



Serra Mensajero

Serra Club of North Central Dallas

Volume 28 Issue 4

Richardson, Texas

April 2013



Leaving a Legacy

Friday, April 5
1st Friday Mass, Breakfast
6:30 a.m. St. Mark's

Saturday, April 6
Bishop's Annual
Catholic Pro-Life Dinner
Irving Convention Center

Sunday, April 14
Mass and Mingle
9:30 a.m.
Holy Trinity Seminary

Saturday/Sunday, April 14/15
VAP Raffle Ticket Sales
All Masses at St. Michael the
Archangel

Monday, April 15
Serra Club Dinner Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Canyon Creek Country Club

Saturday/Sunday, April 20/21
VAP Raffle Ticket Sales
All Masses at St. Mark's
All Masses at St. Paul's

Sunday, April 21
Transitional Diaconate
Ordination
Holy Trinity Seminary
9:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 21
World Day of Prayer for
Vocations

Saturday/Sunday, April 28/29
VAP Raffle Ticket Sales
All Masses at Our Lady of
Angels

June 21-23
VAP Weekend

How can you leave a legacy after you are gone? One way is through your charitable donations to The Catholic Foundation. The North Texas Serra Club had the privilege to host J. Matthew Kramer, President and C.E.O., Cheryl Unis Mansour, Vice President of Development, and R. Michael George, Senior Development Officer, from The Catholic Foundation on Monday, March 18, 2013.

Donors giving money to the Foundation can request the money to go to special areas of interest if that is important to the donor. A donor may feel a desire to see money spent on Catholic education and can have the money go specifically for that area. If vocations is important, the money will be used in that area.

The Catholic Foundation was established in 1955 by a group of forward thinking Catholic business and professional to guarantee that the in the diocese would not be overlooked through the years.

According to The Foundation's website, "since its inception, the Foundation, a perpetual endowment, has grown both monetarily and

in services provided. In 1965, managed assets of the Foundation were less than \$1 million. A \$2.6 million gift received from the Simmons Foundation following the death of James W. Simmons, Jr., in 1972, led to exponential growth over the next 10 years, and by 1985, managed assets had grown to nearly \$21 million. Today, operating as a community foundation, The Catholic Foundation is home to more than 350 different funds and manages over \$125 million in assets."

Almost every Catholic institution in the Diocese of Dallas and most other established social service agencies, arts and cultural, educational, and health care organizations serving the community have benefited from Catholic Foundation grants ranging in size from as little as \$25 in the early days to a series of \$1 million grants made in the 1990's. Today The Catholic Foundation regularly awards grants in excess of \$5 million a year, according to the website.

Each year, The Catholic Foundation honors a deserving individual for his or her distinguished service and support of the Dallas-

area Catholic community. This year's honoree, Bob Baillargeon was recognized at the 2013 Catholic Foundation Award Dinner on Friday, January 18, 2013.

Examples of Grants 2012
BISHOP LYNCH HIGH SCHOOL - \$75,000
Construction of New Student Complex

CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN CHARITY FUND - \$5,000
Ministry at Parkland Memorial Hospital

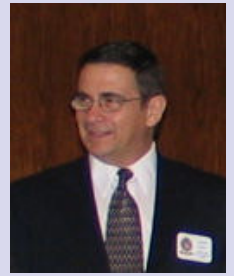
CATHOLIC CHARITIES - \$50,000
Relocation of Brady Center (with additional funding from the Louise Buhner Endowment Fund & the Olga Fay Harper Senior Citizen Fund)

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL - \$22,048
Technology for 8 Classrooms



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

Serra USA Council
www.serrausa.org

President's Corner**Many Goings On for Our Club**

Habemus Papem! Our Church has been blessed with the election of the first non-European Pope in over 1,000 years. Pope Francis hails from Argentina and seems like he will be an able Vicar of Christ. Please keep him in your prayers, especially when reciting the Serran Prayer for the Perseverance of Vocations.

Thanks to the efforts of Don Simoneaux, our incoming District 46E Governor and with the help of Tony Schmidt, it appears like there will now be a joint District Installation event. However, to encourage greater participation it will be held on a weekend and the cost of the event will be more reasonable than in the recent past. The event is scheduled for Sunday May 19, 2013 at St. Mark from 3 to 5:30 PM. The planed fee will be in the \$20 to \$25 range. More details will be forthcoming shortly.

We have now completed the Board with a bit of shuffling. Mary LaFave has agreed to remain as our Secretary during Pete's tenure next year as our President. Marie Baert will take the position on Vice president of Communications in addition to publishing our Newsletter. This is a natural transition in responsibilities as in the past those jobs have been combined. Katy Warren has agreed to become VP of Vocations. I would like to thank all three ladies for their willingness to serve Serra and our vocations activities in these special ways.

God Bless, *Larry*

Serra VAP Kickoff Brunch 2013

Serra clubs of the Dallas and Fort Worth dioceses formally kicked off the 2013 Vocation Awareness Program with a Mass and Kickoff Brunch Saturday morning, March 23, at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving. Msgr. Michael Olson celebrated the Mass, assisted by several of the seminarians. Serrans from the Serra Club of Metropolitan Dallas hosted this year's event.

