



# Serra Mensajero

Serra Club of North Central Dallas

Volume 27 Issue 6

Richardson, Texas

October 2012



## "Rocky Start but Truly a Blessing"

**Friday, Oct 5**  
First Friday Mass, Breakfast  
6:30 a.m.  
St. Mark Catholic Church

**Saturday, Oct. 6**  
Seminar Welcome Dinner

**Sunday, Oct. 7**  
Seminary BBQ/Family Day  
Holy Trinity Seminary

**Monday, Oct. 8**  
Mt. St. Michael's Breakfast/Tour  
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**Monday, Oct. 15**  
Serra Club Dinner Meeting  
6:30 p.m.  
Canyon Creek Country Club

**October 27/28**  
Priesthood Sunday

**Sunday, October 28**  
Redemptoris Mater Seminary

**November 1-5**  
National Religious Vocations  
Conference

**November 11**  
Religious Women's Brunch

**Saturday, Nov. 17**  
Club's Annual Retreat  
Montserrat

**Sunday, Dec. 9**  
Annual Christmas Party  
Simoneaux Residence

When the name Edward Leyden is brought up in conversation, a lot of different thoughts flash through one's mind – educator, father of three, husband to Barbara, President of Bishop Lynch Catholic High School, but the most important title he holds is actually Deacon. The path was long and rocky to this point.

Deacon Ed graduated high school in southern California in 1960 and left two days later for Waterton, WI on a train to the seminary to study to be a priest. In 1961, he took his first vows and went to St. Edwards in Texas for his teaching certificate. Back in those days, it was three years and three summers to finish the course work for becoming a teacher. Ed's first assignment was Miami, FL – much to his mother's dismay!! After teaching there for 8 years he was transferred to Texas and in 1975 he took a leave of absence from his vows. In 1976 Ed asked for and received a dispensation. A year and a half later he met his future wife, Barbara, whom he married 3 years later. During that time he was still teaching and was transferred eventually to Dallas.

Ed was the 1<sup>st</sup> lay person to be named principal of Bishop Lynch High School in East Dallas. The Leyden family was attending St. Pius X church, watching the three boys graduate from Bishop Lynch and Ed being named President of the school during the 70's and 80's.



Professionally, Ed has been recognized for his service to the National Council of Catholic Education as Secondary Department Chairman in 1987 and in 1993 he was recognized as a Distinguished Principal Award for the Dallas Diocese, thus thrusting Bishop Lynch into the category of National Recognized School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education in 1991 and 1998. Ed is a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

During this time in 1985, the thought of exploring the Permanent Diaconate program gave Ed and Barbara something to think about. At that time, with a busy career and raising three active boys, they decided this was not the right time to pursue this vocation. It wasn't until 2000 that Ed was leaving the Metropolitan Serra Club and remembers exactly where the idea suddenly flashed in him mind, telling him to pursue the Permanent Diaconate. He claims it wasn't really the Holy Spirit working in him, just a feeling he needed to do this. He kept thinking why now – the kids are out of the house, the career is going along just fine, I am 56 years old.

It was a long journey some days through the program, but Ed persevered with the help of his wife Barbara. One time, he found out he did the wrong assignment and had to spend another 7 hours to redo the assignment. His wife suggested he keep the assignment just incase

it would come in handy for another time. He never needed it but did have the extra credit ready to go at any time! He "quit" several times during those 6 years but after long weekends at the formation center, classes, monthly meetings for both him and Barbara, he finished the training and was ordained a permanent Deacon for the Diocese of Dallas in June of 2006 with 13 other men.

After being ordained, Ed did decide to leave St. Pius X where there were already 4 Permanent Deacons and give his time to St. Thomas Aquinas. Having gone through the whole program with his wife, the two of them decided they could fulfill their duties at St. Thomas with programs that could involve both of them. A Deacon's service includes Altar, Gospel and Service which could involve a hundred different ways to live this out. Ed and Barbara teach Baptism class for a growing young community at St. Thomas, marriage preparations, which at one time they had 9 different couples in process; and he finds Grace through his hospital Ministry at Baylor.

