



SERRAN - DIPITY

President's Message



Welcome to our spring news letter.

The Lenten season is half over and the end of our Serra year is fast approaching. The year has gone very quickly, thanks to the program committee and our excellent speakers.

Evangelization is beneficial to Catholics who already practice the faith. Pope Paul VI pointed out in A Summary: *On Evangelization in the Modern World*, 54: "the Church seeks to deepen, consolidate, nourish and make even more mature the faith of those who are already called faithful or believers in order that they may advance further in the Christian life."

Christ wishes God's love to be proclaimed over and over again to all Catholics, practicing and non-practicing. This is the essential mission that Christ has given the Church, to invite everyone to experience the full impact of God's love in Jesus.

Is this not what Serra is all about? We have had another successful year of evangelization. Thank you and thank God. Let us continue to pray for each other, our parishes, our priests, and religious, and those discerning their vocations.

Blessed Juniperra Serra, Pray for us.
Mary, Mother of Vocations, pray for us.

Sincerely in Christ
Bill Zister

Chaplain's Message



Dear members of Serra club,

Once again we are drawing close to the most important and beautiful celebrations in our Liturgical calendar. In the next few weeks we will enter Holy Week, remembering our Lord's passion and death. It is a very sacred time for us, a time that should allow for more prayer, reflection and spiritual renewal. We will give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ for the gift of Ministerial Priesthood and the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confession. Those gifts have been left for us out of God's tremendous love. The season of Easter will begin with the celebration of Easter Sunday, the day on which we commemorate Christ's victory over sin and death. It is a day of great rejoicing and sharing the joy of our faith with others. The Second Sunday of Easter focuses on the Mercy of God, and helps us to look towards the end of the Season of Easter when we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. It is on that day when the Holy Spirit descended on Mary and the apostles marking the beginning of the Church. During these next few weeks we will also welcome two new priests into our diocese with Ordinations to the Priesthood early in May. The month of May will also be the time for many young Catholics to receive Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion. There are so many reasons for us to be joyful for what God is doing in our lives.

Let us share our joy with others.

Fr. Kuzma

January 5, 2011

In his homily Very Rev. Earl Talbot told us God's love for us is not some abstract quality, but a concrete reality manifested in the incarnation, (God became man) in the sacraments, (God becomes bread) and in the incensing of a corpse. In the body we receive the body of Christ: therefore the body is sacred. In his talk he stressed our sexuality as a beautiful gift from God to be expressed in a heterosexual and monogamous relationship for the good of the family and of society. Polygamous marriages do not permit equality of partnership and common law marriages usually lack stability. Calling same sex unions marriage is an unwarranted revision of the definition and leads to a different understanding of human nature. Homosexuals are persons and must be treated as such.



Religious Life Celebration Dinner January 19, 2011

Twenty four religious sisters and four Deacons with their wives attended the dinner. We had a very delicious turkey dinner and listened to an inspiring talk by Fr. Tom Lynch of Peterborough, he told us that God is the only constant presence in our lives, but most people overlook God. We have abandoned or rejected God. We have too many choices, but cannot commit to any one because choosing one means rejecting all the related others and we want the best. Parishes fail because we lack community; we no longer work, live, and rejoice together. He reminded us that the collapse of the Roman Empire led to a new civilization and new society and Paul VI noted the modern era also calls for a new civilization.



Deacon Neil Devereaux with his wife Nancy was presented with a plaque recognizing and honouring his ordination to the permanent diaconate in June 2010. Presented by Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki.

Serra Priest Ski Day Feb. 7th, 2011

Nine priests attended the priest Ski day at Blue Mountain in Collingwood.

In the photo from left to right, Fr. Toby Collins, Fr. Paul Boucher, Fr. Jacek Wojcik, Fr. Ted Slaman, Fr. Dave Reilander, Fr. Sam Restivo, and Jim Beingessner. Absent when the picture was taken were Fr. Dave Lewis and Fr. Wojciech Kuzma.



It was interesting to meet Fr. Jacek who is studying English at Renison College in Waterloo. He is from a town on the Black Sea in Bulgaria and a member of the Polish Province of the (International) Congregation of the Resurrection and will complete his course by the end of March and will return home for Easter. There are many English speaking visitors to the Black Sea and thus the need of a priest there to speak the language.

Many thanks to Sandy and Jim Beingessner, who provided a wonderful Apres Ski meal for the visiting priests again this year.

