



Serra Mensajero

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Richardson, Texas

April 2017



College and Heaven

Dr. Matthew Vereecke has been the Superintendent of Catholic Schools since January 2016 for the Diocese of Dallas. Him and his wife Elizabeth came from Tulsa, OK where he was Director of Monte Cassino School. Dr. Vereecke is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, received his Master of Education through the University of Notre Dame ACE Program and an Executive Doctorate of Education from the University of Oklahoma.

There are two reasons he wants students to do well and it is for them to graduate and to get into heaven.

Since Bishop Burns has been appointed to the Diocese of Dallas, Dr. Vereecke and Bishop Burns have been traveling throughout the diocese visiting all the different schools. They spend about 2-3 hours at each school really interacting with the children. At one school, you could tell that the children had been prepped about who the Bishop was by the staff before his arrival. One little boy came up to him asked if he was the Shepherd and then asked where his stick was! As they were driving back to the offices from one visit, they stopped by Holy Trinity School unannounced. While visiting classrooms, the Bishop asked one class if they knew who he was. One little girl was going crazy, wanting to answer. The Bishop asked her who he was and she said the Pope! These stories help give a sense of who the Bishop is and what he is about.

Seminarians and schools are the two most important things for Bishop Burns.

In a perfect world, schools should be creating seminarians

and seminarians should be sustaining schools so they can create seminarians.

It has been taken for granted that Catholic schools would always be around and what their mission would be. In the 1960's there were 13,000 sites and 5.2 million children. Those schools were built with a free work force, having been built by religious nuns and priests for the most part and staffed by them. Now there are 1.9 million kids in about 6,500 sites. Fewer children and half the school buildings and the numbers are not slowing down. There were 14 new openings and 100 closings this school year. There is sustainability issues. Chicago had 25 schools open this school year without principals. They are the largest Catholic school system in the United States. In the Dallas greater areas (school systems like Dallas, Irving, Plano, Richardson areas) there are 294 private religious schools in just the big areas around here. That doesn't even include all the non-religious and charter schools for the elementary schools.

What is the mission of the Catholic school nowadays? What do they really mean? What are they doing to ultimately change lives? Trying to shed the complicated mission statements of the Catholic school. No more facts like testing scores, enrollment numbers, how many years the school has been a Blue Ribbon School. All the other private and public schools all have those facts. They all have the extras also like a top rated Athletic program, biggest gym, award winning food in the cafeteria. The mission of the Catholic school is to give every kid a chance to go to college and go to heaven.

your faith. If you give those two things to the youth, the everything else (spirituality, social, etc) will all fall into place.

Dr. Vereecke says to show him a school who is struggling for students, and he can show them how they are not following the idea of give every kid a chance to go to college and a chance to go to heaven.

The Catholic schools also need to be able to connect with families. Of course, the money for Catholic education is a problem for the average family.

There is no better way to form Catholic kids than through Catholic school. Dr. Vereecke is not saying Faith Formation classes offered by churches is not good, there are some great programs out there. The major drawback of Faith Formation classes is they only meet 25 times a year for an hour a week. Twenty five hours is not enough time to teach everything. Catholic school children are in the environment for 40 hours a week. Based on research, it is hard to keep people practicing their Catholic faith. The numbers increase if they went to Catholic schools. Is not great but it still is better than those numbers of who did not attend Catholic school and remain in the faith. If a child attends Catholic schools they are more likely to become an active member of your community, be a priest, or maybe a bishop in this country. The City of Boston is approximately 10% Hispanic enrollment. As Hispanics grow they are not increasing the enrollment at catholic schools. There is no connection between the families and the Catholic schools. In the Dallas Diocese, there are approximately 44% is Hispanic children. The schools in Dallas are making the connection. They are segregated by poverty. Both parents work,

Sunday, April 2
Mass with the Seminarians
9:15 a.m.
Holy Trinity Seminary

Sunday, April 16
Easter

Monday, April 17
Dinner Meeting
6:30 p.m. Program Starts
Canyon Creek Country Club

Wednesday, May 3
Installation Dinner
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

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

Saturday, May 20th
Transitional Diaconate Ordination
10 a.m. Cathedral of Guadalupe

Friday, June 2
1st Friday Mass, Breakfast
6:30 Dinner
Canyon Creek Country Club

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

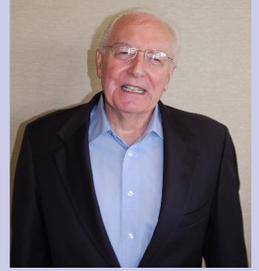
Editor: Marie Baert

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

Serra USA Council
www.serraus.org

The President's Focus...

VAP FUNDING



In the March Serra Mensajero Newsletter I wrote an article on the Vocation Awareness Program (VAP). VAP provides an opportunity for single adults 18 years and older to explore the possibility of a personal calling.

The article outlined:

- What Happens on VAP weekend?
- How is VAP Organized?
- How is VAP Funded?
- How Can You Help Ensure the Future of VAP?

I would like to emphasize the importance of your participation.

How is VAP Funded?

The VAP is entering a dynamically fresh phase. Most advertising and promotional activity this year will be electronic: Facebook and Google; a revised website www.vapinfo.org; videos plus many new links. There will be no 'Kick-Off' Brunch where historically hard copy material was distributed and personal donations were gathered.

North Central Dallas Serra Club Board of Trustees 2015-2016

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The VAP Steering Committee draft budget for 2017 indicates a potential deficit of \$4,000/\$5,000.

As a result, the Steering Committee is addressing the issue of increased growth and rising costs by exploring different opportunities that will ensure the VAP can continue to assist young adults in discerning their call to the priesthood or religious life.

How Can You Help Ensure the Future of VAP?

