



Serra Mensajero

Volume 32 Issue 7

Richardson, TX

July 2017

Upcoming Events

Friday, July 7

First Friday Mass & Breakfast
6:30 am - St. Mark's Church
Breakfast following at
Norma's on 15th Street, Plano

Saturday, July 15

Serran Day of Reflection
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Montserrat Retreat House

Monday, July 17

Dinner meeting
Bryon McKnight, DDS
6:30 pm
Canyon Creek Country Club

Friday, August 4

First Friday Mass & Breakfast
6:30 am
St. Mark's Catholic Church

Monday, August 21

Dinner meeting
Fr. Bruce Bradley
6:30 pm
Canyon Creek Country Club

Friday, September 1

First Friday Mass & Breakfast
6:30 am
St. Mark's Catholic Church

Monday, September 18

Dinner meeting
Andy Zihlman
6:30 pm
Canyon Creek Country Club

Remember the seminarians and staff at Holy Trinity Seminary pictured below in your prayers.



Seminarian Dinner

Friday, October 20, 2017

6pm Reception ~ 7pm Dinner and Program

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

The President's Focus

Random Information about Serra

I have been spending some time on the Serra USA website (Serraus.org) and found that time to be a wonderful refresher regarding who we are and who we Serrans should be. The following is taken directly from information on the website.

Objectives: At the time of Serra's formation in 1935, there were two great needs for the Church. First, to support dedicated priests and the religious. Also to bring together informed Catholic lay leaders who understood and lived their own Christian vocations to service. These needs have not changed.

The objectives of Serra are:

To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood of the Catholic Church, as a particular vocation to service and to support priests in their sacred ministry.

Also, to encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church.

Finally, to assist members to recognize and respond in their own lives, to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

General Membership Requirements:

Serra club members shall:

Be practicing Catholic lay men or women or permanent deacons.

Be willing and able to assume the attendance, membership and financial obligations of a Serran, as outlined in the Serra International Bylaws.

Reside or work within the territorial limits of the club.

Have the ability and willingness to grow in Serra, both intellectually and spiritually.

Have the essential motivation or contribute actively to the work of Serra and the fulfillment of its purpose.

Have a marked potential for Christian leadership as demonstrated by their interest in a devotion to the problems of the church and community in the world today.

Don't forget the Serran Day of Reflection Saturday, July 15th. Register on line at Monerratretreat.org/serran

Jim Duffy

President
Jim Duffy

V.P. Programs
Chris Taylor

V.P. Vocations
Kathi Thompson

V.P. Membership
Marie Baert

V.P. Communications
Dawn Epping

Treasurer
Pete LaFave

Secretary
Meg Haerr

Trustees
Peter LaFave (3 Yr)

Mike Holmes (2 Yr)

Dennis Epping (1Yr)

Past President
Bill Crowley

Newsletter Editor
Dawn Epping

Chaplain
Rev. Chris
Schroeder, SJ

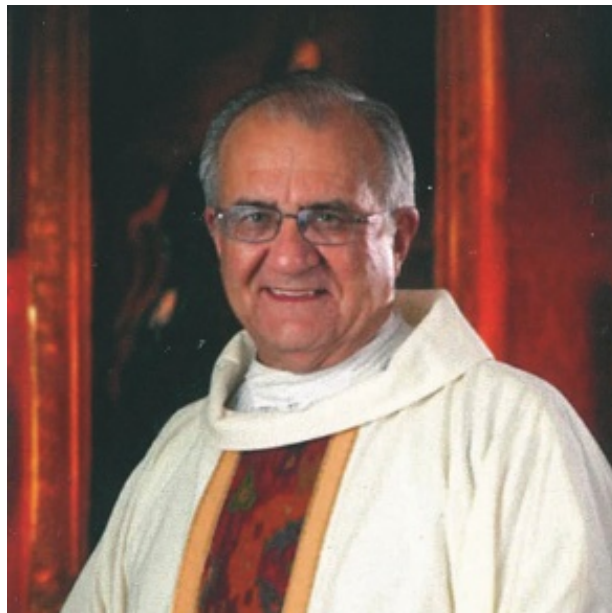
PRAY FOR THE HEALING POWER OF GOD FOR:	July Anniversaries	July Birthdays
Bernadette Johnson	Bill and Bonnie Larsen 7	Hank Himmelberg
Leo Heiting	Jim and Linda O'Malley 22	Mary McGraw
	Ed and Bernadette Johnson 31	Pete LaFave
	Jerry and Marty Hurster 20	Mike Holmes

