

Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



November 2007

“Always go forward, never look back”

Dates to Remember:

- Tuesday, *November 13, 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting St. Jude’s Pastoral Center. Program: Fr. Robert Wiseman, St. Jerome’s Parish.
**Week early due to Thanksgiving*
- Wednesday, November 28, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude’s Chapel.
- Tuesday, December 11, 6:30 p.m. Annual Christmas Gathering, Home of Nancy and Norm Dusseault, 4161 14th Street N, St.Pete.
- Wednesday, December 19, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude’s Chapel.

A Different Kind of Travel Agent Is Our October Speaker

Referring to his 18 year career as a travel agent, Fr John Mullet described his current priestly vocation as a “different kind of travel agent “in his talk to Serrans during our October meeting.

Fr Mullet, recently appointed director pastoral care at St Anthony’s Hospital, described his journey to his late vocation priesthood by way of his career in music and later as owner/operator of a travel business. A native of Saginaw Michigan, Fr Mullet told us that he was always very involved in ministry, whether through music, RCIA programs, etc. , and even studied for a Masters Degree in Theology. “Even then,” he said, “ I was sensing some call to the priesthood but never faced up to it until one day, while lunching with a priest friend, he suggested boldly,” You really ought to think about becoming a priest, John”

That invitation tipped the scale for Fr Mullet. He entered Chicago Theological Union Seminary to complete his studies for the priesthood, and was ordained for the Diocese of Saginaw in 1991.

Fr. Mullet - Continued

His initial assignments involved parish and administrative work in the Saginaw Diocese, but he soon discerned a calling to hospital ministry, and, after further studies in pastoral ministry from Mary Grove College in Detroit, came to south Florida to serve as chaplain at Children’s Hospital in West Palm Beach. He later joined the staff at Holy Cross Hospital in Ft Lauderdale, where he served for 7 years prior to coming to St Anthony’s in recent months.

Fr Mullet spoke of hospital ministry as very satisfying for a priest.” I encounter people .in every part of their faith journey,” he said... “I am able to help them reach for spiritual and physical healing, and to extend the love of God to them at a particularly critical and vulnerable time in their lives... I seldom know the end result. It is an awesome and humbling responsibility.”



Christmas Collection to Benefit Religious Sisters

Christmas is a time for giving, and each year Serrans have designated a beneficiary for a voluntary collection taken at our Christmas Gathering. This year we have been asked to supplement the costs for local retired religious sisters to enable them to attend the Eucharistic Conference to be held at Tampa Convention Center in February. The Conference will be the highlight of the “Living Eucharist” program currently being conducted throughout the diocese.

In past years we have provided a luncheon for the Religious Study Day which will not be held this year. We will redirect those funds, augmented by our Christmas Gathering collection, to underwrite the registration and other costs for sisters who would find it difficult to attend the Conference without some support.

(Continued on Reverse Side)

Christmas Collection - Continued

A collection basket and envelopes will be available at the Christmas gathering. Checks should be made out to Serra Club so that our treasurer can accumulate our total support gift for the sisters. Again, gifts are totally voluntary. Plans for the Christmas Gathering are well underway. Kathy Bolich will chair the event, and special invitations will be sent to all members. The event will replace of December meeting, and will be held on Tuesday, Dec 11, at the home of Nancy and Norm Dusseault, 4161 14 St N. Parking on neighborhood streets is limited and so you are urged to share cars where possible.

As in past years, you are asked to bring a favorite covered dish. Kathy and her committee will coordinate reservations and food offerings. . Phone numbers will be provided on the invitation. Spouses and guests, particularly prospective members, are welcome.



Fr. Bob Wiseman, CSC is Our November Speaker

Fr. Bob Wiseman, CSC (Congregation of the Holy Cross), will present our program at the Nov 13 meeting. Fr. Wiseman joined the staff at St Jerome's Church, Indian Rocks Beach, this summer following 30 years of service as a Holy Cross priest in a wide variety of assignments. Among them was as a high school teacher, Vocations Director for the congregation, travel to Holy Cross sites in India, East Africa and Europe, parish building in Tennessee and Florida, campus ministry, and even a stint in film making with Family Theater Productions in Hollywood.

Fr. Bob is a native of Clearwater and so he regards his assignment to St Jerome's as a "coming home." He attended Jesuit and Clearwater High Schools, worked briefly for the FBI in Washington, joined the Air Force where he worked as a pharmacy tech. Returning to Clearwater, he was approached to enter the Holy Cross order and he decided to enter the seminary at Loyola, New Orleans to obtain a BA degree. He followed up with graduate work at Notre Dame, run by the Holy Cross fathers, and was ordained in 1977. Serra is looking forward to a very interesting November program.



Norm's Notes:

ERRATA: In the October issue of this newsletter I wrote that St Augustine was the site of the first Catholic Mass in the U S. No, no, no, corrected Vocations Director Fr Len Plazewski, who is a student of Florida Catholic history. The first Mass was said right here in St Petersburg, just a few blocks from Mary Mallette's house... He points out that Bishop Juan Suarez landed

Norm's Notes - Continued

there in 1527, as reported in the article. "Don't you think he said Mass?" queried Fr Len. Well, uh, yeah, I suppose so. I guess I was taken in by St Augustine's touristy hype. Sorry!!

MEMBERSHIP: At our October meeting we finally got new member Tom Loney together with Membership VP's Kathy Bolich and Mary Ann Wilson who conducted a proper initiation rite with Tom and pinned him with Serra insignia... Tom, who is a computer specialist, will work with Bob Tufaner in producing the newsletter. . Kathy and Mary Ann are ready, willing and able to conduct other initiation ceremonies, so bring a friend.

VOCATIONS: VP Denise Reilly is moving along on a major project of the year, our ad poster and radio spot contest for 6th and 11th graders, held in conjunction with the annual Focus 11 Vocations Fair. The Vocations Committee has come up with a theme: "Are You Being Called....by God?" Mailings are being prepared for 81 schools, parish DRE's and youth directors to announce the contest. Posters by 6th graders will be in the form of a print advertisement for vocations. 60 second radio spots may be submitted by 11th graders on the same theme. Cash prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 will be awarded to the top three winners in each category. Awards will be announced at the Focus 11 Fair.

FOCUS 11: We have received word from the Vocations Office that the Focus 11 Fair, scheduled for Feb 11-13, will be moved from Christ the King to St Lawrence Parish Hall, where there is more indoor space and less likelihood to be impacted from the weather. St Lawrence is located at 5225 N Himes Av, just a few north of RJ Stadium, just south of Hillsborough Av. We will again be asked to play a role in providing refreshments and other help on those three days. We'll check out the kitchen and other facilities in advance and have a plan ready.

GIFTS TO SEMINARIANS: Thank you for your generous donations during the past two meetings for funds to purchase gift cards for our seminarians. We collected \$200, and we will augment that from our treasury to provide at least a \$10 gift certificate for each seminarian to go along with Christmas cards. This replaces our SOS goody packages from prior years. Incidentally we received several responses from the notes of encouragement all of us wrote to seminarians during the September meeting.

God's Blessings to all...

...Norm Dusseault

