



SERRAN-Dipity

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The theme for our programs this year is **Hope for the Future: Building on the Past.**

I discovered the appropriateness of the theme while attending the Eucharistic Congress in Quebec in June of this year. Six years ago I had the privilege of representing Serra Canada on the Vocation Committee at World Youth Day in Toronto. Thousands of young people found their way to the Vocation Pavilion where they met and talked with groups of priests, sisters and laity who had set up booths in the pavilion. This year in Quebec, one of these young people was sitting behind us in the Pepsi Coliseum and it was natural for us to share names and stories. The young man revealed that he first began to think about a vocation to the priesthood when he attended WYD in Toronto in 2002.

We were pleasantly surprised to learn that K-W Serrans had been praying for him by name at our Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations as one of those discerning a vocation to priesthood. We have just learned that he will be entering St. Phillip Neri Seminary in Toronto this year. He has asked that we continue to pray for him.

The Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations on the first Wednesday of each month, accompanied by Eucharistic Adoration, is one of our most important vocation activities. The seeds that we sow and water by our prayers may become beautiful vocations sometime in the future (God Willing).

Let us ask Mary, Mother of Vocations to pray for us that we may never grow weary of working for vocations.

We are, after all, the "Vocation Arm of the Church" (JP II)

Noreen Hishon, President K-W Serra Club

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

As you receive this newsletter, the Serra Club will be finishing a very successful start to our 2008-2009 year. I thank



our President, Noreen Hishon and her executive for the exemplary work they have done in putting together a fruitful roster of speakers. Complimenting our regular meetings and speakers is our monthly Holy Hour. I wish to encourage you to consider continuing to make this time of prayer before our Eucharistic Lord a priority. If you are not able to attend our Holy Hour, may I invite you to dedicate time within your own schedule so that all we do will be intimately connected to our Eucharistic Lord in prayer.

As we move into this new year together we do so under the theme of Hope. Hope is powerful. Hope sustains. Hope endures. Hope awakens. Hope inspires. As Serrans we are called to be individuals of Hope who give to others the same. For us to do this, we must remain rooted in the Lord and to see our vocation as one of instilling Hope, especially in those who are discerning their vocational call. May all we do this year as Serrans not only give each other Hope, but also inspire and instill a sense of Hope in our seminarians, deacon candidates, youth and the young adults for whom we pray daily.

May Mary, Mother of Vocations, intercede for us as we seek to continue to lead others to know the Lord's will and to seek by our example to live it faithfully.

Father F. Freitas

Programs

June 4 2008

Seminarian John Redmond recounted his vocation story. He was born and raised in a Catholic family near Dundalk, Ont. He regards his family's witness as a key factor in the evolution of his faith as he did not attend a Catholic school but studied his religion thru correspondence courses. In university he drifted away from his faith but was restored especially after encouragement by friend at his work place who recognized something in him and who invited him to attend church – he also began receiving the sacraments, praying the Liturgy of the Hours and reading scripture and the writings of John Paul II. These efforts were supported by an invitation and question from his pastor who asked if he had ever thought of becoming a priest. All these things, along with the witness of his family especially his mother and sister worked together for him to develop a relationship with God and he is now happy in the Seminary – he was in first year theology in June –he considers his call to priesthood as a gift and prays for the grace to respond. In John we were reminded of the power of the personal invitation like he received from his friend and his pastor.

June 11 2008

Our 2008 summer began with our Closing Mass and Banquet. Mass celebrated at the Carmelite Monastery in St. Agatha was well attended and it is always a pleasure to have Bishop Ustrzycki with us, his homily with a wonderful touch of humour is always a delight. The evening concluded with a delicious banquet held at the Waterloo Knights of Columbus hall – an opportunity to reconnect with some members who are not able to attend on a regular basis and also to honour the parents of two of our newly ordained priests. Recognition was given to the parents of Father Bolger and to Father Voisin's mother. The evening concluded with the "transfer of the gavel" from Mary to Noreen – we wish both these women God's blessing as they begin the next year with our K-W Serra Club

September 3 2008

September started off with our annual Priests BBQ – attended by 18 priests from our area. It has become a tradition to host a BBQ to say thank you to our priests for all they do for us and 33 Serrans and spouses attended. The day of visiting, games and boat rides concluded with a "feast" enjoyed by all. It is fun to be

together and see our priests relax and enjoy a time of fellowship. Another event to honour our priests was held in September – the spring Golf Tournament was rained out and had to be rescheduled to September but this time the weather cooperated. Not quite as many were able to attend but the day was enjoyed by the 15 priests that were able to find time in a busy Sept schedule.

September 17 2008

Our evening speaker was Father Bernie Hayes, no stranger to us at Serra and always a treasure to have with us. He spoke about Hope – we so often hear about Love but we are not as familiar with and have a good understanding of Hope. He explained that Love is born of Faith and gives rise to Hope. Hope in the Christian theological sense means the "confident expectation of divine blessing". Hope means trust. His presentation just was the tip of the iceberg on this amazing virtue and he no doubt sparked an interest in many who will continue to explore it thru our own reading and reflection.

