



Serra Mensajero

Volume 31 Issue 8

Richardson, Texas

September 2016



CHASING THE RABBIT

- Friday, September 2**
1st Friday Mass, Breakfast
6:30 a.m.
St. Mark's Catholic Church
- Monday, September 19**
Monthly Dinner Meeting
6:30 Dinner
Canyon Creek Country Club
- Friday, September 23**
Spes Gregis
Hilton Anatole
- Saturday, September 24**
Seminary Family Day/BBQ
Holy Trinity Seminary
- Friday, October 7**
1st Friday Mass, Breakfast
6:30 a.m.
St. Mark's Catholic Church
- Monday, October 17**
Monthly Dinner Meeting
6:30 Dinner
Canyon Creek Country Club
- Friday, November 4**
1st Friday Mass, Breakfast
6:30 a.m.
St. Mark's Catholic Church
- Monday, November 21**
Monthly Dinner Meeting
6:30 Dinner
Canyon Creek Country Club

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

Editor: Marie Baert

Visit these Serra web sites...
North Central Dallas Serra Club
www.ncdserraclub.com
Serra USA Council
www.serraus.org

In 1958, Fr. Timothy Gollob was ordained a priest and in 2010 tried to turn in his retirement letter to Bishop Farrell, but was granted a birthday present of being able to continue on as pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Oak Cliff. He calls it 47 years as a humble servant of God.

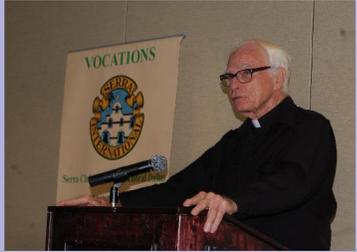
Fr. Gollob told a story about the desert fathers. History and traditions that are important to us. Monks and hermits in the early Church would get away from life, seclude themselves in the emptiness of the desert for prayers and enlightenment. They always had a dog. One person was visiting and trying to learn how the best way was to find Jesus. Some came and went over a period of years, months or even weeks. One hermit was there 47 years and he was asked how come he has stayed for so long? The hermit told him that the dog had been a very long time. The dog, Tullah, saw a rabbit and started barking and chasing the rabbit. All the other dogs joined in and but they finally got tired and gave up. Tullah stayed and



kept chasing the rabbit. The man seeking enlightenment

asked the wrong question- why did the dogs give up? The right question he should have asked was why did this dog continue? The dogs stopped because they did not see the rabbit, did not know what they were looking for so they gave up. Tullah saw the rabbit and kept chasing it. Hence, Fr. Gollob has seen the rabbit and keeps chasing it with his vocation after all these years.

Growing up in Tyler, TX at Immaculate Conception Fr. Gollob was an altar server. A banker used to give a prize to the best server each year. Fr. Wolffe picked Fr. Gollob one year. Well, he received \$25 from the banker and figured there might be some money doing this religious thing! Fr. Wolffe would always ask who would go to the seminary and he was never thinking about it. Another boy was always thinking of it. In 1951 Fr. Gollob graduated and was hanging by the lake with this other boy and on the way home from the party he asked this other boy if he was really going to be a priest. He said yes, went home and for five days prayed about it and decided he wasn't going to be a priest. Fr. Gollob at the time thought what the heck, he would go home and pray for



five days and see what God wanted for him. Fr. Went home and thought maybe he should pray about it and came up with the answer of yes. He and his parents went to tell Fr. Wolffe who said we will send you to the seminary right away. Fr. Gollob responded he wanted to be a Jesuit and Fr. Wolffe replied back-no you will be a diocesan priest. They were to go to St. John's in San Antonio. His parents drove him down to seminary, asked the dean of students what they should do and he said to go home. Father was 16 at the time. He has been catching the rabbit every day. Some days you fall, some are not so rosy but you continue.

Fr. Gollob has been Chaplain of the VA Hospital for 47 years. Once you start with a hospital in your area, you seem to be there for life. He has also been writing in the Texas Catholic for 50 years. His picture has been updated but it is getting smaller! He is an avid bird watcher in his free time.

The President's Focus...

THE JOURNEY TO HOLINESS



IN TALKING WITH YOUR CHILDREN Remember to raise the call to Church ministry? The process of answering God's call begins in childhood. Throughout adolescence and adulthood, the attitudes assumed in childhood begin to influence the course of one's life. A vocation or a talent will not grow to fruition unless it is nurtured in childhood and adolescence by a parent.

CHILDREN OFTEN TALK about what they want to be "when they grow up": doctors, lawyers, athletes, nurses, movie stars, teachers, carpenters. They may talk about these roles, but do they ever talk about being a priest, sister or brother? You are the hand of God — you can encourage your children to consider Church ministry. **WHAT KINDS OF PEOPLE** become priests, sisters or brothers? Are they people who don't relate well with other people? No. They are people who love others — people who find real satisfaction chatting with a 93-year-old parishioner, holding the hand of a cancer patient, listening to the troubles of a streetwise teen. They are people with the courage to touch lives, hearts and souls in a high-tech, un-churched world. Are you that kind of person?

