

THE METRO



October 2009

SERRA CLUB OF METROPOLITAN DALLAS NEWSLETTER

UP NEXT

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

www.holytrinityseminary.com

Celebrate!

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

October 25, 2009

President's Message *by Pete Philp*

Dear Serrans,

The 67th Serra International Convention in Omaha was a very humbling and spiritually uplifting experience for me. I was in awe of the many dedicated, knowledgeable and experienced Serrans from around the globe. We had four Masses each celebrated by a different archbishop or bishop. The Masses were concelebrated by as many as six other archbishops and bishops. At one Mass there were four archbishops in attendance. The Masses were also attended by 30 to 50 priests, deacons and seminarians. Different local choirs were featured at each Mass.

The outgoing Serra International President, Cesare Gambardella from Palermo, Sicily chronicled his visits to 14 countries, and 6 national councils. He met with 40 clubs, and chartered 17 new clubs. He reported that there are 45 new clubs in formation, and that Serra is on 6 continents. There are 18,176 Serrans worldwide. Of these 11,328 are in the United States. There are 658 clubs worldwide, 334 of which are in this country.

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Mark Your Calendars
Advent Reflection

Wednesday
December 9, 2009

Mass and Dinner
Saint Rita
6:30 p.m.

Chaplain's Message *by Tom Cloherty*

My dear Serrans:

Since this year has been dedicated as a "Year for Priests" and since Priesthood Sunday is celebrated October 24/25, I want to use this occasion to thank you for all you do for the cause of vocations. It is your prayers and works which have helped quite a number of priests, deacons, brothers, sisters and lay ministers find their way to serving the lord in the life of the church.

Know that you have helped to plant the seed of a vocation in the minds and hearts of a goodly number of young men and women by your efforts, most notably of which is the vocation awareness program.

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CALENDAR

Thru 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.
Sun, Oct 4	Respect Life Sunday (see article on page 4)	
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.
Sun, Oct 25	Celebrate Priesthood Sunday	
Sun, Oct 25	Metro Serra Mass with the Seminarians; Holy Trinity Seminary	9:15 a.m.
Fri, Nov 6	First Friday Mass & Breakfast - St. Monica; Steve Kellmeyer; Catholic author and speaker: <i>Year For Priests</i>	6:45 a.m.
Fri, Nov 20	Luncheon Meeting - Park City Club; Julie Billmeier: Young Adult Liaison, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Diocese of Dallas	11:45 a.m.
Wed, Dec 9	Advent Reflection Mass and Dinner; Saint Rita	6:30 p.m.

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A highlight for me was the honoring of Ralph W. Hauenstein, who was 30 months from turning 100 years old. He has been a member of Serra since 1948, and was the 17th President of Serra International. He has attended more than 50 Serra International Conventions. He is the only surviving international president who knew personally the four founders of Serra. He was a Colonel in World War II and served as Chief of Intelligence on General Eisenhower's staff in the European Theatre of Operations. He has received high decorations from the Vatican, and from the United States, British and French governments.

By far the most entertaining and inspiring presentation was by Archbishop Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, and new Episcopal Advisor to Serra International. Serra is fortunate to have him as our advisor. In another address Archbishop Elden Curtiss, retired Archbishop of Omaha, strongly stressed the need for better cooperation between USAC and Serra International, and the need to combine the Chicago based offices of each. I have ordered DVDs of these presentations, and we will try to provide an opportunity for all of our members to see them. Both presentations were outstanding.

The next Serra International Convention is in Anchorage, Alaska September 2-5, 2010. It's not too early to start thinking about combining a cruise with travel to the convention.

Pete

Chaplain's Message continued from Page 1

Know that your efforts have not ceased to bear fruit once a person is ordained or professed. Again, your efforts have helped sustain many a church related vocation to remain faithful and grace-filled in the ministry they undertook on the day of their ordination/profession

Keep up this worthwhile and necessary work. To paraphrase what you so often say to us: Thank you for being a Serran.

Have a blessed month!

Father Tom

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.

The below has been distributed to our assigned parishes for placement in their weekend bulletins October 24th - 25th.



What is Priesthood Sunday?

Priesthood Sunday, October 25, 2009, is a special day set aside to honor priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one.

Please join in praying for priests everywhere, and in particular for parish priests, and in thanking God for their courage and for the selfless dedication of their lives for service to others. Without priests, there would be no Eucharist.

Please take a moment on this special day to honor and show appreciation for our priests by special words of encouragement, or a note of thanks.

**The Serra Club of Metropolitan
Dallas**
www.metroterra.com

The Laboure Society

Did you know that there is a nonprofit organization that exists to provide financial assistance to individuals who must eliminate personal debt in order to pursue their vocation to the priesthood or religious life in the Catholic Church? The Laboure Society was founded in 2001 with that singular mission.

To qualify for consideration, aspirants must either obtain or provide:

1. A corroborative statement from a bishop, abbot, vocation director or spiritual director, which testifies to the qualifications and sincerity of the aspirant.
2. A narrative of their vocation journey.
3. A mail list of individuals and organizations who they feel may be interested in supporting the mission of the Laboure Society.
4. A list of all debts.

To help fulfill their mission, the society welcomes contributions from individuals and organizations. Contributions, however, may not be directed towards a specific aspirant.

For more information visit: www.labouresociety.org

The address:

The Laboure Society
1620 Johnny Cake Ridge Lane
Eagan, MN 55122

VOCATIONS ON THE UPSWING

Don Wetzel reports the following, as of September 17th:

- Holy Trinity Seminary – 47 seminarians; 26 for the Diocese of Dallas
- Redemptoris Mater Seminary – 18 seminarians; all for the Diocese of Dallas
- Seminarians for the Diocese of Dallas – 44 in formation
- Projected ordinations for the Diocese of Dallas:
 - 2010 – 2
 - 2011 – 1
 - 2012 – 8

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

2009
October 25th
December 6th

2010
March 21st
May 2nd

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.

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

USCCB Pro-Life Committee Chairman Releases Statement For Respect Life Sunday

WASHINGTON—In a statement to mark Respect Life Sunday, October 4, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia called attention to those who are most vulnerable in recent debates on health care reform – the unborn, the poor, the elderly and the immigrant – and called upon Catholics to “examine how well we, as a nation and individually, are living up to our obligation to protect the rights of those who, due to age, dependency, poverty or other circumstances, are at risk of their very lives.”

Cardinal Rigali chairs the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Cardinal Rigali noted that the lives of the unborn are those most at risk in America and “despite the opposition of 67% of Americans to taxpayer-funded abortion, all current health care proposals being considered by Congress would allow or mandate abortion funding, either through premiums paid into government programs or out of federal revenues.”

Noting that the unborn are not alone in being under attack in current proposals, Cardinal Rigali called for health care that recognizes the humanity of the immigrant. “How can a just society deny basic health care to those living and working among us who need medical attention? It cannot and must not,” he said.

Cardinal Rigali also addressed a dangerous and false cultural attitude that some persons are not worth protecting because of their perceived “low quality of life.” He stated that “death is not a solution to life’s problems. Only those who are blind to the transcendent reality and meaning of human life could support killing human beings to mitigate economic, social or environmental problems.”

“The antidote to such myopia is to recover an appreciation for the sanctity and dignity of each unique human being,” he said.

Begun in 1972, the Respect Life Program stresses the value and dignity of human life. It is observed in the 195 Catholic dioceses in the United States. This year's theme is "Every Child Brings Us God's Smile." The full statement follows and may be found online at www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rfp/09rigali-stmt.pdf.

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