



Serra Mensajero

Serra Club of North Central Dallas

Volume 30 Issue 4.

Richardson, Texas

April 2015



Walk Where Jesus Walked

Friday, April 3
Good Friday
NO First Friday Mass

Sunday, April 5
Easter

Monday, April 20
Dinner Meeting
6 p.m.
Canyon Creek Country Club

Sunday, April 26
Mass at the Seminary
9:15 a.m.
Holy Trinity Seminary

Sunday, April 26
World Day of Prayer for
Vocations

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

Wednesday, May 20
Installation Dinner
St. Mark's

Friday, June 12
John Paul II Monstrance
St. Mark's Catholic Church

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

Editor: Marie Baert

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

Serra USA Council
www.serrausa.org

Deacon Ken Reisor at a St. Thomas Aquinas and a full time employee there was given a trip to the Holy Land in 2006 by the Knights of Columbus at the parish. The reason they gave him this gift was in the hope that it would inspire him to come back and preach about the Holy Land. They didn't know what they got themselves into with this gift. His spiritual life was turned upside down after that trip.

In 2014, his group encountered for the second time (the first time in 2012) seminarians from Mundelein Seminary having lunch in Jericho. Deacon Ken called the seminary in preparing for this presentation to the Serra Club and found that the people of Chicago feel it is important that their seminarians experience where Jesus lived, taught and died. With that, he challenges all of us as Serrans to work with the people in the Diocese of Dallas and the seminary to possibly hope to get our seminarians to the Holy Land.

Deacon Ken found out the seminary sends their 3rd year seminarians of theology to the Holy Land for 10 weeks: 4 weeks in Jerusalem, 4 weeks in Bethlehem and 2 weeks in Galilee.

In the many Bible stories, they always talk about going up to Jerusalem. We hear that and the first thing many of us think of is "up north". Jerusalem is actually south of everything but you have to go "up" the mountain to Jerusalem.

Visit Cana and it is typical for the married couples to renew mar-

riage vows. Here is something else that really makes you stop and realize something: the water jug sitting in the corner. It was heavy and held like 30 gallons. There were 6 jugs at the wedding. Read the gospel of John not only for the story of the first miracle but how this symbolizes the abundance of God's love.

In Nazareth, celebrating Mass in the Church of the Annunciation on Deacon Ken's first trip celebrating Mass there, looking at the stone and said to himself, I don't know if this is the actual place where the angel appeared to Mary but it is definitely a lot closer than Dallas, Texas.

So, Jesus set on this rock. There are different levels of authenticity. Some are within 500 yards of where something happened. Some are so authentic it is THE spot.

When Jesus took them up to the top of the mountain, you realize what a climb it was and what great physical shape they were in have accomplished a hike like that.

One of Deacon Ken's favorite parts is the Jordan River. Not authentic because they feel like the authentic part is in Jordan and but it is not safe. This part of the Jordan river is still the same river. They take the water out of the river, bless it and then bless themselves with it. You wait long enough and some one will show up to be baptized.

Jericho is an oasis. You can look out and see the part of the desert that Jesus went out to which is known as the Mount of Tempta-

tion.

This is the Holy Land where Muslims, Jews, and Christians all consider it to be holy. Deacon Ken asked himself "why do we kill each other"-but no answer came to him, not yet.

At the Mount of Olives, begin the walk down, past the site of the Jewish temple that was destroyed. Keep walking down, this is the Palm Sunday walk. Shortly after getting back from the trip, it was Palm Sunday here and how Deacon Ken did what he did every year here at St. Thomas Aquinas, but this time with so much more emotion and tears.

When he prays the rosary now, he can picture in his mind those exact places except the burial. The events and places come alive after a trip to the Holy Land.

While at the Church of the Nativity he group spent about 10 minutes without no one else showing up and they sang Christmas carols. It just felt so natural. Some Japanese showed up and they started singing Silent Night in Japanese. But while there, he stood there and felt like God answered his question about why everyone can't live together in the Holy Land in peace. The answer from God that he heard in his heart Not until the whole world hears my Son's message of love there were be no peace in this world. It wasn't not until they all are Christian.

