



SERRAN-DIPITY

President's Message



It has been a great honour to be president of the Kitchener-Waterloo Serra Club for 2009 – 2010. You have selected an excellent team of board members and it is my privilege to work beside them.

This year our theme has been, **“Faith, the Anchor in Our Changing World”**. To me, faith means that God will answer our prayers and guide us through whatever challenges come our way. I believe that God is helping me through this year as president. Faith in God is my anchor.

I joined the K-W Serra Club six years ago and before I knew it, I was offered the position of VP of Vocations. One of the challenges of this job was to organize the Altar Server Awards for the Central and Northern areas of the Hamilton Diocese. Let me tell you, someone had faith to think that I could handle this position that had previously been so adeptly handled by our friend, Jerome Futher. With help from the faithful Serrans of Kitchener-Waterloo, I was able to organize this for three consecutive years, Thank you, Serrans for your help.

We have been blessed to have Father Frank Frietas as our chaplain and Father Hauser as back-up for our bi-weekly Masses and meetings. Father Frietas has served us well but will be leaving the Club because of his busy schedule so we are looking for a new chaplain. Thank you,

Fathers, for your dedication to the priesthood and to the Kitchener-Waterloo Serra Club.

We are grateful to have the assistance of Bishop Ustrzycki for the Annual Sisters' Dinner in January, the Altar Server Awards Presentations in April and May, and, finally, the closing Mass at the Carmelite Monastery in St Agatha with the Closing Dinner in June.

The year started with the Annual International Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Seven K-W Serrans attended. We were enlightened by excellent Serran speakers. For me, personally, it was inspiring to meet a man like Ralph Hauenstein who started Serra in England, Italy, Hong Kong and many other parts of the world. I'm looking forward to attending the next International Conference in Alaska.

May we all have a good year as this year is dedicated to priests and their spiritual perfection. Mary Mother of Vocations, pray for us.

Bill Zister

AN AMUSING MOMENT - THE TABLE HAS TURNED!

We all know that Noreen Hishon taught Father Frank in elementary school and it was probably Noreen who first sowed the seed for Father to consider a vocation to the priesthood. One can imagine Noreen praising and encouraging her students, especially Father Frank. That is why it was a delightful moment when Father Frank walked past Noreen after she read at the Mass on January 20th and said, “Nice job Noreen”.

INTERESTING WEBSITES

www.vocationinfo.ca

www.catholicscomehome.org

www.catholicscominghome.org

Please Pray for our Catholic Church in this time of crisis and purging.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



Sir Francis Drake, was attempting to recruit a number of young men for an upcoming exploration. He gathered them around and told the group that if they came with him, they would see some of the most marvellous things their eyes could ever behold. Sandy white beaches, juicy fruits, foreign peoples, priceless treasures, and gorgeous landscapes. And he told them that this wild adventure could be theirs if they came with him. Not one of them enlisted for the journey.

The next day a different group came out. Drake told them that if they came with him they would encounter storms that would terrify them into tears. Tiger winds would hammer them and blow them off course for months. Water would frequently be scarce. At times they will be so thirsty that their very souls would cry out for simply one drop of water. In short, danger would always be their constant companion. Drake concluded by declaring that if they could handle these things, the joys of exploration would exceed their wildest dreams. Every single one of them in the group joined Sir Francis Drake that day, some did not even go home to say goodbye to their families, they just boarded the boat eager for the journey.

What made the difference in these two groups? Why did the first group turn down the mission and the

second jump at the chance? Was the second group different and more adventurous than the first? The answer is: No. It is not the men who had changed; it was the message. The first spoke of rewards; the second spoke of challenges. The first offered comfort; the second promised suffering. The first tempted them with things; the second seduced them with an experience unlike any other. I like to think that Sir Francis Drake discovered what Jesus knew all to well. And that is this: The paths that are offered to us must promise to shape us, build our character, change our world view, if they are to have any appeal to us at all. If we are presented with a challenge that will change us, we will be eager for the journey.

What is it about Jesus' message that made the disciples eager for the journey that was presented to them? It was that Jesus offered them a change. The mission promised to be a challenge. And their lives would never be the same.

As Disciples of Jesus, and as Serrans, we are on a journey of exploration, and we are committed to a journey to help other men and women as they explore God's call. Yet in the midst of the journey our Anchor of Faith - is Christ Jesus. May we continue to rely not upon the sites or the adventure but upon the Anchor as we seek the grace of faithfulness as we journey.

