

# Serra Club of St. Petersburg

On the Internet at: "http://serraclubstpete.com"



May 2006

*"Always go forward, never look back"*

## Dates to Remember:

- Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting, St. Jude's Pastoral Center, Program: Deacon John Alvarez, Prison Ministry
- Friday, May 19, 7 p.m. Reception following Preordination Vigil, Christ the King, Tampa.
- Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m. Ordination to the Priesthood of Joseph Musco and Carlos Rojas, St. Jude's Cathedral.
- Wednesday, May 24, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.
- Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m. Annual Installation Dinner and Seminarian Reception. St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 50 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg.

## Mike and Sandy Tobin Impress Serrans with their Plans

Talk about supporting your priests!!! Mike and Sandy Tobin have practically devoted their lives and their resources to this cause as they pursue their plans to establish the McGivney Institute, a center for priestly renewal. Serrans were hugely impressed with their concept and their dedication as they presented their plans to our April meeting.

The Institute proposes to provide a sabbatical program of ongoing formation and spiritual enrichment for priests during a four month stay. The program will address the four areas described in Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Exhortation, Pastores Dabo Vobis. The four areas cited are human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation.

Directed by a yet-to-be named highly qualified Catholic Priest, the program will utilize the talents of world renowned educators, theologians, spiritual directors and counselors. It is envisioned that some 40 priests from throughout the country will be able to attend each 4-month session. Priest will be encouraged to develop a detailed plan for

## The Tobins - Continued

their lives in each of the four areas, and will be offered assistance in monitoring the plan, as well as week-long follow-up renewals.

"The basic idea," said Mike Tobin "is to take the priest out of his day-to-day busy schedule and enable his to refocus his life and his priesthood. The program is designed to enhance the quality of their priestly lives, and hence their service to the people of God."

The McGivney Institute, named for the founder of the Knights of Columbus, is a long way from being implemented, however the Tobins have acquired a 30 acre site in Crystal River, and have moved to that community to direct the establishment of the project. The greatest need at the present stage of development is funds -- about \$9 million -- to erect a building to house the Institute. Currently they are traveling the country seeking financial backing, and generally lining up potential professional staff, etc. for the program. They have presented the idea to several bishops and have received an enthusiastic response, but little financial backing. If successful, they said, they will consider the project their gift to the priesthood.

The Tobins have a long history of service to the priesthood. They were principals in the House of Affirmation, a Clearwater center for troubled priests and religious some years ago. They also led several pilgrimages to Medjugore in recent years. They are parishioners of St Benedict's Church in Crystal River.

## Prayer for the Perseverance of Vocations

*O God, You have constituted your only-begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of Your majesty and the salvation of mankind: grant that those whom you have chosen ministers and dispensers of His mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received.*

## **May Meeting to Feature Deacon John Alvarez**

Deacon John Alvarez will be our speaker at the May 16 meeting. Ordained by Bishop Lynch in 1997, he currently serves the people of St Paul's Parish in Tampa as Parish Administrator and Director of Liturgy.

In addition to his parish duties, Deacon John carries a heavy load of diocesan responsibilities as well. He is Director of Prison Ministry and Director of Formation in the diaconate program. He also assists in developing lay leaders as an instructor in the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program.

Deacon John is a trained, professional educator, having earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Columbia University in N.Y. City. He is a published author in the field of education and is a veteran of the U S Navy.



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### **Kathy's Korner**

This is it!! The time has arrived when we will witness the culmination of all our prayers and efforts. Our diocese will ordain 2 seminarians, Joe Musco and Carlos Rojas, to the Priesthood. Our club, which was re-chartered in 1997, has prayed for these 2 men for the entire 8 years of their formation. I am sure that you will want to join the celebrations as these dynamic men begin their ministry among us. **So mark your calendars.**

The bishop will bless their chalices and patens during a prayer service on **Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** It will be held at the chapel at Christ the King in Tampa and is followed by a wonderful reception sponsored by the Serra Club. We are proud to be able to share this special event with Joe and Carlos and their families and I encourage everyone to attend.

(Transportation can be easily provided for those who don't drive at night. If you need a ride call Kathy at 825-0418) The **Ordination will be on Saturday May 20, 2006 at 11 am** at The Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle. I hope to see all the Serrans in line for Fr. Rojas and Fr. Musco's first blessings.

**...Kathy**



## **Annual Financial Report Summarized**

Serra club members who regularly attend meetings see month-to-month financial activity of our club on reports distributed by our very efficient treasurer Bob Scott. His annual analysis of income and expenses for a full year give a better picture of the financial activity of our club. Generally we allocate our income and expenses to three categories: The General Account, Projects Account, and the Dr. William F. Mallette Seminarian Fund.

The General Account records dues income, and expenses such as dues paid to Serra International, supplies, printing and postage, fees, etc. Sometimes funds are transferred to our Project Account to cover costs there. During 2005 we collected \$3,425 in dues and expensed \$3,114.

The Projects Account collects donations from members over and above dues, income for the annual banquet, transfers from the General Account, and miscellaneous donations. The Expenses support our various projects, including our annual contests, Focus 11, receptions, costs for seminarian and guest dinners at annual banquet etc. In this category we collected \$2,585 plus \$500 from the General Account during 2005. We expensed \$3,321.

Taken together the above two accounts constitute our income and expense statement for a year. And so in 2005 we collected a total of \$6,010 and spent a total of \$6,435. The shortfall of \$425 was covered by a combination of a balance from the previous year and the use of funds from 2006.

We are currently in the black but could use a few more dues paying members to feel comfortable. Dues have been held at \$100 a year for members and \$50 per year for spousal members since the club was started in 1997.

The third Account category is the Dr William F. Mallette Seminary Fund which receives income from donations and earnings from investments, primarily CD's. The funds are restricted to the support of educational expenses of seminarians. Thanks to one major gift of \$50,000 during 2005, income amounted to \$50,167. Expenses were \$3,971 in support of two seminarians. The balance at the end of the year was \$67,210

Our financial records are reviewed monthly by our board, and carefully recorded by our able treasurer, Bob Scott. He will be glad to answer any questions.



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**Vocations Don't Just Happen:  
Ask Somebody!**