



# Serra Mensajero

Volume 34 Issue 10

Richardson, TX

October 2019

## Upcoming Events

### Friday, October 4

First Friday Mass & Meal

6:30 am – St. Mark

12:30 pm – St. Eliz. Ann Seton

### Wednesday, October 9

Board meeting; 7:00 pm

Conference Room 202, Smyth  
Center, St. Mark Church

### Sunday, October 13

Seminarian Mass; 9:15 am

Holy Trinity Seminary

**PLEASE BRING DONUTS FOR  
RECEPTION AFTER MASS**

### Monday, October 21

Dinner meeting; 6:30 pm

Bob Baillargeon, NCD member  
Canyon Creek Country Club

### Friday, November 1

First Friday Mass & Meal

6:30 am – St. Mark

12:30 pm – St. Eliz. Ann Seton

### November 3-9

National Vocation Awareness  
Week

### Wednesday, November 13

Board meeting; 7:00 pm

Conference Room 202, Smyth  
Center, St. Mark Church

### Monday, November 18

Dinner meeting; 6:30 pm

Fr. Zach Webb, Holy Trinity  
Seminary

Canyon Creek Country Club



## September Speaker

Your humble editor realized shortly before the September meeting that several errors had been made in the calendar for last month's newsletter in the rush to get it out before leaving for vacation. Imagine my surprise when one of the topics of the speaker, Mike Wilson, editor in chief of the Dallas Morning News, was integrity in reporting and his own personal story of the aftermath of an egregious error made under his watch. He discussed the responsibility of the press to have fair and accurate coverage and to make things right when errors are made. He shared his experiences in being part of a tribe of journalists.

He also shared his passion for a recent story on the creation of a mosaleum at Cistercian Abbey and the reverent and careful process of moving the remains of monks buried in Calvary Hill cemetery to their final resting place in community with their brothers who are continuing the Cistercian mission. Because of his interest in this story, he moved beyond his normal role of strategic planning and returned to his journalistic roots by researching and writing the story.

He closed with stories about the relationship that he has established with his frequent contributors to the letters to the editor. While he might not always agree with their points of view, he insists on treating them with respect and requests the same of them. By the notes that he shared, it was apparent that he has earned that respect from these individuals who make their thoughts known on issues large and small.

While we may not have the large impact that Mike Wilson has in the Dallas metroplex, his message of integrity in speaking the truth and treating others who may have differing ideas with respect was one that we could all take to heart.

*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](http://www.ncdserraclub.com)

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

My Fellow Serrans,

October, the month dedicated to Our Lady and her Rosary, also brings us so many other important saints and feasts to celebrate: St Therese of the Child Jesus, the Holy Guardian Angels, St. Francis of Assisi, St. John XXIII, St. Luke, St. John Paul II, St. Simon and St. Jude.

As we meditate on these spiritual role models and take to heart their examples of holiness, may we draw on their strength to live out our Serran vocation more fully.

Looking forward, please mark your calendars and make plans to be part of these upcoming events:

- Holy Trinity Seminary Donut Sunday, Oct. 13. Please join our seminarians and fellow Serrans for the 9:15 a.m. Mass, as well as bring donuts for the fellowship afterward.
- Dinner Meeting on Monday, October 21 with our own Bob Baillargeon speaking on a topic of importance for all.
- National Vocation Awareness Week, Nov. 3-9. Details on our involvement to follow.

In St. Junipero Serra,

Darwin

President  
Darwin Hutchison

V.P. Programs  
Chris Taylor

V.P. Vocations  
Kathi Thompson

V.P. Membership  
Ralph Armstrong

V.P. Communications  
Dawn Epping

Treasurer  
Dennis Epping

Secretary  
Meg Haerr

Trustees  
Larry Montz (3 Yr)

Bill Crowley (2 Yr)

Don Simoneaux (1 Yr)

Past President  
Jim Duffy

Newsletter Editor  
Dawn Epping

**PRAY FOR THE HEALING  
POWER OF GOD FOR:**

Ed Johnson	Leo Heiting
Tom Demarest	Mary LaFave
Katy Warren	

**October Anniversaries**

None

**October Birthdays**

Katy Warren	1
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## Serra: The Action that Follows Prayer

By Richard Arlans, President-Elect, Serra's US Council (*Reprint from August 2019 Issue of The Serran*)

Many Serrans are asked, "What do you Serrans do?" We confidently answer, "We pray for vocations." But then we receive the response for which we have no answer: "Well, I don't need to be a Serran to pray."

