

Serra Club of Pittsburgh



NEWS



JULY / AUGUST 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 17

Holy Hour at St. Thomas More,
Bethel Park - 6 PM

Tuesday, August 25

Ordinati Dinner

August 27-29

Serra International Convention
in Omaha, Nebraska

Holy Hour in July

The Second Annual Holy Hour will be held on Friday, July 17, 2009 at St. Thomas More Parish in Bethel Park. It will begin with prayers for vocations at 6 PM presided by our Chaplain, Fr. Joseph Mele. The evening will feature the installation of Officers for the 2009-2011 term. District Governor Joe Koepfinger will conduct the installation. Also, five new members will be inducted into Serra.

A supper buffet will be served after the Holy Hour in the Parish Life Center. The cost of the evening is \$18.00 per person. We urge you to bring your pastor and as many guests as you choose. Reservations must be made by July 13th. †

Ordinati Dinner is August 25

On August 25th, we will celebrate the newly ordained priests with our annual Ordinati Dinner at the LeMont Restaurant on Mt. Washington.

Reception will begin at 6 PM followed by dinner at 7. The newly ordained, their parents and pastors will be guests of Serra.

You will be receiving your invitation soon. The cost of the dinner will remain at \$50 per person. Due to the lack of attendance by pastors in the past, the Trustees are asking each Serran to invite their pastor as Serras' guest. The invitation will provide a space for your pastor's name. The club will cover the dinner cost of the pastor. Other guests are welcome at the dinner cost of \$50.

The newly ordained will be introduced during the dinner and the Good Shepherd Award will be presented.†

President's Report

My term as President of the Serra Club of Pittsburgh is over. I previously served as President in 1987-88. In the past 2 years, we have seen growth in membership thanks to Jack Warwick, Fr. Mele and others. The newsletter is outstanding thanks to Ray Golebie. Vocations and parish relations programs have improved thanks to Dick Ponzio. Tom Politylo has done a great job in providing training for new officers. Programs at our luncheon meetings have been enriching thanks to Bob Deasy. We are blessed to have Fr. Mele as our Chaplain. In other words, the *Continued on next page*

“ We are blessed to have Fr. Mele as our chaplain. ”

— John Pillar

In Our Prayers

Pray for the repose of their souls:

Joseph McCann
Veronica Devlin
John E. Connelly

Pray for the sick:

Cliff Berschneider
Robert A. Deasy III
Janet Pschirer

If you know a member in need of our prayers, call Ray Golebie 412-531-3670 to have them added to our prayer list. †

Board Meetings

The Board of Trustees will meet on the following Wednesdays - July 22 and August 26 - **St. Mary of the Mount Rectory** on Mt. Washington beginning at 9:00 AM. The rectory is next to the Church. †

Continued from front page success we have had in the past 2 years is largely due to many Serrans who take their roles seriously. I hope that Jack Warwick will receive the same support and cooperation that I have. I sincerely hope that our younger members will now step up and continue to foster and promote vocations so that our Club will continue to do the important work of Serra. Thanks again to all who have supported me in the past 2 years.

John Pillar, Past President †

Our Incoming President

John Warwick (Jack) is a North Catholic and Duquesne University graduate. He began his business career as an auditor and gained his tax experience as an IRS Revenue Agent. He was recruited by Coopers & Lybrand and after becoming a CPA promoted to Tax Manager. Jack left Coopers to become V.P. Chief Financial Officer of McClure-Johnston Inc. He is now with Robert Warwick & Associates where he is a Tax Consultant.



Jack Warwick

Jack is married to Dolores, has two sons, Robert Warwick, CPA, MBA and John S. Warwick III, DMD. Jack joined Serra in 1990 and is proud to tell everyone that he joined Serra after making a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. He was past President of the East Allegheny Serra Club when he resided in Churchill. After moving to Mt. Washington, he transferred his Serra membership to the Pittsburgh Serra Club. He has been Treasurer for the past four years and will begin his two year term of office as President on July 1, 2009. His website is www.warwickcpa.net. †

Speak Courageously About Priestly Life

The Chaplain's View

Saint Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney, also known as Saint John Vianney said this on the day of his ordination to the priesthood: "Oh, how great is a priest. What it means to be a priest will only be understood in heaven. Were a priest to be understood while he lives on earth, people would die, not of fright, but of love....the Priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus."

I am very happy and excited that Pope Benedict XVI had the wisdom to call for a year of grace for the entire Church as an opportunity for priests to grow in holiness and for all the members of the Church to recall the essential role of priests among us and in society. I am equally pleased that Bishop Zubik has approved a plan for the way we will observe the Year for Priests in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. This plan will be publicly announced in the very near future. I am positive the members of Serra will support the plan in every way and will participate in as many events that our Serrans' schedules permit. There will even be a

diocesan pilgrimage to the places in France that are significant in the life of Saint John Vianney, patron of all the world's priests. From France we will travel on to Rome to participate in the Closing Ceremonies for the Year for Priests. Bishop Zubik will lead the pilgrimage for the final stretch of the trip into Rome. I hope many of our Serrans will be able to accompany the bishop and many priests, deacons and religious for this memorable occasion. I personally can't wait for the year ahead to get up and started!

Most of all, I am extremely hopeful that the Year for Priests will help all Catholics to speak courageously about priestly life as the priceless gift it truly is. The Catholic Priesthood is in fact, a splendid and privileged form of Christian living, not because of the man that receives the vocation but because of Christ who wills it to be this way for the sake of His Church. Despite the tensions and challenges we all face in our respective vocations today, I hope and pray this year will help us to see more clearly than ever how many of our priests continue to do the work of the Lord Jesus, often in heroic ways.

