



Serra Mensajero

Volume 31 Issue 7

Richardson, Texas

July 2016



Sister Denise Thompson, Consecrated Virgin

From South Philly

Vocation started at home. Parents were nominal in practicing their faith. Went to Mass during the school year because the nuns demanded to know where you were if you weren't there. In the summers, they went to the shore where they owned a boat.

Parents gave her a tremendous gift of a Catholic education. Attended Catholic school for all 12 years. Catholic education was what helped form who she became.

Dad was truck driver, got all the way through 3rd grade. Read all three Philly newspapers and was smarter than she was.

Mom was stay at home mom and they lived with grandparents.

St. John Neumann lived at that parish at one time.

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia formed with St. John Neumann. Foundress of order was staunch German. Work was education and nursing.

Remember going to school to register at age of 5. Met the 1st grade nun, Sister St. Hugh, from Ireland. She picked Sister Denise up and said "We are going to have such a great year." It started from there. Sisters were approachable, invited children to be around them. Helped the children understand who nuns were and what their mission was.

Priest and Superior General of nuns would ask a classroom full of students "who in here is going to become a priest, who is going to become a sister."

Nine girls in her class and two went into consecrated life.

Kids were the custodian staff of this small poor parish. Gave the children another look into the lives of the nuns and observe the nuns.

Sisters just had a different way about them.

Sisters made themselves available. Knew early on she wanted to be part of this. Believed this is where God was calling her. Don't be afraid to listen to Him. Stop and listen for the quiet that is God. Being told that as a 7 year old left a big impression on her.

Youngest brother was 6 when her mom died suddenly. Put her life on hold which was no regrets to help raise her brother and help her dad. Dad was able to be dependable.

When she approached her dad regarding her decision to become a nun, he said he didn't know if he ever had any dreams or goals and if he did, he don't know if he ever met them. If this is your dream then you have my permission and blessing.

Joined The Community of God's Delight when she moved here in the 1980's

Discovered more information about the consecrated life. 1989 met with the bishop at the time. Regarding being a Consecrated Virgin. At the time there were about 50 in the entire United States. Now there are between six and seven hundred in the Dallas area. Three live here and one is in medical school in Nebraska.

Wouldn't be here in the life she live if it hadn't been for the priests or superior general constantly asking who was going to be a priest or a sister. She asks that question a lot of her kids she teaches.

Give them the opportunity to learn how to listen.

Friday, July 1

1st Friday Mass

6:30 a.m.

St. Mark's Catholic Church

7:15 a.m.

Breakfast

Poor Richards Cafe

Friday, July 1

St. Junipero Serra Feast Day

June 30-July 3

Serra International Convention

St. Louis, MO

Monday, July 18

Monthly Dinner Meeting

6:30 Dinner

Canyon Creek Country Club

Friday, August 5

1st Friday Mass, Breakfast

6:30 a.m.

St. Mark's Catholic Church

Monday, August 15

Monthly Dinner Meeting

6:30 Dinner

Canyon Creek Country Club

Friday, September 2

1st Friday Mass, Breakfast

6:30 a.m.

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.serra.us.org

President's Focus**Who We Are****Junipero Serra Feast Day, July 1st.**

Not only because of his place in American history as the founder of a chain of missions in Mexico and California, but also because of his life of priestly zeal and heroic virtue, Fray Junipero Serra, OFM, was chosen as the patron of our apostolate. This gifted Franciscan friar had occupied the Duns Scotus chair of philosophy in Mallorca, Spain, until he felt the call to commit himself further to the service of Christ as a missionary in the New World. Departing from Cadiz, Spain, in 1748, he made the perilous crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in a small ship, landing at Veracruz on the southern shore of the Gulf of Mexico. From there, he journeyed on foot to Mexico City, where tradition has it that he prayed at the church built over the famous site where the Virgin of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531.

Fray Junipero Serra was transferred to the Sierra Gorda region at his own request, and was appointed President of the those who spend and consume themselves for the salvation of souls.

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Sierra Gorda missions in 1751. After nine years, he was asked to undertake his missionary work some 1,200 km away on the Pacific coast of the North American continent, much of the time suffering with an ulcerated leg. Fr. Serra and his fellow Franciscan friars eventually established a chain of missions in Alta California and worked tirelessly to bring Christ to the indigenous peoples. After a lengthy period of missionary activity, Fr. Serra died in 1774 at the San Carlos Borroméo de Carmelo Mission, in Carmel, California, U.S.A. his favorite mission.

Despite the fact that, during his time as a missionary, Father Serra had very little involvement with promoting priestly vocations, today it can only be considered providential that a holy priest who demonstrated such zeal for the salvation of souls would be chosen as the patron of our global vocations apostolate, considering that the primary focus of its work is fostering and promoting vocations to the holy priesthood and to supporting the sacred ministry of priests, those who spend and consume themselves for the salvation of souls.

