

Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



May 2007

"Always go forward, never look back"

Dates to Remember:

- Tuesday, May 15, 7 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting. St. Jude Pastoral Center. Program: Sr. Kathleen Luger OSC, Sisters of St. Clare.
- Wednesday, May 23, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.
- Tuesday, June 12, 6:30 p.m. Annual Installation Dinner and Seminarian Reception. St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg.
- Wednesday, June 27, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.

Fr. Jean Robitaille Speaks About African Service

Fr Jean Robitaille of the Missionaries of Africa, currently serves as spiritual director of the Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of St Petersburg.. But his most intense and gratifying service as a priest came during the 10 years he served in Zambia as a Missionary of Africa, popularly known as the White Fathers. Fr Jean is a native of Canada. Although intent on becoming an aeronautical engineer, he was drawn to the priesthood shortly after completing high school when he read about the work of the Missionaries of Africa, an order that dates back to 1868. He studied theology in Ottawa and was ordained in 1973. He then underwent an intense period of study of the languages of the African natives he would serve.

His service in Zambia involved living with the natives, speaking their language, eating their food, traveling from village to village by motorcycle and generally immersing himself in their culture and way of life. He described how church communities are led by trained catechists and a Church council, with a priest arriving only 3-4 times a year. He was one of 3 priests serving 29 communities. Fr Jean said that Africans are relatively easy to evangelize because they are a spiritual people. They have a strong belief in something beyond themselves, and are grateful to God for even the necessities of life, food and water, etc. Ironically, when they hear that we have water in every home, and abundant food, etc. they comment that we must surely be a very religious people and grateful to God for His goodness. Fr Jean said that the Zambian people evangelized him by their deeply religious character and trust and gratefulness to God.



Altar Server Event Draws Hundreds

Again this year Serrans participated in staging the annual Altar Server Recognition Mass and Reception on Sunday, April 29 at the Cathedral of St Jude.

More than a 500 altar servers from some 70 parishes came to the Cathedral, along with many of their priests, to form a huge procession entering the Cathedral. Bishop Robert Lynch celebrated the Mass and presented awards to outstanding servers from the various parishes.

Serrans helped by posting directional signs, ushering, distributing certificates and programs, etc. Among Serrans offering service were Kathy Bolich, Bob Tufaner, Gwen and Neal Hunt, Jim Prior, Norm Dusseault, Marge Valente, Mary Mallette, Matt and Helen Wittenbauer, Bob Scott, Therese O'Neil, Lee Boudart, and Trudy Barron.



Annual Installation Dinner & Seminarian Reception Set for June 12th

Our annual dinner at which we install officers for the coming year, and also receive seminarians who are serving in the area, is set for Tuesday, June 12 at the St Petersburg Yacht Club, 11 Central Ave.

Diocesan Vocations Director Fr Len Plazewski will speak and introduce seminarians present in his usual colorful way. We hope this will include several new seminarians whose names are noted elsewhere in this newsletter. Other priests will also be in attendance. You will receive a special invitation to the event, which will include the cost per person. We ask Serrans who are able to also consider sponsoring one or more of our guests.

Another highlight of the evening, of course, will be the installation of officers for the upcoming year. Here are the Serrans who have agreed to serve:

President	Norm Dusseault
Vice Presidents, Vocations	Denise Reilly John Hourican
Vice Presidents, Membership	Kathy Bolich, Mary Ann Willson
Vice President, Communications	Bob Tufaner
Vice President, Programs	Jim Prior
Secretary	Jan Davy
Treasurer	Bob Scott



Eight New Seminarians Named In Vocations Newsletter

Our prayers for new vocations to the priesthood are being answered. The April 2007 edition of Called to Serve, the publication of the Diocesan Vocations Office, lists the names of no fewer than EIGHT new seminarians, and noted that the names of other would soon be announced. This promises to be the most productive year ever for new seminarians and demonstrates that the harvest is there to cultivate. We offer our congratulations to Vocations Director Fr Len Plazewski and his office, and pledge our continued support and prayers.

We regret that we do not have the home parishes of the new seminarians, but here are their names. Please add them to your prayers:

Robert Angel	Curtis Carro
Brian Fabiszewski,	Felipe Gonzalez
Karl Schmidt	Kyle Smith
Jonathan Stephanz	Gregory Visca



Serran Kirsten Hunt is St. Jude's Altar Server of the Year

Congratulations to our youngest member, Kirsten Hunt who was chosen the St. Jude Cathedral Parish Altar Server of the Year for 2007. She along with the other diocese award winners, were presented their awards by Bishop Robert N. Lynch in the Cathedral at the Altar Server Appreciation Mass held April 29th. Kirsten is a member of the Bishop's Corp and has been an altar server for over nine years.

2007 has been a rather busy year for Kirsten. She is a graduating senior at St. Pete Catholic High School, where she is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish and Science Honor Societies. She is a long time member of the youth ministries of St. Jude and St. Pete Catholic High School, and has served as the St. Jude Youth Ministry youth representative to the Parish Council for the past three years. She has participated with and served in leadership capacities in youth and young adult oriented retreats such as the Salesian OLR and MLR leadership retreats in New York, and Gospel Roads in Miami.

Kirsten is also a Medical Explorer at All Children's Hospital where she has served as the Historian for Post 979 for the last two years. She holds the Girl Scout Silver and Gold Awards which are the highest awards for Cadette and Senior girl scouts. In February 2007 she was presented the Young American Award for the Gulf Coast Scouting Region in honor of her community service. She is an avid photographer and has chronicled many Serra functions. She will enroll at the University of South Florida in the fall.



Kathy's Korner

The Serra Club retreat on April 28th was spectacular. Fr Tobin out did himself with a fabulous series of lectures and bible studies on the developing faith of St. Peter. It was thought provoking, stimulating, and inspiring. I hope that everyone who attended the day will share your reflections with someone who was unable to attend. I wish to Thank Fr. Tobin for everything he does to increase our knowledge of our faith and enhance our efforts to promote vocations. I would also like to thank Therese O'Neill for her generous donation of paper products, tea, sugar and creamers, and soft drinks. She has enthusiastically participated in all of our activities since she joined in November!

We want more members like Therese. 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. Our members are the heart and the spirit of our ministry. New members bring fresh ideas and energy. They revitalize us. Please continue to talk to your friends, relatives, and co workers about the mission of the Serra Club. Look at the people in your pew at Mass, bible study or prayer group for possible members. Pray daily that God will open the hearts of future priests and he will open our eyes and ears for potential members to the Serra Club of St. Petersburg. Invite a guest to the meeting on May 22nd or to the Seminarian Dinner on June 12th. Call me at 542-0418 with the name and phone number of any potential member for Serra.

Our annual Seminarian Dinner is scheduled for June 12th at 6:30pm. It will be held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club again. This year will be an especially significant dinner because it will mark the 10th Anniversary of the Serra Club of St. Petersburg "part 2". I hope all of you will mark your calendars and plan to attend the festivities. Mary Mallette and Jan Davy are busy coordinating this event and will give us more details at the meeting on May 22nd. They have mentioned that the meal prices at the Yacht Club have increased again, and as you know we will be inviting about 23 seminarians/guests. We are working hard to keep the costs reasonable, but we do not want to strain the project or the scholarship accounts. If you or your friends are able to sponsor a seminarian's meal, please contact Mary or Bob Scott. Any help that you can give would be greatly appreciated.

Lastly, Fr. Tobin will be celebrating the 2nd anniversary of his ordination on May 21st (the day before our monthly meeting on May 22nd) Please join me in wishing him continued blessings and joy in his vocation.



...Kathy



Pray for Vocations

