



Serra Mensajero

Serra Club of North Central Dallas

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I Was Pulled Out of Hell by God

Fr. Luca Simbula was ordained May 31, 2014. He was born in Sardinia, in the South of Italy 36 years ago. He was formed at Redemptoris Mater Seminary and is a diocesan mission priest. How did he end up here? Why did he board a plane to Dallas? All these things happened because God has plans. Fr. Luca's vocation is for him a rediscovery of his faith. Everyone is Catholic in Italy. On every corner there is a church. His life passing from child to man was hard as his faith was not giving him an answer; Fr. Luca's father was violent with family. There didn't seem to be any answers for this. It was very difficult to sit down with parents and share his feelings. Fr. felt angry at them and God. He can't express his emotions. It is not uncommon to have these emotions for a young person, however they are serious. Fr. Luca was avoiding God, was questioning what God was in his faith, what God is in my family.

During the adolescence years, Fr. Luca kept asking "What and who is God?" What is God in my family? He couldn't find an answer to any of these questions. He knew he had to fit into "a plan". His turmoil was becoming serious because he could not say anything because problems can't always be talked about in family. This was very serious because he could not say anything. You can't always talk about some things in a family. Grew up sad and in a little bit of a depression. He felt like no one loved him, life is terrible. God had to find a way to tell him that he was loved. He found a way. Fr. Luca started the new thing that friends were encouraging him to attend:

go and listen to these talks in church. At first he told his friends that they should go if you like these talks so much, not me. At the age of 15, he went to another church. He started to listen to word of God, entered a new phase where enemies were friends. He was able to in this space to come out of his "depression". The key was that God brought him to the point of asking forgiveness of his parents. Why would he ask forgiveness if his mother and he were the victims? It is because he has suffering but he was unable to love my father. By asking for forgiveness through the grace the church gave him, he saw for the first time face of the Father (God) cry for him. Fr. Luca started to see his parents in a different way. This really changed his life. God brought him to this point. This gave him back peace in his life. Every week he had someone to share his life with. He felt the forgiveness of God.

Fr. Luca had a feeling like God was calling him to something, but it was abstract. He felt something. At one point when Fr. Luca went to talk to the priest and the priest said "Let's open the bible and see where it opens. It opened to the story of the tree that gets cut down but let's work around it for you. The priest tells Fr. Luca that he thinks God is calling you to be a priest." Fr. Luca ran away for a year because he touched a chord in me. Instead Fr. found a beautiful girl and embarked on a relationship with her. He felt free, he had a girl, he was studying psychology but he felt so divided inside, He felt called but he didn't know how, but he felt it.

In the year 2000 John Paul II made a trip to Israel. Fr. Luca went on a pilgrimage on a vocational retreat on the Sea of Galilee. There was a moment of silence and 30,000 people were on the pilgrimage. The young men were asked if anyone there felt called to give his life to God. Everyone was sitting there and who ever felt called would stand. Like Jacob in the Bible, he was wrestling with God. "I was in a relationship, we were sinning, I was torn". Finally told God to take him and do your will. Fr. Luca could have been sent anywhere. He knew nothing about the seminary but that was okay, because he trusted God. God was offering him a chance to give his life to the gospel. As a priest he is serving to announce the gospel. Christ died for his sins; Fr. Luca felt like God went to hell and pulled Fr. Luca out. He gave me the mother of the church; he has brothers and sisters who walk the journey of faith with Fr Luca. As a Christian, you are never 100% until you are in your tomb. The time in the seminary has been a time of grace for him.



Friday, October 3
1st Friday Mass, Breakfast
6:30 a.m.
St. Mark's

Saturday, October 4
Seminarian Welcome Dinner

Monday, October 20
Dinner Meeting
6 p.m.
Canyon Creek Country Club

Saturday, October 26
Priesthood Sunday

November 2
National Vocations Awareness Day

Friday, November 7
1st Friday Mass, Breakfast
6:30 a.m.
St. Mark's

Monday, November 17
Dinner Meeting
6 p.m.
Canyon Creek Country Club

Sunday, December 14
Annual Club Christmas Party

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, Katy Warren
Mary LaFave

Visit these
Serra web sites...
North Central Dallas
Serra Club
www.ncdserraclub.com

Serra USA Council
www.serrausa.org

President's Focus**Holy Spirit: Strengthen Our Clergy and Religious**

My Dear Fellow NCD Serrans,

I had the opportunity to spend the three days in Chicago this week on business. Traffic is just as bad in Chicago as it is in Dallas, BUT, no cell phone use is allowed while driving, unless it is via blue tooth, no hand held. Politics are king there, Republican Governor vs. a Democratic challenger. Talk about mud slinging, they are one up on Texas.

What really caught my attention while I worked in my hotel room and watched the news there was heavy coverage on Cardinal George. He is retiring because of his illness and another infection which plagues him. His replacement was announced and not from the Chicago area. The most impressive moments as I watched this frail man, but yet very strong in his faith and convictions to continue to make the Chicago area a very strong Catholic area, was his efforts to continue the faith in our Holy Catholic Church.

This man is on the doorstep to visit St. Peter, but goes on crutches to a dinner for seminarians one night and the next to a dinner for 80 other Bishops. What strength the Holy Spirit is giving him to overcome the physical pain and continue his evangelization of our Catholic faith. God bless Cardinal George.



