



# Serra Mensajero

Volume 31 Issue 4

Richardson, Texas

April 2016



## JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL

### President Thomas Poore

Thomas Poore, was hired as President of John Paul II High School back in 2003 when Bishop Grahmann was going to open the newest Catholic High School in the area for the first time in 40 years in the diocese. The school opened in 2005 for the first three classes of students.

A very fitting way to start the evening was a reminder of the Vision Statement of the School "We will make a difference in the world by walking in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II." The Mission statement is "To develop leaders who are critical thinkers and effective communicators, committed to service and rooted in faith". This is the whole foundation of a Catholic High School. It has to be something that every single staff and faculty knows and work at making sure every graduate knows it when they leave. Looking at the first 10 years there are a few key dates, that are important especially all the planning meetings and along with those are a number of people who really worked hard at opening the school. Mr. Poore feels blessed to be given this opportunity to open this school. Some people question why it didn't open sooner - it wasn't God's time. When you look at the property now, you see an incredible opportunity that was able to be purchased then and not something that is possible today at today's market prices.

The first class had 61 graduates and now there has been a total of over 1200 graduates in 10 years. There are 183 seniors in this year's graduating class.

Hard hats was the hat of choice for touring the building the first time. Orientation that first year was done with hard hats for students. Mr. Poore showed pictures before and after of science labs,

cafeteria, and gym. The gym is an example of half new/half original - \$66 in retro fitting and \$175 in new building cost. In 2008 three families donated enough money and the school had a ground breaking for a football, soccer and track shortly after the school opened.

2012 brought more athletic fields and a teaching experience for Mr. Poore. There is actually a water way for the army corps of engineers and here he thought it was a ditch. There is now a Baseball, softball, tennis fields, and a water way that is now 75% covered up. In the next 10 years the focus on academics along with strong extra curricular activities- that is how you develop leaders. Leaders are more than academic. Athletic, arts, clubs, all play a part in an overall leaders. The school takes a broad range of student because regular individuals do extraordinary things with an extraordinary education and incredible formation.

Also the future needs to grow the financial stability of the school. There is a need to continue to increase tuition assistance. The building has already been upgraded already since the purchase. The 1<sup>st</sup> part was built in 1983 and they built the second half identically at a later date and connected the two. The upgrades have all been done without borrowing money. There will be future construction.

When he is asked what he wants is to build next, Mr. Moore answers with: if you write the check today, that is what we will be building today.

The school doesn't want to take on additional debt because in July 2016 the school will go under \$23 million and we will never say \$23 million again!

Mission and Catholic identity: The school is focusing on the formation of students. We were blessed to have priests and religious teaching many members of the Club years ago. People wondered why the Bishop would pick him when your whole career is a product of working in public schools. Mr. Poore said we are all required to live our faith every day, it doesn't get left at church when we step outside the front doors.

The school focuses on formation with monthly masses, the Stations of the Cross, rosary, theology classes have small Masses, infusion of Catholic social teachings in every single class-art to photography, English to Spanish. Each teacher has to write a reflection at the end of each year about how they infused Catholic Social teachings in their classes that year.

The school's first student, Scott Johnson, is attending the seminary in the fall. Another student who graduated the school and now from college is discerning right now about entering the seminary.

Bishop Farrell was able to create a governing body the way he had it envisioned from the beginning. Academic Excellence is strong at John Paul II High School. Advanced Placement test chart shows 2013-2015 the number of students dropped but there was a drop in the number of students in the class but the number of tests went up. Many students have gone to college as a sophomore because they have already taken the tests for college courses.