Feb 02 2011

In his homily, Fr. Reitzel noted that Simeon adored Christ as an infant. Today many young people become convinced of the reality of God when they see their first child.

Our guess speaker, Teresa Hartnett from the chancery office for ministry, family and religious education, was unable to make it because of blizzard conditions. Fr. Frank gathered us in a circle and asked us to comment on why Catholics no longer attend church noting that attendance had dropped from 80% in 1950 to about 10%. Some reasons suggested included that many more options are available now. In 1950 most secular events were closed. Now we can go shopping, participate in or watch sports, watch television and many other distractions. Attendance was an obligation and we dragged our youth to church. They did not develop a relationship with Jesus. Religious education in the schools is weak. We are better educated in science but not taught how to refute or explain inconsistencies between science and religion. Scandalous behaviour by a few priests have turned people away.

Feb. 16 2011

In his homily Fr. Kuzma noted that the people were drawn to Jesus by his physical miracles, his healing of the sick and feeding of the multitude. Jesus wants us to know and love and follow him as the disciples did. To do this, we have to spend some time with him, in prayer, in liturgies and in the sacraments.

Our guest speaker was Harold Shantz who over 22 years has helped hundreds of refugees from over 60 countries find their place in Canada. Canada's immigration policy objectives are to reunite families, to protect refugees and to promote economic development. Refugees are divided into 4 classes, government sponsored, family sponsored, church sponsored and refugee claimants. Sponsoring churches are responsible for providing the needs of the refugee for a period of one year. Over 180,000 persons have been admitted under this program. The church position on immigrants is clear and consistent. He quoted from Leviticus "You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than yourselves. Vatican 11 and the CCCB have expressed similar sentiments. He concluded with accounts on individual refugee families who needed help and with the establishment of a Spanish language parish in Waterloo region.

March 02 2011

In his homily Fr. Ernie Varosi noted that Jesus asks us to let die our worldly aspirations and to follow his teachings and example.

In the talk Mr. Bob Borys, a teacher of the deaf and of marriage preparation course emphasized that Catholic teaching on sexual morality is summed up in Pope Paul VI encyclical letter Humane Vitae. Each and every marriage act must remain open to the transmission of life and there is an inseparable connection between the unitive and procreative functions of the marital union. Sex is for babies and bonding, life giving and love giving. The marital union is free, total, faithful and fruitful. Artificial contraception, sterilization and abortion have always been seen as wrong. The introduction of the pill altered this; it freed the marital act from the liability of child rearing. Sex now is recreational activity, has nothing to do with love or procreation, and if the pill fails there is the available abortion. As Paul VI predicted this leads to lower morality, an increased lack of respect for women, imposition of contraception by governments (China) and people claiming dominion over their bodies.

March 16 2011

In his Homily Father Kuzma explained that the sign of Jonah related the 3 days that Jonah spent in the belly of the whale to the Christ's passion, death and resurrection. He noted that the people that followed Jesus were doing so because of the miracles He performed but were not getting His message. We are to see Jesus as a person and to love him. The fruits of this love are joy, and peace.

To Obtain Vocations

Jesus Divine Master, you have said: "The harvest indeed is great, but the labourers are few." We lovingly accept your invitation: "Pray the heavenly father to send forth labourers into his harvest."

Inspire a crusade for vocations. More priests! May they be the salt of the earth, the light of the world, the city placed on the mountaintop for the salvation of humankind redeemed by your blood. More religious- both men and women- to promote the glory of God and your peace among all people of good will.

May the earth be filled with seminaries and religious houses. O Mary, God's chosen one, mother and guardian of holy vocations, pray with us, pray for us, and for all those called by God. Amen.

New Members

We invite anyone who would like to support vocations to the priesthood and religious life to consider joining our Kitchener-Waterloo Serra club.

Our mission is also to support our priests and religious working in our community and throughout our diocese.

Please contact, Lee Hishon at,

ljhishon@gmail.com

or 519-885-1982

ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

On Saturday, May 7, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. Deacon's Bradley Thomas Markus and Paul Hrynczyszyn will be ordained to the priesthood by His Excellency the most Rev. Douglas Crosby.

Cathedral of Christ the King, Hamilton, Ontario.

Please pray for all Priest, Deacons and Seminarians.

Deacon Bradley Markus : First Mass 2p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Kitchener, May 8, 2011.

Deacon Paul Hrynczyszyn: First Mass 1:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, Kitchener, May 8, 2011 (In Polish).