



Serra Mensajero

Serra Club of North Central Dallas

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AN ADULT CHOICE

If you are from Michigan like Sister Peggy Szeljack is, you understand when she puts her hand up to show you where she is from. She was actually born in Detroit and grew up in Livonia, Michigan. As an only child for 7 years, Sister Peggy was extremely jealous of little sister, Diane. Diane was followed a year later with brother, Randy. Randy and Sister Peggy spent hours tormenting Diane. Sister Peggy spoke in French to her, telling Diane her eyes were beautiful and she had a good heart, but in mean voice. Of course Diane would get upset. Randy and Sister Peggy would tell Diane she was adopted. They justified it as she didn't look like the other two kids in the family, Sister Peggy and her brother both had a July birthdays and Diane had a February birthday. The worst was everyone in the family had names that ended in y but Diane.

Sister Peggy attended public kindergarten because St. Robert Bellarime did not have a kindergarten. She kept hearing that there was going to be sisters teaching her starting in 1st grade but didn't know what that meant. The sisters were the Bernardine Sisters of St. Francis. The day she saw a nun she was convinced she was going to be one. In 8th grade there were three girls that wanted to be nuns. These girls left home at 14 and went to high school at Loriane (not sure on the spelling) High School in Washington D.C. to begin the step of Aspirancy. They were the last graduating group in 1968 as times were changing. There were 11 people in her graduating class and only 3 went on to the next step of postulancy. For that, Sister Peggy went to Redding, PA where she assumed the name Sister Judith Marie for 10 years approximately. There was a trend at that point to go back

to your baptismal name. Her baptized name was Margaret Ann. She laughingly said she just was meant to be a Peggy. She wrote Reverend mother explaining that St. Frances was not called by his baptized name, John. Frances meant freedom loving and his dad called him that after returning from France and war. She won her plea.

After taking her final vows as a nun, Sister Peggy taught at Divine Child High School for two years in Dearborn, Michigan. She was then sent to St. Rita in 1973 for three years where she taught 5th and 6th grade and then moved to St. Monica's until 1979 then back to Michigan to teach at St. Linus in Dearborn Heights for a year and then back to Christ the King for a year then Mary Immaculate for a year then St. Monica as Sister Peggy. This new name change was confusing because she had taught siblings of students who had her as Sister Judith Marie. In 1988 she left St. Monica. While there she was 26 years old and the next youngest sister was 54. She did not have companionship that a young woman needed. At Mary Immaculate she was going to leave the religious order. At age 30 she left, but did a lot of soul searching. She realized that even though she picked this life as a child, it was an adult that wanted God her entire life. The order of nuns that she was part of was changing and their focus was working more with the poor. Sister Peggy totally understood the new focus but her heart was more into the education part. She left the order in 1988. Sister Peggy was teaching at Prince of Peace Community School (now known as Mount St. Michaels). She be-

came principal there and she was very busy. She decided at that time to become a consecrated virgin (for more information check out <http://consecratedvirgins.org/>) The director of Catholic schools for the diocese urged her to apply at St. Pius, who needed a principal. Sister Peggy was there for 6 years.

After being at St. Pius, she needed to go to St. Luke's as principal for 3 years. There was a lot of turmoil at St. Luke's and they parted ways. She was invited to be a part of the John Paul II High School. Time has gone fast but Sister Peggy has been there for ten years now as head of the Theology department and Director of Campus Ministry.

During her time teaching and being principal, discerning her life devoted to God, she kept her self busy working on her Master's in Education at the University of North Texas and her Masters in Theological Studies at the University of Dallas.

Sister Peggy's last word was Vocations – God does write with very crooked lines but very direct messages. He wrote it on her heart, not on a wall like she had asked for; where does vocations come from –life was difficult growing up with father and nuns became a source of comfort. Vocations come from families-. Moms and dads need to spend time together, create a loving environment that children know God is love. Vocations start in the home. Encourage families to slow down. If our families are not rooted in love and Lord Jesus how are we going to have young people willing to commit to the Lord?

Friday, September 5
1st Friday Mass, Breakfast
6:30 a.m.
St. Mark's

Monday, September 15
Dinner Meeting
6 p.m.
Canyon Creek Country Club

Sunday, September 28
Mass with the Seminarians
9:15 a.m.
Holy Trinity Seminary

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 2-9
National Vocations Awareness
Day

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

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North Central Dallas
Serra Club
www.ncdserraclub.com

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www.serrausa.org

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

Dear NCD Serrans,

Did you know that 85% of the Seminarians at Holy Trinity Seminary came from our public schools, not our Catholic Schools? This is a fact I first heard from Fr. Rudy Garcia when he was the Dallas Diocesan Vocations Director at Holy Trinity. This percentage is still true today, that is why our Vocations Awareness Committee has decided to reach out to our high school youth ministers in our local parishes. They are many times the first person a young man or women approaches about discussing the feeling they may be called to a religious life.

The VAP committee will be inviting the youth ministers to join us and we want them to know how much we appreciate the work they do and extend to them our support as Serrans.

In this train of thought, I heard Fr. Ruben Chen and Fr. Jason Cargo speak about their walk to becoming a priest. Both fall into the article which is below about whether parents are supporting the call to a religious life or not. I found this article very interesting and very compelling to spread the word. Our own member, Kathi Thompson has a son interested in the priesthood; let's support Kathi and her family in their son's discernment to the priesthood.

Did you know that almost half of ordained priests were not supported by their families when they announced their vocation? Surveys by Georgetown-based CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostle) show that **between 40 and 50 percent of priests ordained in recent years say that family members initially opposed their vocations.**

Note that these findings come from studies of men who went on to be ordained. **Imagine the number of young men who never entered**



seminary because they were dissuaded by their parents!