More seminarians should have this opportunity to experience this.

President's Focus**Kickoff for Vocations Awareness Program**

Well team, on March 14 all of the Serra Clubs in DFW launched the Vocation Awareness Program which will culminate on June 25-28. We met at Holy Trinity Seminary for the kick off brunch. The dining room was full of Serran's, guests, seminarians, Priests.

One of the guests was Fr. Edwin Leonard, Vocational Director for the Dallas Diocese. I had not had the pleasure of meeting him, nor hearing him talk, he is outstanding! He is certainly on fire from the Holy Spirit to do his job and do it very well.

Some very interesting information he shared with us.

- In the last 25 years, the Dallas Diocese has gone from 200,000 to 1,200,000.
- In the last 25 years the number of Diocesan Priest has remained the same.
- Our Diocese is going to much larger parishes because of the fewer number of priests. IE. St. Ann, Coppell, St. Mark's, Plano, etc.
- The Diocese is making younger Priests into young Parish Pastors sooner.
- In Fr. Worth, Fr. James Wilcox, the Vocation Director of Ft. Worth also is the Administrative Pastor for 4 parishes. WOW.
- HTS is almost full, maybe could handle 4-5 more young men. Thank you Jesus.



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- This means, we as Serran's have been effective in helping our Bishops find, recruit more young men and women to our Lord. Keep up the good work and our Lord will deliver more Priests to our Parishes.

Now, we are going to have the opportunity to meet and listen to Fr. Edwin at our NCD Serra dinner on July 20th of this year.

Have a blessed Lenten season.

Mike Holmes



Nominations for Upcoming Elections:
President : Dennis Epping
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A check in the sum of \$500 was received by the Club from the St. Mark's Knights of Columbus. The funds were raised by the Knights through their BINGO night that was held several months ago for Vocations.

A huge thank you to the Knights for this donation to help with religious vocations.

Chaplain's Corner

Vocation Awareness

Too many people think that "vocation" is a word that refers only to priests and religious. The truth is that God calls each of us to a particular path in life ... a path that will cut to the heart of our desires and who we are. At some point in our lives, each of us will be inspired to do something that we not only have been given the "tools" to do, but that will make us happier than anything else.

God wants us to be happy and to use our talents and abilities to do good work. As Christians, we take on the responsibility to follow Jesus and to find out the particular mission assigned to us (*our vocation*) at our Baptism.

Of course, when most of us were baptized, we didn't know anything about vocations, or about Jesus for that matter. For most of us, baptized very young, the job of guiding us on the right path was left to our parents and godparents and others who loved and cared for us. Those same people were likely the ones who encouraged our talents and abilities.

Sooner or later, though, we all reach a point where we begin to wonder how we, as individuals, will make our mark in the world. We begin to make choices in the subjects we study in school. We develop new relationships. We start to ponder the type of work we want to pursue. But we need to be listening to God closely, because he might be calling us to a Vocation as a Priest or Religious.

If we are wise, we will remember that God promises to lead us to a life that will bring us happiness. All we need to do is to ask, and then be open to the answer. If we are truly open to God's Call we will find great joy in a Vocation where we give all to God for the sake of the Kingdom. Our late Holy Father, John Paul II, in his apostolic exhortation "*Pastores Dabo Vobis*", (*I will Give You Shepherds*), said that "*all the members of the Church, without exception, have the grace and responsibility to look after Vocation*" to priestly or religious life.

The Second Vatican Council also stated: "*The duty of fostering Vocations falls on the whole Christian community.*" The most important place to begin is in the family, the Domestic Church.

Simply stated, that means that all of us here at St. Mark the Evangelist, and the Church throughout the world, are called to share in the task of encouraging and fostering Vocations to the Church.

