

Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



April 2005

"Always go forward, never look back"

Dates to Remember:

- Saturday, April 16, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Serra Club Annual Retreat, St. Petersburg Catholic High School.
- Sunday, April 17, 3p.m. Altar Servers Appreciation Mass and Reception St. Jude's Cathedral.
- Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting, St. Jude's Pastoral Center. Program: Fr. Richard Zielinski, St. Jude Parish.
- Wednesday, April 27, 7 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.
- Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting, St. Jude's Pastoral Center. Program: TBA
- Wednesday, May 25, 7 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.

Fr Terry Fleming Offers Provocative Program

As anticipated, our speaker for the March meeting offered a riveting and provocative talk, outlining not only his own vocational journey, but also his assessment of the state of the priesthood today.

Fr. Fleming was ordained for the Diocese of Rochester 38 yrs ago by the famous Bishop Fulton J Sheen. He recalled that in that time the priest had well defined roles and rules of living. The priest's role as minister of the Eucharist and leader of worship was well understood the priest occupied a place of distinction in the community. Increasingly in today's church, the role of the laity in ministry is increasing, while that of the priest is decreasing, largely because of fewer priests.

Fr Terry Fleming- Continued

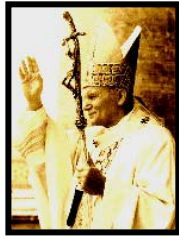
Fr. Fleming recalled that seminaries were filled to overflowing in his day, and that seminarians were screened out, largely because there were simply more candidates than priestly positions. Now, churches are being closed in many northern communities because of a lack of priests. Our speaker was drawn to service in hospitals both in Rochester and here in St Petersburg, at St Anthony's, and finds this a most satisfying ministry. "When people are ill, or dying, the very presence of a priest is critically important" he said. "The priest in those circumstances can truly have the opportunity to bring Christ to those who are suffering. It is an awesome and satisfying priestly experience".

Fr. Fleming recalled that Catholic ministry in health care started in the basements of churches and schools, and the aim was not so much to cure as to care for those who were ill. "That character of 'caring' still is a distinguishing mark of Catholic Hospitals, even as they have become more technically proficient in medical science."

In response to questions, Fr Fleming expressed disappointment in the closing of churches for lack of priests, and speculated that he would hope the church would consider other alternatives to replace the role of priests. For example, the faculties of deacons might be enlarged, etc. This led to a lively discussion. All in all, it was another highly interesting and provocative program.

Our speaker for the April 19 meeting is Fr Richard Zeilinski, a visiting priest from Poland, who is currently serving at St Jude's We do not have his resume at the present time, but presume that he will give us a view of the priesthood in his native Poland. Come and be pleasantly surprised.





In Memoriam
His Holiness
Pope John Paul II
 Karol Wojtyla

Born May 18, 1920 – **Died** April 2, 2005
Ordained Priest November 1, 1946
Elected Pope October 16, 1978

Pope John Paul II was a vigorous and active pontiff whose actions demonstrated the tenets of Catholicism to the world. Here is a Vatican summary of his pontifical activities adapted for this column:

Since the start of his Pontificate on October 16, 1978, Pope John Paul II completed **104 pastoral visits outside of Italy** and **146 within Italy**. As Bishop of Rome he visited **317** of the 333 **parishes**.

His principal documents include **14 encyclicals, 15 apostolic exhortations, 11 apostolic constitutions** and **45** apostolic letters. The Pope also published **five books**: "Crossing the Threshold of Hope" (October 1994); "Gift and Mystery: On the 50th Anniversary of My Priestly Ordination" (November 1996); "Roman Triptych - Meditations", a book of poems (March 2003); "Rise, Let Us Be on Our Way" (May 2004) and "Memory and Identity" (publication spring 2005).

John Paul II presided at **147 beatification ceremonies (1,338 Blessed proclaimed)** and **51 canonization ceremonies (482 Saints)** during his pontificate. He has held **9 consistories** in which he created **231 (+ 1 in pectore) cardinals**. He also convened **six plenary meetings of the College of Cardinals**.

From 1978 till his death the Holy Father presided at **15 Synods of Bishops**: six ordinary (1980, 1983, 1987, 1990, 1994, 2001), one extraordinary (1985) and eight special (1980, 1991, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998[2] and 1999).

His Holiness – Continued

No other Pope encountered so many individuals as John Paul II: more than **17,600,000 pilgrims have participated in the General Audiences** held on Wednesdays (more than 1,160). This figure does not include all other special audiences and religious ceremonies held [more than 8 million pilgrims during the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 alone] and the millions of faithful met during pastoral visits made in Italy and throughout the world. Also to be remembered are the numerous government personalities encountered during **38 official visits** and the **738 audiences and meetings held with heads of state**, and the **246 audiences and meetings with Prime Ministers**.

Kathy's Korner

I am writing this column in the days following the death of Pope John Paul II on April 2, 2005. I join all members of the Serra Club when I extend our condolences to Father Anthony, Bishop Lynch and all the priests on this sad occasion. The Holy Father always loved the young people and he promoted vocations with his joyful demeanor and love of the Lord. His prayers were fruitful and he was an example of its power in our lives.

We will be holding our annual retreat on April 16th at the campus of St. Petersburg Catholic High School. Father Anthony's Internet was down for about a week after our last meeting, but I was able to download the encyclical on the Eucharist for our use that day. The day will be spirit-filled and informative. Please invite a friend and join us at 9:00 AM in the cafeteria at SPCHS. There is a \$10 charge to cover expenses and lunch. Call Jim Prior at 825-0068, or Charlie Fuss at 360-6549 for reservations.

Finally, join me in congratulating John Hourican on the anticipated ordination of his son into the priesthood in June. John will not be able to attend the May meeting or the June meeting because of family obligations, so April will be our last chance to bestow our best wishes and prayers for his son. See you all at the April 19th Meeting.

...Kathy

