

THE METRO



March 2010

SERRA CLUB OF METROPOLITAN DALLAS

NEWSLETTER

Key Dates for VAP 2010

- Saturday, March 27th - Kickoff Mass and Brunch; Holy Trinity Seminary at 9:00 a.m.
- June 25th - 27th - VAP Weekend; Holy Trinity Seminary

Details in President's Message

Club Elections

The following members were elected at the monthly luncheon on February 26th. They will serve for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2010

Officers

President - Peter D'Apice
Chaplain - Father Tom Cloherty
VP Programs - Roland Pedevilla
VP Vocations - Mike Holmes
VP Membership - Bob Andres
VP Communications - John Hughes
Secretary - Dorothy Hoel
Treasurer - John Poston
Immediate Past President - Pete Philp

Trustees

Marianne McGonigle (2011)
Jerry Geary (2012)
Susan Smolenski (2013)

President's Message *by Pete Philp*

Dear Serrans,

The Vocation Awareness Program (VAP) Weekend will reach a major milestone this year when all of the Serra Clubs in the Dallas and Ft. Worth Dioceses once again sponsor the event held at Holy Trinity Seminary, June 25-27, 2010. This will be the 20th Anniversary for the event.

More than 800 young men and women have taken part in the weekend program since the first VAP Weekend was held in 1990. Jerry Geary of Metro Serra has participated in one way or another in every one of the previous VAP Weekends. Once again this year he is a member of the Steering Committee, and will arrange for panelists to participate in the program. Jerry certainly deserves our heartfelt admiration and thanks for the vital service he has given to this premier event of Serra Clubs in the North Texas area.

Panelists for the event are mostly Vocation Directors of men and women's religious orders not only from various areas of Texas, but also from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Louisiana. They are led by Father Rudy Garcia and Father Kyle Walterscheid, Vocations Directors of the Dioceses of Dallas and Ft. Worth respectively.

Continued on Page 2

Lenten Reflection

March 2, 2010
6:30 p.m.

[Museum of Biblical Arts](#)
7500 Park Lane, Dallas

Prayer Service by Fr. Tom Cloherty
Reception and Dinner
Museum Lecture and Tour

Click [here](#) for directions

CALENDAR

Tue, Mar 2	Lenten Reflection - Museum of Biblical Arts ; 7500 Park Lane - For details and directions - see Page 1	6:30 p.m.
Fri, Mar 5	First Friday Mass and Breakfast - St. Monica; Jonathan Baca, Theology Department, Nolan Catholic High School; World Youth Day and Youth Issues	6:45 a.m.
Fri, Mar 19	No Luncheon Meeting - Lenten Reflection	
Sun, Mar 21	Mass with the Seminarians - Holy Trinity Seminary	9:15 a.m.
Sat, Mar 27	VAP Kickoff Mass and Brunch - Holy Trinity Seminary	9:00 a.m.
Fri, Apr 2	GOOD FRIDAY	
Sun, Apr 4	EASTER SUNDAY	
Fri, Apr 23	Luncheon Meeting - Park City Club; Lucas Pollice, Diocesan Director of Adult Catechesis, Diocese of Fort Worth; RCIA Program Formation Issues	11:45 a.m.
Sun, Apr 25	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS	
Sun, Apr 25	Nun's Appreciation Dinner - Dallas Arboretum	
Fri, May 7	First Friday Mass and Breakfast - St. Monica; Thomas W. Poore, President, John Paul II High School; JP II High School Vocation Awareness Day: Issues and Ideas	6:45 a.m.
Wed, May 19	Annual Installation of Officers and New Member Induction - University of Dallas: Mass at the Church of the Incarnation and Reception/Dinner in the Haggard University Center	6:30 p.m.

President's Message, continued from Page 1

Deacon Tim Muldoon, who with his wife Nancy served for six years on the Diocesan Commission for Orders, once provided the ultimate validation of the VAP Weekend. When asked how many of the applicants for acceptance into the seminary had attended the VAP Weekend, he quickly replied, "All of them".

The Serra Clubs in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area provide all of the funds to stage this event each year. The actual cost to conduct this event varies according to the number of attendees but the annual budget for the event is \$14,000. The primary source of funds to stage the VAP Weekend is from raffle tickets sold by the various Serra Clubs for the annual Kickoff Brunch which will be held March 27 this year. Every Serran in the metro area should have received three books of raffle tickets recently. We are all encouraged to buy or sell the tickets sent to us. Additionally, the raffle tickets are sold by Serrans at their parishes, neighborhoods, and work places. Those needing more tickets should contact Bob Andres, bobandres@sbcglobal.net.

