



# The Serran Tribune

(Newsletter of Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough)

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Email your articles, ideas and feedback to the editor:

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Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough

## Serra's 70<sup>th</sup> International Convention held at Providence, Rhode Island, USA: June 21-24, 2012



*Sophie Manalo, holding the relic of Blessed Junipero Serra, Louisa Wu, Dennis Wahking, Fran Pulumbarit and 2011-2012 Serra International President, Dr. Thomas Wong at the Welcome Reception and Dinner – 21 June 2012 at Westin Providence*

Our journey to the Serra's 70<sup>th</sup> International Convention began on June 21, 2012. **The theme of the 2012 convention is: *The Good Work begun in you will be perfected unto the day of Christ Jesus.*** (Phil 1:6)

Although we were late, the mass celebrated by Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin, Bishop of Providence at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul was very solemn and his homily was direct to the point.

After the opening mass, convention delegates proceeded to the Westin Providence for a warm welcome reception and dinner. There were many familiar faces, i.e. Serra Canada senior leaders, eager to welcome us.

**On Friday, June 22**, we were early to register to listen to the first speaker,

President Thomas A. Wong who reported the State of Serra. He showed us a slide of his well fulfilled journey as Serra International president.

Dr. Thomas Wong said that through the Grace of God, last year's term was very meaningful and blessed one. His journey began in the capital city of Canada, Ottawa, where he was installed as new President. He led 81 Serrans from all continents of the globe to participate in the Congress to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the Pontifical Pastoral Ministry for Priestly Vocations by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, in the Eternal City in November 2011. He had the privilege to deliver a review of the past 76 years of historic activities on vocations and cooperation with the Pontifical Pastoral Ministry for Priestly Vocations. On that occasion, he also had a chance to greet His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI.

In the month of April 2012, he participated in the successful 16th Serra Asian Convention, which was organized by our Macau brothers and sisters. At this convention, he achieved a deeper understanding, better communication and consolidated support among Serrans in Asia.

He went on to Europe, where he visited the birthplace of our Patron, Blessed Junipero Serra in Petra, which is located in the beautiful countryside of the Island of Mallorca, Spain. He believes we will have a great convention in Barcelona next year to celebrate the 300th Anniversary of Blessed Serra's birthday in Spain. Rounding off his stint as President, he visited Taiwan and the Philippines.

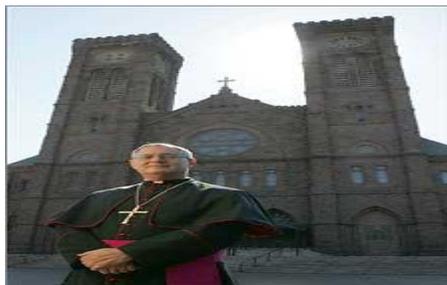
During the day, there were several workshops, in particular, vocations and programs. Then, we proceeded to attend the mass for which **Most Reverend**

**Gary Gordon** was the Principal Celebrant at Cathedral of Sts. Peter & Paul. I find that the highlight of the afternoon's event was the speech of **Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin**. He was very candid and witty in discussing and sharing the Catholic teachings and effective faith. Increasing vocations to the priesthood is also a priority for Bishop Tobin. Since his installation, he has ordained 19 men to the priesthood. The second afternoon speaker was **Reverend Father Joseph Scerbo** of Thousand Oaks Mission in California. He talked about the life and missionary work of Blessed Junipero Serra in California and how successful these missions today. He encouraged us to plan for the 300<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration of Blessed Junipero Serra to be held in Mallorca, Spain in 2013.

**On Saturday, June 23, His Eminence Justin Cardinal Rigali, Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia** was the keynote speaker. Cardinal Rigali served 3-year terms as Serra's Episcopal Advisor from 1999 to 2008. His talk was very stimulating and informative with convictions of calling us to get a deeper and more loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Instead of attending the community prayer and benediction, we decided to attend the Ordination Mass in the Cathedral of Sts. Peter & Paul. We witnessed three young men - Rev. Mister Ryan Wilson Connors, Rev. Mister Francesco Francese, Rev. Mister Christopher James Murphy - being ordained by The Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin, D.D. It was the most beautiful and solemn rite of ordination that we had witnessed and heard, especially the Gregorian Concert Choir under the direction of Rev. Msgr. Anthony Mancini.

We had a great feeling after attending the Ordination Mass of the newly ordained priests in Providence, Rhode Island. What a memorable one!



*Cathedral of Sts. Peter & Paul with Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin*



*The frontal view (Altar) of the Cathedral of Sts. Peter & Paul*



The afternoon session of this day's event was hectic. We attended several workshops such as Communications and Membership as well as the presentation made by David Ranghelli about his documentary film, titled, "**The Calling**". This was an award-winning documentary on the fundamental and endearing questions about the meaning to our lives. I find the film very helpful for those discerning vocations, as the stories focused mainly on the reality of what it means to follow Jesus in a complicated world.