More than 90 Serrans and spouses gathered in the seminary dining room for brunch following Mass and were joined by Msgr. Olson and 15 seminarians from the Dallas and Fort Worth dioceses. Each seminarian was presented with a gift card as a small token of appreciation for their commitment to pursue a vocation of service to the church. Door prizes were then awarded to about a dozen of the lucky brunch attendees whose tickets were selected in a prize drawing.

Our own Mike Holmes, who transferred this past year from the Metro Dallas club, is Director for the 2013 Vocation Awareness Program. In brief remarks following the meal, he encouraged Serrans in attendance to build upon their efforts of past years in publicizing this year's program, which culminates with the discernment weekend June 21-23. He also encouraged the seminarians in attendance to discuss the weekend program with young people they meet as they work in parishes in the two dioceses the next few months.

One of the primary purposes of the kickoff brunch each year is to distribute to the clubs the posters and other promotional materials to be distributed to the parishes to publicize the VAP. However, the VAP Steering Committee learned only a week earlier, just as files for the printed materials were about to be sent to the printers, that Holy Trinity Seminary will not be available for this year's VAP weekend. Msgr. Olson explained after the meal that major repairs for recently discovered maintenance issues will require water and electricity for the seminary to be shut off for a couple of months beginning in early June.

In a brief meeting following the brunch, the steering committee determined it had enough information from the University of Dallas to go ahead with printing of the posters. The dates for the weekend will remain the same, but all activities and housing this year will be on the university campus adjacent to the seminary property. Posters should be available the week after Easter for distribution to the clubs.

In addition to Mike Holmes, those attending the Mass and brunch from our club were Ralph and Rosemary Armstrong, Bill and Kathy Crowley, Hank Himmelberg, Kay Hogan, Peter and Mary LaFave, Bill Larsen, Greg Mechler, Larry and Julie Montz, Tony and Annette Schmidt, and Don and Carolyn Simoneaux.

-submitted by Don Simoneaux

**North Central Dallas
Serra Club
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2012-2013**

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|------------------|-------|
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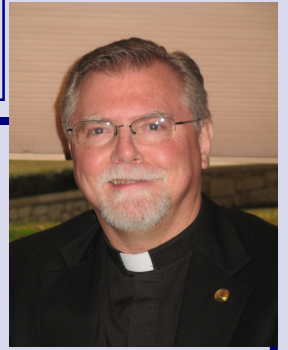
Don Simoneaux

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Many of us have the misconception that what we learned in the Baltimore Catechism as the Precepts of the Church are no longer in effect. That is not true. The new Catechism of the Catholic Church [#2041-#2043] lists five precepts that all Catholics are bound to follow.

According to the 1983 Code of Canon Law (# 49,) a "precept is a decree by which an obligation is directly and lawfully imposed on a specific person or persons to do or to omit something, especially in order to urge the observance of a law."

Quoting from the Catechism of the Catholic Church # 2041, "The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor." These precepts establish standards for the outward practice of the Faith as individuals in community. They are not optional.

The Precepts of the Catholic Church are as follows:

1. You must attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from unnecessary labor on Sunday. The first precept requires the faithful to honor the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principle liturgical feasts of the Church Year. We honor God by participating in the celebration Eucharist and by resting from unnecessary work and activities which might limit the holiness of the Lord's Day.



2. You must confess your [grave or mortal sins] sins at least once a year. The second precept ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness.



3. You must receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least [once a year] during the Easter season. [...unless barred from the Sacrament by an irregular marriage or other conditions.] The third precept guarantees a minimal reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Eucharist, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy annually.



4. You must observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church. The fourth precept ensures penitential practices which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us gain control over our instincts. Currently these observances are specific to the season of Lent, but encouraged throughout the year.



5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church. The fifth precept means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability. From the Code of Canon Law, Can. 222 §1. "The Christian faithful are obliged to assist with the needs of the Church so that the Church has what is necessary for divine worship, for the works of the apostolate and of charity, and for the decent support of ministers." The faithful are also obligated to give to charity apart from the needs of the Church. The two should not be confused.



First Friday Breakfast - We need more people to set up tables for our monthly breakfast. Also, Bill Crowley has been setting up the breakfast itself each month. No one has come forward to relieve him of this job.

The room set-up is simple. The time required is little. The person would need to be there about 5:45 to set-up prior to the 6:30am mass. In order to do the breakfast set-up, food would need to be picked up and kept warm. Coffee must be made. The table set-up and clean-up is also part of the job. This requires food to be picked up about 5:30am or earlier. Contact Mary LaFave at 972-618-0813.

Please Help Bill!



Serra Installation Dinner Is More Affordable This Year

Our club is the host club this year for the annual Serra installation dinner, and we're making some changes to make it easier for more members to attend. The event will be Sunday afternoon, May 19, in the banquet room at St. Mark in Plano. We will start with a reception at 3:00 p.m. followed by a catered meal from Dickey's Barbeque. Beer and wine will be served. Invitations will be in the mail right after Easter. The cost will be \$23 per person.