ALL TOO OFTEN WE forget to express appreciation to those in service-oriented jobs, including priests, sisters and brothers. We forget because we think, "It's their job to help." Priests and religious aren't superhuman. They need genuine support from those they serve. Let them know how you feel.

A STUDY COMMISSIONED by the Knights of Columbus revealed that 75% of Catholic young people who had seriously considered religious life felt they were never encouraged to pursue that goal. Do you know someone who would make a good priest? Why not tell him so? Your encouragement may be all he needs.

HOLINESS is a challenge for all of us, whatever our specific vocations. We are called to be holy in all aspects of our lives. This is an ongoing process, often slowed by setbacks. When the saints were alive, they did not regard themselves as saints; rather, they knew they were sinners — and they strived to be saints. The process of becoming holy is, even for saints, filled with struggle. Know you are a sinner; strive to be a saint.

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FAMILY LIFE can build values integral to a strong vocation — whether to priesthood, religious life or marriage. Teaching your children to value commitment, service and prayer will help them make strong vocation decisions as adults and live out those vocations with success and fulfillment.

A MISCONCEPTION among some Catholics is that the priest has an ideal job: he works one day each week, Sunday. They forget that the other six days a week, the priest works long and hard behind the scenes: bringing communion to the sick and elderly, counseling troubled families, visiting school classes, preparing individuals for sacraments. Often the job is frustrating, exhausting and thankless, but always of vital importance. Take some time this week and express appreciation to your priests for the difficult work they do.

THE LOVING ENVIRONMENT of a family draws forth an individual's greatest talents and gifts. We've come to realize that creating an atmosphere in which children can hear the Lord's call is one of the most significant responsibilities resting on our shoulders as parents. Our own lives must reflect the presence of God, His Word, and the love He offers His people.

PARENTS, do you encourage your children to develop their talents and gifts? Do you encourage your children to think of Church ministry as a possible life choice?

PRAYER is a moving force in vocation development. Prayer is effective; prayer is powerful; prayer is essential. Few are called to priesthood or religious life, but all are called to pray for vocations. "Lord, your Church is in need. Touch the hearts of many within our parish with the desire to serve you. Call forth from this community sisters, brothers, deacons, priests and lay leaders. Help us to live lives that will nurture childhood trust into adult commitment. May this parish be a source of hope and a source of ministers for your Church, your people and your world. Amen."

JESUS COMMANDED US to pray for vocations with his words, "Pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Mt. 9:38). Take on prayer for vocations as your personal effort to increase the number of priests, sisters, brothers, and lay ministers.

WHAT IS A SISTER? A Sister lives in a religious community that follows a constantly renewed tradition, patterned on the life and teaching of the founder of the community. The work she generally does will depend upon the ministries of that community as influenced by the needs of the Church and its people — for example: teaching, social work, administration, nursing, peace and justice ministry, etc. If the lifestyle of a Sister sounds attractive to you contact the diocesan vocation office for more information.

Often we forget to listen, prayer is the moving force in vocation development.

Bill



Pope Appoints Bishop Kevin Farrell of Dallas, to Head New Vatican Department for Laity, Family and Life

For related story go to:

<http://americamagazine.org/content/dispatches/pope-appoints-bishop-kevin-farrell-dallas-tex-head-new-vatican-department-laity>

Very important!! The Serra International Website has been completely revamped. Please go to: serrainternational.org/content/training-videos/log-in:portal.serrainternational.org

The 2017 Serra USA Rally
The rally is planned for February (15-19) in Phoenix, AZ. We want to see as many Serrans as possible in attendance. You DON'T have to be club officer to attend. The programs are designed to teach all of us how to be better Serrans!!!



Holy Trinity Public Mass Schedule

- September 11
- October 2nd, 9th, 23rd
- November 6th, 13th
- December 4th
- January 23rd, 29th
- February 5th, 12th, 26th
- April 2nd, 9th, 23rd

Future Speaker Line Up

- September 19
Stacy Kimriell
Principal in Plano ISD
Value of Catholic Education
- October 17
Bishop Greg Kelly
- November 21
Fr. Tom Cloherty

PRAY FOR THE HEALING POWER OF GOD FOR:

Mary LaFave
Colleen Baillargeon

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

Wine Gathering

Consider bringing a bottle or two of wine to stock the Wine Pull for the Seminarian Dinner to First Friday Mass or the September dinner meeting!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ed Johnson	1st
Darwin Hutchison	28th
Don Simoneaux	21st
Larry Montz	25th
Ann Larriviere	29th
Jack Tromba	31st

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Kay Duffy	8th
Rob & Ann Larriviere	11th
Pete & Mary LaFave	12th
Darwin & Debbie Hutchinson	24th

Fr Tim Gollob: [News samhodes@dallasnews.com](mailto:samhodes@dallasnews.com)

Published: 03 October 2010 01:16 AM

For his 75th birthday, almost exactly a year ago, Rev. Timothy Gollob submitted his retirement letter as required for a priest reaching that age. Bishop Kevin Farrell of the Diocese of Dallas gave him a birthday gift, saying he could continue as pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church in south Oak Cliff.