Graduates have gone 2007, 2008, and 2009 did not have the same experiences because they did not go all four years, different experience from 2010. (cont. on page 5)

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

**Sunday, April 17**  
Religious Women's  
Appreciation Lunch  
2 p.m. Lunch  
St. Paul Parish Center

**Monday, April 18**  
Monthly Dinner Meeting  
6:30 Dinner  
Canyon Creek Country Club

**Sunday, April 24**  
9:15 Mass  
Holy Trinity Seminary

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

**Wednesday, May 11**  
Annual Installation Dinner  
7 p.m. Dinner  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

**June 30-July 3**  
Serra International Convention  
St. Louis, MO

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

Editor: Marie Baert

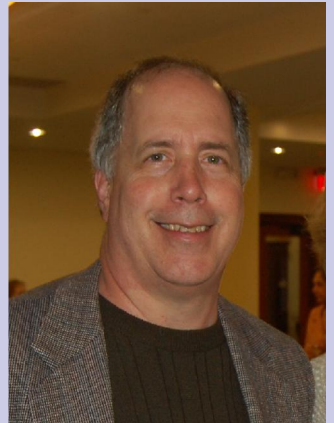
Visit these  
Serra web sites...  
North Central Dallas  
Serra Club  
[www.ncdserraclub.com](http://www.ncdserraclub.com)

Serra USA Council  
[www.serraus.org](http://www.serraus.org)

**President's Focus**

**America's Gospel Treasury: The Stories Behind The Songs**

Slave ship captain John Newton composed *Amazing Grace*, after his prayer for deliverance from a storm miraculously changed his life. Horatio Spofford lost his family, yet could still write *It Is Well With My Soul*. Gospel favorites, spirituals, and hymns have offered both inspiration and consolation to millions. In this program, Dave Tanner will sing *His Eye Is On The Sparrow*, *How Great Thou Art*, and a dozen more sacred classics. Then you too will join in, for the singing of a Stamps-Baxter and Southern Gospel medley that includes: *What A Friend We Have In Jesus*, *Leaning On The Everlasting Arms*, *I'll Fly Away*, and *I Saw The Light*. You are guaranteed to leave this program with a song in your heart and a smile on your face!



If the above sounds like something you would enjoy, come join your fellow Serrans on April 17 when we honor the Religious Women of our diocese for their service to the Church and community at the St. Paul Parish Center.

Other activities for our club during April include our dinner meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> and our turn at the Seminary on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Looking ahead to May, our annual installation dinner will be May 11<sup>th</sup>. We'll forward details as they become available.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for vocations.

Thank you for your commitment to vocations through Serra activities and prayer.



*Dennis Epping*

**North Central Dallas  
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**JUNE 30 - JULY 3, 2016  
2016 SERRA INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION,  
ST. LOUIS, MO**

Register for the convention at:  
<https://nspire.serrainternational.org/events/st-louis-2016>

**Mass at Holy Trinity  
Seminary  
9:15 a.m.**

April 24th

Remember your breakfast goodies for the Seminarian reception following Mass.

**PRAY FOR  
THE REPOSE  
OF THE SOUL  
OF:**

Msgr. R.  
James Balint

**PRAY FOR  
THE HEAL-  
ING POWER  
OF GOD FOR:**

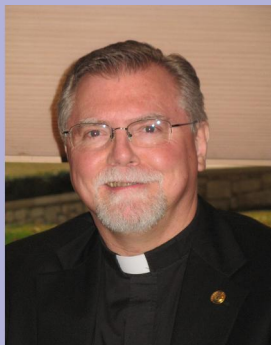
Mary LaFave  
Katy Warren

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

|             |      |
|-------------|------|
| Rita Parks  | 1st  |
| Bill Condon | 7th  |
| Lou Neeb    | 14th |

**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

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

**Chaplain's Corner****TRIDUUM: THE THREE HOLIEST DAYS**

The term Triduum means "three days." It is the culmination of the entire liturgical year of the Church; it commemorates the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We gather as a community for the Easter Triduum to remember the saving act of Jesus and the miracle of his resurrection. Because Jesus died and was resurrected, we live.

On Holy Thursday we remember the Last Supper, Jesus instituting the Eucharist, and his washing the feet of his apostles. On Good Friday we recall the passion, crucifixion and death of Jesus. We begin to celebrate the resurrection of Christ either at the Easter Vigil on Saturday night when new members enter Catholic community through the Sacraments of Initiation.

