

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, March 20

Noon Luncheon: Ricos

Speaker: Rev. Andebo,
Immaculate Conception

Friday, April 17

Noon Luncheon: Rico's

Speaker: Rev. Dennis Yurochko,
Rector, St. Paul Seminary

Note about Luncheon Meetings

For the next three meetings, we will meet at Rico's in the North Hills. The Trustees are searching for a permanent meeting place where the price is right and the parking is free. Suggestions should be sent to one of the Officers.

Directions to Rico's: From the South, take 279 to McKnight Road, turn left on Babcock Boulevard and take the next left onto Rico's Lane. If further directions are needed call Rico's at 412-931-1989.

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.

Editor: Ray Golebie

Newsletter Design: S. Golebie Visual
Communication Design

Serra Club of Pittsburgh
2900 Noblestown Road
Pittsburgh PA ❖ 15205-4227

SERRA CLUB OF PITTSBURGH



NEWS

MARCH / APRIL 2009



Bishop Burns Installed

On March 3, Msgr. Edward Burns, former Rector of St. Paul Seminary, was installed Bishop of Juneau, Alaska. He was ordained by Bishop Zubik at St. Paul Cathedral as Archbishops Donald Wuerl of Washington, D.C. and Roger Schweitz of Anchorage served as co-ordiners. The new Bishop has many ties to Serra and all Serrans wish him well in his "New Adventure." †



Bishop Burns

Finding a Wad of Money Aided in Vocation Decision

Seminarian Dominic Greco says that returning a 'wad of money' he found on a street in Las Vegas was one of the things that helped lead to his decision to study for the priesthood.



Seminarian Dominic Greco

Speaking to Pittsburgh Serrans at their January 16 meeting at Amici Restaurant, Mr. Greco described himself as a 'force of arms' Catholic because, early in his life, his mother had to 'drag me to Mass.' He was close to his grandfather whom he described as a good and holy man who influenced his early thought processes.

One of the turning points in his life, he said, occurred while he was vacationing in Las Vegas when he noticed a wad of money laying on the street near a "couple of men who could have been characters in *The Godfather* having a spirited discussion."

"I picked up the money," he said, "and gave it to one of the men who looked at me and said 'you ought to have a vocation.' That helped to start me thinking."

But that was not the only incident that led him to decide to study for the priesthood, he said. Being exposed to people who attended the Serra International Convention in 2004 in Pittsburgh was another

(Continued on next page)

In Our Prayers

Pray for the repose of their souls:

Joseph McCann
Jane Tierney
Thomas O'Shea, Sr.
Fr. Bruno Asteri

Pray for the sick:

Cliff Berschneider
Robert A. Deasy III
Janet Pschirer
Henry Van Wassen

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 next Trustee meeting will be on Wednesday, March 25 at Immaculate Conception Church in Bloomfield. All Serrans are invited to attend every Trustee Meeting. This meeting gives every Serran the opportunity to attend Mass together at 11:30 in the Church and then enjoy an excellently prepared lunch by the Church's cook during which the Trustees will conduct their business meeting. All Serrans are welcome to provide their input into the activities of the Pittsburgh Serra Club. The cost of the lunch is \$2.50. If you plan to attend a Trustee meeting (held on the 4th Wednesday of every month) please email John Pillar: japillar@consolidated.net. †

Finding a Wad of Money continued from page 1. thing that influenced him. "Just seeing those people from all parts of the world and knowing that they were praying for seminarians was a great help," he said.

In addition to the daily challenge of trying to live a Christ-like life, knowing that people "are praying for me is really inspirational," he said.

Mr. Greco spent a short time with the Benedictines in their monastery at Latrobe, PA but decided that monastic life was not for him. He is a native of Donora, PA where he is a member of Our Lady of the Valley Parish. Mr. Greco is in his first year at St. Paul Seminary. He is a graduate of St. Vincent's College in Latrobe, PA, where he earned a degree in history. Mr. Greco is currently working on a Master's Degree in Philosophy at Duquesne University. †

Chaplain's Message

Lent is a special time of deepening our spiritual life. It is particularly important for Serrans. Usually people make extra effort to pray more, offer more alms and fast more if they are physically able to do so during Lent. Yet, most of the Serrans I know do these spiritual exercises routinely all year long. What is it that a member of Serra can do to grow spiritually in Lent when Serrans have a spiritual life that is strong already?