For the past several years the event has been held on a weekday evening at the University of Dallas in Irving. Last year the big room at UD was being renovated, and the event was held at Holy Trinity Seminary. Many members had said over the years they had difficulty making it to Irving during rush hour on a weekday afternoon for a Mass and dinner that started at 6:00 p.m., and they also felt the cost had gotten too high. The cost last year was not known before the event but turned out to be \$50 per person. In order to provide a known cost to our members, the board decided to have North Central Dallas members and guests pay \$45 each and subsidized the remainder from the club treasury.

The board this year, in anticipation of making the installation event more of a social event for our members, as it used to be before the joint events were initiated, decided to move it to a weekend and simplify things to keep the cost to half what it was last year. Members surveyed at the March breakfast meeting preferred a Sunday afternoon event to one on a Friday or Saturday evening. Since everyone will be attending Mass at their home parishes on a Sunday, there will not be a Mass before the dinner this year. It will be an opportunity for members and guests to gather in a social atmosphere with other Serrans from our club and the other Dallas Diocese clubs.

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 wish to participate in this important ministry please e-mail Hank Himmelberg at hankhimmelberg@verizon.net

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

Please notice the 31 Club needs to be updated. Hank Himmelberg is working very hard at updating and correcting the list. Please contact him if you need to change days or take a break or want to add your name to the list.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Bill Condon | 7th |
| Lou Need | 14th |
| Jim Hogan | 18th |

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Greg and Lisa McCurry | 3rd |
| Greg and Ellen Mechler | 12th |
| Larry and Julie Montz | 15th |
| Bob and Colleen Baillargeon | 27th |

Please Pray for the repose of the souls of:

Norma Holmes
Mother of Mike Holmes

Jean Vidal
Mother of Vicki Dean



Continue to Lift Up In Prayer

Theresa Rettinger
Pete LaFave
Jim Hogan
Bill Higgins



Serra Mensajero is the North Central Dallas monthly newsletter which reports activities, provides news to members and supports Club goals.

Editor, Marie Baert

Watching History Unfold

One of the mantras during my youth and young adulthood was this: “Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” St. Francis of Assisi, coming from a family of high status in Italy, listened to God and found that a life of poverty had profound outcomes, true blessings that far outweighed the benefits of a lavish life. We all have God calling us to live out our purpose in society, in our occupations, in our family life, and in our service to God and His Church. What we, as Serrans, are blessed with is the role of ensuring that those in religious formation are cared for. Our mission is, also, to encourage youth and young adults to respond to God’s call to the priesthood and religious life.

On the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, I had the blessing of being able to talk briefly about the details of priesthood and religious formation to high school youth at my parish. While it is not surprising, after my experience of serving many years in Christian education classes, it still is disconcerting how little youth know about religious formation, and how it can lead to a very fulfilling life. It is satisfying, however, to ease their minds about the fears of entering the priesthood, religious life, and even the married life, and helping open their hearts to the joys that these vocations offer.

I had the blessing of attending the Masses for Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe on February 28th and March 17th, respectively. I also had the privilege of speaking with a Texas Catholic contributor before the Mass for Pope Benedict (<http://www.texascatholic.com/2013/02/28/mass-of-thanksgiving-marks-popes-last-day/>). When I later read the article, I saw that one of my campus ministers from college, Monica Ashour, also spoke with the contributor. I must say that I was very blessed by her service at St. Mary in College Station, TX, where she helped found Nun Run, which led also to Seminary Sprint, two programs that allow college students to see what the priesthood and religious life are, firsthand. One of the campus ministers currently at St. Mary’s and a graduate from UD, Sarah Hayes, was once in the same high school youth group as I was at St. Mark the Evangelist.

Why do I name these people and what they have done for me and our Catholic Church? I do because I’d like to believe that this shows the universality of our Church, especially in the large State of Texas. Also, I hope it can bring to light how influential we can be in the lives of youth and young adults, who fervently want to follow God’s call, and just need people like us to show them how awesome the priesthood and religious life really are! People like Monica Ashour were very influential in my path towards promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Sarah Hayes and I were both taught about our faith at St. Mark the Evangelist, during our youth. Consequently, we were both called towards a life of service in the Church as laypersons. I know that Serra has been very influential in encouraging others to serve the Church and I pray we continue this important mission!

This is the fifth pope I’ve had in my lifetime, but what I find more important is how this is the first time that our current youth and young adults are fully witnessing the election of a new pope. And as I mentioned to the Texas Catholic contributor, “I think it is important for children to realize and appreciate what they are seeing. This is a historic time – being here to experience this and being able to relay that to others, helps us understand what a beautiful faith we have.”

-submitted by Katy Warren

Why am I a Serran?

[Serrans send us your reflection on "Why you are a Serran?"](#)



“I attended a Serra Club meeting and was asked to join. I decided I was just too busy. The next weekend when my wife and I were at the shore, we went to a scheduled 10:30 Mass to learn it was only a Communion Service because the priest could only come every other week. I complained bitterly to my wife and she reminded me that I needed to do something to help eliminate the problem instead of complain about it. I went back home and joined Serra. I am working to increase vocations in the future and glad to spend my time to improve things.”