The Easter Triduum is treated as one single celebration that lasts for three days. It is the fulfillment of the Paschal Mystery.

**HOLY THURSDAY**

Most people are under the impression that Lent ends with Easter Sunday, but Lent really ends at dusk on Holy Thursday when the Mass of the Lord's Supper begins. All regular masses in a parish are suspended to allow for only one mass on Thursday evening. There are no daytime masses held anywhere in the Catholic world, only the evening mass which begins the Triduum. It includes several special moments: the presentation of the Blessed Oils that were received at the Chrism Mass at the cathedral and presided over by the bishop; and we have the wonderful example of Jesus, who scriptures says took a basin of water and a towel and washed the feet of his apostles ending with the words, "*What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do.*" As the Mass ends the Blessed Sacrament is then taken to the chapel to rest there; the sanctuary is cleared, and we are invited to stay and vigil with the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.

**GOOD FRIDAY**

Good Friday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence. Stations of the Cross are often celebrated in the afternoon. The service of Good Friday begins in silence with no procession. This service does not stand-alone; it is a continuation of what began on Holy Thursday, with a Communion Service. The priests prostrate themselves as a sign of utter humility before God. The Passion of Christ is proclaimed. Either at the mid-point or at the end a cross, the symbol of our hope and salvation, is brought forward for us to venerate. It is our opportunity to humble ourselves before the awesome saving action of Christ. We approach the cross and acknowledge its power in a number of ways. We can genuflect before the cross, kiss it, kneel before it, touch it with our hand, or stand before it and say a short prayer.

**HOLY SATURDAY**

The Easter Triduum begins with the mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday; it reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, celebrated on Holy Saturday night. A *vigil* is a watch kept for an extended period of time. This celebration is long because there is a lot to do. There are things at the Easter Vigil that we do at no other time in the church year. We proclaim with fire and song that Christ is risen. We listen to the Scripture stories of God's interaction with humankind from Creation through to the Resurrection. We baptize those desiring to be Catholic and Confirm and give First Eucharist to those seeking full membership in the Catholic Church. Then we are strengthened with the spiritual food of Christ's Body and Blood. The most significant of these is the welcoming of new members into our Church and our parish. Called by your baptism as a child of God, you are invited to experience the Easter Triduum with all Catholics throughout the world. To experience the fullness of the Triduum is to be present for the mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the service on Good Friday, and either the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening or mass on Easter Sunday morning.



# Holy Week

*Fr. Clifford Smith*, Chaplain

## Seminary Sunday

### Mass with the Seminarians (What an experience!)

Holy Trinity Seminary (HTS) has around 60 young men studying for the priesthood from several different areas of the country including Dallas and Fort Worth. During the school year HTS has public Mass on some Sundays and all the Serra Clubs in Dallas take turns attending the Mass and bring refreshments for a short reception after the service where we mingle with the seminarians and are supportive of their calling to the religious life. This is another part of our Serra mission.

This is not a type of Mass you have attended in the past. Upon arrival, the front of the seminary entrance has several seminarians dressed in suits waiting to greet us. We are encouraged and our club is known to be very generous in suppling homemade sweets as well as a large supply of doughnuts for the reception after Mass. The warm welcome is just a start. Many students from the University of Dallas attend the service as well as other groups and seminarian parents attend. No one arrives late and Mass starts on time.

Upon entering the sanctuary, one is immediately struck by a reverence as people are sitting quietly either praying or using the time for reflection. Those who attend the service are usually dressed in suits and dresses. The sanctuary is not large but holds a few hundred people. It was recently updated and they just acquired a new pipe organ.

