



# Serra Mensajero

Volume 31 Issue 12

Richardson, Texas

December 2016

**MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDARS**

**Friday, December 2**  
1st Friday Mass, Breakfast  
6:30 a.m.  
St. Mark's Catholic Church

**Sunday, December 4**  
Serra Club Christmas Party

**Sunday, December 25**  
Birth of Jesus

**Sunday, January 1**  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

**Friday, January 6**  
1st Friday Mass, Breakfast  
6:30 a.m.  
St. Mark's Catholic Church  
Breakfast location to be announced

**Monday, January 16**  
Monthly Dinner Meeting  
6:30 Dinner  
Canyon Creek Country Club

**Sunday, January 29**  
Holy Trinity Mass with  
Seminarians  
9:15 a.m.  
Holy Trinity Seminary

**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  
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North Central Dallas  
Serra Club  
[www.ncdserraclub.com](http://www.ncdserraclub.com)

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

## THE HOPE OF THE FLOCK

Bruce Baumann is the Director of Faith Formation at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Plano. He received his Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN and has been involved in professional youth ministry for twenty years. He has been happily married for 24 years to Wendy. Their son Bryce is in his first year at Holy Trinity Seminary and their daughter Blair is a senior at Plano Senior High School.

Bruce started by thanking Serra for all the good work the members do to support religious vocations. He is seeing a huge impact on the parishes in the area. An example he used was to pull out a postcard he found from 2004-2005 which featured approximately 12 Dallas Diocese seminarians. This year, the poster advertising the diocese seminarians have over 60 young men pictured this year. This is definitely a positive sign-hope for the future, Hope of the Flock.

Quantity is important but more importantly, quality. Bruce works with second year seminarians at Holy Trinity teaching a youth ministry course. This is his third year teaching this course to the seminarians.

These seminarians are smart. Quite a few of them turned down scholarships (in some cases, full rides) to other colleges to attend Holy Trinity and answer God's call. They will inspire us, encourage us, we will want to follow them states Bruce. In September most of us attended the dinner "Hope of

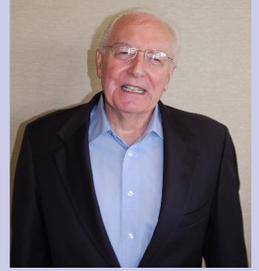
the Flock". That is what Bruce sees. In 2002 when the family moved down from St. Paul, MN, religious vocations in the Dallas Diocese looked pretty bleak. In the St. Paul diocese, there were 800,000 Catholics. There was a vocational renaissance. Sixteen young men were ordained in one year. There was a smaller Catholic population. At that point, the Dallas diocese had about one ordained every other year sometimes in a diocese of nearly a million Catholics at that time. Then Bishop Farrell asked us constantly to pray for vocations.

Every day God calls all of us to different things. We need to pray for God's will in our life for that day. You never know what He is calling you to. Bruce grew up in a household that didn't encourage that listening to God. The family signed up for faith formation, went to weekly mass, but didn't talk about God, only prayed one time a year before dinner, which happened to be Thanksgiving at a cousin's house. The family didn't have the kind of foundation to ask what God what he wanted for them.

He earned a degree in urban planning after high school. Right out of college, Bruce got a job working in South Dakota. He enjoyed it but there wasn't a deeper call for him. Eventually a youth director position came available in the parish where he was volunteering. The priest said the bishop was coming next week and he wants to meet with you. Bruce was thinking, who is he that the bishop would want to talk to him? He needed

formal theologian training. He wasn't ready but kept the idea in the back of his mind. It eventually came time to move on after Wendy graduated from college. She actually landed a job first in suburban Minneapolis first and he was still applying for jobs in urban development. Bruce was hesitant to go into ministry jobs even with praying. There was one woman motivated him to change his mind. Whoopi Goldberg changed his mind in her role in Sister Act II. She was posing as a nun and is a choir teacher at the local school. Whoopi's character is "counseling" a student that wants to be a singer and helping her discern the future since the student's mother did not want her following in her dad's bad footsteps in theater. "How do I know what God's will is" the student asks. Whoopi answers her by saying when you wake up in the morning and all you can think of is singing, then that is what God is calling you to. He then earned his Master's degree and started a youth ministry career.

Be open to God's will. So many people ask young people in high school, college "What do you want to be when you graduate". Instead we should be asking them what is God calling you to? Are you seeking God's will? We are focused on what we want to do in whatever profession we sight our sights on, but how can you use your skills to build up the Kingdom of God? Getting the families to release their hopes and dreams for their children is harder than the children hearing God.

*The President's Focus...***ADVENT****Opening Prayer**

O Lord our God, you have made us and this beautiful world in which we live. As we celebrate this advent season we pray that you enter into our lives more fully. Bring to us a peace that overcomes any doubt. Let us know the true meaning of waiting and understand the great love given to us through your incarnation. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scripture**

"In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." (Luke 1:26-35)

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**Introduction**

The season of advent resets the clocks and calendars of Christian worship and calls us to a new beginning. We once again begin the rhythms of community and embrace the themes that make the Christian journey so rich.

