

Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



January 2006

"Always go forward, never look back"

Dates to Remember:

- **Tuesday, January 17, 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting, St. Jude's Pastoral Center, Program: John Hourican and Leon Toups, Fathers of Priests.**
- **Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.**
- **Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday, February 14-15-16, Focus 11 Vocations Fair, Christ the King Tampa.**
- **Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting, St. Jude's Pastoral Center, Program: Fr. Anthony Fortunato.**
- **Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.**

FOCUS 11

Now on the Horizon

Yes, 2006 is here, and Feb is just around the corner. That means Focus 11 Vocations Fair, this year slated for Feb 14, 15 and 16 on the campus of Christ the King Parish in Tampa.

The idea behind Focus 11 is that research has shown young people are most likely to think about their futures when 11 yrs old (6th grade) and in the 11th grade as they start thinking about college. Hence "Focus 11." This will be the 6th year that a Focus 11 Vocations Fair has been conducted in our diocese. Each year some 1700 6th and 11th graders in the diocesan Catholic Schools are bussed into the campus at Christ the King for a day long program of vocation themed talks, skits, games and liturgies, and to visit vocations booths set up by various religious communities. Students are invited to talk to booth sponsors and several diocesan priests, and to receive vocation literature. Bishop Lynch is a principal participant.

During the three days of the event, the Serra Club plays an important role by staffing a booth, and also preparing and serving refreshments during the lunch break.

FOCUS 11 - Continued

In addition, our club conducts a Vocations Awareness Contest open to all 6th and 11 graders with cash prizes for best entries in both categories. The contest, already announced to the parishes and schools by Vocations VP Denise Reilly, asks participants to pretend that they are the Advertising Director for God. Sixth graders are to prepare a print ad for recruiting candidates for the priesthood and religious life, and 11th graders are to write a 60 second radio spot. Winners will be announced at the Focus 11 event.

Many Serrans will be needed to staff the Focus 11 event and to judge the contest, and so prepare to put aside some time. Most help will be needed on Feb 14-16. Please be prepared to volunteer at the Jan 17 meeting.

Prayer Calendar Sent to 15 Parishes

For the fourth consecutive year the Serra Club has sent the Serra Prayer Calendar for Seminarians to south and central Pinellas County parishes for insertion into bulletins of Jan 8. A total of 15 parishes accepted the insert.

The letter size insert displays a calendar of the month of January with the names of 16 active seminarians and 2 on leave placed on given dates during the month with the request that prayers be offered on those dates for the named seminarian. Other dates are labeled "Pray for Vocations." A suggested prayer is included, as well as information about Serra and a list of our officers with phone numbers. The project is a planned activity of our Communications Committee, headed by VP's Bob Tufaner and Norm Dusseault. Other members participating in the project were Jim Prior and Conrad Beaulieu.

The parishes were offered several methods of receiving the material, depending on their method of producing the bulletins. Several opted for CD's, e-mails, or camera ready copy so they could incorporate the piece into their printing. Six parishes requested printed copies which they hand inserted. A total of 5000 copies were printed and distributed by club members. Distribution of the calendar serves several purposes. First, it acquaints parishioners with the names of the seminarians. Second, it secures prayers in the home for the seminarians by name and for vocations generally. And third, it publicizes the work of Serra, and our officers, and invites new members to join.



Christmas Gathering

A Joyous Occasion

They came with covered dishes and hearts full of the Christmas spirit. Some 45 Serrans and guests came to the home of Norm and Nancy Dusseault on Tuesday evening, Dec 6, to celebrate the season with prayer, good fellowship and a hearty dinner.

The evening got off to a good start as Dr Bob Iler served his now famous and meticulously formulated sangria. The air was cool but not cold on the Dusseault pool patio festooned with Christmas lights. Serrans and guests gathered there and in the living room for lively conversation while the food offerings were prepared for display.



Bob, Mary and Kathy



Bob, Sharon and Conrad

Our chaplain, Fr Tom Tobin, (who will hereafter be referred to as the Late Fr Tobin) missed the opening prayer but President Kathy Bolich filled in admirably with an Advent prayer and the lighting of the Advent candle. Then the feast began around several tables which had been rented or borrowed for the evening.



Kathy & Fr. Tobin



Photog Kirsten & Sharon Price

The tables had been beautifully decorated by Gwen Hunt, daughter Kirsten, and Gwen's sister Tricia Tufaner. Miniature Christmas trees made by Gwen were placed as table centerpieces and were later given to a lucky guest at each table selected by lottery. The late arrival of Fr Tom seemed to energize the party atmosphere.



Tables Decorated and Filled



Food!! Glorious Food!!



Tricia Tufaner



Bob Scott



Elena & George



Gwen & Trudy



Go Fish!!!!

Special thanks to the Dusseaults, to Gwen Hunt, who coordinated the event, to Jan Davy who distributed invitations, and to all who contributed food and drink and helped set up the home for the party. Of note is that the guest list produced at least two new members, Bill and Ricky Pearson, who were drawn in by the spirit and hospitality of the club members.

January Program to Feature

Fathers of Priests

We will have a unique program on January 17. Two local men, one of them a member of our Serra Club, will speak of their experiences in witnessing and nurturing their sons priestly vocations.

Serran John Hourican, a member of our club, witnessed the ordination of his son, Fr John Hourican, just last year. Fr John is a priest of the Diocese of Memphis. Leon Toups is the father of Fr David Toups, a priest of our diocese. Leon has been very active in the Diocesan Vocational Enrichment Team (DVET), and has made a major contribution to the promotion of vocations in our diocese. We look forward to hearing these two fathers telling vocation stories from their unique viewpoints

Kathy's Korner

I hope that everyone who attended the Christmas dinner had a wonderful time. Gwen Hunt and her committee did a fantastic job in planning and executing the evening. I see a great talent in her leadership and planning. I also want to thank Norman and Nancy Dusseault for opening their home to us for the 3rd or 4th year in a row and to Bob Iler for supplying us with the nectar of the Serrans (sangria).

January is a great time to reflect on our blessings and our resolutions for the up coming year. We are blessed by the quality of the priests and religious in our diocese. In recent years our Bishop has ordained wonderfully holy and devoted men to instruct, minister, and nurture us thru the "perils" in our daily lives. As Serrans we are called to continue to pray for all of our current and future seminarians that they will continue to grow in the Holy Spirit. We need to remain committed to the work of Serra by participating in activities such as Focus 11 (Feb. 14,15,and 16) and attending our monthly Holy Hour. Thank you for all of your hard work last year and I look forward to working and praying with all of you in 2006.

...Kathy