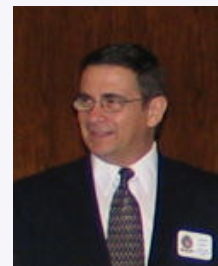


Visit these  
Serra web sites...  
North Central Dallas  
Serra Club  
[www.ncdserraclub.com](http://www.ncdserraclub.com)

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

**President's Focus****Important Message for Serra Club of North Central**

*Our club faces a crucial decision on its future. We will vote at our First Friday Breakfast meeting in October if we will join the new National Vocations Organization as recommended by your Board or to remain as part of Serra. Please read Ralph Armstrong's analysis of the situation and come to the meeting to express your opinion. If you are unable to attend, we will accept an e-mail proxy sent to someone you know who is attending and they can vote as you suggest. Please prayerfully consider the following:*



## Club Resolution Vote Serra International and USAC/NVO

The Board of directors of the North Central Dallas Serra Club has called a meeting for all members to meet October 5, 2012 in the Community room at St. Marks Church at 7:30 AM for a vote regarding the future direction that our club will take. This will follow our regular First Friday Mass and breakfast. Members not available to attend this important meeting can give their proxy to vote to another member who will be attending by notifying that member and Mary LaFave at [pcl711@horizon.net](mailto:pcl711@horizon.net). If Mary is not notified, the vote will not be allowed.

As you are aware, USAC (our USA Council) has decided to withdraw from Serra International and become an independent organization to advocate for vocations. This decision is based on the failure to negotiate a successful compromise with SI (Serra International), the law suit filed by SI to obtain their assets and to close the council down and the unilateral action taken by SI to no longer recognize the USA Council even before the lawsuit is finalized. This has left the clubs in the United State with no organization to perform the functions of USAC.

At the September North Central Dallas Serra Club board meeting, it was decided to continue as we have done for the past year and one half to support the local council over Serra International. The NCD Serra club board has decided that without the guidance and help of a USAC form of council that Serra International will have a difficult time of financially surviving in the future and also to be able to acquire and perform the functions of USAC. USAC is the only one who has developed a plan, communicated with the USA clubs, and given an indication for a future direction for a vocation organization.

While we have no idea of what the future will hold for Serra International and USAC/NOV, we feel compelled as a club to support what we think is the honorable and potentially the most secure way to go in the future. We will still identify ourselves as Serrans, continue to associate with the other local clubs, but we will be supportive of the new organization and will wait to see what transpires in the future so we can respond positively to any situation that might occur.

The board is asking its members to vote to financially continue to support the USA organization which is temporarily being called NVO or New Vocation Organization. The vote will be yea or nay. If this does not pass, the board will have another meeting to determine another direction for our club to go and again present it to the membership for approval.

All of us are deeply saddened that Serra has come to this point in its existence. We have all been a part of the proud history of this organization. Changes are here and we must be prepared to be a part of the changes. The board thinks this is the best solution for the circumstances we find ourselves in today. Please keep Serra in your prayers and pray that at least either SI or USAC/NVO survive and we can, together as an organization, continue to aid and advocate for vocations.

**North Central Dallas  
Serra Club  
Board of Trustees  
2012-2013**

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**V.P. Vocations**

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Hank Himmelberg,	2 Yr.
Ralph Armstrong	1 Yr.

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Don Simoneaux

**Newsletter Editor**

Marie Baert

**Chaplain**

Rev. Cliff Smith

Chaplain's Corner

**10 Ways Catholics Can Live The Year Of Faith**

To honor the fiftieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and the twentieth anniversary of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Pope Benedict XVI has announced a **Year of Faith**, starting October 11, 2012 and ending November 24, 2013. The goal is to strengthen the faith of Catholics and draw the world to faith by their example. The Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has suggested ten ways for Catholic to live the **Year of Faith**:



Rev. Cliff Smith

1. *Participate in Mass more often.*
2. *Go to Confession.*
3. *Learn about the lives of the saints.*
4. *Read the Bible daily.*
5. *Read the documents of Vatican II.*
6. *Study the Catechism.*
7. *Volunteer in the parish.*
8. *Help those in need.*
9. *Invite a friend to Mass.*
10. *Incorporate the Beatitudes into daily life*



**Year of Faith  
Prayer for the New Evangelization**

*"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent?" –Romans 10: 13-15*

Heavenly Father, pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me with these words from Holy Scripture.

Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News.

Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others.

Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind me:

If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?

If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?

If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?

God, our Father, I pray that through the Holy Spirit I might hear the call of the Evangelization to deepen my faith, grow in confidence to proclaim the Gospel and boldly witness to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

*Amen.*

*Father Cliff*

**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)

<u>1st</u> Jerry Hurster	<u>16th</u> Hank Himmelberg
<u>1st</u> Paul Ficalora	<u>17th</u> John Fitzpatrick
<u>1st</u> Jo Ficalora	<u>18th</u> Ann Larriviere
<u>2nd</u> Dick Park	<u>18th</u> Rod Larriviere
<u>2nd</u> Katie Park	<u>19th</u>
<u>3rd</u> Bill Crowley	<u>20th</u> Tony Schmidt
<u>4th</u>	<u>21st</u> Doug Biglen
<u>5th</u> Bob Baillargeon	<u>21st</u> Veronica Biglen
<u>6th</u> John Fitzpatrick	<u>21st</u> Bill Higgins
<u>7th</u> Vince Ahern	<u>22nd</u> Joe Semler
<u>7th</u> Betty Monaghan	<u>23rd</u> Paul Reitinger
<u>7th</u> Bill Condon	<u>24th</u> Ralph Armstrong
<u>7th</u> Lou Neeb	<u>24th</u> Jim Hogan
<u>8th</u>	<u>24th</u> Kay Hogan
<u>9th</u> Peter La Fave	<u>25th</u>
<u>9th</u> Mary La Fave	<u>26th</u>
<u>10th</u> Vicki Dean	<u>27th</u> Chris Taylor
<u>11th</u> Jim Duffy	<u>27th</u> Warren Schneider
<u>12th</u> Mark Venincasa	<u>28th</u> Bill Larsen
<u>13th</u> Therese Reitinger	<u>28th</u> Bonnie Larsen
<u>14th</u> Jack Tromba	<u>29th</u> Carl Rossini
<u>15th</u> Don Simoneaux	<u>30th</u> Katy Warren
<u>15th</u> Jack Hardage	<u>31st</u>

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Kathryn Warren 30th



**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

None

*Continue to Lift Up in Prayer*

- Theresa Rettinger
- Carolyn Tromba
- Ellen Rossini
- George & Jeanne Stewart
- Bernadette Johnson
- Bill Eldridge
- Leo Heiting

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

Editor, Marie Baert  
Staff Photographer, Vicki Dean



# Blessed John Paul II - October 22

“Open wide the doors to Christ,” urged John Paul II during the homily at the Mass when he was installed as pope in 1978.

Born in Wadowice, Poland, Karol Jozef Wojtyla had lost his mother, father and older brother before his 21st birthday. Karol’s promising academic career at Krakow’s Jagiellonian University was cut short by the outbreak of World War II. While working in a quarry and a chemical factory, he enrolled in an “underground” seminary in Kraków. Ordained in 1946, he was immediately sent to Rome where he earned a doctorate in theology.

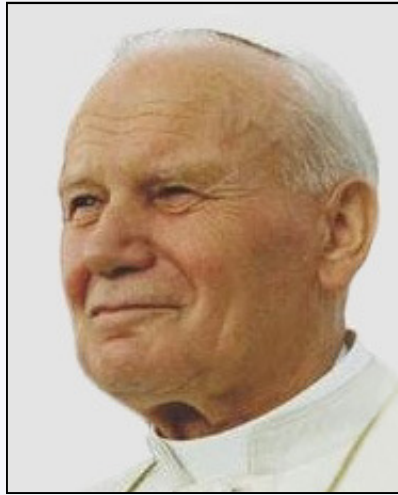
Back in Poland, a short assignment as assistant pastor in a rural parish preceded his very fruitful chaplaincy for university students. Soon he earned a doctorate in philosophy and began teaching that subject at Poland’s University of Lublin.

