

Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



September 2005

"Always go forward, never look back"

Dates to Remember:

- Tuesday, September 20, 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting, St. Jude's Pastoral Center, Program: Fr. Tom Tobin, St. Jude's.
- Wednesday, September 28, 5:30 p.m. Mass with Vocation Directors, Sacred Heart Church, 509 Florida Avenue, Tampa.
- Membership Reception, Time and Locations TBA – Check October Newsletter
- October Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel TBA- Check October Newsletter

Marriage Concept Illustrated In Color Slide Show

For our August program we again welcomed Fr Richard Zielinski, now parochial vicar at St Anne's Parish in Ruskin, to present a program to our monthly Serra meeting. Fr Richard, a talented photographer, presented a series of slides, mostly of scenes in nature, but some man-made, which reminded him and us of the fundamental pairing of men and women in marriage unions.



Fr. Richard Zielinski

Fr. Richard organized his beautifully photographed scenes around the central theme of the duality of marriage unions, repeating over and over again the "him" and "her" pairings that nature presented to us. Accompanied by music and narrative, the presentation reached the level of visual poetry. It was a very different and much appreciated program which emphasized the fundamental Catholic concept of marriage.

Fr. Tom Tobin Our Speaker For September 20th Meeting

Our speaker for the Sept 20 meeting of Serra will be Fr Tom Tobin, newly ordained priest at St Jude's. Fr. Tobin will discuss late vocations to the priesthood, as illustrated by his own vocational journey. Born in Boston, his family moved to St Petersburg as he began high school. He graduated from Bishop Barry High, now St Petersburg Catholic, in 1965. He entered the seminary at Athenaeum of Ohio in Cincinnati, and later studied theology at St John's Seminary in Boston. He dropped out in 1971 and began a career in social work in the Boston and Cape Cod area. He married his wife Charlene in 1972 and they had two daughters, who are now both married and each has two children. Fr Tom therefore, is a grandfather.

Fr Tom received his Master Degree from Boston College and his PHD from Brandeis University in Boston, and for many years worked for Cape Cod Hospital, developing a foster care program for adults needing long term care. These included the mentally retarded, the emotionally disturbed, the physically impaired, AIDS victims and the elderly.

His wife Charlene died suddenly and unexpectedly in 1996, while a student in Pastoral Care Ministry at Providence College. During the next few years Fr. Tom discerned his priestly vocational calling once again and in 2001 he decided to take the plunge. He returned to his formation studies at Blessed John XXXIII Seminary in Boston, which specializes in late-in-life vocations and was ordained in May of this year at St Jude's

Fr Tom's assignment to St Jude's brings him back to the parish he attended when at Bishop Barry. He also has family in this area. His mother, brother and family live in Largo. Come and hear about a most unusual vocational journey.



St. Petersburg Diocese to Host Vocation Directors Convention

Our diocese will host the annual convention of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, to be held Sept 24-29 at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel. The NCDVD was organized in 1958 and is comprised of priests, sisters, brothers and lay people involved in vocations work. They represent nearly all the dioceses in the U.S. as well as several in Canada, Great Britain and Australia. Our own, Fr Len Plazewski, is on the executive committee and will chair the event.

The convention will feature an impressive list of speakers and workshops, as well as a morning trip and prayer service at historic St Leo Abbey in Pasco County. Members of Serra have volunteered to act as greeters and staff during the convention. If you wish to volunteer please contact VP Vocations Denise Reilly or President Kathy Bolich.

Highlight of the convention will be a closing Mass at 5:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church in downtown Tampa, Main celebrant will be Bishop Robert Lynch, along with members of the USCCB Bishops' Committee on Vocations, and several other Florida bishops. The convention theme is "Called to Follow the Son," an appropriate one for the Sunshine State.

AMS News Cites Florida Ordinations

The August AMS News, a newsletter of the Archdiocese for Military Services (AMS), contains a full page article by the Most Rev. John J. Kaising, Archbishop of the AMS, describing his attendance at the ordination of Fr Mike Morris, who was co sponsored by the AMS for future military service. The article is illustrated with pictures of the ordination, (including Fr Tom Tobin) as well as other bishops in attendance.

The article notes that Fr Mike discerned his vocation while at MacDill AFB, as a member of St Raphael's parish in St Petersburg. The bishop notes that Fr Mike will serve for about 3 years at Espiritu Santo Parish in Clearwater, after which he will return to active duty in the U S Air Force. Fr Mike was a captain in the Air Force, prior to entering the seminary, and will apparently retain his rank.

AMS News - Continued

The AMS News is a national publication distributed to those interested in the work of the AMS. Local Serra Nancy Dusseault, who was serving as a captain in the Marine Corps when she became a Catholic, considers the AMS to be her original diocese and maintains contact.

Kathy's Korner

September is the beginning of our Serra Year. We begin to develop all of our projects and fine tune our activities. At this time I ask all of you to recommit yourselves to the mission of the Serra Club. We have a 2- fold purpose. We foster and affirm vocations to the priesthood and religious life and we increase our knowledge of our own Catholic Faith thru our speakers and our programs.

It is important that every member contribute to our mission in some way. It is important to **attend our meetings and the Holy Hour**. It is important to reconsider your specific contributions to the ministry of Serra using your talents and within your ability. There is something for everyone to do. I realize that some of our members cannot give of their time because of other obligations and therefore they support our ministry financially. But there are others that are able to help us with the many tasks that are ahead this year. All of us can pray fervently for future vocations.

This month the Serra Club is supporting the efforts of the Office of Vocations as they host the national meeting of Vocation Directors in Tampa. We are assisting at the information booth in the lobby of the Marriot Hotel at Waterside Friday September 23 thru Sunday September 25.

And we have been invited to the closing Mass at Sacred Heart in Tampa on September 28th at 5:30 pm. We will arrange transportation for any member who is unable to drive to Tampa. It is my hope that everyone will be able to attend this important mass for the future of vocations in our church.

...Kathy

