

THE METRO



December 2009

SERRA CLUB OF METROPOLITAN DALLAS

NEWSLETTER

ADVENT 2009

NOV 29 - DEC 24

O COME! O COME!



See page 3

U.S. Bishops Complete Work on Translation of Roman Missal

BALTIMORE—The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) voted to approve the last five pieces of the English translation of the Roman Missal during the November 17 session of the annual Fall General Assembly.

Bishop Arthur Serratelli of Paterson, NJ, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship, called the bishops' completion of their years-long work on the Missal "historic."

The bishops approved the Proper of Saints with 195 in favor, 23 opposed and 4 bishops abstaining. The bishops approved the Commons with 200 bishops in favor and 19 opposed. They approved the Roman Missal Supplement with 203 in favor, 15 opposed and 3 abstaining. They approved the U.S. Propers with 199 in favor, 20 opposed and 1 abstaining. They approved the U.S. Adaptation to the Roman Missal with 199 in favor, 17 opposed and 1 abstaining.

President's Message *by Pete Philp*

Dear Serrans,

My guess is that one of the first questions most of us had upon joining Serra was, "How do we measure our success against the Serra mission". We were probably thinking of our mission to foster vocations to the priesthood and religious. We soon learned that for the most part the discernment of a vocation is a process that takes place over time, sometimes a long time. The discerner is usually influenced by many people and events, and it is very difficult to measure Serra's impact during that process, and so we are left to wonder.

But Serra's mission is threefold. Certainly we are here to foster vocations, but we also promote and affirm vocations, while growing spiritually individually, and as a group. It is much easier to measure our success against these other missions of Serra.

Association with and support for the seminarians is one of the most rewarding things we do in my opinion. They have

Continued on Page 2

Chaplain's Message *by Tom Cloherty*

My dear Serrans:

"And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us!" These words bring realism to the great feast of Christ's birth which we commemorate this month of December. We celebrate the reality of an invisible God being made visible in the person and gift of the babe of Bethlehem who became the Lord of Lords, the Prince of Peace and the King of Kings.

May the blessings of the incarnate God be upon you and yours during this sacred season and may the New Year of 2010 be for us all a year of grace and favor from a gracious God.

Father Tom

CALENDAR

Wed, Dec 2	Metro Serra Information Meeting For Prospective New Members; St. Monica Family Center	7:00 p.m.
Fri, Dec 4	First Friday Mass & Breakfast - St. Monica; Marge Giangiulio	6:45 a.m.
Sun, Dec 6	Mass with Seminarians; Holy Trinity Seminary	9:15 a.m.
Wed, Dec 9	Advent Reflection Mass and Dinner; Saint Rita; Msgr. Seitz	6:30 p.m.
Fri, Dec 25	Christmas Day	
Fri, Jan 1	New Year's Day - No First Friday Mass & Breakfast	
Jan 10 -16	National Vocation Awareness Week	
Thurs, Jan 14	World Day of Prayer For Consecrated Life	
Fri, Jan 15	Luncheon Meeting - Park City Club; Ed Schaffler, The Catholic Foundation	11:45 a.m.
Jan 27 - 28	Vocation Days - John Paul II High School	
Sun, Feb 7	World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life	
Sun, Apr 25	World Day of Prayer for Vocations	

President's Message continued from Page 1

told me that they are very appreciative of our support for them, and that they pray for us, just as we pray for them. I really look forward to the day that they are ordained, to share in their joy, and to continue to follow them in priesthood.

Moreover, I think that Serra and Serrans are highly respected and regarded by priests at every level of the Diocese. This is certainly evident whenever we have them as guests for meetings and functions, and it was never more evident to me than when we acted as greeters recently for the Bishop's Convocation for Priests. To a man, they were warm and friendly, and were genuine in expressing their appreciation for the support Serra gives them.

I hope that our work toward fostering, promoting and affirming vocations along with the great programs we have, and the fellowship with club members and their spouses, has caused your faith to reach a lifelong high point as it has mine. This mission of Serra has been the easiest to measure for me.

