

THE METRO



August 2009

SERRA CLUB OF METROPOLITAN DALLAS NEWSLETTER

Announcing Our New Website www.metroterra.com

We are proud to announce the launch of our new website. This site will be the home for all upcoming events along with vocation and Church news. Please check back regularly to keep track of new information. You are invited to comment on any aspect of website and to suggest additional information that you believe would be of interest to our members. To request a password to the **Members Only** page, if you have any trouble, need assistance or would just like to let us know what you think of the site, please contact John Hughes at jfhughes@hotmail.com or via the information form on the contact page.
Bookmark and visit often!

President's Message *by Pete Philp*

Dear Serrans,

I believe that the joint meeting with the Serra Club of Dallas was a huge success. We all owe thanks to Peter D'Apice for arranging for Professor Michael P. Foley to be our speaker and for developing the idea of having the joint meeting.

Our 31 Club calendar is now fully covered in that we have members attending Mass on every day of the month and praying for vocations. Even though we have each day covered, not every Metro Serran has joined. I urge those members who have not yet signed up for the 31 Club and can attend an additional Mass each month to contact John Hughes and "join the Club".

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Chaplain's Message *by Tom Cloherty*

My dear Serrans:

August traditionally marks the end of summer as school resumes. Hopefully the summer has been a time of respite and relaxation, at least to some extent. But as scripture says: "now is the acceptable time!", so back to work we go.

After a summer's break and after a very successful VAP weekend, we need to make sure that we press on in the cause of vocations. This is the "Year of the Priest" as designated by Pope Benedict. In his letter he talks not only about obtaining vocations but also maintaining vocations as well.

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IN MEMORIAM

Charles Thomas "Chuck" Shropshire
March 30, 1920 - July 3, 2009

CALENDAR

Fri, Aug 7	First Friday Mass & Breakfast - St. Monica; Dave Palmer, Guadalupe Radio Network - 910 AM	6:45 a.m.
Fri, Aug 21	Luncheon Meeting - Park City Club; Fr. Longua, FSSP (Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter): FSSP, Local Latin Masses, etc.	11:45 a.m.
Aug 27 th - 31 st	Serra's 67th International Convention - Omaha, NE - <i>The Role of Christ's Lay Faithful</i>	
Fri, Sep 4	No First Friday Mass & Breakfast - Labor Day Weekend	
Fri, Sep 18	Luncheon Meeting - Park City Club; Bishop Kevin Farrell (Tentative)	11:45 a.m.
Sep 25 - Oct 18	"WOMEN & SPIRIT: Catholic Sisters in America"; State Fair of Texas	
Fri, Oct 2	First Friday Mass & Breakfast - St. Monica; Sister Edyta Krawczyk; Holy Land Pilgrimage	6:45 a.m.
Tue, Oct 6	2009 Seminarian Welcome Dinner; The Fairmont Hotel	5:00 p.m.
Fri, Oct 16	Luncheon Meeting - Park City Club; Monica Ashour; 2008 Bishop's Pro-Life Award Recipient	11:45 a.m.

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We have accepted an invitation to participate in the Career Day for the senior class at John Paul II High School on October 14, 2009. Fr. David Konderla from the St. Mary's Catholic Center at Texas A&M University will be the keynote speaker, and chair the breakout session on Vocations. It is probable that Serrans will have the opportunity to chair other breakout sessions as representatives of their career fields. I want to thank Jerry Lastelick for his help in arranging for Fr. Konderla to attend.

Congratulations to Jerry Geary and his team on a great VAP weekend just concluded. See the related article on page 3.

Siempre Adelante!

Pete

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As much effort as we put into "recruiting" vocations we should make sure that we are attentive to those who are already ordained and professed so that we can affirm them as they live out their vows and promises of serving god and his people.

Stop to visit with the priests and religious in your parish. Offer them your assurance of prayers and assistance. Pray for them at home, at church; speak well of them in the presence of others. Write a note of thanks, congratulations, etc. so they will know they are thought about and prayed for. I can assure you it makes a world of difference in our lives.

Have a blessed month!

Father Tom



SAVE THE DATE

The 2009 Seminarian
Welcome Dinner
October 6, 2009
5:00 p.m.
The Fairmont Hotel



Caritas in Veritate

On July 7th, Pope Benedict XVI issued his third encyclical “*Caritas in Veritate*” - Charity in Truth. On the eve of the G8 summit in Italy, the Holy Father issued a call to reform the way the world works. Addressed to “all people of good will,” his third encyclical presents a lengthy list of actions he thinks are needed to overcome the financial crisis and shift economic activity from the profit motive to a goal of solidarity of all people. Key quotes:

Charity is at the heart of the church's social doctrine ... It is the principle not only of micro-relationships (with friends, with family members or within small groups) but also of macro-relationships (social, economic and political ones).

Truth needs to be sought, found and expressed within the 'economy' of charity ... but charity in its turn needs to be understood, confirmed and practiced in the light of truth. In this way, not only do we do a service to charity enlightened by truth, but we also help give credibility to truth, demonstrating its persuasive and authenticating power in the practical setting of social living. This is a matter of no small account today, in a social and cultural context which relativizes truth, often paying little heed to it and showing increasing reluctance to acknowledge its existence.

To read more about this historical document start with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website: <http://usccb.org/caritasinveritate>.