In 2002, eleven hundred delegates representing the Church throughout North America – bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated and lay men and women, young and old, – gathered in Montreal for the *Third Continental Congress on Vocations to the Ordained Ministry and Consecrated Life in North America*. Out of that gathering came a pastoral challenge to create a Culture of Vocation in the Church of North America, focusing on five particular actions:

- Ø To Pray
- Ø To Evangelize
- Ø To Experience
- Ø To Mentor
- Ø To Invite



It is the responsibility of all of the faithful to build a culture of Vocations in our individual parishes the Diocese of Dallas. If we want priests in the future, we need to work for Vocation now.

Fr. Clifford G. Smith, Chaplain



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY
OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, APRIL 26
2 P.M. TO 5 P.M.

All are welcome, and there will be tours of the seminary, food, music, kid activities, etc. a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about HTS in the community and to give a great insight.

Holy Trinity Seminary
3131 Vince Hagan Drive
Irving, TX 75062

This is the future of the Diocese of Dallas.

Member Kathi Thompson and husband Bryan announced in March that their son, Parker, has been accepted at Holy Trinity Seminary for the Fall 2015 semester. He will be taking classes at University of Dallas. Parker will be graduating from Jesuit College Preparatory in May and attended St. Mark's Catholic Church in Plano. Please keep him and all future seminarians in your prayers.



Remember to turn in your raffle tickets for the Vocations Awareness Program. Money and ticket stubs can be turned into our treasurer, Mary LaFave.



A Huge Thank You

This isn't said often enough to **all of our Group Leaders**. They are responsible for the phone/email tree that comes prior to the Monday night dinners. They have spent several years doing this and keeping track of all of the yes's and no's can be challenging as people change their plans. The entire Club appreciates the hours spent on this.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Bill Condon 7
Lou Neeb 14
Ann Outarsingh 30

APRILANNIVERSARIES

Larry and Julie Montz 10

PRAY INTENTIONS

Cathy Himmelberg
Linda O'Malley
Mary LaFave
Peter LaFave



Please pray for the repose of Deacon Jack Gulino from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Deacon Jack passed away March 12 and Mass of Christian Burial was March 17th. Jack is survived by his wife Trish and two daughters.