Reflections from 52 Years of Priestly Service to the Diocese of Dallas

The room at the Canyon Creek Country Club for our June dinner meeting was filled with laughter as Monsignor Leon Duesman regaled us with stories of his years of parish service in Ennis, Richardson, Plano, Dallas, Garland, Coppell and Frisco. He told us of being ordained in 1965 well trained in the Latin mass only to arrive at his first assignment to a congregation that was used to masses in their native Czech language and the infant baptism that required his quick thinking to perform the rite as expected. He also shared how the task of driving bus at his first assignment became a part of his parish duties throughout his priesthood, including ski trips, youth camp trips, school day trips to Bishop Lynch high school and CYO trips to Six Flags over Texas.

While Monsignor Duesman spoke of the additional resources for priests being ordained today to prepare them for parish service, he and his brother, Monsignor Jerome Duesman, were born into a family with a heritage for religious life, including their uncle, late Diocese of Dallas Bishop Thomas Tschoepe. He shared the early words of wisdom that guided him through his various parishes, many of which were established shortly before his arrival: "A priest's mission encompasses belonging to the Body of Christ, loving the Body of Christ and serving the Body of Christ." With combined religious service of 101 years, he told us that one of his remaining goals is for their years of service to exceed those of the Weinzapfel brothers, the late Monsignor Thomas Weinzapfel and Father Joseph Weinzapfel.

He ended with a joke about a squirrel that had a moral message that you are what you eat, which as Catholics means that we should embody Christ after we receive the Eucharist.



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

Editor's Page

Humility

The Rule of Benedict, written in the 6th century, a direct and clear guide for a spiritual life, defines the path to humility as:

"... if we want to reach the highest summit of humility, if we desire to attain speedily that heavenly exaltation to which we climb by the humility of this present life, then by our ascending actions we set up that ladder on which Jacob in a dream saw "angels descending and ascending" (Genesis 28:12)."¹

St. Benedict outlines twelve rungs on the ladder to humility. The first rung, which was covered last month, is to acknowledge God's presence in our lives and to remember that our actions and thoughts are always in his view.

"The second step of humility is that we love not our own will nor take pleasure in the satisfaction of our desires; rather we shall imitate by our actions that saying of Christ's: 'I have not come to do my own will, but the will of the One who sent me' (John 6:38) Similarly we read: 'Consent merits punishment; constraint wins a crown.'"

Sister Joan Chittister in her reflection of the Rule of Benedict tells us that when we understand that God should be the focus of our lives and that we are nothing without Him, it is only natural that the next step is to follow His will. The difficulty can be in determining His will. She writes:

"... How do we recognize the will of God? How do we tell the will of God from our own? How do we know when to resist the tide and confront the opposition and when to embrace the pain and accept the bitterness because 'God wills it for us?' The answer lies in the fact that the Jesus who said, 'I have not come to do my own will, but the will of the One who sent me' is also the Jesus who prayed in Gethsemane, 'Let this chalice pass from me.' The will of God for us is what remains of a situation after we try without stint and pray without ceasing to change it."

I find that each time I recite the Our Father, I am reminded of the first rung in St. Benedict's ladder of humility as I pray:

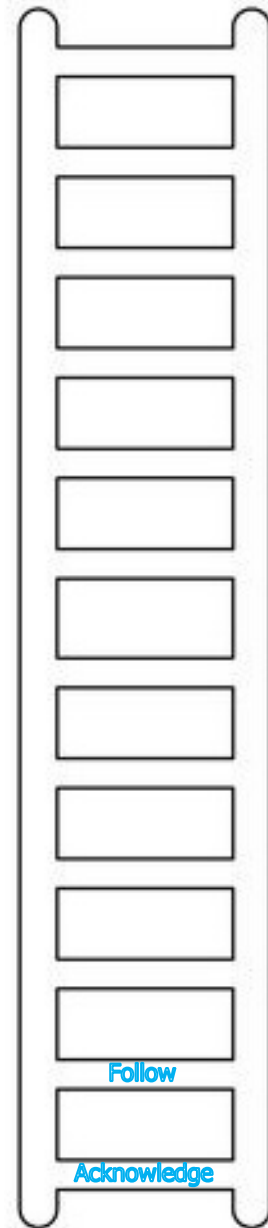
Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name

and the second rung, by the next:

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.

May we be filled with God's peace over the next month.

Dawn



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