

Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



December 2006

"Always go forward, never look back"

Dates to Remember:

- Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 p.m. Annual Christmas Social and Dinner. The Dusseault Residence, 4161 14th Street North, St. Petersburg
- Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.
- Tuesday, January 16, 7 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting. St. Jude Pastoral Center. Program: Fr. Francois Hemelsdael.
- Wednesday, January 24, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.

Annual Christmas Social Set for December 12th

By this time you should have received a special invitation to the annual Christmas Social and Dinner to be held again this year at the home of Nancy and Norman Dusseault, 4161 14th St N. We will gather at approximately 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec 12, and dinner will follow at about 7 p.m.

As in previous years, you are asked to bring a favorite covered dish, including any needed serving utensils. Reservations and coordination of covered dishes should be made by calling Maureen Ahern, 381-2166 or Mary Mallette, 347-7133 by Dec 6. Reservations are absolutely necessary so that we can plan for adequate seating for the dinner. Subject to capacity, spouses and guests are welcome. New member prospects are especially welcome.

The Dusseault home is located in the Allendale neighborhood. Go to 9th St N (M L King Jr St), turn west on 42 Av N to 14th St, then left again on 14th St to 4161. Parking is limited so we suggest car pooling. You may have to park on 42 Av N, and walk around the corner to 14 St.

Fr. Charles Yost Presents Program for November

Our program for the November 14 meeting was Fr Charles Yost, an active "semi-retired" priest at Sacred Heart Retirement home in Pinellas Park.

Fr Yost preceded his talk by presenting a short CD describing the history and work of the Sacred Heart Seminary in Hales Corners, Wisconsin, which specializes in training men with delayed vocations. All of the seminarians have pursued other vocations in life, and have come to Hales Corners following careers as lawyers, doctors, policeman, etc. Many are widowers and have children. Fr Yost told us that since 1975 the seminary has graduated more than 600 late vocation priests in service to more than 80 dioceses through the country.

Fr Yost also discussed his own path to the priesthood and his life as a priest.

Describing himself as a "cradle priest," he said that from childhood he never wanted to be anything but a priest. He had several relatives who were priests or religious and was drawn by their example. When he was in the 8th grade, a priest from the Sacred Heart came to his school, and the principal suggested that he talk to him. He was sold. He entered High School Seminary in Donaldson, Indiana, and entered the novitiate in 1950, at age 18. He studied theology at Sacred Heart Seminary in Hales Corners, and was ordained in 1958. Later studies took him to Catholic University where he earned graduate degrees in theology and library science

Fr Yost realized his ambition to serve in the foreign missions when his superior sent him to Sumatra, Indonesia in 1962 to assist in opening a seminary there. Unfortunately the venture was unsuccessful and he returned to Hales Corners after less than a year.

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Fr. Yost November Meeting Continued

He spent the next 20 years teaching theology, liturgy and church history at the seminary, but was also active as a retreat preacher, a chaplain, a parish priest, and a writer. Subsequently he served as a pastor, a fund-raiser and a religious superior in his order.

Looking back on 48 years as a priest, Fr Yost said that it was a wonderful adventure. "I treasure every day," he said, "in what has been a challenging time in the history of the Church. I doubt that I could have written a better script for my life."

Fr Yost also spoke of his extensive travels in the US and Canada, and of his current activity traveling as chaplain on cruise ships.



Christmas Social To Benefit Migrants

Our annual Christmas social is slated for Tuesday, Dec 12, which also happens to be the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of the Americas, and particularly celebrated by our Mexican brothers and sisters who work as migrant laborers in our area. Our board thought it would be fitting to join with them on this special feast day by taking up a gift collection for them at the party. .

We have enlisted the services of Fr Carlos Rojas, now serving at St Clement Parish in Plant City, which provides services to 9 migrant camps in their vicinity. Fr Rojas, you will recall, was one of the seminarians for whom we prayed during the past several years, and who was ordained just this year. He conducted the Holy Hour service last month, and spoke warmly of the support of the Serra Club. We thought it appropriate to continue our support of this new priest in his first assignment.

Therefore, Serrans are asked to bring a sealed envelope containing an offering for the migrant outreach of St Clement's. The envelope need not be identified. It can contain anything from \$1 to \$100. A small shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe will be set up in the Dusseault home where gifts may be deposited. Checks should be made payable to St Clement's Church, and marked "for migrant outreach." They will be delivered to Fr Carlos unopened.

Migrants - Continued

Fr Carlos has indicated that he will probably use the funds to buy gift certificates at the local Wal-Mart store where the families can shop for Christmas gifts for their families. He also suggested that some of us may wish to accompany him on visits to the camps in the weeks before Christmas and is sending information which we will share at the party with anyone interested. Perhaps we can fill a van or two and make the trip.

Kathy's Korner

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas! This is my favorite season because the hope of salvation in the birth of Our Savior engenders a spirit of Good Will between all people regardless of their faith. I hope that you experience God's gifts of Peace and Joy, and that you are able to share them with everyone you meet. I ask you to remember the priests, nuns, and religious of your acquaintance during the Christmas season, they would appreciate being remembered for all they do to enhance our catholicity year round. I would also like to **thank every Serran and their spouses for the work you do all year to further our Mission to promote and affirm vocations to the Priesthood and the religious life in our community.**

I hope everyone is planning to come and share in the fellowship and great food at our annual **Potluck Christmas Dinner** being held at the Dusseault's beautiful home **on December 12th at 6:30pm**. Transportation can be arranged for those who prefer not to drive at night. Please call me at 344-4065 until 3pm, then 542-0418.

Our Dinner, this year, will take place on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a significant day for the migrant community in our Diocese. Our efforts to help Fr. Rojas provide a better Christmas for these people is described elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you for your generosity. Even though Christmas is a very busy time of year, I ask you to please plan to attend our **Monthly Holy Hour on Dec. 20th at 7 PM** as we continue to pray for all vocations called by God.

With Serran Love and affection,
...Kathy



R.I.P.

Please remember in your prayers Serran Bill Pearson who passed away this past month. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Serran Rickey Pearson, and to his family. May he rest in peace

