



THE METRO

The Newsletter of the Serra Club of Metropolitan Dallas

Vocations Days at Bishop Lynch High School, January 20-21, 2011 A Huge Success

Metro Serra Club along with the Diocese of Dallas Director of Vocations Office, and Consecrated Women Regnum Christi presented **Vocations Days** at Bishop Lynch High School, January 20-21, 2011. This was the second time the Club sponsored the event at a local Catholic high school. The format for this presentation, developed and presented to John Paul II High School last year, was followed for this event. The Vocations Days format provides for a general session, followed by breakout panel sessions for boys and girls. The presentation concludes with a wrap-up social session where panelists have an opportunity to mingle with students to answer their questions, and the students have an opportunity to view displays and receive literature from the panelists.

Students, rather than attending their regularly scheduled Theology classes, attended the Vocations Days event. Consequently, the Vocations Days event was presented four times each day. The entire student body of nearly 1,200 boys and girls attended the event over the two day period.

Panels were made up of priests and seminarians for the boys, and sisters and Consecrated Women Regnum Christi for the girls. Nearly two dozen panelists participated over the two day period.

Metro Serrans organizing and participating in the event were: **Bob Andres; Jerry Geary; Mike Holmes; Gerri Noonan; Jack Padian; Pete Philp; Jere Romine; and Lawrence Whaley.**

President's Message

by *Peter D'Apice*

The [Winter 2010 issue of *SerraUSA*](#) has an article by Harry J. O'Haire, Serra International's first Executive Secretary. The article, titled "A Concept of Serra," was first published in 1962.

Harry reminds us of Serra's great spiritual benefits: "In May, 1951, the Holy Father aggregated Serra into the Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations with its unlimited spiritual benefits. Serra is the only lay organization directly and independently so affiliated." This proud news of Serra's exclusive status, however, is accompanied by stern admonitions: "Membership is a privilege granted, not a right obtained. ... Membership, a gratuitous gift, requires reciprocity, loyalty to the Movement in service and dedication; not only willingness to do completely what is required, but more important, performance. ... Men in Serra must be active. No one may be carried as dead weight. ... Other groups to which laymen belong may be interested in membership from a standpoint of numbers or financial support. Serra is not concerned with either."

The article is worth reading in its entirety. You may access it by clicking on the above link - the article is on pages 14 and 15.

Siempre Adelante!

Peter

Lenten Reflection - Save the Date

Mark your calendars now as you won't want to miss this special event: April 6th at Saint Monica. Additional details to follow.

CALENDAR

February 4	First Friday Mass & Breakfast – Saint Monica; Speaker: Joshua Whitfield, Director of Faith Formation, Saint Rita	6:45 a.m.
February 6	Mass With The Seminarians – Holy Trinity Seminary	9:15 a.m.
February 6	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE	
February 18	Monthly Luncheon – Park City Club ; Speaker: Very Rev. T. Michael Dugan, V.F., Dean, Southwest Region and Pastor, St. Elizabeth of Hungary: Implementation of Liturgical Changes	11:45 a.m.
March 4	First Friday Mass & Breakfast – Saint Monica; Speaker: TBD	6:45 a.m.
March 9	ASH WEDNESDAY	
March 18	Monthly Luncheon – Park City Club ; Speaker: Mike Murray, Executive Director, Heroic Media – www.HeroicMedia.org .	11:45 a.m.
March 26	2011 VAP Kick-Off Mass and Brunch – Holy Trinity Seminary	9:00 a.m.
April 1	First Friday Mass & Breakfast – Saint Monica; Speaker: TBD	6:45 a.m.
April 3	Mass With The Seminarians – Holy Trinity Seminary	9:15 a.m.
April 6	Lenten Mass and Dinner	6:00 p.m.
April 21st – April 24th	EASTER TRIDUUM	

Chaplain's Message by Father Sal Guzman

As we begin the year, my mind (for whatever reason) thinks of pilgrimage. I like that image of seeing the year as a holy walk to reach the feast of the Incarnation again. From times immemorial, all peoples have gone on pilgrimages—all for religious reasons. As we know, the important part of any pilgrimage is not getting to the point of destination, although that is reason for us to leave our home, but *what happens to us* along the way. It is the daily interruptions and conversations that we have and have an effect on us that makes the pilgrimage what it is. When we reach our destination, we only give thanks to God for our experience of Him on the way.

I am sure some of you have made a pilgrimage. I have gone to Lourdes, Fatima and Guadalupe. All have changed my life in their own way. They do not have to be famous or far away for them to be considered pilgrimages. Your daily getting up to go to work and coming back home to be reunited with your family is itself a pilgrimage of faith.

As we begin the year, it's not important that we make it to the end of the year (although that is my hope!) but to notice what happens on the way. Today, is the feast of the conversion of St. Paul, we read in Acts 22: *On that journey as I drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from the sky suddenly shone around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' I replied, 'Who are you, sir?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazorean whom you are persecuting.'* Paul is on the way and something unexpected happens to him: he gets converted. That is the whole reason for a pilgrimage: conversion. Again, it does not have to be a particular place you are going to. It is what happens on the way that matters.

