

Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



October 2007

"Always go forward, never look back"

Dates to Remember:

- Tuesday, October 16, 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting St. Jude's Pastoral Center. Program: Fr. John Mullet, director of pastoral care, St. Anthony's Hospital.
- Wednesday, October 24, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.
- 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.

Florida is Cradle of Catholic Church in US says Fr. Murphy

"Despite what you may have heard about California being the cradle of the Catholic Church because of all those missions, the honor really belongs to Florida." So said Fr Tom Murphy, OFM, our speaker at the September meeting of the Serra Club.

A self-taught historian, Fr Murphy cited a number of historical facts which proves his point. For example the first bishop to set foot on U.S soil was Bishop Juan Suarez who landed with the Spanish explorer's right here in St Petersburg in 1527. Spanish Franciscans established more than 40 missions in Florida and some of those missions have been restored as historical sites.

As we all know, St Augustine was the site of the first Catholic Mass in the U S and that event is memorialized at the shrine site today. Fr Murphy recommended the book, "Cross and Sword," by Gannon, as a resource in Florida Catholic heritage.

Fr Murphy is a former U S Army chaplain, and is currently Spiritual Assistant for the Secular Franciscan Order in a region stretching from Key West to Mobile Bay.



Fr. John Mullet is our Speaker in October

Fr John Mullet has recently been appointed director of pastoral care at St Anthony's Hospital in St Petersburg, and will be our speaker at our October 16 meeting.

Fr Mullet is a native of Saginaw Michigan and attended public schools there. He graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in administration and migrated into the travel business. He owned and operated a travel agency for 18 years before discerning a late vocational calling to the priesthood.

He studied at Catholic Theological Union Seminary in Chicago and was ordained in 1991 for the Diocese of Saginaw, Mich. He also received a Masters degree in pastoral ministry from Mary Grove College in Detroit, Mich.

He has served as Chaplain of Holy Cross Hospital in Ft Lauderdale for several years, and recently was appointed Director of Pastoral Care at St Anthony's here in St Petersburg.

Serra is pleased to welcome Fr Mullet to St Petersburg and we look forward to his talk describing his journey to the priesthood and his work at St Anthony's.



Priesthood Sunday To Be Observed October 28

Priesthood Sunday, Oct 28, 2007, is a special day set aside to honor priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as central one. The nationwide event is sponsored by USA Council of Serra International.

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Priesthood Sunday - Continued

As Serrans we are called upon to celebrate Priesthood Sunday within our individual parishes, marking the day by honoring our priests at Mass and at other parish events in whatever ways seem appropriate to the parish. Our Communication Committee will send out a bulletin notices calling attention to Priesthood Sunday to all parishes in South Pinellas from which we draw our members, but other ideas for observing the day may be obtained by visiting the website

www.priesthoodsunday.org .



Norm's Notes:

CHRISTMAS GATHERING: Is it possible? We are already into the last quarter of 2007. Christmas is just around the corner. And of course plans are being drawn up to have our annual Christmas gathering in lieu of our monthly meeting in December. The date is Tuesday, Dec 11, and Nancy and I are again inviting you and your guests to our home at 4161 14th St N. for gathering about 6:30 p.m. and dinner following. Kathy Bolich will chair the event and so she will soon been calling on you to make reservations and bring a covered dish. So we'll roll up the carpet, set out the tables and join in prayer and good cheer to celebrate the birth of the Lord. Mark your calendar now.

FATIMA ROSARY: VP Jim Prior calls your attention to an upcoming event of interest to Serrans at St Mary's Church. On Saturday, October 13, at 12 noon, in downtown St Petersburg, a special rosary liturgy will held to note the 90th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady at Fatima. The special intentions to be prayed for include Vocations, Respect for Life and World Peace.

PICTURE BOARD: VP Denise Reilly has gathered together pictures of all 26 diocesan seminarians for a brand new picture board which made its debut at our last meeting. She notes that the owner of Sapphire Signs where the display board is made each year takes special delight in the increase in seminarians from year to year. He laments that he soon will run out of room for more pictures. Denise replied that we would very much like to have that problem.

Norm's Notes: Continued

AFFIRMING SEMINARIANS: The business portion of the September meeting was largely taken up by writing notes on cards of affirmation to our 26 diocesan seminarians and one Salesian... Some of us have already received responses thanking us for our prayers and thoughts. We are also taking up donations at our next meeting to purchase gift cards to send to the seminarians before Christmas.

AFFIRMING PRIESTS: A continuing activity of our Vocations Committee is sending card of affirmation to several hundred priests, active and retired, in our area on the occasion of their birthdays and anniversaries. Every month we get heartwarming responses from several of them, particularly the retired, who are so grateful to be remembered. Serran Judy Lillico has carried the bulk of this task and has done a great job.

POSTER CONTEST: The Vocations committee is looking for a theme for the poster and essay contest to be conducted among 6th graders and 11th graders in conjunction with the Focus 11 Vocations Fair, February 11-13. Got any ideas? Pass them along to VP Denise Reilly.

ERRATA; Last month's newsletter listed the October program as Matt and Helen Wittenbauer with a program about a special ministry they are involved in. Unfortunately Matt and Helen will not return from their European trip until after October 16. And so they had to be replaced by Fr Mullet. VP Programs Jim Prior offers his apology and promises Matt and Helen at a future meeting.

MEMBERSHIP This is the time of year we need to build membership. Bring a friend to our meetings. New members are the lifeblood of Serra. Look around. Say a prayer. Contact Membership VP Kathy Bolich or VP Mary Ann Wilson for their help. If you give them names of prospects, they will do the inviting.

'til next time

God's Blessings to all...

...Norm Dusseault