Father F. Freitas

ST. JOHN VIANNEY, PATRON SAINT OF PRIESTS

The 'Cure of Ars', John Vianney was ordained a priest in 1815 and three years later was appointed parish priest of Ars, a remote hamlet in France. In Ars St. John Vianney earned a reputation for being a confessor and director of souls. He lived a very simple life and maintained a

childlike simplicity. St. John lived a life of extreme mortification. He would hear confessions for 16 hours a day and knelt before the Blessed Sacrament for hours after receiving Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Many were converted at his mere word. The 'Cure of Ars' died on August 4th, 1859 and was canonized on May 31, 1925.



Pope Benedict XVI declared June 19, 2009 to June 19, 2010 as the year of the Priest. Visit the website at <http://www.yearofthepriests.com/>

TWO SEMINARIANS IN ONE FAMILY

A number of years ago a Kitchener family was blessed with the arrival of twins boys. Jim and Lori Weber and their young family later settled near Pictou, Nova Scotia where they educated and raised their growing family of five sons and two daughters. In the summer of 2009 they moved back to Kitchener to be closer to the twins. Ben is in seminary in New York studying for the Diocese of St. Catherines and Jesse has entered a Carmelite Monastery in Wyoming, USA. Let us remember Ben, Jesse, their family and all seminarians in our prayers.

SISTERS' APPRECIATION DINNER

Fifteen Sisters from various orders in the area attended the "Christmas Appreciation Dinner" at

the Kitchener Knights of Columbus Hall on Wednesday, January 20th, 2010. Bishop Ustrzycki inducted three new members. A warm welcome goes to Matt Potje, John and Mary Van Dyk.

LAY COMBONI MISSIONARIES

Also in attendance at the Christmas Dinner were Matt and Maggie Banga, Lay Comboni Missionaries who are leaving successful careers and families to serve in the Missions in Ethiopia for three years. They amazed all of us with their joy and love of life. A thank you letter from Matt and Maggie says: please pray for us as we depart for Awasa, Ethiopia that we may be useful servants according to God's plan, and good steward's of your generosity. You will be in our prayers too.

Thank you Matt and Maggie!

CONFERENCES

Omaha, Nebraska

We have all heard how the West was settled by early settlers traveling in covered wagons. Last August seven Kitchener-Waterloo Serrans travelled in hours of rain in Lou and Carole's Motor Home to Omaha, Nebraska. Several of the adventurers even enjoyed the night in a tent where they experienced more rain! However, before the trip was over Omaha won the hearts of

these seasoned travelers with its hospitality and with a great convention that did much to increase the enthusiasm of Serra K-W.

The next **International Convention** will be held in Anchorage, Alaska from September 2 - 5, 2010. Are you coming along?

Niagara Falls, Ontario

A number of Serrans from Kitchener-Waterloo

attended the National Convention at the Carmelite Monastery in Niagara Falls. The highlight of the weekend, besides the Masses, was Father Tom Lynch, President of Priests for Life. His energy and love for our youth amazed his audience.

It was wonderful to see the old Monastery used as a 'hotel' with lovely bright rooms. And every meal was delicious!

Please pray for deceased Serrans

John Rodina

George Durocher

Vera Vath

Joe Potje

OUTSTANDING SERRA AWARD



The purpose of this award is to recognize the Serran within District 26 of Serra International who embodies the mission of Serra, has made outstanding contributions to the cause of Serra, works in their own club, District, Canada Council, or Serra International, and fosters and promotes vocations to the Priesthood and religious life. It was an honour for Serrans from Kitchener Waterloo to have one of their own recognized with an Outstanding Serra Award. Is anyone surprised that Noreen Hishon was nominated and received this award? Congratulations, Noreen.

Coming Events

April 17

Spring Conference at St. Mary of the People Church in Oshawa

April 21

Charter Night at Kypreos, 305 Lancaster St., W

April 27

Celebration Dinner, Liuna Station

May 6

Altar Servers Awards at Holy Family Parish, Hanover

June 16

Mass at the Carmelite Monastery, St. Agatha and Closing Banquet

Nocturnal Adoration

is held on the first Saturday of every month from 9 until 12 midnight at St. Teresa Church, 44 Leonard St., Kitchener.

The priest is a Masterpiece of Christ's Divine love, wisdom and power.
Never attack a priest.

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Keep them, I pray Thee, Lord
 Keep them, for they are Thine –
 Thy priests whose lives burn out before
 Thy consecrated shrine.
 Keep them, for they are in the world,
 Though from the world apart;
 When earthly treasures tempt, allure, -
 Shelter them in Thy heart.
 Keep them and comfort them in hours
 Of loneliness and pain,
 When all their life of sacrifice
 For souls seems but in vain.
 Keep them, and remember, O Lord,
 They have no one but Thee,
 Yet they have only human hearts,
 With human frailty.
 Keep them as spotless as the Host,
 That daily they caress;
 Their every thought and word and deed,
 Deign, dearest Lord, to bless.

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*Our Father, Hail Mary, Queen of Clergy,
 pray for them.*

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