



Serra Mensajero

Serra Club of North Central Dallas

Volume 26 Issue 4

Richardson, Texas

April, 2011



President's Focus

NCD Board Addresses SI-USA Council Dispute

This month I want to provide a brief overview of the dispute taking place between Serra International and the USA Council of Serra International and inform you about the action being taken by your Board.

As you know beginning in February the Serra International Board has taken action to dissolve the USA Council of Serra International. In response the USA Council Board voted not to cease operations and not to cooperate with the receiver appointed by Serra International. To date there has been no further legal action taken by Serra International. Also the USA Council continues to operate and provide its full range of services to USA Serra Clubs. More Information is available in the USAC website — www.serraus.org



Greg Mechler

As a result of these actions the Board of Trustees for your club, Serra Club of North Central Dallas, has voted to submit a formal resolution to the presidents of both Serra International and the USA Council. The major points contained in this resolution are as follows:

- We are concerned about the basis of the dispute
- We believe the USAC has served us well over the years
- We are concerned that this dispute will cause serious harm to Serra
- We are concerned that this dispute will be detrimental to recruiting new members
- We urge a swift and timely resolution of the issues so that we can continue to focus on the true mission of Serra
- We will suspend payment of dues to both entities until the dispute is fully and finally resolved
- Collected dues will be held in a reserve account until the dispute is resolved
- We insist on full financial reporting from both parties including balance sheets, P & L, statements, and budgets.

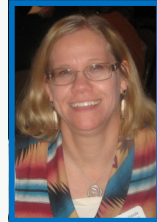
This resolution was unanimously approved by the Board on March 18. We are deeply disappointed about this dispute which has already taken needless time and energy from our mission of supporting vocations. I encourage all of you to pray for a rapid and positive resolution to this issue. Also keep up your prayers for vocations.

Greg Mechler

Religious Women's Appreciation Dinner, May 1,

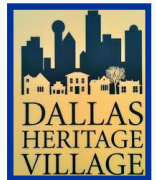
Thank the Important Ladies in Your Life

By Dawn Epping



Dawn Epping

Think of the women who have made a difference in your life and how you show your appreciation. When we want to thank our mothers, we have Mother's Day to commemorate our love. Husbands can show their appreciation to their wives on both their Anniversary and Valentine's Day. We also have a special day on which to honor the religious women from the Diocese of Dallas. This year it's May 1 for the Religious Women's Appreciation Dinner. The event will be held at Dallas Heritage Village in Old City Park, 1515 S. Harwood, from 3 to 6 p.m. The ticket price is \$40 for Serrans and their guests.



As the ticket prices includes admission to the village, you will be able to roam the cobblestone streets to visit 38 structures, such as Citizen's Bank or Blum Bros. General Store. This is a living museum that allows us to view life in the Dallas area as it was from 1840 -1910.

If you would prefer to relax you may come directly down Main Street to the Chautauqua Pavilion to enjoy park views and enjoy a cool glass of water or wine. At 4 p.m. we will enjoy a delicious catered dinner prepared and served by Guess Who's Coming to Dinner to be followed by a musical review provided by the popular Jack Tanner.

The evening will wrap up with the awarding of raffle prizes for all the religious ladies in attendance and the distribution of appreciation gifts for every religious lady in the diocese. Please join us for what should be a wonderful time and let these ladies know how much their commitment to a religious vocation has meant to you.

For more information contact Dawn Epping at 972.644.2311; or dawn.epping@yahoo.com

Don Simoneaux Elected 2011-2012 Club President

Don Simoneaux, this year's Serran of the Year, was elected NCD Serra Club President for 2011-2012. In the past Don has held numerous positions in the Club and Serra UASC, including Club president.



Don Simoneaux

Election of Club officers was held at the March 21 dinner meeting. Other positions for the coming Serra year include V.P. Programs, Bill Crowley; V.P. Vocations, Tony Schmidt; V.P. Membership, Ralph Armstrong; V.P. Communications, Lou Neeb; Secretary, Mary LaFave; Treasurer, Peter LaFave; V.P. Newsletter, Dick Park. Past President, Greg Mechler; Trustees are Hank Himmelberg, Ralph Armstrong and Paul Ficalora.