October 1 2008

Our dear friend, Ania Krysciak introduced us to one of the amazing young people that she has come to know thru her work as at Waterloo Lutheran University. We heard a wonderful presentation by Nick Pigozzo who attended World Youth Day in Australia this year. He also included stories of his visit to New Zealand. He helped us understand how very meaningful events like World Youth Day are for young people and explained how it has strengthened his faith. His enthusiasm and tales of some amazing feats like hang gliding made us all wish we were young again!

October 15 2008

Brian Millette who is the Chaplain at Resurrection Catholic Secondary School here in Kitchener gave us a snapshot picture of his work as Chaplain and answered our many questions about the religious education and programs here in our largest Catholic high school. His initial talk showed us a man of deep faith and understanding and an ability to talk about it but his willingness to answer our questions was much appreciated by those attending.

Seminarians of Hamilton Diocese – September 2008

***indicates a new seminarian*

ST. AUGUSTINE SEMINARY, TORONTO

<http://www.staugustines.on.ca>

PRE - THEOLOGY

**Walter, Dave

1ST THEOLOGY

Peter, Justin

2ND THEOLOGY

Bebjak, Michael

D'Arcy, Patric

Nguyen, Tuan Khac

Ruiss, Justin

3RD THEOLOGY

**Crowley, Deacon Stephen

**Miltenburg, John

Oehring, Jeff

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hrynczyszyn, Paul (Wroclaw, Poland)

PASTORAL YEAR

Markus, Brad (St. Matthew Parish, Oakville)

ST. PETERS SEMINARY, LONDON

www.stpetersseminary.ca

2ND THEOLOGY

Redmond, John

3RD THEOLOGY

Morley, Mark

4TH THEOLOGY

McGrath, Brendan

PASTORAL YEAR

Anderson, Michael St. Clement Parish, Cambridge

ST. PHILIP NERI SEMINARY, TORONTO

www.oratory-toronto.org

(see Oratorian Apostolates)

2ND PHILOSOPHY

Runstedler, Tim

1ST PHILOSOPHY

**Blicharski, Nicholas

**Jenniskins, Andrew

**Reitzel, David

**Sobczynski, Paul

The Role of the Serra Foundation of Canada

The Serra Foundation of Canada is a vehicle for channeling the generosity of Serrans and others to help promote vocations through donations the Foundation:

Enhances and strengthens awareness of the Serra vocations apostolate in Canada and throughout the world.

Funds projects that have a successful history of fostering and promoting vocations in Canada.

Congratulations to Lou Reitzel on his appointment to this Board.

“Serra Clubs are a blessing for the Diocese of Hamilton and I thank God for their presence and good work.”

Bishop Anthony Tonnos on the newly created and updated Serra Canada webpage.

Our congratulations to Bishop Tonnos on his 25th anniversary of Episcopal ordination for the Diocese of Hamilton. We have always know of his support for Serra!



Spend some time looking at the new website: www.serracanada.com (check out the link to our club)

K-W Serrans Attend:

Four of our members attended Charter Night in St. Catherines on Sept 18th and had an opportunity to be with other Serrans and to hear Bishop Wingle.

Five members attended the Ontario Fall Conference in Toronto on October 4th – this was a great opportunity to learn more about St. Paul in this special year that has been dedicated to honour the saint at the 2000th anniversary of his birth. Archbishop Collins shared his thoughts about “ St. Paul, the Man and his teaching.”

The Diocesan Vocation Mass in Brantford was attended by 12 members – it was a time to come together to pray for vocations and be strengthened in our call to this work.



Two very successful events were attended by members in support of the Priest Portrait Program. Four K-W Serrans attended a celebration at Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton on October 2nd and ten were present at St. Johns Catholic School in Kitchener a few days later. This effort of our club seeks to show to the Catholic schools in our region that “one of their own” has followed the call to priesthood. The presentation of a portrait to hang in a prominent place at the school allows students to see that perhaps their vocation call will come soon after high school like that of Father Jason Kuntz in Walkerton or later in life after a successful career like that of Father Bob Walz. We thank the schools for being receptive to our request for this recognition and we want to congratulate Sacred Heart in Walkerton for having a link on their website to information about Vocations. New technology can be used to promote vocations!

Remember in your prayers:

Vera Vath
George Durocher
Marcel Levis

COMING EVENTS

Mark your 2009 calendar and don't miss some exciting events

- ❖ *Altar Server Awards* will be on May 14 (Kitchener-Waterloo) and May 27 (northern region) 2009
- ❖ *67th Conference of Serra International*, August 27-30 2009 in Omaha, Nebraska

Jubilee Dinner, June 10, 2009

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki.

This will be a wonderful tribute to one who has served so faithfully in the Diocese of Hamilton -more details to follow (This is an evening you won't want to miss.)



B O A R D O F T R U S T E E S 2 0 0 8

Chaplain	Father Frank Freitas
President	Noreen Hishon
Past President	Mary Steffler
Vocations	Bill Zister
Membership	Lee Hishon
Programme	Shari Guinta
Communications	Mary Helen Stroeder
Secretary	Jeannine Gosselin
Treasurer	Lou Reitzel
Trustees:	Eileen Lobsinger Stephan Eperjesi Dave Deppisch Berg Bergman Neil Corbett
Canada Council	Noreen Hishon

