

Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



May 2005

"Always go forward, never look back"

Dates to Remember:

- **Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting, St. Jude's Pastoral Center.**
Program: Fr. Ted Costello, St. Michael's Parish Clearwater.
- **Friday, May 20, 7:00 p.m. Vigil followed by reception for priest ordinands, Christ the King, Tampa.**
- **Saturday, May 21, 11:00 a.m. Ordination to the priesthood of Michael Morris and Thomas Tobin, St. Jude Cathedral.**
- **Wednesday, May 25, 7 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.**
- **Tuesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m. Annual Installation and Dinner and Seminarian Reception, Yacht Club, Central Avenue & Bayshore, St. Petersburg**
- **Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.**

April Meeting Features Talk With Foreign Flavor

FR. Richard Zielinski, parochial vicar at St. Jude's for the past several months, was our featured speaker in April, presenting anecdotes and a beautifully illustrated travelogue of Catholic life in Poland. Fr. Zielinski was ordained 22 years ago, on May 22, 1983, in the Diocese Tarnow, Poland. He holds a Master's Degree in Theology from the Pontifical Academy of Krakow, which brought him into contact with the late Pope John Paul II when the latter was Archbishop of Krakow. He also met with the Pope after his ascendancy to the Papacy.

He served in Poland for 9 years, but in 1992 he was assigned to missionary duty in Peru where he served 3 parishes covering 250 communities encompassing 42,000 Peruvian families. He came to St. Jude's in August 2004, and will move to St. Anne's Parish in Ruskin this summer.

April Meeting - Continued

Although struggling with English, Fr. Zielinski gave a spirited description of Catholic life in Poland, illustrated with musical accompaniment, with beautiful slides of the countryside, churches, and people around his home in Poland. He described how the lives of the people were centered on the church and on religious feasts and devotions, citing in particular the widespread Divine Mercy devotion, introduced by the Blessed Sr Faustina.

In response to questions he lamented fact that the fall of communism has resulted in more secularism in Poland, as in the rest of Europe, but, he said, the faith is still central to the lives and culture of his native country. The general effect of Fr. Zielinski's presentation was that we had all been transported to Poland for a short while, and experienced the profound and deeply lived Catholicism of Poland.

Our May program will be Fr. Ted Costello, a priest of St. Michael's Parish in Clearwater, but known by many of us as former parochial vicar at St. Jude's. Fr. Ted will relate to his vocational journey and his experience as a priest for several years in this diocese.

Annual Retreat Again a Serra Highlight

On Saturday, April 16, we gathered at St. Petersburg High School for the annual Serra retreat, conducted by our chaplain, Fr. Anthony Coppola. Following a light breakfast gathering, Fr. Anthony led us in a comprehensive study of the Encyclical Letter *Ecclesia De Eucharistia* of the late Pope John Paul II, on the Eucharist and its relationship to the church.

(Continued on Other Side)



Annual Retreat - Continued

Fr Anthony distributed copies of the encyclical, and had us highlight selected passages as he interpreted and described their significance, and particularly their basis in scripture and in the tradition and practices of the church.

The total effect of this instruction and discussion was to leave us with a deeper understanding of the true doctrine of the Eucharist and of the value and importance to our spiritual lives.

Meet Elio.....



Our latest sponsored seminarian is Elio Francisco Oliva Diaz. Elio is studying at the Missionary Fraternity of Mary House, Hermano Pedro, Guatemala. He 20 years old and aspires to be a missionary, or, as he says, a "dynamic priest, full of life, able to answer to the challenges of today's world."

Elio comes to us through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, of Kansas City, which conducts a number of support "projects" in Central America, including support for young people who wish to be priests or sisters. Our club supports priest candidates to the tune of \$50 a month through our Seminary Fund. Serran Conrad Beaulieu is our contact with seminarians, and has already written to Elio to assure him of our support and prayers.

Elio's resume indicates he comes from a family of 9, who are farmers. He says he likes playing soccer and basketball, and is "eager to learn." He further states he "looks forward to being a missionary and being able to give my heart to the needy ones." If he continues on his present course he will be ordained a priest in the year 2011. Let's pray for Elio as he follows his heart and answers his vocational call.

Kathy's Korner

The life blood in every organization is the strength of its members. Our club has been blessed with members that are passionate about their faith and their desire to preserve the church by promoting and fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In the past month several of our members have been afflicted with illness, death and anxiety for their loved ones. I ask you to please keep the following members in your prayers: Prosper Boudart, Jim Prior in illness, Joe Shea in the death of his wife, Jan Davy in the illness of her Mother, and Mary Mallette in her anticipated surgery. I hope you will extend your hearts and hands and minister to each other in their times of need.

Maureen and Larry Ahern have been working hard to attract new members to our ministry, but everyone must become involved. Please take this opportunity to invite a guest to our meeting on May 17th. Look at the people in your parish, your neighborhood, and your pew at Mass. Ask friends, relatives, and Co Workers. Our prayers and our efforts are making a difference in the number and the quality of vocations received in our Diocese, but we need more members so that we have the resources to continue to do the work of Serra.

Many thanks to the Serrans who turned out to help with the Altar Servers Appreciation Mass on Sunday, April 17. Those who helped were Bob Tufaner, Bob Scott, Mary Mallette, Jim Prior, Norm Dusseault, Gwen Hunt, Patricia Tufaner, Marilyn Deeb, and yours truly. Congratulations to Fr. John Hourican, son of Serran John Hourican who was recently ordained in Memphis, Tennessee.

We join the Bishop and Fr. Len in celebrating the ordination of Deacon Mike Morris and Deacon Tom Tobin for the Diocese of St. Petersburg on May 21st. The Serra Club has been asked to host the reception for the future priests following a prayer vigil on May 20th. Please plan to attend and bring a favorite dish to share as we welcome these very special men into the priesthood. Call Jan Davy at 548-8989 if you can assist with the preparations. I look forward to seeing you there.

...Kathy