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Another humbling moment this past week was our dinner guest speaker, Fr. Luca Simbula, who is the Parochial Vicar at St. Rita's. Fr. Luca is a Redemptoris Mater priest from Italy. Talk about courage and letting the Holy Spirit guide you. He was one of 500 young men who were in Rome to join the Redemptoris Mater seminary. By the way of a lottery he was chosen to come to Dallas, TX. What about the other 499 young men, they are scattered all over the earth.

This young man is now assigned to a parish that is doing well there. His story of how these very young men are chosen to come to many different parts of our world. Courage to only with the strength of the Holy Spirit and our prayers, would any of us even venture to try a life changing journey like this.

Susan and I know a few of these young men who came from Poland to be at the Redemptoris Mater seminary in Dallas. They are dedicated to the Diocese of Dallas. We have followed these young men for about 7 years. Our parish, All Saints, has financially supported them throughout these years, BUT as a parent, could I give up my child at a very young age to move to a foreign country and know they will only come home to visit once a year. I get lonely thinking about this.

Please pray for Cardinal George to finish the work the Lord has for him. And for these young men who sacrifice so much to help our diocese and parishes as they Shepard us.

God Bless,

Mike Holmes





Vocation Awareness

Many people think that "vocation" is a word that refers only to priests and religious. The truth is that God calls each of us to a particular path in life ... a path that will cut to the heart of our desires and who we are. At some point in our lives, each of us will be inspired to do something that we not only have been given the "tools" to do, but that will make us happier than anything else.

God wants us to be happy and to use our talents and abilities to do good work. As Christians, we take on the responsibility to follow Jesus and to find out the particular mission assigned to us (*our vocation*) at our Baptism.

Of course, when most of us were baptized, we didn't know anything about vocations, or about Jesus for that matter. For most of us, baptized very young, the job of guiding us on the right path was left to our parents and godparents and others who loved and cared for us. Those same people were likely the ones who encouraged our talents and abilities.

Sooner or later, though, we all reach a point where we begin to wonder how we, as individuals, will make our mark in the world. We begin to make choices in the subjects we study in school. We develop new relationships. We start to ponder the type of work we want to pursue.

If we are wise, we will remember that God promises to lead us to a life that will bring us happiness. All we need to do is to ask, and then be open to the answer.



Our late Holy Father, John Paul II, in his apostolic exhortation "**Pastores Dabo Vobis**", (*I will Give You Shepherds*), said that "all the members of the Church, without exception, have the grace and responsibility to look after vocations."

The Second Vatican Council also stated: "The duty of fostering vocations falls on the whole Christian community."

Simply stated, that means that all of us here at St. Mark the Evangelist, and the Church throughout the world, to share in the task of encouraging and fostering vocations to the Church.

In 2002, eleven hundred delegates representing the Church in North America – bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated and lay men and women, young and old, – gathered in Montreal for the Third Continental Congress on Vocations to the Ordained Ministry and Consecrated Life in North America. Out of that gathering came a pastoral challenge to create a Culture of Vocation in the Church of North America, focusing on five particular actions:

- Ø To Pray
- Ø To Evangelize
- Ø To Experience
- Ø To Mentor
- Ø To Invite

It is the responsibility of all of the faithful to build a culture of vocations in our individual parishes and the Diocese of Dallas.

Fr. Clifford Smith, Chaplain

What is "Redemptoris Mater" Seminary?

The Redemptoris Mater seminaries were born above all thanks to the courage, the prophetic vision and the enthusiasm of Pope John Paul II. The idea to establish these seminaries started in Rome, the diocese of the Holy Father, to establish a seminary with these characteristics: an international seminary, i.e. with vocations coming from different nations, that be missionary, i.e. that upon ordination, the priests are available to go wherever the ordinary sends them.

The characteristics of the "Redemptoris Mater" Seminaries, which possess their own statutes and a rule of life approved by the respective bishops who have erected them according to the rules issued by the Holy See, can be grouped around 4 fundamental inspirations: the Neocatechumenal Way, diocesan character, missionary and international character.

They are diocesan i.e. the authority belongs to the bishop. Once the seminarians are ordained Presbyters, the ordinary can place them to minister in his own diocese, or when a brother bishop, seeing the needs in his own diocese asks the ordinary of the seminary for help, then he would send eventually priests to this other bishop to this other diocese. They are governed according to the present norms for the formation and incardination of the diocesan clergy. They are missionary and international in character because the seminarians come from different countries and continents, both as a concrete sign of the missionary character and of their readiness to be sent anywhere in the world.

Yet the most significant aspect of these Seminaries lies in their relationship to the Neocatechumenal Way, as a Way of maturing towards an adult faith: this Way prepares and awakens vocations in many young people before they enter the seminary. It accompanies them during their time of formation; once ordained as presbyters it continues to sustain them in their permanent formation.

Once there is the ordination and incardination, the Neocatechumenal Way has no authority over the priest, which is at this very moment a priest under the authority of the ordinary.

- taken from the Diocese of Dallas web page



Current students/staff of Holy Trinity Seminary
Fall 2014

PRAY INTENTIONS

Linda O'Malley



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Katy Warren
30th

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Michael and Susan Holmes
7th

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

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		31st	Ron Kepner
14th	John Tromba		
15th	Don Simoneaux		
15th	Warren Schneider		
16th	Hank Himmelberg		
17th	John Fitzpatrick		

Our fellow Serran, Tom Demarest has just opened a new religious store adjacent to his Yo Pop store. I encourage you to stop by and check it out. Expressions is conveniently located just south of Belt Line Rd. on Midway. If you go, be sure to say hello to Tom.

