee 1994 - 97

Member of Committee for Stewardship 1995 - 2002

Chairman of NCCB Committee for Pastoral Practices 1995 - 1998

Member of Retired Religious Grant Review Board 1997 - 2000  
Member of Society of St. James Board 1994 - 2002  
Member of USCCB Administrative Board 2001 - 2003  
Chairman of Bishops of Region VII 2001 - 2003.

### **THANK YOU FR. JOHN REGAN**

*Fr. John Regan after 13 years as Vocation Director was appointed Pastor at St. Walter in Roselle.*

Father John Regan is the youngest of four children of Francis and Mary Ann Regan. He was raised in Peotone where his home parish was St. Paul the Apostle Church. He attended public schools through high school and then attended the University of Notre Dame to major in mathematics. He entered Mundelein Seminary after graduating from Notre Dame in 1985 and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Joseph Imesch on June 3, 1989.

Father John's first priesthood assignment was as parochial vicar at St. Liborius Parish, in Steger. At the parish he also served as youth minister and director of liturgy. Bishop Imesch asked him to serve as diocesan vocation director in 1993, and he has continued to serve in that capacity until now. As vocation director he has looked for innovative ways to promote vocations, designing and maintaining the first national vocations website at [www.vocations.com](http://www.vocations.com). The vocation office also coordinated new programs in Catholic high schools and began more local parish efforts to promote vocations. In 2000 Father John opened the Fiat House of Discernment, a residence for men who are discerning priesthood as well as a place of initial formation for some seminarians. Each year the house in Joliet has welcomed several new candidates for the priesthood into the Diocese. The number of diocesan seminarians from 1993 to 2005 has increased from 12 to 28. Although there has been relatively good success, Father John will be the first to tell you that there is still much more to do to provide for the future needs of our diocese.

Father John has also been active in vocation ministry on a national level. He has served for five years on the executive board of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, including two years as President, from 2003-2005. He will continue to serve as past president until September 2006.

Throughout his seventeen years of priesthood, he continued to work with youth retreats, especially with the KAIROS retreats in many of our Catholic High Schools. He has done well over 100 of these four-day retreats in "God's Time" with students. He has also been a strong supporter of our diocesan mission trips to Latin America, first visiting Peru in 1991 and six times visiting our sister diocese in Sucre, Bolivia with university students and seminarians.

After serving thirteen years as vocation director, Father John is looking forward to returning to parish ministry as pastor. He has recently been assigned to St. Walter Parish, in Roselle. He hopes that the parishioners will find in him one who strives to live after the heart of Jesus while calling all to deeper discipleship with the Lord. He will bring a passion for young people and their faith, for vocation reflection by every baptized person, for outreach to the poor, and for evangelization within the parish and abroad.

*The Serran's of DuPage County thank him for his many years of dedication in building the Joliet Diocese Vocation program and for the founding of the Fiat House. We wish him well in his new assignment.*

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**Those who are ill:** Marge Hangsterfer, Bernadette McGowan and Joe Baier. Also Jim & Rita O'Toole, Lydia Overton, Fr. Carl O'Rourke and Tom Hunter.

## **ANNUAL SEMINARIAN SENDOFF DINNER – MONDAY AUGUST 14, 2006**

The Serra Club of DuPage County invites readers to the annual Seminarian Sendoff to honor Seminarians from the Diocese of Joliet, which will be held at Benedictine University.

Plan to pray and break bread and have an enjoyable evening with the Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain, Bishop of Joliet.

Also, the Most. Reverend Joseph L. Imesch, Bishop of Joliet (retired); Auxiliary Bishop Roger L. Kaffer (retired) and the Most Rev. Bishop Daniel L. Ryan (retired).

Also, Rev. Burke Masters Vocation Director for the Diocese and Rev. Christopher Floss, Chaplain for the Serra Club of DuPage County.

### **Date/ Time Monday August 14, 2006. Hospitality 5:45 PM - Dinner 7:00 PM**

**Location:** Krasa Center at Benedictine University, Maple Road & College Road, Lisle.

**Directions:** From I-355 or from Illinois #53, take Maple Road westbound. After crossing College Road-Yackley Road continue past the first traffic signal and turn left just past the tree line into the next (no-name) drive. As the drive turns to the left, the parking lot and Krasa Center will be on your left. Enter the Krasa Center and walk through to the stairs or elevator at the opposite end of the Center and proceed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Elevator available. Note: College Road and Yackley Road is the same street at the intersection of Maple.

