

# Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



March 2007

*"Always go forward, never look back"*

## Dates to Remember:

- Tuesday, March 13, 7 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting. St. Jude Pastoral Center. Program: Fr. Bob Morris, Pastor, St. John's. Note: Changed from March 20<sup>th</sup> due to schedule conflict at St. Judes.
- Wednesday, March 28, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel with use of traveling Papal Monstrance.
- Tuesday, April 17, 7 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting. St. Jude Pastoral Center. Program: TBA
- Wednesday, April 25, 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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## Serra Club Focus 11 Contest Winners Announced

Winners of the annual Serra Poster and Radio Spot Contest were announced at the recent Focus 11 Vocations Fair at Christ the King Parish in Tampa. The contest, open to all 6<sup>th</sup> graders and all 11<sup>th</sup> graders in the diocese, invited participants at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level to prepare a poster depicting an ad calling people to a religious vocation. Participants at the 11<sup>th</sup> grade level were asked to prepare a 60 second radio spot. First place winners in both categories received \$100, second place \$50 and third place \$25. Fifty-seven posters were received from 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 30 spots from 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The winners were:

### POSTER:

First place: Mark & Dianne Rottenstiener, Christ the King Parish  
Second place: Jamie Sullivan, St Lawrence Parish.  
Third place: Sofia & Carie Herrera, Christ the King Parish.

## Focus 11 Winners - Continued

### RADIO SPOT:

First Place: Haley Kirkland, Academy of the Holy Names  
Second Place: Hahe Stine, Academy of the Holy Names  
Third Place: Michelle Dermakar, Academy of the Holy Names.



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## Program on Lenten Triduum Presented by Michelle Rego

Michelle Rego, director of music at St Jude's Cathedral, presented a highly instructive and well researched talk on the history and meaning of the Triduum, the three day period from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday, at the February 20 meeting of Serra.

Ms Rego, an accomplished musician and trained liturgist, traced the Triduum liturgies to the early Church, the Christian "Passover," celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Various liturgies and definitions were added through the centuries, but the essentials have remained constant.

Ms Rego discussed the liturgies each day of the Triduum, citing the scriptural basis and rich significance in the faith life of the Christian community and, in particular to the development and nurturing of vocations. Michelle added a personal note that it was through her study of the music and liturgy of the church at Notre Dame University that she herself underwent a deep conversion and commitment to the Catholic faith.

All in all, the program proved to be one of the most informative and moving of our programs, and was an excellent start of our Lenten journey.



## **Many Serrans Support Focus 11 Vocation Fair**

Some 20 Serrans turned out to assist with the 7th Annual Focus 11 Vocations Fair, held over a 3 day period, February 13-15, on the campus of Christ the King Parish in Tampa. The first day of the fair was devoted to about 800 11th graders who were bussed in from all the diocesan high schools. The second and third days were attended by about 1100 6th graders from Catholic School, with about half attending each day. The program lasted from about 9 am to about 2 pm each day, and consisted of talks, skits, games, panel discussions, and visits to booths set up by religious orders and diocesan organizations dedicated to vocations ministry. Bishop Robert Lynch addressed the students each day, as did several priests and religious sisters, who were also available for individual and informal discussions. The basic purpose of the program is to initiate or nurture interest in religious vocations.

The name "Focus 11" was given to the project because research has shown that young people usually start thinking about their vocations in life at about age 11, and more urgently when they are in the 11th grade. The Serra Club has become an essential player in the program, staffing a booth at the fair to meet and talk to the students, and also providing and serving drinks and cookies to the youngsters during lunch breaks.

Serrans provide lunch for priests and sisters sitting in informal discussions with high school students on the first day of the fair. We also coordinate our vocations poster and radio spot contests to coincide with the fair, and generally help with any other tasks requested by the vocations office.

The best news about Focus 11 is that after 7 yrs it is starting to produce results. Fr Len Plazewski, diocesan vocations director, reports that he is definitely now receiving applications from young people who first started thinking about a vocation at earlier Focus 11 events. This may account for the increase in vocations applicants. Five men have already been accepted as new seminarians for the coming year, and several others may be accepted.



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

## **Kathy's Korner**

The first part of the mission of the Serra Club is to promote and foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Having recalled our mission, February has got to be the pinnacle of the year for the Serra Club of St. Petersburg. We have actively and cheerfully contributed to the Focus 11 project for the Vocations Office of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. It was wonderful to see women gather at Mary Marlette's home to make more than 100 sandwiches for the priests and religious lunches on the first day, to see members carpooling over to Christ the King to prepare and serve 2000 plus cups of lemon aide, and to see our members teaching the students about the seminarians from our diocese and about the need to pray for these young men. Thanks to all of you for your contribution to this effort to foster future vocations. On Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a luncheon for the religious community of our diocese. 75 nuns, brothers and religious priests enjoyed the baked ziti, salad, bread and desserts lovingly provided by members of our club. The Serrans that served them had the opportunity to visit with these dedicated men and women and to affirm their devotion to the work God has given them. They assured us that they will continue to pray for the members of Serra!!

But there is still more to do. On March 28<sup>th</sup> the Papal monstrance (Commissioned by Pope John Paul II) will be at the Cathedral for our Monthly Holy Hour. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this very special holy hour. Our annual Retreat will be April 28<sup>th</sup> at SPCHS. Fr. Tobin will be our Retreat Master and he tells me he is preparing a very special program for us this year.

Please take time this month to tell a friend about the work you do for the Serra Club and for the priests and religious in our Diocese. Encourage them to come to a meeting or holy hour. We need new members with a fresh perspective to continue the work for vocations in the new millennium. Pray for the past, present and future members of the Serra Club.

I hold you all in my prayers...

***...Kathy***