Let's all do our part and more this year to raise the funds needed to sustain this vital role of Serra for vocations in North Texas. Clearly, the VAP Weekend epitomizes the primary mission of Serra.

Siempre Adelante,

Pete

Roster Updates

If you have any changes for the roster or would like an updated copy, send your request to Pat O'Brien at pvobrien@att.net. You may also call him at 214.750.1879. The updated roster is available at the [Members Only](#) page of the website. Email John Hughes for the password: jfhughes@hotmail.com.

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

**March 21st
May 2nd**

Chaplain's Message *by Father Tom Cloherty*

My dear Serrans:

March 19th is the feast of St. Joseph. There was a somewhat modern statue of St. Joseph I came across one time. I had passed it quickly and then something caused me to back up and take another look. The statue had no mouth. I had to think about that for a while.

Then I realized what the artist was trying to convey. In all of the New Testament writings there are no recorded words of Joseph. We are always told what he thought, what he dreamed or what he did, but never anything he said. Yet, look at the impact he had on the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary and on the life of Jesus.

We can learn well from the person of St. Joseph. It is not always the words we say out loud that can impact the lives and love of others. The words we say in prayer, in private can influence others. The actions of our lives can speak volumes over and above our words.

Sometimes as Serrans, it is not what we say, but who we are and what we do that has meaning in the lives of others, not to mention our own lives. Saint Francis said, "Proclaim the Gospel, the good news, and if you have to, use words."

Not bad advice to heed and follow!

Have a blessed month of Lent!

Father Tom

USAC Constitution - Objectives and Purposes

At the February meeting your board of directors approved several recommended changes to the USAC constitution and bylaws. The most significant changes involved the statement of USAC's objectives and purposes. If approved, the revised objectives and purposes of USAC will be:

1. *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;*
2. *To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church; and*
3. *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 rationale for this change is to align USAC's statement of objectives and purposes with those of Serra International. These three items will replace the thirteen in the current constitution. Items four through thirteen are mostly included in Article IX – Serra Councils in the Serra international Bylaws.

Coming March 19th in [The Texas Catholic](#)

"[Year For Priests](#)" Special Edition
with Serra ad

**World Day of Prayer for
Vocations
April 25**

Saint of the Month

March 19th - St. Joseph

The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a “just” man. The quality meant a lot more than faithfulness in paying debts.

When the Bible speaks of God “justifying” someone, it means that God, the all-holy or “righteous” One, so transforms a person that the individual shares somehow in God’s own holiness, and hence it is really “right” for God to love him or her. In other words, God is not playing games, acting as if we were lovable when we are not.

By saying Joseph was “just,” the Bible means that he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God.

The rest we can easily surmise. Think of the kind of love with which he wooed and won Mary, and the depth of the love they shared during their marriage.

It is no contradiction of Joseph’s manly holiness that he decided to divorce Mary when she was found to be with child. The important words of the Bible are that he planned to do this “quietly” because he was “a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame” (Matthew 1:19).

The just man was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God—in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage.

The Bible tells us nothing of Joseph in the years after the return to Nazareth except the incident of finding Jesus in the Temple (see Luke 2:41-51). Perhaps this can be taken to mean that God wants us to realize that the holiest family was like every other family, that the circumstances of life for the holiest family were like those of every family, so that when Jesus’ mysterious nature began to appear, people couldn’t believe that he came from such humble beginnings: “Is he not the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother named Mary...?” (Matthew 13:55a). It was almost as indignant as “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” (John 1:46b).

“He was chosen by the eternal Father as the trustworthy guardian and protector of his greatest treasures, namely, his divine Son and Mary, Joseph’s wife. He carried out this vocation with complete fidelity until at last God called him, saying: ‘Good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord’” (St. Bernardine of Siena).

Source: www.americancatholic.org. To receive “Saint of the Day” as an email from [St. Anthony Messenger Press](http://www.stanthony.org) click [here](#).

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.

To review the 31 Club Calendar click [here](#) and follow the link to the calendar.

For additional news and information visit: <http://www.metroterra.com>