Fr. Mele

I have two recommendations. The first one is to read a good book on the life of Christ. My two favorite editions are *The Life of Christ* by Bishop Sheen and *The Lord* by Father Romano Guardini. Both of these volumes can be easily borrowed from your local public library.

My second suggestion is a little more challenging. When I consider our Blessed Lord spending forty days and forty nights in the desert, I always place this event in the context in which it happened. Our Blessed

Lord went into the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry of preaching. He went into the desert to be alone in the act of reflection. Reflecting is a lost art today. It is rarely authentically practiced. According to my favorite contemporary philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre, most people live their lives based on what he calls emotivism.

MacIntyre was an atheist born in Scotland. He was a humanist like many of the Europeans. He did good works but they were done out of his own sense of guilt that he was wealthier than most people on earth. He was an elitist. He did not do humanitarian works to the glory and honor of a Supreme Being and thus they were never purely altruistic. They were self-centered even though they sought to do what is good.

Late in his life, MacIntyre experienced a spiritual conversion. His conversion happened after he struggled for years against it. He considered religion to be for slaves and the uneducated. Finally he could not resist any longer. The

more he researched as a philosopher to know the truth, the closer and closer he moved to Christ and the Catholic Church.

After his conversion he introduced in his writing a concept that he defines as emotivism which is living one's life out of a preference and not necessarily the truth. In fact, he claims that most of the time people today live out of a lie because they never truly seek to challenge their preferences to see if they are the truth. They defend their preference, whether it is the truth or not. Thus, many people live their lives based upon a lie; what they want the truth to be. Their preference is only an illusion or even a deception. Mac Inytre claims that this is a direct result from an unreflected life.

This Lent I feel called to spend these forty days and forty nights of Lent reflecting on the life of Christ and prayerfully daring to examine whether what I believe is simply my preference or is it unequivocally consistent with the truth who is Jesus Christ. As your Chaplain, I want to invite you to join me in this endeavor of reflection. †

What a Wonderful Group of People Serrans Are!

Report submitted Tom Politylo

With such dedication of the involved individuals to the support of clergy and those of consecrated ministries the future of vocations is on a sound basis. Particularly with the cooperation I have seen with the bishops and seminary rectors within our region.

Hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and a Holy New Year. This past year I did not request the \$3.00 per member donation suggested by the Chicago office to offset my expenses as district governor as I did not complete all of my visits. I did get to visit six of the ten organizations. However I would ask you to have a Mass intention for your club membership at one of your local churches. Simply put, the Mass is the greatest form of prayer in existence. Another reason for offering the liturgy is that the Serra name is placed in the bulletin and most parishioners read the mass intentions giving your club additional exposure and could lead to new membership contacts. I will continue rescheduling my visits when we return from our stay in the South.

The region membership drive quota has been achieved mainly due to the efforts of the Pittsburgh Serrans who at this writing have installed 20 new members. Members achieved this through prayer, efforts of the chaplain, but most because of personal contact. Mr. Warwick was the prime mover in the Pittsburgh organization. As you may recall he was one of the presenters at the district spring leadership conference. Four of the other organizations have not reached their goals. There were two nominees submitted for district governor elect but one withdrew his name. Joseph Koepfinger, from the Pittsburgh club is the only remaining nominee. I can concentrate more in aiding those clubs in recruiting methods along with Joe's expertise as he has held every position in the Serra club. I have found that the clubs

(Continued on next page)

“ As your Chaplain, I want to invite you to join me in this endeavor of reflection. ”

— Fr. Joseph Mele

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. †

Quote of the Month

Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

“ The region membership drive quota has been achieved mainly due to the efforts of the Pittsburgh Serrans who at this writing have installed 20 new members.

— Tom Politylo ”



Tom Politylo

What a Wonderful Group continued from page 3. that have a viable speaker's program for their luncheons not only helps in keeping members but opens them to participation of the other sponsored events. The Serra manual for programs available on line from Serraus.org. It is an excellent guide.

The College Connection DVD available from USAC can be an effective tool in establishing the Serra presence in your area. Briefly, in cooperation with your parishes it establishes Catholic contacts for students going to college. They are contacted by the catholic organizations on the college campuses prior to their matriculation and have a positive effect on parents knowing their youngsters will be in a positive Catholic environment. This has been proven on a number of campuses.

On a sad note, Bishop Zubik of the Pittsburgh has given permission for us to petition Serra International to remove the charter of the Mars club because of inactivity. However, he has informed us that we are to begin a new organization in the Cranberry area as it is a rapidly growing area of the Pittsburgh diocese.