The term for the 2011-2012 year begins on June 1.

Friday, April 1
First Friday Mass, and
breakfast, 6:30
Church of St. Mark

Sunday, April 10
NCD Serra Club Hosts
Seminary Sunday, 9:15
Holy Trinity Seminary

Friday, April 15
Serra Club Board
Meeting, 7 a.m., St.
Mark Pastoral Center

Monday, April 18
Serra Club Dinner
Meeting, 6:30, Canyon
Creek Country Club
Guest Speaker,
Rev. Charles Calabrese,
TCU Campus Minister

Sunday, May 1
Religious Women's
Appreciation Dinner,
3 to 6 p.m. Heritage
Village, Old City Park

Saturday, May 14
Leadership Conference
Holy Trinity Seminary

Sunday, May 15
World Day of Prayer
For Vocations

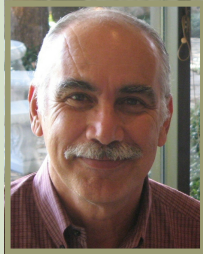
Fri.-Sun. June 24-26
VAP Weekend,
Holy Trinity Seminary

Visit these
Serra web sites...
North Central Dallas
Serra Club
www.ncdserraclub.com

Serra USA Council
www.serraus.org

June 4 and June 11

Twenty-nine Men To Be Ordained To Order of Deacon



Deacon Arnold

By Deacon Arnold Picon, Diocesan Director of Deacon Formation

The 2010-2011 academic year will end soon with the ordination of 29 men to the order of deacon on June 4 and June 11 at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe. For the Class of 2011 which will be celebrating this great event, it has been a long journey beginning in the Fall of 2005 with the gathering of 163 men. After a period of serious discernment we settled on 34 candidates received by our previous bishop, Charles Grahmann.

The candidates and their spouses faithfully completed all of the academic requirements and at this time they are finishing and polishing their preaching skills and at the same time preparing their liturgy for their ordination date. In May at the Montserrat Retreat Center they will take a canonical five-day retreat which completes their formal education. With the help of our auxiliary bishops each candidate will be interviewed and assigned to parishes with the most

need of Spanish speaking deacons.

Since our formation programs began in 1970, this class is the second class to have received all of their training in their native language. With the help of the University of Dallas and its resources, the professors were all brought in from Mexico City or they were already permanent faculty. The candidates are well prepared to be great servants to their assigned parishes. The entire Diocese is excited to see this large group replenish the ranks of those deacons that so faithfully have served since the 1978 when the last group of Spanish speaking deacons were ordained as a group. The Class of 2013 is right behind them and their projected ordination date is early January, 2013. Currently there 28 candidates in formation and they are all completing their sixth semester of academics with a projected institution of acolyte in the fall.

The Class of 2011 enjoys coming together at the weekend for formation and fellowship as well as enjoying pastoral time at hospitals, prisons, soup kitchens and other ministries throughout the Diocese. Academic work is provided by professors from the University of Dallas School of Ministry. I am extremely proud of both groups and am blessed to be able to put a little grain of sand into the building of the diaconate community of Dallas.

The formation staff consists of our Chaplain, Rev. Greg Kelly, Diocesan Vicar of Priests, and seven deacons and their wives. The deacon couples are mentor couples that form seven small communities. They journey along with the candidates in these small groups and share their formation experiences. This becomes a helpful tool for me in helping assess their discernment toward orders. The formation staff evaluates every group and keeps a pulse on the lives of the candidates. Please pray for the upcoming ordination of the Class of 2011 as well as the continuing discernment by the candidates in the Class of 2013.