Communist officials allowed him to be appointed auxiliary bishop of Krakow in 1958, considering him a relatively harmless intellectual. They could not have been more wrong!

He attended all four sessions of Vatican II and contributed especially to its *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*. Appointed as archbishop of Krakow in 1964, he was named a cardinal three years later.

Elected pope in October 1978, he took the name of his short-lived, immediate predecessor. Pope John Paul II was the first non-Italian pope in 455 years. In time, he made pastoral visits to 124 countries, including several with small Christian populations.

He promoted ecumenical and interfaith initiatives, especially the 1986 Day of Prayer for World Peace in Assisi. He visited Rome’s Main Synagogue and the Western Wall in Jerusalem; he also established diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Israel. He improved Catholic-Muslim relations and in 2001 visited a mosque in



Damascus, Syria.

The Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, a key event in John Paul’s ministry, was marked by special celebrations

in Rome and elsewhere for Catholics and other Christians. Relations with the Orthodox Churches improved considerably during his ministry as pope.

“Christ is the center of the universe and of human history” was the opening line of his 1979 encyclical, *Redeemer of the Human Race*. In 1995, he described himself to the United Nations General Assembly as “a witness to hope.”

His 1979 visit to Poland encouraged the growth of the Solidarity movement there and the collapse of communism in central and eastern Europe 10 years later. He began World Youth Day and traveled to several countries for those celebrations. He very much wanted to visit China and the Soviet Union but

the governments in those countries prevented that.

One of the most well-remembered photos of his pontificate was his one-on-one conversation in 1983 with Mehmet Ali Agca, who had attempted to assassinate him two years earlier.

In his 27 years of papal ministry, John Paul wrote 14 encyclicals and five books, canonized 482 saints and beatified 1,338 people.

In the last years of his life, he suffered from Parkinson’s disease and was forced to cut back on some of his activities.

Pope Benedict XVI beatified John Paul II on May 1, 2011, Divine Mercy Sunday.

In his 1999 *Letter to the Elderly*, Pope John Paul II wrote: “Grant, O Lord of life,...when the moment of our definitive ‘passage’ comes, that we may face it with serenity, without regret for what we shall leave behind. For in meeting you, after having sought you for so long, we shall find once more every authentic good which we have known here on earth, in the company of all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith and hope....Amen.”

# FACTS ABOUT PERMANENT DEACONS

A few facts Ed shared about the Permanent Diaconate is:

There are 196 dioceses in the United States, almost all of them have Deacons.

Average age of a priest is 64 old; the average age of a deacon is 64 years old.

The average age in Europe of a Deacon is 43.

Deacons have a bases in Scripture, for example in Paul and Acts.

Deacons were originally more administrators to Bishops.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, more priests were being ordained and deacons fell away.

Permanent Deacons were restored in 1563 by the Council of Trent.

In 1910 there were single men who were Deacons that served the Pope.

In 1967, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council restored the Permanent Deacon, ordaining the 1<sup>st</sup> one in Rochester, NY.  
In 1970, there were 3 Deacons in the United States.

1973 saw the first Deacon in the Dallas Diocese being ordained.

There are now 17,300 Deacons in the United States.

February 2013 there will be 26 ordained in the class.

## A Big Thank You



**T**he Serra Club of North Central Dallas owes a big thank you to Dick and Katie Parks. With their unyielding willingness to support the organization in many different ways, they live behind big shoes to fill as they move closer to family. Among the numerous positions they have held through the years, the most recent is newsletter editor (Dick) and VP Communications (Katie). Let's not forget how important they also were as transportation crew for the banner the club proudly displays at all meetings and events. Dick and Katie have moved out of state to be closer to their children and grandchildren—the important people in life! God Bless and thank you Dick and Katie for your time supporting Serra Club.



### ANNOUNCEMENT

A hand of applause please for our new VP of Communications—Katy Warren. Katy has been gracious to step up and aid the Club in their need of filling this vacancy. Please welcome Katy to the Board and support in her in this position as she gives her time and talent to the Club so vocations can continue to be supported.