Over the next two months, we will have three events that will significantly contribute to the missions of Serra: Donut Sunday, December 6; Advent Reflection, December 9; and Vocation Day(s) at John Paul II High School, January 27-28. Here are three great opportunities to experience Serra and to grow your faith.

My best wishes to you and your families for a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year,

Pete

USCCB POSTS IDEAS FOR ADVENT, CHRISTMAS

WASHINGTON—For the second consecutive year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has created a Website (www.usccb.org/advent/) with suggestions for daily prayer, reading, reflection and action throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

New for this year are printable calendars in English and Spanish with a suggested family activity for each day of the Advent season, which begins November 29, and the Christmas season, which ends on January 10 with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

The interactive online calendars present a menu of resources for reading, prayer, reflection and action for each day of the two seasons. Many of the reflections are taken from "Following Christ," "The Priesthood," "Mary," and "The Saints," four of the collections from the Spiritual Thoughts Series by Pope Benedict XVI. A *Festival of Lesson and Carols*, which is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century, can be heard live online or downloaded for later listening.

The USCCB Advent/Christmas Web site also features a variety of scripture resources focusing on the Old Testament. Jem Sullivan, PhD., of the USCCB Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis, starts off the Advent season with a video explaining how families can enrich their faith by reading the Old Testament. Featured throughout the calendars are video clips of USCCB members and staff discussing their favorite Old Testament stories, passages and characters.

Decorating the Web site are photos of sanctuaries adorned for Advent and Christmas from across the country including the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, and photos of seasonal events from several Catholic dioceses.

Other resources on the Website include a list of recommend holiday-themed movies from the USCCB's Film and Broadcasting office, prayers and blessings from the USCCB publication *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, and suggestions for remembering the needs of immigrants and the poor throughout the season.

The Advent/Christmas site was created by the [USCCB Department of Communications](#) with funding from the [Catholic Communication Campaign](#).

**Advent Reflection
Wednesday
December 9, 2009
Mass and Dinner
Saint Rita
6:30 p.m.**

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.

**Future Masses with Seminarians
9:15 a.m., Holy Trinity Seminary**

**2009
December 6th
2010
March 21st
May 2nd**

A sampling of Christmas events throughout the Diocese - for more information visit - the Texas Catholic website: www.texasatholic.org - Out and About Calendar

Sat, Dec 5	Jesuit's 16 th annual Christmas Bazaar	9 am – 5 pm.
Sat, Dec 13	Holy Family Church, Irving; "Breakfast with Santa"	9 am - Noon
Sat, Dec 13	Bishop Lynch Brigade 1 st annual Christmas Bazaar	9 am – 5 pm
Sat, Dec 13	Prince of Peace Church; "A Night in Bethlehem"	12:30 pm – 3 pm
Wed, Dec 16	Mary Immaculate Church; free Christmas concert; "Only Love"	7:30 pm
Sun, Dec 20	"Christmas at the Cathedral"; Diocesan Choir and Chamber Orchestra	7 pm

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.

Second Serra Information Night

The second **Metro Serra Information Night** will be held on Wednesday, December 2nd from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Saint Monica Family Center. The purpose of the meeting is to familiarize prospective members with Serra as well as providing a social event for meeting and greeting.

Prospective members have been invited to the meeting as part of our new member campaign. A personal information letter has gone out to each of them. The letter also invites them to the following club activities:

Fri, Dec 4th - Mass and Breakfast
Wed, Dec 9th - Advent Mass and Dinner

Please contact Roland Pedevilla 214.673.6139 or rrpedevilla@yahoo.com if you are aware of prospective new members that should be invited to this session.



Mother Antonia to Speak in Dallas

Mother Antonia, founder of the order, Eudist Sisters of the 11th Hour, will speak of her life of service in an exclusive one-night engagement in Dallas on December 17th. The event will take place at La Calle Doce, Lakewood, 1925 Skillman beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please call the restaurant for additional details - (214) 824-9900.

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	OPEN
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

Have you visited our website: www.metroterra.com?