

# Serra Club of Pittsburgh



## NEWS



MARCH / APRIL 2010

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### March 19, 2010

Luncheon, Noon - Rico's  
Video on Vocations

#### April 16

Luncheon, Noon - Rico's  
To be announced

### January Luncheon

#### New Diocesan Vocation Website Called "One of Best in Country"

The new web site of the Pittsburgh Diocesan Office for Vocations has been called "one of the best in the country," reported Fr. Matt McClain, Director of Vocations, who spoke to Serrans at their January 15 luncheon meeting at Rico's Restaurant.

The web site [HTTP://www.pghpriest.com](http://www.pghpriest.com) is available by itself or through a link in the Diocesan site [www.diopitt.org](http://www.diopitt.org). The new site contains easy to read material about Pittsburgh seminarians and the discernment process, about recently ordained priests, prayers for vocations, available resources, spiritual readings, etc. A message from Bishop Zubik invites the reader to pray and consider the information during his discernment process.

A creative and catchy tagline on the web site reads: In A City That Bleeds Black and Gold, We Need Champions to Wear the Black and White.

"It cost me about half of my \$9000 budget to get the web site up and running," Fr. McClain said, "but we believe it will be worth it. The well known web sites, Twitter and Facebook, are linked to the vocation site, making it easy for readers to make the connection. We expect to reach a very, very wide audience."

Fr. McClain said when he began working on the web site, it became apparent that, to get the project accomplished, he might run into objections from some quarters in the diocese and that he might irritate some individuals. He said he explained the problem to Bishop Zubik who told him to "just get it done."

Fr. McClain said he has visited and will visit elementary and secondary schools throughout the Diocese to speak with young people and encourage them to consider becoming a priest or a member of a religious community.

"The essence of a call to any vocation," Fr. McClain said, "is to seek holiness in life whether that call is to the priesthood, the religious life, marriage or the single life. That's the message I try to place before men discerning a call to the priesthood. When one seeks holiness of life we can hear much more clearly what God wants us to do with our lives." †

**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.

## In Our Prayers

Pray for the repose of their souls:

Betty Berovik  
Patricia Moriarity  
Cuozzo  
Robert Deasy, Jr.  
Bishop McDowell  
Anthony August Mele  
Janet Pschirer

Pray for the sick:

Cliff Berschneider  
Bob Dougher  
Mal Pancoast  
Christopher Warwick

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 Tuesday, March 23rd and April 27th at **St. Mary of the Mount Rectory** on Mt. Washington beginning at 8:45 AM. The rectory is next to the Church. †

### An Irish Blessing

A sunbeam to warm you,  
good luck to charm you,  
a sheltering angel  
so nothing can harm you.  
Laughter to cheer you,  
faithful friends near you,  
and whatever you pray,  
Heaven to hear you.

## Member News

The following wives of Serrans have applied for membership in the Pittsburgh Club: Ann Galletta, Rita Finn, Eva Vitullo and Marie Deasy. Watch the newsletter for information on the Induction of New Members

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Fr. Mele's brother, Anthony, died after a prolonged illness. He was an active member of Madonna del Castello Church. Tony's love of his Italian heritage led to his founding of Italian Heritage International. He was passionate about making a difference in the lives of those of Italian ancestry. Mass of Christian burial was held on February 26<sup>th</sup> at Madonna del Castello Church.

Your prayers are requested for Mal Pancoast, husband of Serran Joan. He has been fighting a very brave fight against liver cancer for the past two years. He recently fell and is now wheelchair dependent. Joan informed us that he is now in hospice.

Add to the Membership Booklet:

E-Mail address for Robert T. Brennen: [bobbrennen@verizon.net](mailto:bobbrennen@verizon.net)

After a long illness, Patricia Moriarity Cuozzo age 52 died peacefully on February 12 from melanoma. Patti was a close friend of ours. On February 15 at Slater's funeral home the "Prayer Service for a Deceased Serran" was held. Our Chaplain, Father Joseph Mele presented an inspiring oration. Patti's husband, Serran Donald Cuozzo, family members and friends participated in the prayers. The inclement weather prevented many Serrans from attending the service. Father Joseph Luisi and Father George Wilt were the celebrants at a perfectly beautiful funeral Mass at St. Ignatius Church.

Patti was an exceptional and accomplished woman—an incredibly nice, kind lady and so beautiful to look at. Her zest for life and her strong Catholic faith inspired all who knew her. For ten days prior to her death, she lay in a semi-coma, eyes closed, I.V. of only water. At the closing of the Mass, Father Luisi related the following incident. At the hour of her death, surrounded by her loved ones, she opened her eyes and gazed at her weeping sister. Her final words were, "Don't question it!"

~ Jack and Dolores Warwick.†

## Serra President in Local Magazine

In the February 2010 issue of Pittsburgh's *WHIRL* magazine, our President, Jack Warwick and his wife Delores were featured in an article titled "Couples Who Make a Difference."

John is a Certified Public Accountant and Tax Specialist with Robert Warwick & Associates P.C. Delores is owner and Executive Producer of Folio Productions.

They support: American Heart Association, Pittsburgh CLO, UPMC Ladies Hospital Aid Society, Renaissance City Music Society, Pittsburgh Youth Ballet, UPMC Shadyside Hospital Auxiliary, Angels' Place, DePaul School for Hearing and Speech, Allegheny Tax Society, and Serra Club of Pittsburgh.

Loving Pittsburgh: "The people of Pittsburgh are on of our favorite things about the city. Pittsburghers have an Eastern sophistication and a Midwestern warmth. Our other favorite thing is the arts. They do the most for the community in terms of spirit, creativity and imagination."