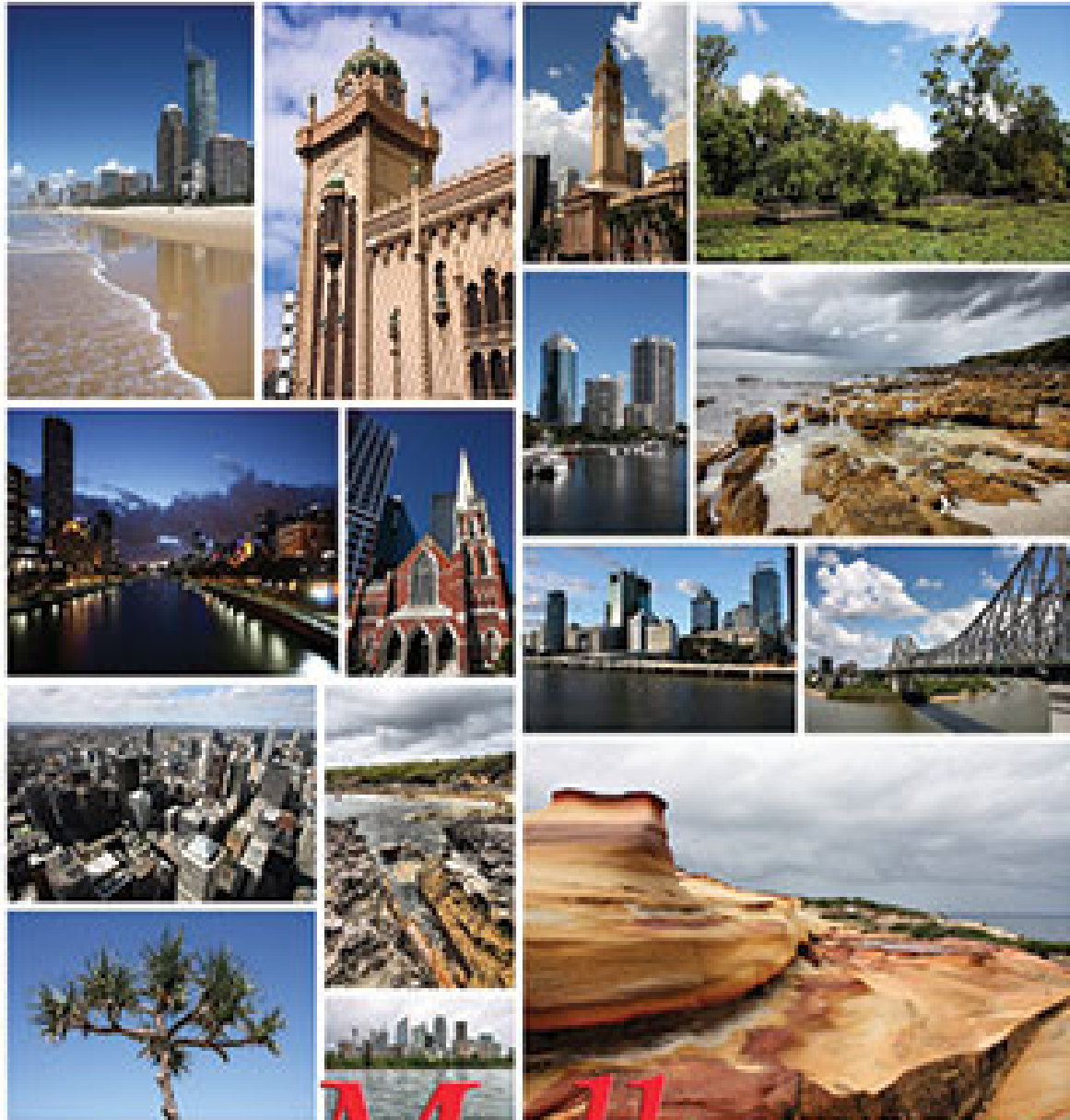
Meet our Vice President Elect Agnes Denvir. Agnes is married to Adrian Denvir and has two boys, Aenghus (12) and Ambrose (6). She was born and raised in the South of France, moved to the UK with her family in 1993 and the US in 1996, Richardson specifically in 2005. She can read a dozen languages and has worked as an independent translator before she started teaching at St. Mark's Catholic School in Plano. Thank you for your passion in vocations!



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	18th	Rob Larriviere
1st	Joan Heiting	18th	Ann Larriviere
1st	Ed Johnson	19th	
2nd	Dick Park	20th	Tony Schmidt
2nd	Katie Park	21st	Doug Biglen
2nd	Mike Maxwell	21st	Veronica Biglen
2nd	Dolores Maxwell	22nd	
3rd	Bill Crowley	23rd	
4th	Ida Keptner	24th	Ralph Armstrong
4th	Mike Holmes	24th	Kay Hogan
5th	Bob Baillargeon	25th	Kathi Thompson
6th	John Fitzpatrick	26th	
7th	Bill Condon	27th	Warren Schneider
8th	Lou Neeb	27th	Chris Taylor
9th	Peter LaFave	27th	Leo Heiting
9th	Mary LaFave	28th	Bill Larsen
10th	Vicki Dean	28th	Bonnie Larsen
11th	Jim Duffy	29th	
12th	Mark Venincasa	30th	Katy Warren
13th		31st	Ron Kepner
14th	John Tromba		
15th	Don Simoneaux		
15th	Warren Schneider		
16th	Hank Himmelberg		
17th	John Fitzpatrick		

Serra International's 73rd Annual Convention



July 30 - Aug 2, 2015

SAVE THE DATE

Christ *Melbourne*
the Light of the World **Australia**