

# Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



February 2007

*"Always go forward, never look back"*

## Dates to Remember:

- Tuesday thru Thursday, February 13 thru 15, Focus 11 Vocations Fair, Christ the King, Tampa
- Tuesday, February 20, 7 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting. St. Jude Pastoral Center. Program: Michelle Rego, Music Director, St. Jude's Liturgies Of Holy Week.
- Saturday, February 24, Noon. Luncheon for Religious Scripture Study Day, Christ the King, Tampa.
- Wednesday, February 28, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.
- Tuesday, March 20, 7 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting. St. Jude Pastoral Center. Program: Fr. Bob Morris, Pastor, St. John's.
- Wednesday, March 28, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.
- Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Annual Serran Retreat, St. Petersburg Catholic High School. Chaplain Fr. Tom Tobin, retreat master.

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## Michelle Rego of St. Jude Will Speak this Month

Michelle Rego, a soprano, pianist, flutist, organist, and music director of the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle in St. Petersburg, will be the guest speaker at our February 16 meeting. She will talk on the liturgies of Holy Week and their importance to the growth of a parish as well as to the development of vocations.

Ms. Rego holds degrees in piano performance and Music Education from the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, as well as a Master's degree in Music and Liturgy from the University of Notre Dame.

A frequent clinician and presenter, she is also a member of the American Guild of Organists, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and the Chorister's Guild. Ms. Rego performs concerts throughout the country and recently published her first book, *The Church Musician's Soul Survival Guide*.

As noted elsewhere, our March speaker will be Fr. Bob Morris, pastor of St. John Vianney in St. Petersburg Beach.



## Fr. Francois Impresses Serrans With January 16 Vocation Talk

Fr Francois Hemelsdael, a French priest of the Diocese of Lille in northern France, greatly impressed Serrans at our Jan 16 meeting with his description of the foreign missions carried on by French priests in Asian countries for hundreds of years and of his own plans to follow in their footsteps.

Fr Francois is currently spending 6 months as a priest at St Paul's parish in order to perfect his ability to speak and understand English. In giving this talk to Serra he demonstrated that he has already made good progress in this effort. He will leave in March to go to Cambodia where he will be assigned to one of four bishops engaged in the evangelization of Cambodians. In Buddhist Cambodia, Catholics are a tiny minority. .

Illustrated by projected pictures of scenes in both France and Cambodia, Fr Francois' talk described the history of the French Catholic Church sending missionaries to Asia, and particularly to Southeast Asia (SEA). The effort goes back more than two centuries when the Pope assigned this area of the world to the French church. Since then dozens of French priests have served in Asia, and suffered persecution, and even martyrdom, in the service of Christ. Then, as now, missionary efforts in SE Asia are financed by the estates and legacies of Catholic families in France.

Particularly poignant was the story of St Theopane Venard, ( 1829-1861) who served in the Mission of Vietnam, and suffered martyrdom at the hands of the Vietnamese government, and was among the 117 martyrs of Vietnam canonized by Pope John Paul in 1988. Fr Francois presented St Theopane as one of his models in his vocation to bring Christ to SE Asia.

Fr. Francois also discussed his own vocations journey. Trained as a lawyer, he was called to the priesthood 9 years ago, and has been preparing for his life as a



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***Work for Vocations  
to the Priesthood and Religious  
Endeavors***



## **Major Serran Commitment For Focus 11 Vocation Fair**

This is the month that calls on a major commitment of time and effort for all Serrans as we assist the Diocesan Vocations Office in the staging of Focus 11 Vocations Fair at Christ the King Parish campus in Tampa. The three day event is set for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Feb 13<sup>m</sup>14 and 15.

The project is built around research which indicates that young people think about their futures in 6<sup>th</sup> grade (age 11) and 11<sup>th</sup> grade, when they are preparing for college or careers. Hence the name Focus 11. For three successive days students are bussed in from Catholic schools in the diocese, about 500 to 600 per day. At Christ the King they participate in a day of vocation - themed talks, skits, games, liturgies, and mingling with priests and religious from the diocese, and from various religious orders which set up booths to distribute literature and provide information. Bishop Lynch always addresses the students, encouraging them to consider and pray about a religious vocation. This will be the 7<sup>th</sup> year for Focus 11, It is now the largest and most successful vocations fairs of its kind in the nation, and is a model for vocation fair in other dioceses. .

Serrans play an important role by sponsoring a vocations - theme poster and writing contest in the weeks prior to the fair, and by providing and serving refreshments to the students, as well as providing lunch for visiting clergy, and staffing a Serra information booth. Sometimes we are called on to help clean up and provide transportation to the airport, and other supportive tasks.

Needless to say we need a maximum turnout on these three days. President Kathy Bolich has called for at least 8-10 Serrans each day. If you have not volunteered call Vocations VP Denise Reilly, 458-6161 or 345-2519. We need to be at Christ the King about 9:30 a.m. and can usually leave about 2 p.m.

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## **Vocations Calendar Project Takes a Different Turn**

Taking a cue from the ever- growing use of computers to produce parish bulletins, the Communications Committee decided to take a new tact in distributing this year's seminarian prayer calendar. Rather than limited it to the parishes in the South Pinellas deanery (about 14-15), we have sent a copy of the prayer calendar to ALL parishes in the diocese (about 70)., asking pastors to distribute the one-page flyer in their bulletins sometime during the next few weeks.

## **Vocations Calendar Project Continued**

Parishes could comply by duplicating the flyer and hand inserting it, or by using it as "camera-ready" copy for printing in the bulletin, or by downloading it from our web site for inclusion in bulletin material sent to their printer. It is hoped that several parishes will see the value of the flyer take on the expense of distributing it to their parishioners.

The text on the flyer provides the names and parishes or all diocesan seminarians, and two in the Salesion order, and suggests family prayers for each on given days of the month. The flyer also contains information about Serra and invites participation. The mailing was sent on January 26 and we hope to see results in the next few weeks.



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### **Kathy's Korner**

I have been contemplating our patron Blessed Junipero Serra and his mission to evangelize the Pacific coast. His well known mantra "always forward, never back" is an inspiration for us to continue our work to foster and affirm vocations and to continue to build our membership both numerically and spiritually.

Like the missions that dot the coast of California, we can see the fruits of our efforts in the increasing numbers of seminarians for our diocese. At the Holy Hour on January 24, Father Len announced that the diocese has accepted 5 new seminarians for next year. He reports that he has not even finished with the interview process yet, so there may be more men accepted before the next school year begins. This affirmation encourages us in our persistent prayers for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. On March 28<sup>th</sup> the Papal Monstrance, Blessed by Pope John Paul II, will be at the cathedral for a Holy Hour for Vocations. The men and women of Serra will participate in the ceremony on some level, so please mark your calendar.

Our membership is a vital to the mission of Serra. Bringing new members into the club energizes us with fresh ideas and increases our manpower for the many activities of Serra. Even though our club roster has remained stable over the past few years, we need to remain persistent in our efforts to recruit new members to our fold. Carry the "2 for Serra" card in your wallet and invite friends and acquaintances to come and see what our Organization is all about.

Maureen and Larry Ahern along with Fr. Tobin, are planning our annual Serran Day of renewal on April 28<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful time to refresh your spirit and deepen your relationship with Christ and his church. Please mark your calendars to join us.

**...Kathy**

