

Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



August 2006

"Always go forward, never look back"

Dates to Remember:

- Tuesday, August 15, 7 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting. St. Jude Pastoral Center. Program: Seminarian Carl "Buster" Melchior.
- Wednesday, August 23, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.
- Tuesday, September 19, 7 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting. St. Jude Pastoral Center. Program: TBA
- Wednesday, September 27, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.

Officers Installed at Annual Dinner

Held the evening of June 14 at the beautiful St Petersburg Yacht Club, and with an attendance of 70, it was the best attended annual Installation Dinner and Seminarian Reception ever held by our club

The evening events were launched by a pictorial slide presentation set to music that was created by our youngest member Kirsten Hunt. The nine minute presentation was a photographic history that covered club events over the past several years.

Highlight of the evening was the installation of the following officers by Diocesan Vocations Director Fr Len Plazewski:

President	Kathy Bolich
VP Membership	Kathy Bolich
VP's Programs	Maureen and Larry Ahern
VP's Communications	Bob Tufaner and Nick Mellon
VP's Vocations	Denise Reilly and John Hourican
Treasurer	Bob Scott
Secretary	Jan Davy
Trustees:	Norm Dusseault, Jorge Miyares, Mary Mallette, Jim Prior

Installation Dinner - Continued

Another highlight of the evening, of course, was the introduction of the seminarians by Fr Len. With 16 in attendance, it was the largest number of seminarians who have ever accepted our invitation and our members were delighted with the opportunity to "press the flesh" and get to know them personally as they were sprinkled among the tables during dinner.

Heading up the arrangements committee again this year was Mary Mallette, assisting by Jan and Loren Davy who handled invitations and decorations, Joe and Helen Ezzo who handled reservations, and Bob Tufaner, granddaughter Kirsten Hunt and her dad Neal Hunt who took photos. Larry Ahern acted as M.C. We were also pleased to have John Morris, manager of Sprit FM, in attendance and he played the radio spot which was the winner of our vocation-themed contest for high school students. It is now being used on the Catholic radio station.

Note: See Photo Insert Sheet for Dinner Highlights



Carl "Buster" Melchior to Speak at August Meeting

Our program committee has invited seminarian Carl "Buster" Melchior to be our speaker at the Aug 15 regular monthly meeting.

Buster is a native of Tampa and a life-long member of Christ the King Parish there. He comes to his vocational calling from a background in the sports world, having served for 8 years as an assistant equipment manager for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, during the "lean" years.

Responding to his vocational calling he returned to college, graduating from St John Vianney College Seminary in 2003, and is now a student at St Vincent De Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach.

During the summer Buster has been completing his clinical pastoral education at Tampa General Hospital, and in Sept. he will enter a pastoral year at St Paul's Parish in St Petersburg.

(Continued – See "Buster" On Other Side)

“Buster” - Continued



We look forward to welcoming Buster to Serra and perhaps we will learn how he acquired his nickname, as well as other Information about this popular and engaging seminarian and future priest.

Buster attending the Installation Dinner and Reception



Eight New Seminarians To Start the New Year

Eight new seminarians will join the corps of young men preparing for the priesthood this fall, according to Fr Len Plazewski, diocesan director of vocations.

The eight will join 12 continuing seminarians, making a total of 20 men studying at seminaries or working in pastoral programs as they follow their individual paths to their priestly goals. Two men will spend the next year working in parishes. Carl "Buster" Melchior will be at St Paul in St Pete, and Dominic Corona will be at St Catherine of Siena in Largo.

The eight new seminarians come from eight different parishes in our diocese, and include one man with a law degree, another who recently moved from Mexico and still another, a recent arrival from Vietnam. Their names and home parishes are as follows:

Matthew Cullen, St Luke the Evangelist, Palm Harbor
Matthew DeSantis, St James the Apostle, Port Richey
Chuck Dornquast, St Joseph's, Zephyhills
Eloy Escamilla, St Cecelia's, Clearwater
Nicholas Labrie, Sacred Heart, Pinellas Park
Dallas Mason, Our Lady of Fatima, Inverness
Viet Nguyen, Epiphany, Tampa
Anthony Varas, St Timothy, Lutz

With news of these 8 new candidates also came word that Seminarian Keith Fitzsimmons, who was the speaker at our March meeting, has decided not to return to the seminary this fall.

All of these men will be in the prayers of our Serrans as they discern and follow the paths the Lord wants them to follow in their lives.



Kathy's Korner

Welcome back! I hope you had a restful summer and are ready to begin our mission to affirm and foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The executive committee is busily planning some wonderful activities for the coming year. We are looking forward to sharing our plans with you at the August meeting.

We have made some exciting changes in the club structure pertaining to our membership drive. In the absence of a Vice President of Membership, I am coordinating the membership committee. As you have heard often, maintaining a roster of active, enthusiastic and creative members is vital to the life of our organization. Catholics who step forward to use the talents God has given them will enhance our work as we seek to increase our understanding of our faith and create an environment that fosters and affirms vocations to serve the church. I ask all of you to take a moment to consider the Catholics you know for the work of Serra. Invite your friends to our first meeting of the new year on August 15th at 7pm. Call me at 825-0418 or 542-0418 with the name of your guest so that I can have materials available for them.



...Kathy

While at the Reception...

Mary Mallette and Station Manager for Spirit FM, John Morris



Bob Tufaner and Seminarian Viet Nguyen from Viet Nam



Vocations Don't Just Happen: Ask Somebody!