Roman Catholic
DIOCESE OF DALLAS

North Central Dallas Serra Club Board of Trustees 2010-2011

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Hank Himmelberg

Newsletter Editor
Carl Rossini

Chaplain
Rev. Cliff Smith

In Memoriam
Jim Archer
March 9, 2011

*May her soul and all the souls of the faithfully
departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

Saturday, May 14

Leadership Planning Conference Scheduled

By Ernie Doclar, District 46E Governor

Why come to the SLPC? — As sure as the blooming of the bluebonnets is the coming of the Serra Spring Leadership Planning Conference (SLPC). New Serra club officers have been elected and may need some guidance on how to do their jobs. Equally important is the need for club officers to sit down and sketch out the coming year. The SLPC offers the chance to do both in one swoop.

Here in Serra District 46E the SLPC will be held at Holy Trinity Seminary on Saturday, May 14 beginning with coffee and doughnuts at 8 a.m. After a welcome and short talk, workshops treating each club office will be conducted — president, the four vice-presidents, newsletter editor, treasurer, secretary and trustee. Each workshop will be led by an experienced Serran. After about an hour of training, each club will gather by themselves and plan the highlights of the coming year.

Many new club officers may feel they have been through the mill and that they pretty well know what's expected of them. And that may be true. But there are always a few new hands who could benefit from hearing from the old hands about how the job really works in the local Serra club. Hearing stories of success and failure are great tools for all to take back home.

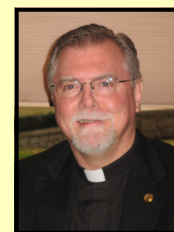
The SLPC offers a unique opportunity but it won't be effective without the attendance of new club officers. That morning spent learning and sharing will be time well spent. I hope all will take advantage of the SLPC on May 14.



Chaplain's Corner

Priests Must Not Preach "Christianity 'a la carte'"

Recently Pope Benedict said in a meeting with priests that Priests must not preach "Christianity 'a la carte'" and should be willing to approach even uncomfortable aspects of the Gospel.



Rev. Cliff Smith

The Pope reminded priests of St. Paul's "advice to be humble and vigilant in preaching the faith, to make themselves completely available in service to Christ and the Church, and prayerful as they protect their "flocks" are all relevant characteristics of priests nearly 2,000 years later."

The Pope urged priests to show "full time" fidelity to their vocation as priests, "being with Christ and being ambassadors of Christ." Priests today must not "shrink from proclaiming the entire plan of God." St. Paul, he reminded priests, "does not preach Christianity 'a la carte,' according to his own tastes, he does not preach a Gospel according to his own preferred theological ideas; he does not take away from the commitment to announce the entire will of God, even when uncomfortable, nor the themes he may least like personally." There is a long litany that many Catholics and Catholic communities do not want to hear: hell, damnation, sin, obligation and responsibility of Catholics among the least popular.

"It is our mission," said the Pope, "to announce all the will of God, in its totality and ultimate simplicity. But the fact that we must instruct and preach is important — as St. Paul says — and really proposes the entire will of God."

Prayer for Priests

O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear my humble prayers on behalf of your priests. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life.

In their loneliness, comfort them. In their sorrows, strengthen them. In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified, and show them that they are needed by the Church; they are needed by souls; they are needed for the work of redemption. Amen

Father Cliff

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Bill Condon April 7
 Deacon Arnold Picon April 11
 Lou Neeb April 14
 Jim Hogan April 18

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Greg and Lisa Mc Curry April 3
 Dot and George Mc Calpin April 10
 Greg and Ellen Mechler April 12

31 Club The 31 Club is a commitment by Serrans to attend Mass and pray for vocations on a specific day each month. If you are not listed below and wish to participate in this important ministry please e-mail Hank Himmelberg at hankhimmelberg@verizon.net

