



# THE METRO

The Newsletter of the Serra Club of Metropolitan Dallas

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## Plan Now To Attend Our Advent Reflection Mass and Dinner

*The Metro Serra Advent Reflection Mass and Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at St. Rita Catholic Community. Mass will begin at 5:30 p.m. (note change of Mass time this year!) with wine and holiday dinner immediately following in Sweeney Hall. Cost is \$15 per person. You may make your reservation by sending a check to our Treasurer, John Poston, 6629 Sawmill Road, Dallas TX 75252 or by making payment by credit card or your PayPal account through our new PayPal account (See below). Deadline for reservations is December 1<sup>st</sup>.*

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### New Member Orientation

There will be an orientation meeting for all new Metro Serra members on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> in Room 109 of the Saint Monica Family Center. If you have not previously attended an orientation, please plan to join us on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Pizza and soft drinks will be served.

## President's Message

by Peter D'Apice

Fellow Serrans:

Our Vocations Committee is making great progress on a High School Vocations Program, including one that would accommodate four separate presentations to the freshman through senior classes at Bishop Lynch, and possibly a different program for John Paul II. Please pray for continued progress on this excellent effort.

Also, you may already know that many of our Metro Serra assigned parishes -- All Saints, Divine Mercy (Mesquite), Good Shepherd (Garland), St. Ann (Kaufmann), St. Martin (Forney), St. Michael (Garland), OLPH, St. Monica, St. Patrick, St. Rita, and others -- have scheduled times for Eucharistic Adoration, and we can show our support for them (as well as earn a plenary indulgence!) by showing up for at least a half-hour to adore the Blessed Sacrament and pray for vocations from and to that parish. Check the website for times and addresses. While you're there, if possible, introduce yourself to the priest on site, so we can nurture the lines of communication between Metro Serra and our assigned parishes.

Siempre Adelante!

Peter



For the convenience of the members of the Serra Club of Metroploitan Dallas, a club accout has been established with PayPal. Through this account you can pay your dues, make and pay for reservations for club events as well as contribute to the Bishop's Seminary Burse. You do not need a PayPal account to use this service - you can pay by credit card. Metro Serra is PayPal Verified so your payment is safe and secure. To view our payment page on the website or make your reservations for the Advent Reflection Mass and Dinner, click on the PayPal logo above or the PayPal logo at [www.metroterra.com](http://www.metroterra.com).

## CALENDAR

Friday, October 1	<b>First Friday Mass &amp; Breakfast</b> – Saint Monica; Speaker: Peter D'Apice - <b>Metro Serra: The State of the Club</b>	6:45 a.m.
Tuesday, October 5	<a href="#">2010 Seminarian Welcome Dinner</a> - Fairmont Hotel	6:00 p.m.
Friday, October 15	<b>Monthly Luncheon</b> – Park City Club; Speaker: Kevin Dougherty, Associate Director, Diocesan Youth Ministry	11:45 a.m.
Wednesday, October 27	<b>New Member Orientation</b> – Saint Monica Family Center Room 109; Pizza and soft drinks will be served.	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 31	<b>CELEBRATE PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY!</b>	
Friday, November 5	<b>First Friday Mass &amp; Breakfast</b> – Saint Monica; Speaker: Kurt Klement, Director of Youth Ministry, St. Ann Parish	6:45 a.m.
Sunday, November 7	<b>Mass with the Seminarians</b> – Holy Trinity Seminary	9:15 a.m.
Friday, November 19	<b>Monthly Luncheon</b> – Park City Club; Speaker: <a href="#">Thomas W. Keefe</a> , J.D., President, <a href="#">University of Dallas</a>	11:45 a.m.
Thursday, November 25	<b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b>	
Friday, December 3	<b>First Friday Mass &amp; Breakfast</b> – Saint Monica; Speaker: TBD	6:45 a.m.
Thursday, December 9	<b>Advent Reflection Mass and Dinner</b> – St. Rita	5:30 p.m.
Friday, December 17	<b>No Monthly Luncheon Meeting</b>	
Saturday, December 25	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	

### Chaplain's Message *by Fr. Tom Cloherty*

My dear Serrans:

I had the privilege of attending the **Oberammergau Passion Play** in Germany. This has been enacted by this small village for over 400 years in thanksgiving to God for sparing their town from the plague. It was a powerful retelling and reminder of the life, passion, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. To see the life of Jesus from His time of entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to His resurrection served to remind me of the power and depth of God's love for me and for all. I know this is a belief that all Christians carry in their mind and in their heart but it is good to see it concretized in such a powerful way. On a daily basis may we be reminded of God's love for us and then take up our cross and follow Him in the ways He calls us.

Have a blessed month,

Father Tom

To read more about the Oberammergau Passion Play click [here](#).

### SAVE THE DATE

Thomas W. Keefe, J.D., the eighth president of the **University of Dallas**, will be our November 19th luncheon speaker.

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

**November 7<sup>th</sup>  
February 6<sup>th</sup>  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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# COME AND SEE

by Father John Harndon, S.J.

## CHAPTER 5 - THE EUCHARIST AND VOCATIONS

It is impossible to exaggerate the close relation between the Holy Eucharist and vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life.

This is only to be expected once we realize that every vocation is a special grace from God, and the greatest source of grace we have is the Eucharist – as *Presence, Sacrifice, and Communion*.