**Menu:** The indoor dinner will be a catered buffet and will features Caesar salad, fresh fruit salad, broccoli slaw, Roasted Strip loin carved to order, hot dogs, grilled chicken breast, baked mostaccioli, baked beans, corn on the cob, baked beans, red roasted potatoes, dessert and beverages.

**Guests of Serra:** All Seminarians, their parents and siblings residing at home, as well as clergy from the Diocese of Joliet are invited as guests of the Serra Club.

**Cost:** All others, Adults, \$20. Ages 11 and under, \$8, ages 4 and under, free.

**Cancellations:** No refunds after August 9.

**Reservations:** Send an e-mail to [rrboards@aol.com](mailto:rrboards@aol.com). Payment can be made by check payable to Serra Club of DuPage County and mail to Ron Beaumont, 453 Raintree Drive #5K, Glen Ellyn IL 60137. Phone 630 858 4646. Include names and ages of children under 15. Make your reservations today.

**Dress:** Business casual, casual for children.

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

Please contact Ron Beaumont at [rrboards@aol.com](mailto:rrboards@aol.com) or phone 630 858 4646 for a copy of the agenda and program. The conference will be held at Saint Mary's College at Notre Dame, Indiana. Plan now to attend and support the 8 state regions. **FR. BURKE LEADING US TO ND**

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO A SEMINARIAN STUDYING FOR THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET**

**Joshua Miller            Mundelein Theology 1**

**Josh** has just completed studying philosophy at Conception Seminary College, and is looking forward to the beginning of his theological studies at Mundelein in the fall. The majority of Josh's summer will be spent in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where he will be studying Spanish in a submersion program.

An avid reader, Josh enjoys books on a variety of subjects, particularly 18th century British literature. He also enjoys outdoors activities, such as fishing and hiking. After completing his second year of formation for the diocesan priesthood, Josh believes that his time in seminary has been the best and most wholesome of his life, and hopes that everyone will continue to pray for vocations across the world.

**Josh's' birthday is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>** and his pen pal is Serran Joan Temborius.

(Continued on page 5)

**David Mowry**                      **College 2 at St. John Vianney**  
**David's birthday is on the 11<sup>th</sup>** and his pen pal is Thomas Maronta

**David Wallen**                      **College 4 at Conception**

I just finished my first year at Conception Seminary College. I transferred there as a junior and am already looking forward to going back there in the fall to continue in priestly formation. I live in Wilmington and I am one of four children. I have two brothers, one older and one younger. I also have a younger sister. I turn 21 July 5th. At school I was the Athletic chair and played on the basketball team. I also really enjoy playing chess in my free time. This summer I am taking two summer classes at Joliet Junior College so I will graduate on time this year. I am also working at the Lyondel Chemical plant full time. Thank you for all your support. David Wallen.  
**David's birthday is on the 5<sup>th</sup>** and his pen pal is Jane Whalen.

**JULY BIRTHDAYS - CLERGY IN THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET**

1 Rev. Gerold Simonelli	St. Andrew the Apostle, Romeoville
2 Rev. Mel R. Uzdrowski, OSB	St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle
4 Rev. John Klein	St. Michael, Wheaton
5 Rev. David Hankus	St. Francis of Assisi, Bolingbrook
7 Rev. Thomas Paul	St. Mary of Gostyn, Downers Grove
9 Rev. George Hurley	Oak Brook
10 Rev. James Lennon	St. Patrick, Joliet
11 Rev. John Ouper	St. James the Apostle, Glen Ellyn
15 Rev. William Dewan	Holy Family, Shorewood
18 Rev. Philip M. Danaher	Christ the Servant, Woodridge
18 Rev. Albert Heidecke	St. Lawrence, S. Wilmington
18 Rev. John Sebahar	St. John Vianney Villa, Naperville
18 Rev. Joseph Siegel	Visitation
18 Rev. Chris Steinle, OSA	Providence
23 Rev. Dennis Paul	St. Raphael, Naperville
26 Rev. John Malley, O.Carm	Carmelite Mission Office, Darien
26 Rev. Jess Testa	St. Joseph, Rockdale
27 Rev. Edward Rowland	St. Thaddeus, Joliet
28 Rev. Herbert Essig	St. Pius X, Lombard
28 Rev. Richard Kostelz	St. Joseph, Cabery
31 Rev. Joseph Tapella	Moderator of Curia, Joliet
31 Rev. Chris Groh	St. Mary Nativity & Holy Cross, Joliet

**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](mailto:rrboards@aol.com) or phone 630 858 4646 to be removed from the mailing list. The website address is [www.vocations.com/dupageserra](http://www.vocations.com/dupageserra).