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>1st</u> Jerry Hurster | <u>16th</u> Hank Himmelberg |
| Paul Ficalora | <u>17th</u> John Fitzpatrick |
| Jo Ficalora | <u>18th</u> Ann Larriviere |
| <u>2nd</u> Dick Park | Rob Larriviere |
| Katy Park | <u>19th</u> |
| <u>3rd</u> Bill Crowley | <u>20th</u> Tony Schmidt |
| <u>4th</u> | <u>21st</u> Doug Biglen |
| <u>5th</u> Bob Baillargeon | Veronica Biglen |
| | Bill Higgins |
| | <u>22nd</u> Joe Semler |
| <u>6th</u> John Fitzpatrick | <u>23rd</u> Paul Reitinger |
| <u>7th</u> Vince Ahern | <u>24th</u> Ralph Armstrong |
| Betty Monaghan | Jim Hogan |
| Bill Condon | Kay Hogan |
| <u>8th</u> Lou Neeb | <u>25th</u> |
| <u>9th</u> Peter La Fave | <u>26th</u> |
| Mary La Fave | <u>27th</u> Chris Taylor |
| <u>10th</u> Vicki Dean | Warren Schneider |
| <u>11th</u> Jim Duffy | <u>28th</u> Bill Larsen |
| <u>12th</u> Mark Venincasa | Bonnie Larsen |
| <u>13th</u> Therese Reitinger | <u>29th</u> Carl Rossini |
| <u>14th</u> Jack Tromba | <u>30th</u> Katy Warren |
| <u>15th</u> Don Simoneaux | <u>31st</u> |

April 10 Is Seminary Sunday For North Central Dallas Serra Club

On April 10 NCD Serrans will have their last opportunity of the current school year to attend Seminary Sunday at Holy Trinity Seminary. Mass begins at 9:15 followed by reception with seminarians and staff. Club members spouses and guests are urged to attend this uniquely spiritual event. As always members are asked to bring doughnuts, breakfast rolls or juice to share at the reception



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

2011-2012 NCD Officers — 'Must be time for recycling!'

One could call it recycling, others good fortune for the NCD Serra Club, as four former Club presidents including two former district governors will be serving as officers for the 2011-2012 term. Former presidents are Don Simoneaux, now incoming president, Bill Crowley, V.P. Programs, Tony Schmidt, V.P. Vocations, and Ralph Armstrong, V.P. Membership. Bill Crowley and Tony Schmidt are former District Governors.



Don Bill Tony Ralph

Serra Mensajero is the North Central Dallas monthly newsletter which reports activities, provides news to members and supports Club goals. Editor, Carl Rossini, Staff Photographer, Vicki Dean

Continue to Lift Up in Prayer

Therese Reitinger Ellen Rossini
 Jo Ficalora Jim Archer

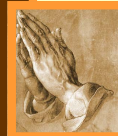


Photo Gallery

Photos taken at the March 26
VAP Kick-off Brunch at Holy Trinity Seminary
Photos by Don Simoneaux



VAP Kick-off Brunch Mass is celebrated by Rev. Ronald Ramson, Holy Trinity; Rev. Msgr. Michael Olson, Rector Holy Trinity ; Rev. Rudy Garcia, Dallas Diocese Vocations Director; and Rev. Kyle Walterscheid, Fort Worth Diocese Vocations Director



District 46E Governor Ernie Doclar makes the rounds visiting with guests



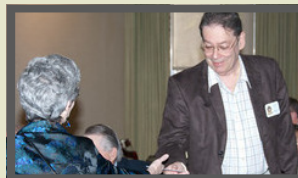
Barbara Chapman of the Forth Worth Vocations Office draws a raffle ticket assisted by Charles Jones, Arlington Metro Club and 2011 VAP Director



Msgr. Michael Olson displays his golf club raffle prize with cheers from Rev. Kyle Walterscheid



Clockwise, Julie and Mary Montz, Ralph and Rosemary Armstrong, Kathy and Bill Crowley, and Carolyn Simoneaux



Pete LaFave, top, and Bill Higgins collect door prizes

\$2651 for VAP
VAP Kick-off Brunch raffle ticket sales amounted to \$2651 in after Mass sales at St. Mark's, St. Paul's, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's and St. Michael's. This together with the club assessment and member ticket purchases again makes NCD Serra Club a major fund contributor for the VAP weekend.



Clockwise, Joe Simler, Marty and Jerry Hurster, Betty Monaghan, Larry Montz, Bill Higgins, Hank Himmelberg, Tony and Annette Schmidt



Greg Mechler, Pete and Mary LaFave, Kay and Jim Hogan with daughter Kathy