



Serra Mensajero

Volume 32 Issue 2

Richardson, Texas

March 2017



- Wednesday, March 1st**
Lent Starts
- Friday, March 3rd**
1st Friday Mass, Breakfast
6:30 a.m.
St. Mark's Catholic Church
- Monday, March 20th**
Monthly Dinner Meeting
6:30 Dinner
Canyon Creek Country Club
- Sunday, April 2**
Mass with the Seminarians
9:15 a.m.
Holy Trinity Seminary
- Sunday, April 16**
Easter
- 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 Guadeloupe
- Friday, June 2**
1st Friday Mass, Breakfast

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

Fr. Randy Gibbens Providence Vocation Director

Fr. Randy Gibbens is a 1995 Jesuit High School in Louisiana graduate and comes from a family of attorneys. Fr. Randy went to A&M Texas to study Agronomy (soil scientist). While at college, he had a normal college experience-went to church weekly, fraternity life, intermural games, tennis club. After college he obtained a job working for a golf course. His company had a job in the Dominican Republic and he was sent there because his Spanish was so good. While there, it was his first time to really see the harsh poverty they experience. It was a time of deep questioning, pondering subjects like how some people have so much and some have so little. He was touched and moved by the humility and faith these people had in their lives. He spent many hours praying and reflecting about all of this.

During his time in the Dominican Republic he spent time talking to one of his cousins who had been an attorney and left that profession to become a Jesuit priest seven years before. Upon his return to the States, Fr. Randy entered the Jesuit formation in 2004 and was ordained in 2014. Fr Randy was the oldest in the incoming class that year. The seven young men that started with him was just out of college and Fr. Randy was 26 years old. His first year as a Jesuit priest, he was assigned to Yoro, Honduras which he found to be a jackpot. It was a dream come true for a new priest-baptisms, marriages, celebrating the Eucharist, burying the dead. There was four priests that split the 250 villages between them. It was a walk; horse/donkey ride or car drive to get all his villages (do the circuit as he called it). He found that God was very much present in the villages.

He was named the vocation pro-

motor for the Central and Southern providence of Jesuits. In this position he is the 1st line of communication to those young men thinking of a religious vocation. Once they feel like they are ready to apply, then he passes them to the vocation director The vocation director is like the gate keeper. Fr. Randy is the traveling sales person!

There are many things young men have to go through before they are accepted in the program. They have to write a spiritual biography, have five references and pass a two-day psychologic test among other things.

Fr. Randy has been on the job 7 months. In the past year there has been 330 inquiries received regarding Jesuit life (interested about learning more through email or referral). It has trickled down to be about seventy young men he is working with at the present time. The other 260 are tire kickers, non-starters. Some might be too old (over 40 unless there is a special circumstance), some guys have psychological problems, some just fade off.

He walks with those 70 guys, screening them, getting to know them on a deeper level and them getting to know Jesuits. He doesn't want anyone rushed into making a decision. It has to be his decision. Something the young man chooses freely.

When a guy is interested in religious life, Fr. Randy wants to make sure his charism matches with the Jesuit life. All the orders (Jesuit, Diocesan, Benedictines, etc.) all have their strengths and weaknesses. It is important to be stretched and accentuate each own gift. St. Ignatius talks about someone who can find God in all things. Finding God in all things and hearing God in all things. The traditional Catholic things

that God speaks to us through is the first place we all look to. Take those tried and true ways of finding God in those things help us to find God in everything in our normal life such as in the deer stand, golf course, history class, meetings, family gatherings. This is how God speaks to us.

God is in all things and in all people.

Jesuit spirituality requires a certain openness. Find God on the frontiers, dialoguing with intellectual life, atheists, among others things.

His job is to find someone that can fit in and feel welcome. He gives the young men a sense of what they would be involved in as a Jesuit.

Key way Jesuits pray is spiritual reflections. Personal relationship with Jesus is important. By taking the young men on retreat they can see if he is open to these ideas. Look for God where we might not find God.

Personal qualities Fr. Randy looks for is can a young man be quiet, be happy with the quietness, have a heart for service. He was told to find people you would want to live with, who could be joyful and prayerful.



*The President's Focus...***WHAT IS VAP**

The primary goal of Serra International Clubs is to foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood and consecrated religious life.

The Vocation Awareness Program (VAP) resulted from a need to provide an opportunity for single adults 18 years and older to explore the possibility of such a personal calling.

The seed from which the VAP was to evolve was sown in 1983 by the Serra Club of Northeast Houston. Drawing on that experience, the Serra Clubs of the Dallas and Fort Worth Dioceses launched the first VAP in 1990 with a weekend of prayer, reflection, personal exploration, guidance, open forum discussions, plus the availability of one-on-one dialogues - all consistent with the discernment process of a potential calling to religious life.

Since its inception, the VAP discernment weekends have hosted almost 1200 participants. Nearly 100 priestly ordinations have resulted.

What Happens at the VAP weekend?

There are three important elements to VAP Weekend:
 Conferences and guidance are offered by Diocesan and Order Priest.
 No decisions of commitment are asked of attendees.
 There is no charge to participate in the VAP Weekend.

How is VAP Organized

**North Central Dallas
 Serra Club
 Board of Trustees
 2015-2016**

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V.P. Vocations

Mike Holmes

V.P. Membership

Kathi Thompson

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Marie Baert

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Rev. Cliff Smith

The VAP is organized and funded by the local Serra Clubs of the Dioceses of Dallas and Fort Worth. The steering committee is formed by volunteers from the member clubs. Responsibility for the various committees rotates among the clubs from year to year.

The Committee's duties include raising money, advertising, program design, printing, logistics, screening applications, website management, arranging for speakers, housing and meals.

In addition, the local membership participates by distributing materials to parishes, advertising the VAP and making announcements about the VAP Weekend at Sunday Masses to the parishes if requested by the pastor.

How is the VAP Funded?

Historically, the VAP has been funded through assessments of each participating club's membership. In addition, donations are accepted from members. A drawing is also held each year with proceeds going toward assisting the clubs with their assessment fees.

Over the years, these funds have been sufficient to cover the costs incurred by the program. Today however, with increased attendance at the weekend (what we want) housing and food costs have risen. And, at the same time, Serra membership has gone down resulting in decreased revenue.

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. So, there will be no 'Kick-Off' Brunch where historically hard copy material was distributed and personal donations were gathered.

The VAP Steering Committee draft budget for 2017 indicates a potential deficit of \$4000/\$5000 dollars.

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 the VAP?

Pray for the success of the VAP

Contribute to annual VAP fundraising efforts (purchasing or selling 3 raffle books).

Donating to the VAP Reserve Fund will help with the future funding of VAP.

Volunteer to work for VAP activities

Thank you for all that you do for Serra.

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



PRAY FOR THE HEALING POWER OF GOD FOR:

Mary LaFave
Bernadette Johnson
Leo Heiting
Jerry Hurster



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jim O'Malley 3/8
Greg Mechler 3/16
Bill Crowley 3/17
Jim Duffy 3/20
Bill Larsen 3/28

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Rick and Vicki Dean 3/10
Chris and Kelly Taylor 3/10

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

March Matthew Vereceke
April Fr. Tom Cloherty
May Installation Dinner

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

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

Holy Trinity
North Central Dallas Dates

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.