So fellow pilgrim, let's be on our way. Abraham J. Heschel, when he joined Martin Luther King, Jr. on the march in Selma, said, "I felt my legs were praying." Let our legs pray on this journey of faith.

Father Sal

“Lord, it is good for us to be here!”

Mt. 17:4

Save The Dates

Serra's 69th International Convention
Jerusalem 14-17 July 2011

**ADVENT MASS and DINNER
ATTENDED BY OVER 70**

Metro Serra's Annual Advent Reflection Mass and Dinner was held in early December at St Rita Catholic Community. **Father Sal Guzman**, our new chaplain, was celebrant and homilist for the Mass. He was assisted on the altar by Father John Robert Skeldon, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Wichita Falls. Afterwards seventy Serrans, spouses and guests enjoyed a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Shown to the right are **Father Sal, Maureen McGonigle** and **Brad Camp** who helped create another memorable event for our club.



**CATHOLIC CHARITIES BRIGHTENS
CHRISTMAS FOR OVER 9,000**

Many thanks to the Metro Serrans who volunteered their time and energy to assist Catholic Charities with their **2010 Christmas Gift Program**. With the help of parishes, schools and companies throughout the community, plus scores of volunteers, Catholic Charities provided Christmas gifts for **over 9,000** people this season. To help pull off this incredible feat, fellow Serrans (pictured to the left; from left to right): **John Hughes, Bob Andres, Vince Bradley** and **Gary Stanley** lent their hands and backs to this massive project.



Supporting the Religious Life as a Layperson: Vocations Awareness Committee

The following article appeared recently in the All Saints Newsletter and describes the work of the All Saints Vocations Awareness Committee. The committee is pictured - from left to right, front row: Susan Holmes, Diane Poston, John Poston, Cherry Brotherman and Mike Holmes; top row: Fr. Tom Cloherty, Don Brotherman and Fr. David Wathen, Franciscan of the Holy Land. If you'd like to share news of the work of your Parish to foster vocations, please email an article to John Hughes.

We all recognize the need for more religious vocations. But Catholic religious - including priests, brothers and sisters -- are more than just powerful laborers in God's vineyard who celebrate the sacraments, lead Catholics in their Faith, teach the young, minister to the poor, and pray for the whole Church.

Because they take a vow of celibacy, Catholic priests and religious voluntarily decline the married life as a clear witness to a life more joyful than this one - the life lived in intimacy with God, which we call heaven.

But what is our role as married Catholics? What can we do to support others in carrying on this work and witness that is the religious life?

"I would ask everybody to consider praying for vocations, not only outside your family, but from within your own family," says Michael Holmes, the coordinator of the Vocation Awareness Committee at All Saints, and an active member of several vocation promoting organizations around the city. "That's where the support needs to come from first - the family - so that it's not so difficult for young men and women to enter the religious life."

The biggest difficulty that many young men and women have, Michael says, often comes from their own parents and relatives who find it difficult to let someone go to God.

"One thing we can do is just be that supportive parent or relative when that time comes," he says.

Many parishioners can also encourage young people in responding to a religious vocation through the Vocation Awareness Committee.

This committee is the layperson's way to encourage a culture of religious vocations, even if you personally did not receive that call.

The committee members help coordinate vocations awareness month in June, as well as vocations awareness weekend, June 25-26. They also help publicize vocation awareness weekends at Holy Trinity Seminary and put up posters around the parish.

Many more parishioners support the cause through prayer. Every Thursday night at 7 p.m., parishioners gather for an hour of Eucharistic Adoration dedicated to vocation awareness.

Some fruits can already be seen, too. We have one parishioner in training for the diaconate, and three other young people are in the discernment process for the religious life.

Michael and his wife, Susan, first became interested in supporting religious vocations after they realized how much they had gained from knowing priests and sisters personally.

"I'm a cradle Catholic, and I was very involved as an altar boy," Michael explains. "My wife and I also held many different positions in our parish, and we always worked with religious. We love our priests and nuns, and we want to do whatever we can do to keep them comfortable, and to help them."

Obviously, one way to help them is to replenish their ranks, by praying for, encouraging, and supporting young men and women who are considering the religious life - so that's what Michael and Susan decided to do.



Saint of the Month, February 10: Saint Scholastica

Twins often share the same interests and ideas with an equal intensity. Therefore, it is no surprise that Scholastica and her twin brother, Benedict, established religious communities within a few miles from each other.

Born in 480 of wealthy parents, Scholastica and Benedict were brought up together until he left central Italy for Rome to continue his studies.

Little is known of Scholastica's early life. She founded a religious community for women near Monte Cassino at Plombariola, five miles from where her brother governed a monastery.

The twins visited each other once a year in a farmhouse because Scholastica was not permitted inside the monastery. They spent these times discussing spiritual matters.