Contribute to annual VAP fundraising efforts by purchasing or selling 3 raffle books. N.C.D. assessment is \$75.00 per member in the Club. It is important that this is be addressed by each member of N.C.D. to raise the funds for our assessment by the VAP Steering Committee.

If you can contribute extra to the VAP Reserve Fund that check should be labeled VAP and enclosed in your pre-stamped envelope.

Pray for the success of the VAP

We need your participation to make the Vocation Awareness Program solvent.

The Serra Club of North Central Dallas has 48 members. Our assessment from the Vocation Awareness Committee is \$3,600 (48 X \$75.00). As of today we have received just \$1,150 from our membership. That means 15 members have sent in their VAP assessment. We need your participation to achieve goal.

Thank you for your participation.

Respectfully,

Bill Crowley, President

Your 2017/18 Board Nominations

Serra Club of North Central Dallas

	2017	2018		
President:	Jim	Duffy	469-777-3911	jpduffy320@gmail.com
President - Elect:				
Vice President, Programs:	Chris	Taylor	972-578-8847	ctaylor1029@tx.rr.com
Vice President, Vocations:	Kathi	Thompson	972-599-1060	kathi@kathithompson.com
Vice President, Membership:	Mike	Holmes	972-881-2327	mjholmes@gmail.com
Vice President, Communications:	Dawn	Epping	972-644-2311	denniaepping@att.net
Secretary:	Meg	Haerr	214-714-2821	meg.haerr@gte.net
Treasurer:	Peter	LaFave	972-618-0813	pcl711@verizon.net
Trustee (3rd yr.)	Peter	LaFave	972-618-0813	pcl711@verizon.net
Trustee (2nd yr.)	Mike	Holmes	972-881-2327	mjholmes@gmail.com
Trustee (1st yr.)	Den- nis	Epping	972-644-2311	dennisepping@att.net
Past President:	Bill	Crowley	972-231-5524	billcrowley1@att.net
V.P. Newsletter	Dawn	Epping	972-644-2311	denniaepping@att.net

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Rita Parks	4/1
Bill Condon	4/7
Lou Neeb	4/14

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Greg and Lisa McCurry	4/3
Greg and Ellen Mechler	3/12
Larry and Julie Montz	3/15



Holy Trinity North Central Dallas

April 2nd

Remember to bring those donuts!



PRAY FOR THE HEALING POWER OF GOD FOR:

Mary LaFave
Bernadette Johnson
Leo Heiting

In Memory of Colleen Baillargeon

Colleen Ganley Parro Baillargeon passed away on March 12, 2017. Colleen was born on January 3, 1940 in Evergreen Park, Illinois. Jr. She and Chuck raised their three children in Dallas. After moving to Dallas, Colleen began her career as an advocate for the pro-life cause. She worked tirelessly throughout her life to seek restoration of legal protection for the unborn. With this goal in mind, Colleen used her considerable energy and natural charisma to mobilize support and lobby both state and federal lawmakers to action. She was a delegate to every Texas Republican Party precinct, district and state convention between 1974 and 2008, serving on various resolutions committees and as State Convention Secretary. Colleen was an active member of Eagle Forum for forty years representing the organization as a lobbyist on Capitol Hill, and a founding member of Texans United for Life. From 1990 to 2010, she served as Executive Director of the Republican National Coalition for Life. Colleen was also a founding board member of the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation of Texas. Colleen is survived by her beloved husband and longtime friend Bob Baillargeon, whom she married in 2010, her children Sheila Parro Patrick and husband Pat, Brian Charles Parro and wife Lisa, Moira Parro Schilke, grandchildren Charlie, Jessica and Kate Patrick and Colleen and Conor Parro, and sister Sheila Andretich of Palos Heights, Illinois.

31 Club The 31 Club is a commitment by Ser-rans 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	Bruce Baumann	31st	Ron Kepner
14th	John Tromba		
15th	Don Simoneaux		
15th	Warren Schneider		
16th	Hank Himmelberg		
17th	John Fitzpatrick		



The Serra Club of North Central Dallas
invite you to share in the annual
2016 Installation of Officers and Members Dinner
Wednesday, May 3, 2017
6:30 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
2700 Spring Creek Parkway, Plano
To RSVP: Kathi@kathithompson.com

You can park by the main sanctuary of the church and enter the building to the left of the main sanctuary under the covered walk way.

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worried about where the money is coming from to pay just the normal day to day bills but they want the Catholic education for their schools. Families are having to make choices- who should we risk in the public school system. It is terrible that families have to choose what kids to risk in a school they don't want to think is a safe environment.

Dignity of students is so important. Prayer is important. St. Paul School is a great example of how important faith is in the day to day environment of the students. A student is going through a long term health issue and before she left school for a kidney transplant, the students and staff were able to gather, lift that family up in prayer, share their concerns as a school family. A student body would never be able to do this in a public school

There are areas that are not doing so well. Children with special needs need more resources. As Catholics, we would never say "Oh let's stop funding Catholic charities". Well, Dr. Vereecke says we are basically doing that when we stop funding programming in different areas. Catholic schools shouldn't say they can't have a certain program because it costs too much. We have to be there for those families.

Graduation Hispanic male 40% will graduate in Dallas. Catholic school for grade school those kids are graduating 98% of the time. Donations are making 6 extra kids graduate every time. Good for Dallas and for those families.

There is a new program which should help a lot of families. Tuition is based on 7.5% of their income to help define affordability, families need to make payments. This could cause a new problem which is adding seats to the school system. There are 1.8 million Catholics in the Dallas Diocese and 31 school sites (K-8). St Louis has approximately 500,000 Catholics and 176 school sites. We have to remember to keep the students first.