Faith tells us that Christ is really present on our altars, that He really offers Himself in the Mass, and that we really receive Him in Holy Communion. In each case, the Living Christ is now inspiring men and women to give themselves to Him with all their hearts and follow Him in the extension of His Kingdom.

The Eucharist, therefore, is the best way to foster vocations. This means that persons who attend Mass, receive Communion and invoke Christ in the Blessed Sacrament obtain light and strength that no one else has a claim to.

The Eucharist is also the best way to recognize vocations.

Show me a man or woman devoted to the Eucharist and I will show you a person who is an apt subject for the priesthood or the consecrated life.

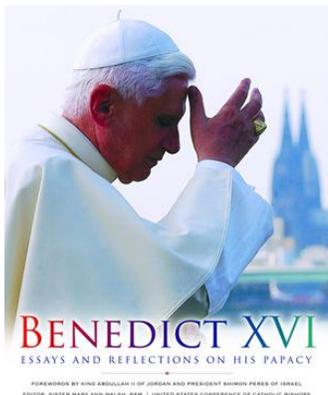
The Eucharist is finally the infallible way of preserving one's vocation. This is especially true of devotion to the Real Presence. Is it any wonder that saintly priests and religious over the centuries have been uncommonly devoted to the Blessed Sacrament? They know

where to obtain the help they need to remain faithful to their vocations. It is from the same Christ Who called them and Who continues to sustain them in His consecrated service.

Vocations begin with the Eucharist; they are developed through the Eucharist; and they are preserved by the Eucharist. All of this is true because the Eucharist is Jesus Christ, still on earth, working through men and women whom He calls to share His plan for salvation.

**“Vocations begin with the Eucharist; they are developed through the Eucharist; and they are preserved by the Eucharist.”**

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.



The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has released ***Benedict XVI: Essays and Reflections on His Papacy***, an unprecedented look into the first five years of Benedict's reign. Edited by Mercy Sister Mary Ann Walsh, director of media relations for the USCCB, it features forewords by King Abdullah II of Jordan and President Shimon Peres of Israel, and articles by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Cardinal Francis George, OMI, USCCB president, and John Thavis, Rome bureau chief for Catholic News Service.

***Benedict XVI: Essays and Reflections on His Papacy*** is in bookstores and is also be available from online booksellers such as [Barnes & Noble](#), [Amazon.com](#) and directly from the [USCCB](#). If interested in purchasing the book, check each site but it appears to be cheaper through Amazon.

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## Saint of the Month, October 4: Saint Francis of Assisi

Francis of Assisi was a poor little man who astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally—not in a narrow fundamentalist sense, but by actually following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit and without a sense of self-importance.

Serious illness brought the young Francis to see the emptiness of his frolicking life as leader of Assisi's youth. Prayer—lengthy and difficult—led him to a self-emptying like that of Christ, climaxed by embracing a leper he met on the road. It symbolized his complete obedience to what he had heard in prayer: "Francis! Everything you have loved and desired in the flesh it is your duty to despise and hate, if you wish to know my will. And when you have begun this, all that now seems sweet and lovely to you will become intolerable and bitter, but all that you used to avoid will turn itself to great sweetness and exceeding joy."



From the cross in the neglected field-chapel of San Damiano, Christ told him, "Francis, go out and build up my house, for it is nearly falling down." Francis became the totally poor and humble workman.

He must have suspected a deeper meaning to "build up my house." But he would have been content to be for the rest of his life the poor "nothing" man actually putting brick on brick in abandoned chapels. He gave up all his possessions, piling even his clothes before his earthly father (who was demanding restitution for Francis' "gifts" to the poor) so that he would be totally free to say, "Our Father in heaven." He was, for a time, considered to be a religious fanatic, begging from door to door when he could not get money for his work, evoking sadness or disgust to the hearts of his former friends, ridicule from the unthinking.

But genuineness will tell. A few people began to realize that this man was actually trying to be Christian. He really believed what Jesus said: "Announce the kingdom! Possess no gold or silver or copper in your purses, no traveling bag, no sandals, no staff" (see Luke 9:1-3).

Francis' first rule for his followers was a collection of texts from the Gospels. He had no idea of founding an order, but once it began he protected it and accepted all the legal structures needed to support it. His devotion and loyalty to the Church were absolute and highly exemplary at a time when various movements of reform tended to break the Church's unity.

He was torn between a life devoted entirely to prayer and a life of active preaching of the Good News. He decided in favor of the latter, but always returned to solitude when he could. He wanted to be a missionary in Syria or in Africa, but was prevented by shipwreck and illness in

both cases. He did try to convert the sultan of Egypt during the Fifth Crusade.

During the last years of his relatively short life (he died at 44), he was half blind and seriously ill. Two years before his death, he received the stigmata, the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.

On his deathbed, he said over and over again the last addition to his Canticle of the Sun, "Be praised, O Lord, for our Sister Death." He sang Psalm 141, and at the end asked his superior to have his clothes removed when the last hour came and for permission to expire lying naked on the earth, in imitation of his Lord.

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

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### Roster Updates

If you have any changes for the roster or would like an updated copy, send your request to [Dorothy Hoel](mailto:Dorothy.Hoel). You may also call her at 214.373.7837. The updated roster is available at the [Members Only](#) page of the website. Email [John Hughes](mailto:John.Hughes) for the password.