On a glad note, some individuals in the Syracuse N.Y. area have contacted Jim Grubka, president, of the Buffalo, N.Y. club in order to establish Serra in their area. I had written to Bishop Moynihan of the Syracuse diocese and Peter Cunningham, Membership Coordinator of USAC has informed me that we have received permission to begin.

Currently, I am awaiting information from USAC on forming extension teams for these areas. This will be an opportunity for those interested to answer the call to Junipera Serra's words "always move forward never look

back." This would be an excellent opportunity for new members to get involved and to learn more about Serra. Please contact me if interested in helping in N.Y. or Cranberry. Once we set the extension team we will be able to more effectively aid clubs in recruiting.

Those of you who are going to have elections this year should have your nominating committees in place by now. Our leaders conference will take place in Pittsburgh this year on Saturday, April 19th at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish 2510 Middle Road, Glenshaw, PA. It is open to all Serrans as they are all potential officers.

Another reminder: You should have begun your collection of club dues.

August 27-29th Serra International Convention in Omaha, Nebraska.

Yours in the Bond of Christ,

Tom Politylo †

News From Down Under

Serran James Kolan married Nanâ Howard of Australia at St. Joseph's Church in Subiaco WA on January 3, 2009. The wedding Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Barry Hickey of Perth with four concelebrating priests including Rev. Jeremiah O'Shea of St. Valentine Parish in Bethel Park. The Gospel reading chosen by the couple was John 10: 7-15 which included the theme of the Good Shepherd in honor of Jim's involvement with Serra. The cantor sang the Alleluia using a Byzantine plainchant melody which Jim learned at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh.

The affair was described in *The Record* (the newspaper for the Archdiocese of Perth) as a "largely legal wedding" with 21 barristers and solicitors, a former Supreme Court judge, and 3 university law school deans in attendance. Jim's mother, Peg, his sister and niece also attended.

Jim and Nanâ are now settling into their suburban home outside of Perth. Jim will be starting classes soon to become certified for the practice of law in Western Australia while he does consulting for his former employer. Nanâ will be teaching seven courses at the University of Notre Dame School of Law in Fremantle. Jim plans to remain a Steelers and Panther fan, and is also considering supporting an Australian Rules Football team.



Jim Kolan and his wife, Nanâ

Jim may be contacted at jskolan@optusnet.com.au and the couple's mailing address is PO Box 2178, Midland DC WA 6936 Australia. Jim extends his best wishes to the members of the Serra Club of Pittsburgh and says that he will miss your fellowship. †

Serrans Join Musicians Representing the United States in Music Series in Rome, Italy

Submitted by Mrs. Capretto, CAF Marketing Director - Pittsburgh

In January 2008, local Music Directors from the Pittsburgh Roman Catholic Diocese received a musical invitation for choral singers to participate in the International Music Art Sacred Series Festival, in Rome, Italy in November, 2008.

Local music director Dr. John Ravens was chosen to direct the Pittsburgh Masters Choir in preparing young children and adults to sing complex music written in Latin for this performance in Rome.

Singers and non-performers present at this event from Churches of the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg .

Serran participants were as follows: Rose Vega, Sharon Capretto and children Anthony (age 11), Natalie (age 7) and Chezarina (age 13). These singers joined with other choral singers across the United States from Wisconsin, New Jersey, and Florida forming the largest group—Continuo Arts Symphonic Chorus to perform abroad.

(Continued on next page)

Serrans Join Musicians *continued from page 5.* The “Requiem For My Mother” represents the great battle between Heaven and Earth and an astounding reflection of the holy life of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the great sufferings she endured alongside her beloved Son, Jesus Christ. The music is spectacular, inspirational and emotionally captivates the audience.

This event was aired on Italian television across Europe and recorded as a documentary for the United States. Also, this group performed at the Holy Mass at Saint Peter Basilica on Friday, November 21st in front of crowd reaching 1,000-plus.

Due to the success of this event, the Continuo Arts Symphonic Chorus was asked to perform again at this Festival in Rome, 2010. If you would like additional information concerning this upcoming event or the Foundation and its mission to promote young artists, please contact the Continuo Arts Foundation by email: info@continuoarts.com or visit the website at [www:continuoarts.com](http://www.continuoarts.com) or call (908) 264-5324. The CD “Requiem For My Mother” is available for purchase online; cost is \$19. †

Serrans Attend Bishop Burns Installation

Jack Warwick, George Wasson, Marie and Bob Deasy with Bishop Burns at his installation.



More Photos From the Christmas Party

