

Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



September 2006

"Always go forward, never look back"

Dates to Remember:

- Tuesday, September 19, 7 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting. St. Jude Pastoral Center. Program: Fr. John Corapi, S.O.L.T. excerpts from his Inspirational video program.
- Wednesday, September 27, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.
- Tuesday, October 17, 7 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting. St. Jude Pastoral Center. Program: TBA
- Thursday, October 19, 7 p.m. Reception following Liturgy for those taking final vows in religious Orders. Christ the King Church, Tampa.
- Wednesday, October 27, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.

Holy Hour Dates Set For Remainder of 2006

Mark your calendars. The holy hour dates for the remainder of 2006 are as follows:

Wednesday, September 27
Wednesday, October 25
Wednesday, November 29*
Wednesday, December 20*

Please note that the Holy Hour dates marked with (*) above, are moved from the 4th Wednesday during the months of Nov and Dec to avoid conflicts with holidays. All Holy Hours are held at 7 p.m. in the St. Jude's chapel and liturgies are directed at prayers for vocations. They are sponsored by the Serra Club and all Serrans are urged to attend as many Holy Hours as they can and to encourage others to do likewise.

A more complete list of vocations and club activity dates will be contained in next months newsletter.



Vocations Don't Just Happen: Ask Somebody!

Carl "Buster" Melchior Speaks at our August Meeting

Serrans were delighted to receive Carl "Buster" Melchior, one of our "senior" seminarians as speaker for our August meeting. "Buster" demonstrated his poise and maturity as he described his journey to the priesthood, sprinkling his talk with humorous anecdotes which revealed a close, and even familial, relationship with the Lord.



Carl "Buster" Melchior

A native of Tampa and lifelong parishioner of Christ the King parish there, Buster talked of his passion for his faith, and for athletics. When offered an opportunity to work for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers following high school, he jumped at the chance, and served as an assistant equipment manager for 8 years, during a time when the Bucs were perennial cellar dwellers in the NFL.

With a change in ownership for the Bucs, Buster moved on to work as a physical therapist for the next several years, but the Lord's call to the priesthood continued to assert itself in his thoughts and prayer life. He prayed for guidance and, in particular, for a "sign" that he might know the Lord's plan for his life.

With a chuckle he related how the Lord seemed to answer his prayer when the woman he was dating abruptly broke up with him. "That was it," he said, "that was my sign. I decided to enter the seminary."

(Continued – See "Buster" on other side)

“Buster” - Continued

He enrolled in St John Vianney College Seminary in 2004 and is now enrolled in the major seminary of St Vincent De Paul in Boynton Beach. In September he will start a pastoral year at St Paul's Parish in St Petersburg. If his plans work out he will be ordained a priest in 3 yrs at the age of 46.

Buster expressed a great deal of satisfaction with his choice of life and looked forward to serving the people of God in the years ahead.



Qualities of a Good Pastor

A good pastor should have:

**THE STRENGTH OF AN OX
THE TENACITY OF A BULLDOG
THE DARING OF A LION
THE WISDOM OF AN OWL
THE HARMLESSNESS OF A DOVE
THE INDUSTRY OF A BEAVER
THE GENTLENESS OF A SHEEP
THE VERSATILITY OF A CHAMELION
THE VISION OF AN EAGLE
THE HIDE OF A RHINOCEROS
THE PERSPECTIVE OF A GIRAFFE
THE DISPOSITION OF AN ANGEL
THE ENDURANCE OF A CAMEL
THE BOUNCE OF A KANGAROO
THE STOMACH OF A HORSE
THE LOYALTY OF AN APOSTLE
THE FAITHFULNESS OF A PROPHET
THE TENDERNESS OF A SHEPHERD
THE FERVENCY OF AN EVANGELIST
THE DEVOTION OF A MOTHER**

**..... AND STILL HE WOULD NOT
PLEASE EVERYONE.**

Let us pray for our priests and pastors. They are under attack by the evil one. Strike the shepherd and the sheep will scatter. Our shepherds need our prayers daily. (---adapted from Christian Action News, Sept 2006)



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.

Joyfully, we had 3 guests at our last meeting who have expressed a desire to join us in the work of Serra. Paulette Purvis and Matt and Helen Wittenbauer will make wonderful Serrans, but they did not come to our meeting by chance. They were invited by members who looked at them with “eyes of the Holy Spirit” and saw the potential in them. Please look at your friends and fellow parishioners with the same vision and invite them to attend our next meeting on September 19th. Please call me (542-0418) with the names and phone number of your potential guests and I will send them an official invitation to our meeting.



...Kathy

September Program

Our scheduled speaker for September was Fr Bob Morris of St John's Parish, but unfortunately Fr Morris has found it necessary to cancel his appearance. Our VP's of Programs Larry and Maureen Ahern have scheduled a replacement program of a video talk by Fr John Corapi, S.O.L.T. You will recognize Fr Corapi as a frequent homilist on EWTN, and he is a sought-after speaker on other venues as well. His subject will be one of 8 topics on the video disc and Larry and Maureen will seek the advice of Fr Tobin as to which will be most appropriate. We are looking forward to an inspirational program.

