

# Serra Club of St. Petersburg

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



September 2007

*"Always go forward, never look back"*

## Dates to Remember:

- Tuesday, September 18, 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting St. Jude's Pastoral Center. Program: Fr. Tom Murphy, OFM, head of Secular Franciscan Orders.
- Wednesday, September 26, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.
- Tuesday, October 16, 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting St. Jude's Pastoral Center. Program: Helen and Matt Wittenbauer
- Wednesday, October 24, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour. St. Jude's Chapel.

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## Fr. Malley's Story Tells of Power of Christ's Call

"I really tried to resist my vocational call, to run away," claimed Fr. Ken Malley, "but the Lord would not be denied, and I'm glad that He persisted.. I'm thrilled to be a priest."

This paraphrase sums up the message delivered by Fr Ken Malley in his talk to Serra during our August meeting, the first of the new Serra year.

Fr Ken told of his early life in the local parish of Holy Cross and of his early sensing of his priestly vocation. "I wanted to shake it off," he said, "so I joined the Navy, where for four years he worked as a Russian linguist. He enrolled at USF, where he participated in a rosary group, and his vocational whispers persisted. He took his junior year at the University of Glasgow in Scotland in an effort "to ease out of these vocational thoughts." Fr Mulley described how on the trip to Scotland the Lord continued to reinforce his vocational call... His seat mate was a priest, a "happy priest," said Fr Ken, who was celebrating his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and whose testimony about the priestly life added to the allure of his vocational calling.

## Fr. Malley- Continued

Returning to the U S, Fr Ken completed his degree at USF and worked for a time in marketing. He came to understand that he had no real passion for this work, however. He came to feel the passion of his call to the priesthood and so entered the seminary. He did most of his studies in Rome at the North American College, the Gregorian University and Angelicum University, and was ordained at St Jude's Cathedral in 1997.

Fr Ken captivated the Serra audience with his heartfelt and sincere account of his work and growth as a priest during the past 10 years. He spoke of contemplative prayer, the dying to self, the thrill of walking people to heaven, the "gold mine" of prayer among the homebound, the calming effect of prayer, the opening of life to the presence of God. Fr Ken's passion for the priesthood was palpable and inspirational. His talk exemplified the ideal to which all priests and seminarians can aspire.



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## Serran VP Hourican Attends Serra International Convention

*By John Hourican*

The annual Serra Intl convention was highlighted by beautiful liturgies and outstanding talks. Three cardinals were the main celebrants at Mass and gave inspiring talks. About 12 bishops (and archbishops) attended as did more than 30 priests. Special guest speakers included Raymond Arroyo, Steve Ray and Jeff Cabins who appear on EWTN.

Representatives from forty seven countries were in attendance. Serra is now in 41 countries, some 22,000 strong, with the first club being approved for charter in Paris, France. Both the Italy and Great Britain Councils are working toward additional clubs in Hungary, Germany and the Slavic countries. The U. S. Council is working toward expansion into the 65 dioceses in the U.S. where we currently have no clubs.

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## Serra International - Continued

My good friend, Lloyd Crockett, was elected president and he promised to work hard to grow Serra and vocations. Several delegates reported increases in vocations in their dioceses. Next year's convention will be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Representatives from Brazil promised that everyone will be treated to a great time and another outstanding convention.



### **Fr. Thomas Murphy, OFM Is Our September Speaker**

Our program committee has come up with another winner for our September program. He is Fr Thomas Murphy, OFM, who is currently leader of the Secular Franciscan Order in a region stretching from Key West to Mobile Bay. His title is Spiritual Assistant.

Fr Murphy is a native of Arlington, Ma, where he attended public elementary and high schools, and then graduated from Boston College in 1952. Responding to his vocational call, he entered the Franciscan Seminary at Holy Name College in Washington D C, and was ordained in 1958.

He taught at Seraphic Seminary in Callicoon, NY and also in a Catholic high school in Buffalo N Y and then, in 1966, joined the U S Army Chaplain Corps, His military service , both active and reserve, spanned 22 years, including 3 ½ years of active duty and a tour in Vietnam. He also worked in parishes, principally at St Ann's Parish in Fairlawn, NJ. Along the way he earned a degree in pastoral counseling from Iona College in New Rochelle, NY

Fr Murphy has also become a self-taught expert on Christopher Columbus, who was a member of the Secular Franciscans. Undoubtedly, he will share some interesting facts about Columbus in his talk to Serra in September.



## Norm's Notes:

HOLY HOUR DATES: Oops. I slipped up in the last Serra Newsletter. I put Aug 29, rather than Aug 22 in the DATES TO REMEMBER listings for the Holy Hour. Sorry 'bout that!

## Norm's Notes: Continued

So here, direct from the Holy Hour pamphlet, are the upcoming dates for the Holy Hours:

**September 26, 2007 - October 24, 2007,  
November 28, 2007 - December 19, 2007.**

**MORE DATES:** And here are more dates of events of interest to Serrans:

### Vocation Awareness Weekend Retreats:

-St John Vianney College Seminary, Miami, Nov 2-4, 2007 and Mar 7-9, 2008

-St Leo Retreat Center, Dec 20-21, 2007

National Vocation Awareness Week, Jan 13-18, 2008

### Parish Vocational Enrichment Team Workshop.

Bethany Center, Lutz, Jan 26, 2008. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All Serrans are welcome to learn about creating vocational awareness in your parish.

Focus 11 Vocations Fair for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, Christ the King, Tampa, Feb 11-13. Many Serrans will be needed to help.

Altar Server Appreciation Mass, Cathedral of St Jude, Sunday, Mar 30, 2008, 3 p.m. Serrans needed to usher and assist.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Sunday, April 13, 2008.

Ordinations to the Priesthood, Cathedral of St Jude, Sunday, May 17, 2008. Serrans will be needed for the Vigil Reception, Saturday evening, May 16.

**DISPATCH FROM ELIO:** Letter received from Elio Francisco Oliva Diaz, the seminarian we are sponsoring in Guatamala. He writes of being a member of Mary's Missionary Fraternity, for the past 7 years. He is doing pastoral work in a small village, and will be in formation for another 5 years before ordination. He continues to be motivated and asked for our prayers as he offers his prayers to his " Serra sponsors." Conrad Beaulieu is our liaison with Elio and writes him from time to time. We contribute \$600 a year from our Seminary Fund to support Elio through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging.

*God's Blessings to all...*

*...Norm Dusseault*

