

Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



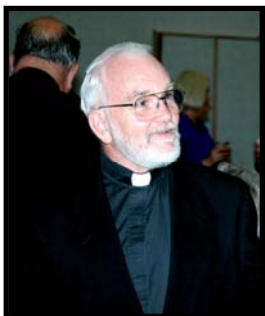
December 2005

"Always go forward, never look back"

Dates to Remember:

- Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m. Christmas Social, Dusseault Residence 4161 14th Street N. St. Pete.
- Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.
- Tuesday, January 17, 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting, St. Jude's Pastoral Center, Program: John Hourican & Leon Toups, fathers of priests.
- Wednesday, January 23, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.

Fr. Tom Tobin Named 3rd Serra Club Chaplain



Fr Tom Tobin, a priest at St Jude's , has been named Chaplain of the Serra Club, succeeding Fr Anthony Coppola who resigned because of the press of his newly assigned duties. Fr. Tobin is the third priest to hold the post following both

Fr Coppola and the original chaplain, Fr. Robert Gately, who has moved from the area. The appointment was made official by Bishop Robert Lynch.

Fr Tobin was our speaker for the September meeting, delivering a memorable talk about late vocations. He himself was a late vocation candidate., having been ordained earlier this year at the age of 56. Although he lived in this area as a youth, and, in fact, graduated from Bishop Barry High School in the mid-sixties, he lived most of his life in the New England area, and developed an expertise as a social worker. For many years he headed a program of foster care for adults for a Cape Cod, Ma hospital.

Fr. Tom Tobin - Continued

He married and raised two daughters, but his wife died 1996, leading him to reconsider his interest in the priesthood initially pursued as a youth. In 2001 is entered Blessed John XXIII Seminary for late vocations in Boston under the sponsorship of this diocese, and was ordained in May of 2005 and assigned to St Jude's. Serra Club members were delighted that he was able to accept our invitation to join us, and look forward to his guidance and spiritual direction in the months ahead.

December Meeting Converted to Christmas Social

Again this year our December meeting will be converted into a Christmas Social. And again this year the home of Serrans Norm and Nancy Dusseault, 4161 14th St N will be the site of our Christmas gathering.

The date has been set early in the Christmas season, Tuesday, Dec 6. We will gather about 6:30 p.m. at the Dusseault pool terrace and family room, and dinner will follow sometime after 7 p.m. You are asked to bring a covered dish and to coordinate with Gwen Hunt, 528-2868. Spouses and guests are invited, particularly if they are Serra Club prospects, subject only to the physical capacities of the Dusseault home. Reservations are essential. Call Gwen.

President Kathy might have some announcements and business to conduct, but this will be kept to a minimum. Generally this is designed to be a social evening, a Christmas celebration, to prepare our hearts and attitudes for the great feast of Christmas when Our Savior took on our human nature and changed history forever. Watch for special invitations in the mail and respond as soon as you can so that planning may be accomplished.



“AWESOME” Describes Impressions Of Young Men at World Youth Day

If he said it once, he said it a hundred times. "Awesome " was the term speaker Tom Wilson used to describe his impressions of both World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany , and an earlier visit to Voldocco and Turin , Italy. Wilson and Scott Sharlow showed numerous slides of their European trip, and shared comments and explanations of the scenes at our November monthly meeting.



Tom Wilson & Scott Sharlow

Both college age young men are Salesian Cooperators, a lay group affiliated with the Salesians of Don Bosco, and dedicated to lay formation in spirituality and service. Both are graduates of St Jude's School and St Petersburg Catholic High School, staffed by the Salesians.

Tom attended the University of South Florida and owns Tridium Technologies, a consulting services company. Scott works for St Petersburg Catholic High School as a technology coordinator and does freelance journalism for the Florida Catholic newspaper. Both men are heavily involved in youth ministry and other ministries of both their parish and the Salesians.

Their role as Salesian Cooperators accounts for their interest in the native country of St Don Bosco in the northern Italian areas around Voldocco and Turin. The early part of their slide presentation was focused on this area, and events in the life of St Don Bosco. A highlight was a visit to the Turin Cathedral housing the famous Shroud, although the Shroud was not displayed at the time.

The principal focus of the presentation was the World Youth Day events in Cologne. Their slides and vivid descriptions brought home the enthusiasm

Youth Day - Continued

and faith of the thousands of young pilgrims who flocked to the area, and the impact made on them by Pope Benedict. It was also evident that the trip was a life-changing experience in the lives of Tom Wilson and Scott Sharlow.

Kathy's Korner

I am writing this column after attending the wake service for Beatrice Fortier, Terese Willig's mother. As many of you know, Terese took a leave of absence from active participation in the Serra Club a few years ago to care for her mother. I did not know Mrs. Fortier well. I had only spoken to her a few times at church and at the annual dinner with the Seminarians the year she turned 100 years old. I have now learned about her life and her devotion to our Church. She attended daily mass and prayed fervently for the priests and seminarians. She inspired her children to lead holy lives and supported Terese in her work for vocations thru the Serra Club. On the day before she died Mrs. Fortier sent me a large endowment for the Seminary Fund. In the accompanying note she said, "That it is very important for the Church to have good and holy priests to serve God's people". St. John Bosco used to tell his student's that "to be a saint, you do not have to do extraordinary things, just do ordinary things extraordinarily well". I am sure that Mrs. Fortier is a saint. I hope all of you are inspired by her life to pray for vocations daily and continue to do the work of Serra.

I join with the board of your Serra Club in wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Kathy Bolich

...Kathy

New Member



Nick Mellon