The above word cloud depicts the most frequently used words in the 30,000 word document and the size of each word is proportionate to the number of time it appears. Graphic from CNS/Emily Thompson.



Dr. Michael P. Foley, Associate Professor of Patristics in the Great Texts Program at Baylor University addressed a joint luncheon meeting with the Serra Club of Dallas on July 17th at the Park City Club. Dr. Foley, an expert on St. Augustine, discussed his book, *Why Do Catholics Eat Fish on Friday? The Catholic Origin to Just About Everything* to the delight of the 70 Serrans in attendance.

THIRTY-THREE MEN AND WOMEN ATTEND VAP

Twenty-four young men and nine young women attended the Vocation Awareness Program (VAP) at Holy Trinity Seminary the weekend of July 17th - 19th. Twenty-four attended from the Dallas Diocese while nine represented the Fort Worth Diocese. The men's staff included seven priests and our two diocesan vocation directors, who were assisted by nine diocesan priests from the seminary and parishes in the Dallas and Fort Worth dioceses, during the attendees' personal conferences. Sixteen religious women worked with the women attendees regarding their discernment. The staff indicated they were greatly impressed by the attendees regarding their mature attitude and positive approach to the material presented during the weekend. Thirty-four Serrans joined the attendees and staff for a full house Brunch following Sunday Mass. Metro Serrans involved during the weekend included Larry Whaley, who acted as moderator for the Religious and Diocesan Men's Panels and Jerry Geary, who held down his usual slot as Program Coordinator. In addition, Larry Whaley, his wife Mary Kay, Bill Burke, Jack Prusha, Pete Philp and Jerry Geary, worked together moving furniture to put the seminary back together again after the long weekend.

Visit: www.metroterra.com

The 31 Club

The 31 Club which is an integral part of Serra and required of Metro Serrans, was initiated in the 1970's by Father Clive A. Litton in his parish in New Zealand. Seeing a need for support of current religious vocations as well as an increase of vocations, Father Litton encouraged his parishioners to select a particular day in the month, other than Sunday, to attend Mass and offer it with prayer for those currently serving the Church as priests and religious and for an increase in vocations.

To add your name to the Metro 31 Club Calendar, please email John Hughes at jfhughes@hotmail.com or call him at 972.661.1423.

So who needs more priests, anyway??

Well, you might ask the dying man who has no one to help him in his final hours and administer the last rights of the Church.

Or, you might ask a member of the 3,238 parishes who do not have a resident priest (as of 2007)..

Or, you might ask Fr. Tom and Fr. Stan, who will now have to minister to over 2,200 families by themselves. A task shared by thousands of other priests in our country.

Consider the statistics: In 1965, there were 58,632 diocesan and religious priests in the United States. In 2007, there were 41,449 priests - over 17,000 fewer priests to serve 19,000,000 more Catholics!!

Consider the statistics from our Dallas Diocese: As of December 31, 2008, we have an estimated *1,127,985 Catholics in 67 parishes* located in 9 counties, an area of 7,338 square miles, and *we have only 61 diocesan priests.*

The good news is that the Lord said He would always be with his Church and would not abandon us. But, He also told us we must pray that the Lord of the harvest would send more laborers into the harvest. He didn't present this as an option.

It is true that none of us can give a vocation to another. This is a unique calling from God. So, what can we do??

We can all pray. Consider joining the small group of parishioners who pray in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament each Thursday evening from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

If you cannot do this regularly, come when you can. Or say a rosary, or a decade of the rosary, daily for vocations.

Encourage those whom you think might be a good candidate for the religious life to consider a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated religious life. Speak positively about the many wonderful priests and religious you have known. Thank the priests you know for their tireless service to the faithful. Almost 80% of priests say that they strongly considered their vocation after encouragement from others - whether from a priest, or family, or friend.

PLEASE! PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!

Reprinted from the All Saints Bulletin, with thanks to Susan Holmes

31 Club Day	Metro Serran
1st	Ed Murphy
1st	Mike Grimshaw
2nd	Fred Fink
3rd	Bill Burke
3rd	Don Wetzel
4th	Jere Romine
5th	Roland Pedevilla
6th	Peter Philp
7th	Jerry Lerner
7th	Larry Coleman
8th	Bill Cicherski
8th	Lawrence Whaley
9th	Jay Wimmer
10th	Henry Maher
11th	Joe Wesner
12th	Art Bissonnette
12th	John Hughes
13th	Peter D'Apice
14th	Michael Burns
15th	Jim Crinnion
15th	Marianne McGonigle
15th	Pat O'Brien
16th	Roger Scott
17th	Jerry Lastelick
17th	Vince Bradley
18th	Bob McGuire
19th	Jack Padian
20th	Ray Vales
21st	Frank Rauscher
22nd	Monk Simons
22nd	Susan Smolenski
23rd	Don Krusemark
24th	Anthony Interrante
24th	Mike Lynch
25th	John Rodriguez
26th	Andy Stasio
26th	Charles Brophy
27th	Al Brezna
28th	Jerry Geary
29th	Bob Andres
29th	John Poston
30th	John Roppolo
31st	Brad Camp

Roster Updates

If you have any changes for the roster, send to Pat O'Brien at pvobrien@att.net. If you wish an updated copy, email him or call him at 214/750-1879. The updated roster is available at the **Members Only** page of the website: www.metroterra.com. Email John Hughes for the password, jfhughes@hotmail.com.