

# Serra Club of Pittsburgh



## NEWS



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2009

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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#### November 6

Memorial Mass - 11:30 AM  
St. Joseph's Church  
1304 Fourth Ave.  
Coraopolis, PA

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#### November 20

Fr. Bob Guay - Vicar General  
Noon - Rico's

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#### December 18

Christmas Party  
St. Paul Seminary  
7 PM to 9 PM

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### Memorial Mass

The Serra Annual Memorial Mass for deceased members will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph's Church in Coraopolis. Directions to the church were included in your letter of invitation. Fr. Mele will celebrate the mass. A catered luncheon will be served in the church hall. Widows of Serrans will be our guests and will be honored during the luncheon.†

### Annual Christmas Party

The Annual Serra Christmas Party will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul Seminary from 7 to 9:00 PM. Invited guests will be Bishop Zubik, the Seminarians, retired priests from St. John Vianney Manor, and Serran widows. You will be receiving your invitation soon. Please respond as soon as possible in order to assist those in charge with making the necessary arrangements.†

### Chaplain's Message

Recently Bishop Zubik asked a question to a church packed with people. He asked us to think of that one priest above all others that helped us the most to see Christ. Then he told every one in the church to remember that that priest was "called" by Christ; that the priest is very human and that he as a priest must grow in holiness every day if he wants to carry the happy mission of telling everyone about Christ, his Divine Friend.

On the evening of the same day, Father Angelus Shaughnessy, a Capuchin friar gave a wonderful talk about the Catholic priesthood. He was speaking at the Bentleyville Knights of Columbus Evening to Honor Priests. Over one hundred people attended the evening. Father Joe Codori, Father George DeVille, Father Pierre Falkenhan, Father George Jackovic, Father Gary Krummert (pastor of Ave Maria Parish in Bentleyville), and Father John Lendvai were honored by the Knights. I was happy to be in their presence.

During the talk, Father Angelus spoke about the Eucharist as the source and summit of all that we do as Catholics. He went on to point out that this is why so much in our culture desires to undermine our Lord's teaching to His Church about the Eucharist. If the world can do away with the need for Eucharist, then the world can eliminate

*Continued on next page*

## In Our Prayers

Pray for the repose of their souls:

Robert Deasy, Jr.  
Betty Berovik  
Janet Pschirer  
Ed Fay

Pray for the sick:

Cliff Berschneider  
Patricia Moriarity  
Cuozzo  
Bob Dougher

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 Board of Trustees meeting is set for Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> - **St. Mary of the Mount Rectory** on Mt. Washington beginning at 8:45 AM. The rectory is next to the Church. †

**Chaplain's Message** *Continued from front page* the priesthood and finally the world can rid itself of the need for sacrifice. Father Angelus gently but brilliantly expounded on how many ways the culture and the society in which we live vehemently wishes to marginalize, minimize, trivialize and ostracize the Eucharist and so at the same time desires to do exactly the same with priests. Then he called for a recommitment to Christ in the Eucharist and to the importance of the Catholic Priesthood. He asked us to recall the priests that have been there for each of us throughout our lives and the ways we are all better people because these priests are part of our family. We call them "Father," don't we?

Probably no one in the Catholic Church understands the lessons taught by Bishop Zubik and Father Angelus as deeply as a member of Serra. Because you pray every day for an increase of vocations to the Catholic Priesthood, surely Christ places upon your heart, just what a priest is, exactly what the challenges of a priest are today, and why all priests love Serrans the way we do. I hope Our Lord blesses you and your family just as much as He is blessing all priests during this wonderful *Year for Priests*. †

## October Luncheon Recap

Fr. McClain was un-able to attend the October 16, 2009 Serra Club Lunch because he was in Chicago for the funeral of his aunt. We hope to re-schedule Fr. McClain for our January Meeting.

On behalf of the Serra Club of Pittsburgh, District Governor Joe Koepfinger presented artwork of Fr. Serra to the Seminary to Fr Joe Mele, Chaplain of the Serra Club.

Joe Koepfinger also presented a Membership Award Certificate to the Serra Club of Pittsburgh for exceeding the Membership Goals of the USA Council of Serra International for the past year.

Fr. Joseph Mele told Serrans at the October 16 Luncheon Meeting that the number of Seminarians at St. Paul Seminary is slowly increasing. He said he believed that the work of Serrans for vocations and the prayers they offer are contributing to the increase.

Fr. Mele said there are currently 19 men studying for the priesthood at St. Paul Seminary and that another 10 have applied for entrance into the program next year. He attributed the increase to the fact that God is answering our prayers.

"Prayers," he said, "are the primary gift that we, as Serrans, can give to the Church and that Our Lord is answering our petitions." He described "our young seminarians" as "deeply spiritual men."



Joe Koepfinger presents artwork of Father Junipero Serra to Fr. Joe Mele as a gift to the seminary.

Fr. Mele noted he was recently appointed a Vicar General of the Diocese and that, in this capacity, his task is to attend all of the meetings at which the Bishop Zubik can not be present and to report back to him on what occurred.

Fr. Joe noted that Fr. McClain, unlike his predecessors who had held additional Diocesan positions, was a Full Time Director of Vocations, emphasizing the importance the Diocese is placing on Vocations. He also noted that Fr. McClain has developed an outstanding Vocations website and encouraged all Serrans to visit the website which is accessible through the Pittsburgh diocese website.

Fr. Joe also discussed some of his responsibilities as Vicar General and Director of Post-Ordination Formation.

Fr. Joe shares the Vicar General duties with Fr. Bob Guay who will be the speaker at our November 20, 2009 luncheon meeting.†



*Fr. Joe Mele speaks at the October luncheon.*

## September Luncheon

In his introduction, Chuck Muzik stated that Bishop Winter had confirmed over 50,000 children. The Bishop lives at John Vianney Manor with 16 other retired priests. Every morning, these retired priests celebrate mass together. The Bishop said his primary duty as a retiree is to pray. The retired priests are available to assist pastors when there is a need. Bishop Winter also serves on the Marriage Tribunal.

An announcement was made about the coming Chimbote Dinner. The Bishop told the Serrans how the Serra Club was involved in the origination of the Chimbote Dinner. It started as a small dinner with basically only Serrans and now has evolved into the great fundraiser it is now.†

## Member News

We are sorry to report that Sharon Capretto's mother, Betty Berovik, passed away on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Please remember Betty in your prayers.

Janet Pschirer, wife of Serran James Pschirer, passed away on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, after a long illness. Remember Janet in your prayers.†

“ Because you pray every day for an increase in vocations to the Catholic priesthood, surely Christ places upon your heart, just what a priest is, exactly what the challenges of a priest are today, and why all priests love Serrans the way we do. ”

— Fr. Mele

### Thought for the Month

If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes.

— St. Clement of Alexandria



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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](mailto: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. Brian will always have membership applications at the monthly luncheons.†

## 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.†

## Congratulations, Serra Club of Pittsburgh!



Joe Koepfinger and Chuck Muzik hold the Membership Award Certificate presented to the Serra Club of

Pittsburgh for exceeding the Membership Goals of the USA Council of Serra International for the past year. The Certificate is pictured above.