To help the parents of aspiring priests gain a measure of peace, **Fr. Brett Brannen has written a compelling new book titled *A Priest in the Family: A Guide for Parents Whose Sons Are Considering Priesthood.***

"I've met with many parents over the years," said Fr. Brannen, a former vocation director and seminary vice-rector. "They all have similar **concerns about seminary, celibacy, the life of a priest, and whether or not their son is too young.** I tried to address these questions clearly but gently, keeping in mind parents' legitimate concerns."

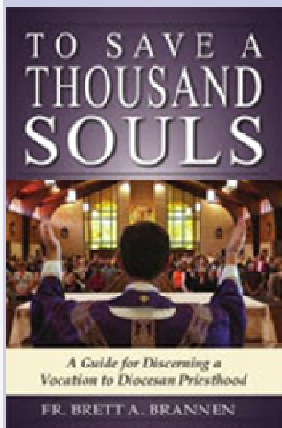
Fr. Richard Gabuzda of the Institute for Priestly Formation praised the manuscript: "*A Priest in the Family* does a great job of laying out the important facts, issues, and questions for parents of candidates for the priesthood," he said. "I highly recommend it."

This new volume is a follow-up of sorts to Fr. Brannen's internationally-known *To Save a Thousand Souls: A Guide for Men Discerning a Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood.* Over 100 dioceses have bulk-ordered the book for seminarians and candidates. It has been translated into Spanish and Romanian, and re-printed in Singapore and England.

"The content and tone of *A Priest in the Family* is consistent with *To Save a Thousand Souls*: poignant anecdotes, intriguing case studies, clear explanation of priestly life and spirituality, fascinating stories, and all-around solid guidance," said Fr. Paul C. Hoelsing, President of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors.

Fr. Brannen's gift for story-telling makes the book an easy read. But he doesn't skirt around the tough issues. He explains **the reasons for priestly celibacy and debunks common myths that priests are unhappy and lonely.**

Minnesota Serran and USAC Vocations Vice President Judy Cozzens, mother of recently-named bishop and USAC Episcopal Adviser Bishop Andrew Cozzens, said, "We love having a priest-son, and this book explains why it's such an honor!"



God bless to all of you and your families.

Mike Holmes

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To whom can we pray when the computer crashes?

Not too long ago my laptop crashed! CPR didn't work nor did yelling at it. I considered anointing it but that seemed a bit sacrilegious. It's now in computer Intensive Care and I'm hoping for a small miracle. So which saint handles these kinds of 21st century tragedies? Ever heard of **Saint Isidore of Seville**? He lived from c. 560 to 636. His Feast Day is April 4th and he served as Archbishop of Seville for more than thirty years. Isidore was the first Christian writer to take on the task of compiling a summary of Catholic theology in the form of his most important work, the *Etymologiae*, a massive encyclopedic work of 448 chapters in 20 volumes indexing just about everything people thought it was important to know at the time, was rather like a primitive database.

Saint Isidore of Seville was well known in his time as a tireless scholar and historian, he was later called "the last scholar of the ancient world", and it is this studiousness and love of information that lends itself to his modern patronage.

Accordingly, Saint Isidore the Catholic Church has designated him the patron saint of computers and their users, programmers, and repairmen, as well as the Internet as a whole by . So the next time you are faced with a computer problem of such magnitude as to require a miracle to fix, rest assured Isidore is on it ... but no guarantees. God sometimes wants us to stop shouting, dry our tears and take it to the shop to be fixed. As I often remind people unhappy with God: recognize that "No" is an answer, as is "Not right now." Although erroneously attributed to the Bible or Ben Franklin, the expression "God helps those who help themselves," (actually an ancient Greek motto) applies here.

A Prayer to St. Isidore

Almighty and eternal God
who has created us in your image
and bade us to seek after all that is good, true and beautiful,
especially in the divine person of your only-begotten Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
Grant we beseech you that through the intercession of Saint Isidore,
bishop and doctor,
during our journeys through the internet
we will direct our hands and eyes only to that which is pleasing to Thee
and treat with charity and patience all those souls whom we encounter.
Father we ask you this, through Christ our Lord.
Amen

We Met the New Rector of Holy Trinity Seminary



On August 10, we Serran's hosted a meet and greet with Fr. Swift, the Rector of Holy Trinity. Beer, wine and snacks were served.

There was a great number of Serrans that attended the event. Fr. Swift shared with us his background, coming from St. Louis.

Among the things he shared with us, was a list of items he wants to address while at Holy Trinity. Some include doing something about the swimming pool, updating the fire alarms, windows, the court yard outside, and many other items.

Plenary Indulgence for Becoming a Serran

This goes back to the 1950's, beyond Serra just being a "social club", that being a Serran is a blessing. Everyone should be aware of Plenary Indulgences (plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who perform the works listed below).

Say a Rosary, go to reconciliation, receive communion, between Easter and Devine Mercy Sunday, receive an indulgence.

PRAY INTENTIONS

Linda O'Malley
Jennifer Marie Peterson

PRAYER FOR THE REPOSED SOUL OF:
Carolyn Tromba

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ed Johnson	1st
Darwin Hutchison	28th

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jim and Kay Duffy	8th
Ann and Rob Larriviere	11th
Peter and Mary LaFave	12th
Darwin and Debbie Hutchison	23rd

Parents' Prayer for Vocations

Almighty and eternal God,
in your unfailing love you provide ministers for your Church.
We pray for those whom you call to serve the Church of _____ as priests.
Inspire in them a generous response.
Grant them courage and vision to serve your people.
May their lives and service call your people to respond to the presence
of your Spirit among us that,
faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus the Christ, we may:
announce glad tidings to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives,
set prisoners free,
and renew the face of the earth.
Amen

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		