



Serra Mensajero

Volume 33 Issue 1

Richardson, TX

January 2018

Upcoming Events

Friday, January 5

First Friday Mass & Breakfast
12:30 pm – St. Elizabeth Ann
Seton

Monday, January 15

Dinner meeting; 6:30 pm
Andy Zihlman, Bishop Lynch
High School
Canyon Creek Country Club

Friday, February 2

First Friday Mass & Breakfast
12:30 pm – St. Elizabeth Ann
Seton

Monday, February 19

Dinner meeting; 6:30 pm
Fr. Joshua Whitfield, St. Rita
Canyon Creek Country Club

Friday, March 2

First Friday Mass & Breakfast
12:30 pm – St. Elizabeth Ann
Seton

Monday, March 19

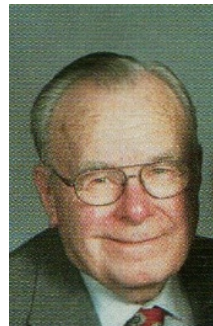
Dinner meeting; 6:30 pm
Bill Keffler, Diocese of Dallas
Canyon Creek Country Club

Friday, April 6

First Friday Mass & Breakfast
12:30 pm – St. Elizabeth Ann
Seton

Monday, April 16

Dinner meeting; 6:30 pm
Greg Schwietz
Canyon Creek Country Club



William T. Higgins

Today we received the news that our fellow Serran, Bill Higgins, passed away yesterday, December 31, 2017. Arrangements are pending and will be sent as soon as they are received.

While we are saddened by our loss, we know that his faith was strong and his Mary was waiting for him. As stated by other members upon hearing of his death, while Bill was an active member, he was always one to volunteer when there was a need and will be missed.

On a personal note, I always found Bill and Mary Higgins to be true examples of humility, marital love, commitment, and quiet faith. They did not serve for accolades or recognition, but could be counted on for a gentle smile and helping hand.

What do Serra clubs do?

Serra Clubs work with their Bishops, Dioceses and Religious Vocation Directors to encourage and support vocations to the Priesthood and to the Religious Life.

Serra activities include attending meetings with speakers focusing on topics of importance for Catholics and on vocations. In addition to participating in many group activities, Serra members do noteworthy work on their own time, affirming seminarians, priests and religious.

In summary, Serrans are dedicated Catholics who pray for the increase and perseverance of vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life. Serrans also encourage others to pray for vocations during various parish or diocesan activities. Example of these events include the "31 Prayer Clubs", attending an extra Mass each month for vocations, or praying for vocations on a daily basis. *From www.SerraUS.org*

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

Editor: Dawn Epping
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Visit these Serra web sites

North Central Dallas Serra Club
www.ncdserraclub.com

Serra USA Council
www.serraus.org

President's Monthly Message

Jim Duffy



St Junipero Serra Chapel
Old Mission San Juan Capistrano

Here's wishing everyone a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. May we all strive to continue to live up to the Mission of the Serra Club of North Central Dallas as expressed on our website :

Our Mission

- 1. † To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support priests in their sacred ministry
- † To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church
- † To assist our members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

<u>President</u> Jim Duffy
<u>V.P. Programs</u> Chris Taylor
<u>V.P. Vocations</u> Kathi Thompson
<u>V.P. Membership</u> Marie Baert
<u>V.P. Communications</u> Dawn Epping
<u>Treasurer</u> Pete LaFave
<u>Secretary</u> Meg Haerr
<u>Trustees</u> Peter LaFave (3 Yr) Larry Montz (2 Yr) Dennis Epping (1Yr)
<u>Past President</u> Bill Crowley
<u>Newsletter Editor</u> Dawn Epping
<u>Chaplain</u> Rev. Chris Schroeder, SJ

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

Ed & Bernadette Johnson
Tom Demarest
Hank & Kathy Himmelberg
Jerry Hurster
Leo Heiting

January Anniversaries

Dennis and Dawn Epping 7
Mark and Lisa Venincasa 19

January Birthdays

Paul Ficalora	9	Kathi Thompson	22
Dan O'Connell	11	Ralph Armstrong	24
Greg McCurry	14	Tony Schmidt	26
Barbra Johnson	19		

Editor's Page

Humility

The Rule of Benedict written in the 6th century, a direct and clear guide for a spiritual life, defines twelve rungs on the ladder to humility. Over the last several months, we have covered:

- the first rung, to acknowledge God's presence in our lives and to remember that our actions and thoughts are always in his view,
- the second rung, to follow God's will,
- the third rung, to submit to spiritual authority through obedience,
- the fourth rung, to quietly endure our burdens,
- the fifth rung, to confess our sins to our spiritual authority,
- the sixth rung, to be content without glory or attention, and
- the seventh rung, to be self-effacing and recognize our inferiority to others.

The Rule of Benedict continues:

"The eighth step of humility is that we do only what is endorsed by the common rule of the monastery and the example set by the prioress or abbot."¹

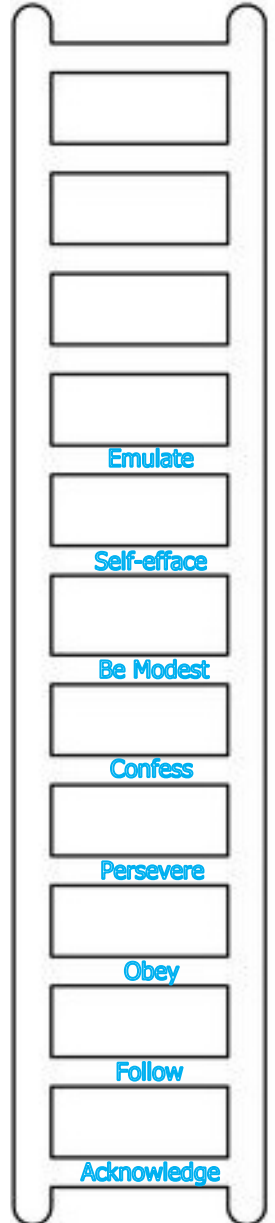
This is another rung of St. Benedict's ladder of humility that in the strict reading does not apply to those of us who live a lay life, but Sister Joan Chittister explains:

"... The eighth degree of humility tells us to stay in the stream of life, to learn from what has been learned before us, to value the truths taught by others, to seek out wisdom and enshrine it in our hearts. The eighth degree of humility tells us to attach ourselves to teachers so that we do not make the mistake of becoming our own blinds guides. ...

Our living communities have a great deal to teach us. All we need is respect for experience and the comforting kind of faith that it takes to do what we cannot now see to be valuable, but presume to be holy because we see the holiness that is produced in those who have gone before us in the family and the church."

I am inspired by the Serrans that I have known since I joined over twenty years ago, including Bill Higgins. One of my resolutions for 2018 will be to emulate these faith-filled individuals.

Dawn



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

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

¹ The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century by Joan Chittister, OSB, Crossroad Publishing Company, 2010