Join us July 1st. (First Friday) The Feast Day of Junipero Serra at St. Mark's 6:30 am Mass then to Poor Richards for Breakfast

Thank you for all you do for Serra.

Bill Crowley

Upcoming Speaker

July: Sister Gloria Cain - former Superintendent of schools.

An Inside Look of a Bishop-Elect

As faithful readers of this newsletter you know I am just the editor and do an editing job. I do not write articles. This article called my name. I have had a unique view of Bishop Elect David Konderla of Tulsa during the last several months after the announcement was made by Pope Francis. Fr. Konderla was the pastor at A&M St. Mary's Parish. That is not how I know him. I don't even know him. I know his sister, brother in law and nephew. His one nephew, Simon, attended St. Paul School with my son from Kindergarten through 8th grade. Simon's mom is one of Bishop Konderla's 11 siblings. With social media being what it is nowadays and some people don't even realize all the ways we connect with friends and family on the internet, I have been connected to this family through his sister. Trish has always talked and shared on social media her faith, her family and her life. The sadness felt by this family when their mother passed away several years ago, the emotional turmoil during this time that she hasn't been physically with the family has been felt very deeply. I have also watched the "public" side of the path of Bishop Konderla since his sister shares every public announcement, video and articles about her brother. To see the family's point of view, I have shared a few pictures from the private side of their joy. The public stories shared how the Bishop's brother, a jeweler, made his Bishop's ring from their mother's gold in her wedding ring. The two jewels in the ring are his parent's birthstones because they were the foundation for his faith, the first teachers of his love of God. I have received permission from my friend to use the "private" pictures. The Bishop received the offertory during the Mass from his 11 brothers and sister, then went and hugged their dad. I know personally how much they all missed their mom especially at that point.



The Bishop's Ring Arrives



What does a Bishop Elect spend his morning two days before the big event? Cook breakfast for his sister, brother in law and nephew of course!



Then.....

.....and Now

And where does a Bishop live?



FREQUENTLY REQUESTED CHURCH STATISTICS

From The Cara Report vol. 21 No. 1 Summer 2015

	1965	1975	1985	1995	2005	2015
Diocesan priests	35,925	36,005	35,052	32,349	28,702	25,868
Priestly ordinations	994	771	533	511	454	515
Parishes	17,637	18,515	19,244	19,331	18,891	17,337
Without a resident Priest	549	702	1,051	2,161	3,251	
Catholic population	45.6m	48.7m	52.3m	57.4m	64.8m	68.1m
Percent of US population	24%	23%	23%	23%	23%	21%

Wine Gathering

Consider bringing a bottle or two of wine to stock the Wine Pull for the Seminarian Dinner to First Friday Mass or the July or August dinner meeting!



NEW MEMBER

Please make sure to make our newest member, Lee Ann Williams. Lee Ann is a member of the McKinney Chapter. Welcome!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Hank Himmelberg 2nd
Peter LaFave 11th
Mike Holmes 22nd

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Bill and Bonnie Larsen 7th
Jim and Linda O'Malley 22nd
Ed and Bernadett Johnson 31st

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		

1st Friday Breakfast July 1, 2016

Poor Richards Café
 2442 K Ave. Plano, TX. 75074
 972- 423-1424

If you have never been there its listed as one of the breakfast places (inexpensive).

Poor Richards Cafe is located on the S.E. Corner of Ave. K

PRAY FOR THE HEALING POWER OF GOD FOR:

Mary LaFave
 Katy Warren
 Tom DeMarest

PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:

Deacon Louis Munoz M.D.

Art LaVerne

Sandy Harrison

Butch Copeland

SEMINARY LATEST UPDATES

Annual Spes Gregis Seminarian Dinner is Friday, September 23rd. Please let Bill Crowley know if you plan to attend so the Serra table or tables can be organized. If you are unable to attend and would like to make a donation here is the link: <http://www.holytrinityseminary.org/#!spes-gregis-dinner/cww7>

The Seminary is also looking for volunteer help, underwriters and sponsors: **Volunteer or Questions about Underwriting and Advertising**, please contact us at 972/438-2212 or info@holytrinityseminary.org.

Spes Gregis

SEMINARIAN DINNER
WITH CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN

- KEYNOTE SPEAKER -

SEPTEMBER 23

HILTON ANATOLE
CHANTILLY BALLROOM

FOR RESERVATIONS
972.438.2212
WWW.HOLYTRINITYSEMINARY.ORG
INFO@HOLYTRINITYSEMINARY.ORG

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED



The Holy Trinity Auxiliary is collecting items to fill the seminarian welcome baskets to be given to each Seminarian in August. The needs are: Postage Stamps, Walmart Gift Cards, #10 Envelopes, Black Socks, Post-it note pads or cash donations payable to Holy Trinity Trinitarian Auxiliary.