At the start of this special year I wish to thank each member of the Serra Club of Pittsburgh for your love for the Church and for your care and desire for me and all priests in our diocese. On his ordination day Saint John Vianney understood that the life of a priest was a life of true love. May the Holy Spirit open to us this love so that the entire Church will be richer through all that we celebrate together in the Year for Priests. †

2009 Spring Leadership Conference

The SLC was hosted by the Pittsburgh Serrans at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Glenshaw. Jim and Rita Finn prepared the site and served the catered hot lunch. Fr. Ed Schleicher of St. Mary welcomed the Serrans with an opening prayer.

In his opening remarks Tom Politylo, district governor, pointed out that being called to Serra was in fact a ministry. Further: a ministry is a situation in which God calls us to be a channel for God's presence, power and love which we are to exemplify to the world. Tom informed the attendees that he has been elected regional director for region 3 and gave the region 3 district 21 report. It was noted that the East McKeesport club will petition the Bishop to dissolve because of declining membership created age and by economic stress in the area. Serra clubs that will not be attending the international convention in Omaha, Nebraska should submit their delegate's proxy to the new District Governor, Joseph Koepfinger, by July. The forms are available online at serraus.org. The delegate vote is important as changes in the by-laws of Serra International, and USAC will be voted upon. *Continued on page 5*

Former Serra Chaplain

The Rev. James Wehner has been appointed rector and president of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio. The college is operated under the authority of the Holy See. It is the only seminary outside of Italy under

the direct authority of the Holy See. The Pontifical College offers collegian, pre-theology and theologate programs. Over 160 seminarians from

26 dioceses in the United States attend.

Rev. Wehner was appointed our Chaplain in 2002. We wish him well in his new assignment.

“...the priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus.”

— Saint John Vianney

Quote of the Month

However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results.

— Sir Winston Churchill



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The Serra Club of

Pittsburgh NEWS is published bi-monthly for all active members. Newsletters are mailed to members and are available at the luncheons. Articles should be sent to the editor via e-mail at rjgolebie@verizon.net or by phone at (412) 531-3670. Ideas for future articles are welcome.

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Membership

Serrans are always searching for new members. For information on membership, contact Brian Hardy, Membership Chair, at 412-486-1341 or 412-562-9117. †

Member News

The following approved members are expected to be installed in a Ceremony conducted by Father Joseph Mele after the Holy Hour Service in July: Donald and Patricia Cuozzo, Greg Falvo, Scott Hardy and Steve Oslica.

On May 28th one of our Serran widows passed away at the age of 90. Veronica Devlin was the wife of Fran Devlin who served as Serran President in 1969. Mrs. Devlin was known for her volunteer work for the St. Vincent DePaul Society, Ladies of Charity, and served on the Board of Carlow College.

On May 16th, John E. Connelly, father of Serran Audree Wirginis Schwartzlander died peacefully at his home in Indiana Township. He was 83. Mr. Connelly, founder of the Gateway Clipper Fleet, assisted the Serra Club in one of our membership drives. He was well known for his charitable work. †

Serra Websites

For easy access, put the following websites in your "Favorites" folder:

Serra Club of Pittsburgh: <http://serraclub.catholicweb.com>

District Governor: <http://Mysite.verizon.net/tjpbsp/>

The Serra Club site will carry past newsletters for your reference. The main page will list all current activities of the club. †

Photos From the June Meeting



Fr. Fred Byrne, Director of Vocations, St. Vincent College



Fr. Fred Byrne speaks to the Serrans



Fr. Fred Byrne with John Pillar

Spring Leadership Conference *Continued from page 3* One of the votes will be an appeal for a \$13 increase in dues by Serra International. Tom has spoken with Chicago and is attempting to arrange for a separate district for the Northern Tier of district 21 (N.Y.) In order for this to take place approval by the clubs in the Northern Tier must be unanimous before SI can be petitioned for the change. This adjustment would make the office of district governor less demanding. The Buffalo and Ogdensburg clubs are working towards a Serra club in Syracuse. Joseph Testa of Buffalo is the point man. Under the new proposed alignment Regions 1,2,3, and 4 (the Northeast) would become the new region 3. Once again your delegate's vote is important.

Father Mele, Pittsburgh Serra Club chaplain, was the celebrant for the liturgy. He was unable to attend the SLC as his brother was having major surgery. In his homily Father Mele said, "It was important to know Jesus rather than just know about Jesus." He continued, "Prayer is most important in vocation work." He alluded to the fact that personal contact is necessary in promoting vocations and that is the importance of Serrans along with support for clergy and those of the consecrated life.

An excellent slide presentation on leadership by Joseph Koepfinger covered the duties of the presidency. He also provide a DVD on running a successful Serra organization. It is available through serraus.org or from Joe or Tom Politylo.

The College Connection Program sponsored by Serra was covered in a DVD supplied by Frank Thomas. It is a new program and as the program grows contact with others the faith will increase. Studies show that 50% of Catholic students fall away from the church after their freshman year and an astounding 70% by the junior year.

The district council meeting took place. A discussion was held concerning a yearly spring leadership conference. It was noted that the 90% of the organizations had 2-year terms and suggested that the slc should be held every other year.

Joseph Koepfinger was introduced and voted in as the new district governor for Region 3 District 21. Joe stated his goal will be to have a strong supportive chaplainship of all organizations in the district. He said it was necessary for each organization to implement a 15-month plan to operate efficiently.

The conference closed with prayer. Remember: This is the year of the priest. Not only do we need to support our clergy but also we must work toward more vocations. In the Pittsburgh Diocese Bishop Zubik wants to have 90 seminarians in the next four years. †