

Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



November 2005

"Always go forward, never look back"

Dates to Remember:

- **Tuesday, November 15, 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting, St. Jude's Pastoral Center, Program: Tommy Wilson & Scott Sharlow, World Youth Day 2005.**
- **Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.**
- **Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m. Christmas Social, Dusseault Residence 4161 14th Street N. St. Pete.**
- **Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.**

Sr Karen Burns, OSF Outlines Unique Franciscan Program

Veteran Franciscan sister, Sr Karen Burns, was our speaker for the Oct 18 meeting and she outlined a unique program called the Eastern Franciscan Common Novitiate(EFCN), initiated in 1998 by 14 Franciscan congregations to provide a



common 9 month novitiate program for novices. The program has since been joined by several additional Franciscan communities.

The program, born of the impracticality of conducting separate novitiate programs for dwindling numbers of entrants in the various Franciscan communities, is held in Kearny, NJ from August to May of each year. It is described as an "immersion experience in Franciscan life," and is designed to prepare both novices, and some members, of the participating communities with a formative experience in what it means to be a Franciscan. Sr Karen presented the program against a background of her own personal experience as a Franciscan and religious.

Sr Karen Burns - Continued

She has been an Alleghany (Pa) Franciscan for 55 years, serving as a teacher, a foreign missionary, a health care executive, a fundraiser, and a program director within her community. Most of us know her as director of the St Anthony's Hospital Foundation, from which she resigned last year.

Sister traced the origins of religious orders in the Church which were founded to respond to social needs of the people. She cited in particular the dictum of Sr Teresa O'Neil, the first General Superior of the Alleghany Franciscans in 1865 who called on the sisters to "respond to the needs of the people" This established a tradition of flexibility for her order, and moved them to education, health care, missionary work, assistance to refugees, and other ministries through the years. There are now 354 sisters in the Alleghany community, which has made a huge impact on Florida by founding several hospitals, and staffing schools and parish ministries as "guests of the dioceses." Sr Karen provided Serrans with an informative insight into the ministries, and inner workings, of the Alleghany Franciscans.

Two New Members at our October Meeting



**Virginia Tottle and Trudy Baron
Welcome to Serra!**



December Meeting to be our Christmas Social

Again this year we will convert our December meeting into a Christmas social, and Norman and Nancy Dusseault have again offered their home as the site. The date is Tuesday, December 6th with a gathering at the pool deck at 6:30 p.m. followed by Christmas dinner. Serrans are asked to bring a covered dish and to coordinate with Gwen Hunt, phone 528-2868.

Spouses and guests, particularly prospective members, are invited, but reservations are absolutely essential so that seating and table space can be planned. Call Gwen Hunt, 528-2868. **Do not call the Dusseaults.**

Mark Your Calendar for Holy Hours

Holy Hour dates have been set for the next several months, so you might want to mark your calendars. Here they are:

Wednesday, Nov 16, 2005
Wednesday Dec 21, 2005
Wednesday, Jan 25, 2006
Wednesday, Feb 22, 2006
Wednesday, Mar 22, 2006
Wednesday, Apr 26, 2006
Wednesday May 24, 2006
Wednesday, June 28, 2006

All Holy Hours are held at 7:00 p.m. in the St Jude's Chapel, and you are encouraged to attend and bring relatives and guests. Greeters and readers are needed and you can sign up with Vocation VP Denise Reilly or with the sign-up sheet at any of our regular meetings.

Kathy's Korner

I am so happy to welcome 3 new members to the Serra Club of St. Petersburg. Our first new member is Gene Murphy who frequently attends our Holy Hour and has been faithfully praying for vocations even before joining our ministry. Next is Virginia Tottle who has been active in fostering vocations in her own home; her son is the Rector of our Cathedral, Fr. Greg Tottle.

Kathy's Korner - Continued

And our third new member is Trudy Barron. She has a lot of experience working with the priests in St. Jude and St. Jerome parishes. She is enthusiastic when helping with any project in which she is involved. We are absolutely blessed to have these 3 dynamic people join us in our work for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Our club is powerful in its ministry, but our membership could always be larger, enabling us to do more for the religious and expand our club into other deaneries. Do not stop telling your friends, relatives, and fellow Catholics about the work of Serra and invite them to our Holy Hour and our meetings. Let the Ahern's know if there is someone you think could be a potential member. The words of Fr. Junipero Serra "Always go forward, never go back" also applies to our membership needs.

We are entering into a very busy time of year: The Holidays. I realize that there are many demands on your time during this season, but please remember the needs of our ministry. We will have our Holy Hour early this month because of Thanksgiving. It is scheduled for November 16th at 7pm. Please make it a priority to spend an hour with Jesus thanking him for all that we have. (You are welcome to bring a guest. I'm sure Jesus would welcome the company) Mary Mallette says she has greeters and readers for November and December's Holy Hours. She will need volunteers beginning in January 2006. The Holy Hour is a primary activity of the Serra Club. Attendance at the Holy Hour fulfills your obligation to attend two Serra Meetings a month. Happy Thanksgiving!

...Kathy

Guess Who?



**St. Pete Serra Club Member John Hourican
listens intently to Sr. Karen Burns talk**