Serrans routinely ask religious leaders what more we can do to gain "an increase of laborers for Your Church." The universal answer is, "Pray." Serrans certainly pray, yet the Church continues to be challenged with a shortage of young men and women choosing a religious life of service. It's easy to suggest that something is missing; or if the parts are there, they are not connecting.

Serrans know well our three-fold mission to promote and support religious vocations to the priesthood, to promote and support vocations to consecrated life, and to recognize and respond to our own call to holiness. Or do we? Do we just mumble the third one? Or, to be more precise, are we really living our mission?

When asked what more can we do, former Episcopal Adviser to Serra's USA Council Bishop Andrew Cozzens observed that Serrans are "event-based." He agreed those events were critical and appreciated, then suggested we move to enrich our mission by becoming more reflective. Serra International Episcopal Adviser Cardinal Collins reinforced the importance of prayer and adoration, "because action is what follows prayer."

The prayer life of Serrans goes far beyond reciting our familiar "Prayer for Vocations" and "Prayer for the Perseverance of Vocations." Serra's United States Programs Committee has developed a rich platform for group reflection, adoration, Bible study, faith building, and sharing. Our *Call to Holiness Manual* (available for download at <https://serraus.org/club-meetings-programs/>) provides a resource for assisting Serra clubs to help their members to recognize their personal call to holiness. The manual contains over 50 programs that can be led by clergy, deacons, or lay people. Each program includes an introduction, prayer, scripture, reflection, discussion, and tradition. Each program is liturgically referenced. Programs can also be referenced by liturgical holiday and season.

The Programs Committee regularly updates and revises the manual to be relevant so it can be used by clubs to plan their meetings throughout the year. This last Lent, a Lenten Reflection series was developed and presented to Serra Clubs around the world. It featured a four week-long series that came from the manual: Week 1 – "Ash Wednesday"; Week 2 – "Reconciliation through Community"; Week 3 – "Mary Magdalene, The Apostle to the Apostles"; Week 4 – "In His Steps: A Program of Renewal & Commitment." This was followed with another series of reflections to prepare Serrans for a retreat. This included: "Prayer: A Path to Vocational Call"; "God the Father"; "The Holy Spirit in My Life"; and "The Beatitudes." These prayer-based, faith-focused programs inspire Serrans to action.

Being a Catholic today is a challenge. A deep faith based on prayer is critical to meeting that challenge. Only the strength of our faith defends our Church. The strength of our faith will keep our mission always moving forward.

It is the responsibility and mission of Serra clubs to assist their members in realizing their call to holiness. Then, when someone asks us what Serrans do, we can answer, "We're the action that follows prayer. Join us." Take advantage of the rich resources provided by Serra to support our call to holiness. Find them, learn them, use them.

### 31 Club

*The 31 Club is a commitment by Serrans to attend Mass or say the rosary to pray for vocations on a specific day each month. If interested in participating, contact Dawn Epping (dawn.epping@yahoo.com).*

1 <sup>st</sup> Jerry Hurster	7 <sup>th</sup> Bill Condon	13 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup> Barbara Johnson	26 <sup>th</sup> Dawn Epping
Larry Montz	8 <sup>th</sup> Sylvia Windham	14 <sup>th</sup> June Cooper	20 <sup>th</sup> Tony Schmidt	27 <sup>th</sup> Chris Taylor
2 <sup>nd</sup> Barbara Johnson	9 <sup>th</sup> Peter LaFave	15 <sup>th</sup> Don Simoneaux	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup> Bill Larsen
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bill Crowley	Mary LaFave	16 <sup>th</sup> Darwin Hutchinson	22 <sup>nd</sup> Kathi Thompson	Dan O'Connell
4 <sup>th</sup> Meg Haerr	10 <sup>th</sup> Vicki Dean	17 <sup>th</sup> Rob & Ann Larriviere	23 <sup>rd</sup> Kathi Thompson	29 <sup>th</sup> Kay Hogan
5 <sup>th</sup> Bob Baillargeon	11 <sup>th</sup> Jim Duffy	John Fitzpatrick	24 <sup>th</sup> Ralph Armstrong	30 <sup>th</sup>
6 <sup>th</sup> John Fitzpatrick	12 <sup>th</sup> Dennis Epping	18 <sup>th</sup> Tom Demerest	25 <sup>th</sup> Mary McGraw	31 <sup>st</sup>