Making a Difference: "There are so many people less fortunate who face real challenges. We have a family tradition of aiding others. Our philosophy is that success is measured by what you do for others. One example of this is Delores's company Folio Productions, which produces fashion show fundraising events for hospitals and charities at no charge." †



*Delores and Jack Warwick*

## From Australia

Newsletter editor, Ray Golebie, received the following note from former Serra Member, Jim Kolan:

*Dear Ray,*

*Thank you as always for the outstanding newsletter. It always makes me homesick though - especially for Christmas! I wanted to let you know about the arrival of the newest member of the Kolan family, Xavier James, born at Saint John of God Hospital in Subiaco WA on 20 December 2009. Xavier weighed in at 3.4 kg (7 pounds 8 ounces) and was 50 cm (20 inches). Nanâ and Xavier came home from hospital (sorry, no preposition in "Strine") on Christmas Eve and Xavier was the sole mutual gift from Nanâ to me and vice versa.*

*Mother, father and bubby are all doing well although with lots to learn on a daily basis about being a parent and child, respectively. Attached are a few photos.*

*Miss you all very much!*

*Cheers,  
Jim Kolan*





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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.

**Editor:** Ray Golebie  
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Communications Design

“ The essence of a call to any vocation is to seek holiness in life whether that call is to the priesthood, the religious life, marriage or the single life. ”

— Fr. Matt McClain

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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.†

## *SERRA INTERNATIONAL*



From the desk of Serra Region 3 Director, Tom Politylo

*"You have a ministry as a Serran. You are a channel for God's presence, power and love to the world."*

USAC recommends we use the term: Ministry of Serra. There are a number of reasons why. Here are just two: "Ministry is a better category than club" (Crocket) and it defines what Serra is about when you say "join us in the ministry of vocations." (Dumas)

Serra maintains a 90% renewal rate and recommends an 8% goal of increase per organization to maintain the membership of individual clubs. However USAC suggests an over all goal of 15%. Let me know if I can assist you. Enclosed are a few notes. These are merely suggestions for those clubs, which might wish to use them.

As you note on my letterhead we are all called to ministry. In speaking to district governors and presidents I hear many reasons why membership in a number of instances has been declining. While support for clergy and seminarians is solid we seem to be lacking in vocation and membership promotion.

Pope Benedict XVI encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate," Charity in Truth, states, "Sometimes modern man is wrongly convinced that he is the sole author of himself, his life, and society." (34) In other words WE get it done. Further, "Development needs Christians with their arms raised towards God in prayer, Christians moved by the knowledge that truth-filled love, caritas in veritate, from which authentic development proceeds, is not produced by us, but given to us. For this reason, even in the most difficult and complex times, besides recognizing what is happening, we must above all else turn to God's love. Development requires attention to the spiritual life, a serious consideration of the experi-

ences of trust in God, spiritual fellowship in Christ, reliance upon God's providence, mercy, love and forgiveness, self-denial, acceptance of others, justice, and peace." (74)

Sometimes we get so caught up in programs, details, and effective implementation of these attempts at recruiting that we become discouraged when they don't attain the goals we projected. One of the main ingredients of any ministry is prayer. Jesus Christ prayed before every challenge in His life. Should we not do the same? I've heard so often the many reasons why membership doesn't increase using those compiled by the membership survey distributed by USAC. The best type of recruiting I have found is one on one personal contact. That can begin with a letter from your president as an invite to a Serran luncheon because of their interest and or connection with the church. This followed by a personal contact by a known acquaintance or friend with an offer to accompany them to the luncheon. The Pittsburgh Serra Ministry found the personal contact very effective.

Something to keep in mind when recruiting: According to Sr. Stango of the Passionists: We all want to feel needed and wanted. But I am convinced that some people are going where they are wanted, though not necessarily needed. This damages the desire to contribute to a cause greater than ourselves, and tempts us to adjust to mediocrity because challenges to overcome odds are not available. Keeping this in mind we should seek out Catholic members who are active in our church programs. This verifies

*Continued on other side.*

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Serra's findings that involved members remain members.

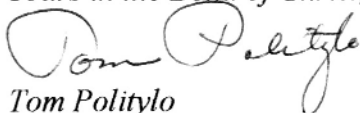
The College Connection program can prove to be an effective recruiting tool. Parents who have siblings preparing for college should be an interested younger source for membership in Serra. They can keep apprised as to their collegian's faith life. The Philadelphia Serra Ministry has an excellent method for keeping some of their members involved. They offer to take students from different schools to the ordination with a meal. One Serra member is assigned as a contact for each school .

### **District 21**

Mr. Koepfinger is the District Governor and informed me while the district clubs individually may have suffered a 2% loss the difference was

made up to maintain the overall average by the recruitment of two other clubs. Due to the distance among the 10 existing clubs he is recruiting deputy governors to help strengthen the outlying areas. The district also has an extension team with the primary purpose of helping the clubs in a weakened state. Due to reorganization in the Buffalo Diocese and appointment of a new bishop in Syracuse the movement toward a Syracuse Serra vocation ministry is delayed. The college connection program is being implemented. He is preparing for a district council meeting and is making arrangements for the SLC. Mr. Koepfinger is familiar with video conferencing concept. We are addressing the East McKeesport situation as directed. We are in discussion with the Vicar General of the Pittsburgh's Vicariate. We will meet and exchange ideas which can improve membership and help in vocation committee implementation.†

*Yours in the Bond of Christ,*

  
Tom Politylo

*St. Mary Knights of Columbus Church Director*

***No God...No Peace.....Know God...Know Peace...***



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