This weekend, Gollob gets what he calls "the best birthday present" with the opening of a new, 700-seat sanctuary for Holy Cross, built after 15 years of dogged fundraising, including raffles, bingo and Cajun luaus.

The bespectacled, white-haired priest is understated and wry, but gets excited giving tours of the sanctuary, insisting that visitors try the restrooms' state-of-the-art hand dryers.

"That air," he said wonderingly, "will blow the skin off your hands."

Getting a gleaming new sanctuary built in a hardscrabble area of Dallas will no doubt further what Farrell and many others say is the legendary reputation within the diocese of a priest known simply as "Father Tim."

For 41 years, he has been pastor of the mostly Hispanic and black congregation at Holy Cross, presiding at more than 6,000 Masses and an untold number of weddings, funerals and confirmations. He's the diocese's longest-serving active priest and the longest at a single parish.

He's also led Mass at the nearby VA Medical Center nearly every Friday since 1969. He's written for the Texas Catholic newspaper even longer, penning folksy, pastoral columns drawn from his daily life.

And though Gollob has overseen a church building campaign that raised about \$3 million, he still lives, as he has since arriving at the parish, in a ramshackle rectory on the church campus at Ledbetter Drive and Bonnie View Road.

"He would never let us restore it, and it probably should be replaced," longtime parishioner Helen Macik said. Gollob has had his share of break-ins there, including one in which he says the police confused his housekeeping for ransacking.

But the rectory also has been where he has kept a vegetable garden, stored rods and reels for fishing breaks, read his beloved poetry volumes of Robert Frost and Gerard Manley Hopkins, and paid close attention to the local bird life.

"We've got a Cooper's hawk that eats pigeons out here every once in a while," he said.

From the rectory, too, he has engaged in what parishioners say are innumerable acts of ad hoc charity, including more than once literally giving the coat off his back to a needy stranger.

"When he took the vows, he took them serious," longtime parishioner Shirley Mackie said. "He's a one-in-a-million priest."

Gollob's father was an Austrian immigrant who joined the U.S. Navy as a teen and moved his family from base to base. They were at Pearl Harbor, having just returned from church, when the Japanese attacked Dec. 7, 1941. Gollob, then in second grade, recalls his father strapping on a pistol and reporting to a battle station.

While their father continued in the war effort, Gollob, his brother and their mother relocated to Tyler, continuing as faithful Catholics. In high school, Gollob had a friend who was thinking of the priesthood. The young man followed a priest's advice to pray about the matter for three days. Gollob decided to do the same. "By the end of three days, I thought, 'Oh, doggone it. Someone's calling me,'" he said.

Gollob went to seminary, first in San Antonio, then for four years in Rome, graduating with two future U.S. cardinals. He was ordained in 1958 and served various positions in the Dallas Diocese before arriving at Holy Cross in June 1969. The church had been founded more than a decade before by Czech families who moved north from Ennis. By the time Gollob arrived, the church had begun a transition to majority black membership.

Change has been constant. These days, Holy Cross has about 700 families, 60 percent of them Hispanic. Most of the rest are black, but some Czech families remain. It's a church where a framed black history poster is hung just across from a Mexican history mural. Between the English and Spanish Masses - all led by Gollob - members gather for meals.

Holy Cross remains a socially engaged parish, its 11-acre, pecan tree-lined campus serving as home to a Head Start program, a senior citizens center and a Catholic Charities office.

That appeals to Gollob, who through the years used his spot on the diocese personnel committee to avoid getting transferred. He rejects the notion that the poverty in Holy Cross' midst means it's a poor parish.

"Wealth is not in money. It's in the character of the people," he said. "It's a rich parish."

Gollob's parishioners followed his patient approach in raising money to replace an aging sanctuary that could not accommodate large crowds for Spanish-language Masses.

Though the parish has had help from wealthy outside donors, foundations and the diocese, much of its fundraising has been local and modest, such as a recent Mexican-style bingo event that netted \$3,000.

"That's how all those stalagmites and stalactites formed in the big caverns, one drop at a time," Gollob said.

Gollob plans to keep working, including raising funds to pay off the building debt. He had a heart attack in 2006 (suffered just as he was to lead Mass at the VA, where quick care saved his life), but he's feeling good.

"I put on this collar, and I'm ready for whatever the day