**Documentary Tradition**

Advent is the first season of the Church year. It is a four-week time period that blends together a penitential spirit, a liturgical theme of preparation for the Second Coming, and a joyful attitude of getting ready for the birth of Christ. It is a season of great hope and expectation.

These blended themes are a summary of the lectionary readings. The scripture passages for the first half of advent speaks to us of hope for the future. They emphasize being alert and *watching* for the Lord's coming since the time of his coming is not known. The readings for the second half of advent focus on the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, where God's promise to his people was fulfilled in the act of being born into the human family.

The movement from watching for the glory of God to seeing the glory manifest in the Christ child arouses our imagination and awareness. We are invited to a mature expectation of the Lord's coming into our own lives. As Christians, we celebrate what already is, while standing in expectation of what is yet to be revealed. In essence, the reign of God is already among us but is not yet made manifest in its fullness. This waiting and watching clears a space in our hearts and souls that opens us to see the mysteries of God show themselves in the joy of the advent season. During this time we learn that how we wait and watch for the Lord is as important as learning how to meet him.

"When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

*Bill Crowley, President*

Dear Mr. William Crowley,  
 Thank you for helping to make it possible  
 for me to attend St. Mary's School. I  
 really enjoy coming here a lot more than to  
 a public school. You have made so many  
 of my dreams start to become possible.

May God return to you  
 the kindness you have shown to me.

Thank You

Love,  
 Alicia  
 Bundica

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down,  
 and shaken together, and running over.  
 LUKE 6:38 KJV

Thank you note from a student for the gift of money donated by Serra Club of North Central Dallas in honor of then Bishop Farrell.

**More Seminarrians!**  
 Redemptoris Mater has recently added two new seminarrians. They are:

Ismael Arbizo, from Orange, California, DOB: February 15, expected ordination year 2028

Esteban Alaman Gilabert, from Xativa, Valencia, Spain, DOB August 5, expected ordination year 2028.

This is outstanding news. There are now 30 seminarrians in formation at Redemptoris Mater (and 38 Diocesan seminarrians).

**UPCOMING SPEAKERS**

January Fr. Tom Cloherty  
 February Fr. Randy Gibbens  
 March Matthew Vereceke

**PRAY FOR THE HEALING POWER OF GOD FOR:**

Mary LaFave  
 Bernadette Johnson  
 Leo Heiting  
 Jerry Hurster



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Vince Ahem 12/7  
 Mary Krause 12/9  
 Warren Schneider 12/27

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Bill and Kathy Crowley 12/4  
 Tom and Belle Marie Demarest 12/19

**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](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	Bruce Baumann	31st	Ron Kepner
14th	John Tromba		
15th	Don Simoneaux		
15th	Warren Schneider		
16th	Hank Himmelberg		
17th	John Fitzpatrick		

**Holy Trinity North Central Dallas Dates**

January 29th

April 2nd

Remember to bring those donuts!



**HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY**

**ADDRESS**

**HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY  
 3131 VINCE HAGAN DRIVE  
 IRVING, TX 75062**

Vince Hagan Drive is located on the southbound frontage road of Hwy. 114 between Rochelle Drive and Tom Braniff Dr.

# SERRA CLUB ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>. 3 to 6 pm

Home of Don & Carolyn Simoneaux  
3201 Melanie Lane Plano, TX 75023  
Ph: 972-618-2928



Please bring a side dish to share Salad, Vegetable, Desert, or other. Main courses will be provided, As will Wine, Beer, and Beverages.



## SEMINARIAN SIGHTINGS DURING THANKSGIVING BREAK



Fr. John Szatkowski @FrJohnSz · Nov 24

Concelebrated Thanksgiving Mass at Seton in Plano! Awesome to have one of my students serving! @brycebaumann\_



Bryce Bauman, left, served as an acolyte at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Parker Thompson and Scott Johnson (above) served as acolytes at St. Mark's. The Hope of the Flock!!!

## MAKES YOU STOP AND THINK

The stats come from **CARA**, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate:

-Average age for priests graduating in the Class of 2016:  
35 years; 66% Caucasian; 14% Hispanic

-Half of these men attended a Catholic elementary school

-41% attended a Catholic high school

-52% reported some type of full time work experience prior to entering the seminary

-70% were altar servers

-73% regularly prayed the Rosary and participated in Eucharistic adoration



-most were about 17 years old when they first considered priesthood

-70% were encouraged about a vocation by a priest

-51% were discouraged from a religious vocation by one or more persons

-five percent served in the military (45% of those, Navy)

-35% of those surveyed have a relative who is a priest or religious

-42% participated in a "Come and See" weekend (like our VAP)

-11% took part in a high school or college vocation program

-70% saw the VHS movie, Fishers of Men

The survey drew responses from 140 dioceses and 32 religious congregations.

