

Kitchener-Waterloo Serra Club
Vice President – Programs
Regina Maloney
2009-2010

The theme for this year was **Faith – Anchor in our changing world**. We were blessed with an excellent slate of speakers who addressed our theme from different perspectives. A number of them related how their own life journey or vocation was connected to the theme.

Our program began with the annual priests barbecue held at Lou & Carole Reitzel's cottage. Thanks folks! The weather was great and many priests, serrans with their spouses attended and enjoyed a fabulous dinner and good fellowship.

Our first speaker, John Murphy, a high school teacher at St. Mary's, began his talk with some history of the anchor informing us that it was a symbol used by the early Christians.

In October, Sister Joselyn Monette read the poem, *The Dash*. It is the little line which separates our date of birth and our date of death, reminding us of what matters most, is how we live and love, and how we spend 'our dash'.

Father Kevin Cull, vocations director for the dioceses, updated us on his work with the seminarians and thanked the Serra Club for their prayers and encouragement. He seems to have a great repoire with the young men and women interested in vocations. His enthusiasm and joy of his own vocation is very evident and, no doubt, has a great influence on the young people.

In November Sister Dorothy Goetz SSND stated how our theme related to her vocation and time while she was in Peru. She told us of the School Sisters of Notre Dame's social justice involvement in the world by helping to rid the world of the evil practice of child and women trafficking.

Father Wojciech Kuzma, talked on our theme. His faith is his anchor. He was very influenced as a child when he saw his father kneeling by his bed praying the rosary every night because prior to that he thought his father was rather disengaged. He indicated that faith must be shared not kept to ourselves and that faith demands acceptance of all truth not just the ones on which we agree. Faith may lead to persecution and suffering especially when people are rebelling against God.

In December Reverend Dr David Perrin, President of the University of St. Jerome asked the question – What is Faith? Faith, he stated, does not rest on logical reason and intelligence. The origin of our faith rests in our belief in a "Someone" who is Jesus the anchor of our faith. Faith is not in one aspect of our life but involves all of it. Faith gives us a framework, and security. We build faith thru community, Mass, scriptures. Faith pushes us beyond the boundaries.

Sister Elizabeth Marie formation Sister for the Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate spoke to us of her personal journey of faith. The anchor of her faith was found in her family, her parish priest and the community.

Father Brian Quigley was our first guest in 2010. He stressed that we must walk by faith not sight. He left us with a question. What is that 'one' great thing or risk that God is calling you to do that you have not done while trusting completely in Him?

The Sisters banquet held for all who are presently working in our area or who have retired, was one of the highlights of the year to date. Reverend Bishop Matthew Ustrycki, Father Frank Frietas and Father Dr. David Perrin concelebrated Mass. Three new Serrans were inducted into the Serra Club. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all. Bishop Ustrycki talked about his recent trip to the Cure de Ars Shrine and the life of St. John Vianney, the patron of priests. Mark & Maggie Banga, lay Comboni missionaries, our guests, gave a brief talk of their commitment and their placement in Ethiopia. The Sisters were given a candle by Janet Ertel. The Proximity Pickers, a group of retired catholic musicians entertained us with their music and songs to end the evening. Several thank you notes expressing their enjoyment and appreciation for the evening were received.

In February Justin Ruiss, a seminarian, currently at St. John's Parish in Guelph, said his faith was his anchor. He grew up in a home where faith was practiced and loved by both parents and family. He sees four aspects, four essential tools to build a good anchor of faith - (1) prayer, (2) the regular receiving of the sacraments of reconciliation and eucharist (3) friendship, fellowship and worshipping together (4) service.

Bernadette Furman-Arnott, pastoral assistant, at St. Anthony Daniel Parish thanked the Serra Club for the altar server's awards. She spoke of change, be it pastoral, developmental, life style, social or cultural, wanted or unwanted. Changes can open us up to the ways of God. If our anchor is faith, Jesus will either calm us or calm the 'storm'.

Our chaplain, Father Frank Freitas, asked us at our mini retreat in March some thought provoking questions – Who lives in us? To whom do we belong? What guides our decisions? Are we citizens of heaven or of the world? If we belong to Christ, then Christ lives in us. He is our anchor. The choices we make show us who lives in us, whose citizens we are – God's or the world.

Father Robert Love of St. Martin of Tours parish, Drayton, sees Canada becoming more secular by the media and a time is coming when human rights and the Church will clash.

Still to come:

- April 21 - Charter night
- May 5 - Program Planning
- May 19 - Father Brendan McGrath
- June 2 - Father Jason Kuntz
- June 16 - Our year will end with Mass at Carmel of St. Joseph, St Agatha and Closing banquet will be held in the Kitchener Knights of Columbus lounge.

My sincere thanks go to Joanne Shewchuk and Noreen Hishon for their help and assistance in many numerous ways.

Respectfully submitted,