When Mass starts, everyone sings and the procession is led by three seminarians who seem to be tall and then usually at least 3 to 6 priests enter to co-celebrate the Mass. Incense is used during the service and the homilies are great as the priests in attendance are usually faculty from the seminary. The service is spiritually full and the distractions of family Masses are absent. One can truly open their hearts and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit. The male voices singing are well heard during singing of hymns and they have an all-male choir that sings during offertory. If you are sensitive to incense, do not sit in the front pews for the altar is incensed during Mass. During the service one feels a serenity of holiness and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Immediately after the service we proceed to a reception hall filled with the doughnuts and deserts we Serrans have donated along with coffee. Many seminarians, priests, Serrans, and some of the University of Dallas students stop

Immediately after the service we proceed to a reception hall filled with the doughnuts and deserts we Serrans have donated along with coffee. Many seminarians, priests, Serrans, and some of the University of Dallas students stop by to socialize with each other. Please remember the seminarians are young men, away from home and enjoy visiting with those who are grateful for their calling. They truly appreciate the attention given to them and our recognition of their special calling. It is an encouragement for them to see such support of their calling and that their path has a God given purpose.

After we Serrans and seminarians have gorged ourselves on goodies we are asked to leave at 11:00 AM. The lights are flashed on and off and we move out pretty fast. The reason for us having to leave is that the seminarians have to go eat lunch at 11:00. Ah, to be a teen or early twenty something again.

We leave the seminary with a very positive experience, we have a sense of peace and comfort for our drive home. We enjoy the ride in comfort as we reflect on the holy experience we just enjoyed.

If you wish to experience a rewarding and spiritual event, attend our Seminary Sunday Mass at Holy Trinity Seminary. It is part of our obligation to support vocations and attend this Mass. It truly is remarkable.

Submitted by: Ralph Armstrong

**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](mailto:hankhimmelberg@verizon.net)

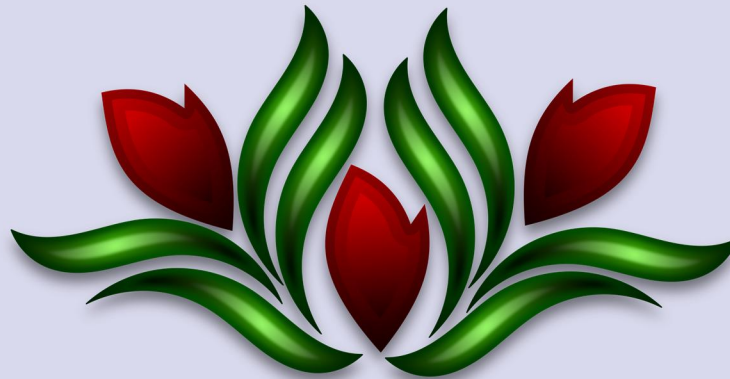
|      |                  |      |                  |
|------|------------------|------|------------------|
| 1st  | Jerry Hurster    | 18th | Rob Larriviere   |
| 1st  | Joan Heiting     | 18th | Ann Larriviere   |
| 1st  | Ed Johnson       | 19th |                  |
| 2nd  | Dick Park        | 20th | 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 |      |                  |

(cont from page 1) John Paul II High School

The future holds more growth potential for the school and students. The schools has to look at updating and building new in the next couple of years. The school has to evolve to teach students how to be resourceful and resilient. Be creative and innovative, and a smart person. Future employers are not so much looking the education but also do you have the skills? A challenge for the staff-how do we infuse that into every class? Coupled with a strong faith formation we will have developed those leaders. The second decade will be the best yet to come.

*Congratulations!*

Scott Johnson, senior at John Paul II High School, son of member Barbara and Richard Johnson and grandson of member Rita Parks, has been accepted to Holy Trinity Seminary in the fall of 2016. Scott's twin sister, Courtney, will be attending TCU since she can't follow her brother! Congratulations to Scott.



*The Serra Clubs of Dallas*  
*invite you to share in thankful celebration at the*  
*2016 Religious Women's Appreciation Lunch*  
*Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>*  
*2:00 pm – 4:30 pm*  
*St. Paul the Apostle Church Parish Center*  
*900 St. Paul Drive*  
*Richardson, Texas 75080*  
*For questions call Dennis Epping @ 972-839-6415*  
*dennisepping@att.net*