



# Serra Mensajero

Volume 32 Issue 11

Richardson, TX

November 2017

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 29

Priesthood Sunday

Friday, November 3

First Friday Mass & Breakfast

6:30 am - St. Mark

12:30 pm – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Week of November 5-11

Vocation Week

Monday, November 20

Dinner meeting; 6:30 pm

"We the Speakers"- Serrans  
Canyon Creek Country Club

Friday, December 1

First Friday Mass & Breakfast

6:30 am - St. Mark

12:30 pm – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Sunday, December 3

Christmas Party

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Don & Carolyn Simoneaux's  
3201 Melanie Lane, Plano

Friday, January 5

First Friday Mass & Breakfast

6:30 am - St. Mark

12:30 pm – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Monday, January 15

Dinner meeting; 6:30 pm

Andy Zilhman - Bishop Lynch  
High School  
Canyon Creek Country Club



## Keeping College Students in the Church

At the October dinner meeting, Matthew Zerrusen, Co-founder of The Newman Connection, shared with us his journey from working at his family's print shop in Effingham, Illinois to his work with Serra Clubs, Newman Centers at colleges and universities, parishes, and parochial high schools to foster the continued practice of the Catholic church and growth of the spirituality of college students across the country.

He educated us on the statistics on college students currently attending mass on a regular basis and the efforts of The Newman Connection to improve those figures. He also gave us an overview of their newest project of providing faith-based housing on college campuses. We heard the ups and downs of this endeavor.

He asked for our prayers, our parish connections to start graduation masses that will allow them to collect the names of students going away to college, and our diocesan connections to increase the participation of the Dallas Diocese in these good works.

As their mission statement says: Together with Newman Centers throughout the United States, Newman Connection is the place for students, alumni, pastors and educators to Connect!

[www.NewmanConnection.com](http://www.NewmanConnection.com)    [mzerrusen@newmanconnection.com](mailto:mzerrusen@newmanconnection.com)

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

Editor: Dawn Epping  
[dawn.epping@yahoo.com](mailto:dawn.epping@yahoo.com)

Visit these  
Serra web sites

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

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

## President's Monthly Message

Jim Duffy

I want to thank the crew of Kathi Thompson, Marie Baert, Pete La Fave, Mary La Fave and yours truly for representing North Central Dallas at Holy Trinity Seminary's annual Family Day BBQ. At the request of Father Zach the Serrans from District 46E worked as servers during the family outing. We all had a great time and we were kept very busy. The Seminary furnished the brisket, sausage, burgers, baked beans, etc. while the Serrans furnished many wonderful desserts. It was a lot of fun and a great experience. In addition to NCD the Serrans were represented from the Metro, Dallas, and University of Dallas Clubs.

National Vocation Awareness Week is next week (November 5<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>). I am happy to say that the special packets we purchased were mailed to each of the pastors of the 25 parishes we visit every year on behalf of the VAP. If you see your pastor before next weekend you may wish to mention the packet.

Please do not forget that we (Serra Club of North Central Dallas) are responsible for the VAP Raffle and we need help from a couple of you to offer to work on the raffle committee. My first request was emailed to our membership on October 12<sup>th</sup> and as yet I have not received a reply. Our responsibilities in this regard are these:

- Arranging raffle prizes, most are in place from previous years.
- Having the tickets printed, also a set procedure.
- Distributing the raffle tickets to the other clubs.
- Collecting payments which is the responsibility of the Club Treasurer

Please give this prayerful consideration and get back to me a.s.a.p. Remember that it is the Raffle that funds the annual VAP weekend.

I received an email from the newly chartered Serra Club of Morogoro - Tanzania - East Africa. Other than in Nigeria, they are the first Serra Club to be organized in East Africa and their new president is requesting that we collaborate with them by sharing our experiences. Specifically, sharing our best Club leadership practices and formation of prospective new members and enhancing spiritual life.

As a new Serra Club and the concept of Serra being new to them, they have concerns on sustainability, i.e. activities and resources to financially support vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life. The Diocese of Morogoro is rich in faith but local people living in extreme poverty. They are asking for advise on how to fulfill their Bishops call for their Club to promote vocation awareness in the 34 Dioceses in Tanzania.

More later, but for now I will share their email with our Board.

St. Junipero Serra, pray for us!

President  
Jim Duffy

V.P. Programs  
Chris Taylor

V.P. Vocations  
Kathi Thompson

V.P. Membership  
Marie Baert

V.P. Communications  
Dawn Epping

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Pete LaFave

Secretary  
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Larry Montz (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:

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

### November Birthdays

Jerry Hurster	1
Vicki Dean	10
Tom Demarest	23

## Editor's Page

### Humility

The Rule of Benedict written in the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 and
- the fifth rung, to confess our sins to our spiritual authority.

The Rule of Benedict continues:

"The sixth step of humility is that we are content with the lowest and most menial treatment, and regard ourselves as a poor and worthless worker in whatever task we are given, saying with the prophet: "I am insignificant and ignorant, no better than a beast before you, yet I am with you always" (Psalm 73: 22-23) <sup>1</sup>

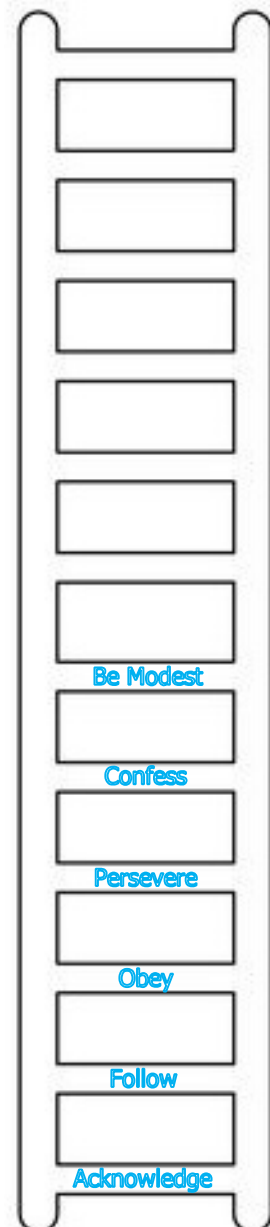
Within our lives where we have been blessed with much and are living in a culture that encourages self-promotion, this can be a difficult lesson. As Sister Joan Chittister explains:

"In a classless society status is snatched in normally harmless but corrosive little ways. We are a people who like embossed business cards and monogrammed leather briefcases and invitations to public events. We spend money we don't have to buy flat-screen TVs and electronic books that read to us instead of having to read for ourselves. ...

Benedict tells us that it is bad for the soul to have to have more than is necessary, that it gluts us, that it protects us in Plexiglas from the normal, the natural. Benedict says that the goal of life is not to amass things but to get the most out of whatever little we have. Benedict tells us to quit climbing. If we can learn to love life where we are, in what we have, then we will have room in our souls for what life alone does not have to offer."

May we pass through the next month asking ourselves each day if we are elevating ourselves above others through our words or actions.

*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](mailto:hankhimmelberg@verizon.net)

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

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