According to the *Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great*, the brother and sister spent their last day together in prayer and conversation. Scholastica sensed her death was close at hand and she begged Benedict to stay with her until the next day.

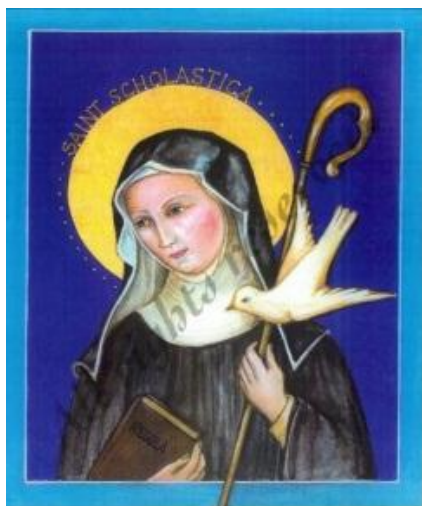
He refused her request because he did not want to spend a night outside the monastery, thus breaking his own Rule. Scholastica asked God to let her brother remain and a severe

thunderstorm broke out, preventing Benedict and his monks from returning to the abbey.

Benedict cried out, "God forgive you, Sister. What have you done?" Scholastica replied, "I asked a favor of you and you refused. I asked it of God and he granted it."

Brother and sister parted the next morning after their long discussion. Three days later, Benedict was praying in his monastery and saw the soul of his sister rising heavenward in the form of a white dove. Benedict then announced the death of his sister to the monks and later buried her in the tomb he had prepared for himself.

Scholastica and Benedict gave themselves totally to God and gave top priority to deepening their friendship with him through



prayer.

They sacrificed some of the opportunities they would have had to be together as brother and sister in order better to fulfill their vocation to the religious life. In coming closer to Christ, however, they found they were also closer to each other. In joining a religious community, they did not forget or forsake their family but rather found more brothers and sisters.

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

Movable Feasts in 2011

Mar 9 th	Ash Wednesday
Apr 22 nd	Good Friday
Apr 24 th	Easter Sunday
Jun 2 nd	Ascension of Our Lord
Jun 12 th	Pentecost Sunday
Nov 27 th	First Sunday of Advent

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

February 6th
April 3rd

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COME AND SEE

by Father John Harndon, S.J.

CHAPTER 8 – SACRIFICE AND VOCATIONS

Every vocation is born of sacrifice, is maintained by sacrifice and is measured in the apostolate by the sacrifice of those whom God calls to the priesthood or the consecrated life. This should not be surprising, once we realize that it was by His sacrifice that Christ redeemed the world. The servant is not greater than his Master. In fact, the more intimate is one's vocation to the service of Christ, the more demanding will be the sacrifices required.

Barring an extraordinary grace from God, He generally calls those persons to follow Him as priests or religious, who have been taught the value of sacrifice from childhood. The experience of self-denial in the use and enjoyment of material things is the normal predisposition for a lifetime practice of evangelical poverty. Training in self-control of the senses, especially in the use of the media, is the ordinary preparation for a lifelong dedication to consecrated chastity. Careful and loving nurture in self-denial, almost from infancy, is God's usual way of conditioning the human will for commitment to the counsel of obedience.

If sacrifice in childhood and young adulthood is the seedbed of vocations, continued fidelity in serving the Church is impossible without the habit of self-surrender. There are many reasons for the tragic

loss of so many once-dedicated persons in affluent countries like America. But surely one of these reasons is the prior loss of a willingness to give in to the sometimes hard demands of Christ's love. We may, therefore, say that vocations are

nourished on sacrifice as the body is sustained on food. Or, as the Savior told His followers - and bade them follow His example - "My meat is to do the will of Him who sent Me" (John 4:34).

Sacrifice is finally the condition and norm of apostolic work in the priesthood and consecrated life. Who have been the great achievers in the vineyard of the Lord over the centuries? Have they not been the men and women who never said, "Enough" in their zeal for souls; who labored, like St. Paul, in

season and out of season, selflessly and exhaustingly; who never counted the cost in time or effort or personal preference; in a word, who lived lives of heroic sacrifice?

All of this is common knowledge for those who have come to know Christ who, "having joy set before Him, chose the Cross" (Hebrews 12:2). But this kind of knowledge needs to be taught - and learned - if the vocations which the Church so desperately needs are to be fostered and preserved in our day.

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Fr. John Harndon, S.J. wrote extensively on vocations including [Come and See - Theological Reflections on the Promotion of Vocations](#), a short treatise that gets to the heart of vocations. Divided into 12 short chapters, a chapter will be included in this and future issues of **The Metro**. For your own copy, order through the [publisher](#). To read on our website, click on the title above

Roster Updates

If you have any changes for the roster or would like an updated copy, please email your request to [John Hughes](#). You may also call him at 214.454.7458. The updated roster is also available at the [Members Only](#) page of the website. Email [John Hughes](#) for the password.