The evening ended with a Reception and Annual Banquet at Rossmoor Ballroom. A parade of Past

International Presidents in their gala suits was held.

**On Sunday, June 24**, we said goodbye to the other Serrans we befriended and began our trek to go home to Toronto. Although it was a long journey, 10 hour-drive from Providence, Rhode Island, it was worth the trip.



*Annie Dunn, Louisa Wu & Sophie Manalo*

## **Annual Serra Spring Conference: Apr 21, 2012**

There were 15 members from our club who attended a spiritually uplifting spring conference hosted by Serra Toronto Downtown held at St. Bonaventure Parish.

Serra Downtown registered the Serrans by providing colour coded folders, such as red, black, white, and yellow. We were then seated with the same Serrans who have the same colour of folders. It was a clever way to engage Serrans to greet and meet other club members. We get to know more about our counterparts.

After registration, we attended the morning mass and went back to the church hall to hear Dr. Josephine Lombardi speak. We were all enthralled and inspired with Dr. Lombardi's talk as she emphasized the authenticity of each one of us in the light of evangelization. Rev. Hansoo Park, Vocation Director of the Archdiocese of Toronto, was very witty and honest when he shared his vocation story and updated the Serrans with "**What's happening with Vocations**".



*Louisa Wu, while attentively listening to Dr. Lombardi's talk.*

## What have I been missing?

**Stay in touch:** if you haven't been able to attend our recent meetings, this section will highlight some memorable meeting moments. We'd like to see you come back & see what's new & exciting and at the same time get you inspired!

It was an eventful meeting held on **April 12, 2012**. Our guest speaker was **Rev. Charles Nahm**. He was born in South Korea. He immigrated to Montreal, Canada in 1968 with his parents and four younger sisters.

During his final years of high school studies in Montreal, in 1970, he was baptized in a Pentecostal church. Afterwards, he went to McGill University to study biochemistry. During his studies at McGill, he came in contact with a friend, Mr. Weekes, who was a member of the Opus Dei. It was in 1972 when he was conditionally re-baptized as a Catholic in Montreal and received the Sacrament of Confirmation the following year. In 1974, he began his Dentistry program at McGill University, graduating in 1978. He practiced Dentistry in Montreal until 1985. He then went to the International Seminary of Opus Dei in Rome. While finishing his Doctoral Program in Theology, he went back to Rome and was ordained a priest of the Personal Prelature of Opus Dei on June 10, 1990 at St. Peter's Basilica by Blessed John Paul II. Presently, he works for the Prelature of Opus Dei in various capacities.

Fr. Charles shared his faith journey by talking about his Korean culture and

background. As a first son in the family, he was expected to finish education, have a family and help his parents. This was not the trend he followed. His faith journey comes in different colours. There was always a desire in his heart to learn more about Jesus. He believes that you need to live your baptismal commitments by connecting with God all the time. With this, your work is for God's glory and be able to evangelize others.

At our **May 12<sup>th</sup>** meeting, our guest speaker was **Rev. Joe Pena**. He is a diocesan priest from the diocese of Virac, Catanduanes, Philippines. He was ordained a priest in 1989. After ordination, he was assigned to several positions as associate pastor, commission director and as pastor. He came to Canada in 2000, assigned as associate pastor and parish administrator in several parishes in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Fr. Joe Pena shared his experience when he was a young teenager in Catanduanes and was asked by his mother to attend a seminary school at a young age. From the beginning, he would like to be a priest.

When he was assigned in a small town without running water and electricity, he realized that's the life of a priest. He learned a lot from the people in this small town, where poverty is a way of life. He had relatives who were from the United States of America who supported him by providing the funds to buy generators to power his church.

Currently, he is the chaplain of the Scarborough Retirement Centre in Markham, Ontario.

## Hawaiian Dance Fundraising Event: June 2, 2012

We had a very successful fundraising event. We almost raised \$1,800 which would help fund our Club initiatives such as printing more Travelling Vocation Chalice prayer booklets, making Welcome Kits for the

Seminarians, having breakfast with the Seminarians and travelling vocation chalice families to celebrate the Year of Priests and appreciating the priests and religious at our December 1, 2012 Appreciation Night.

The evening event was held at St. Patrick's Parish Hall in Markham. Our sincerest gratitude goes to Fr Dominic Barber; Fr. Russell, Fr. Leo, Fr Edwin, for their generous support. We thank St Patrick's staff members for gracing the occasion. A big thanks to: those who donated door prizes and desserts, our good caterer, bar tender, DJ, MCs and all of you who worked hard to make this event another victory for Vocations. We are very grateful to the Officers and Members of the Serra Club of Markham-Scarborough, our **TEAMWORK** made a difference in the success of every project we undertake. Special thanks to Fr. Russell's entertainment – for singing "Tiny Bubbles" both in English and Hawaiian. Keep your day job, Father!



*Sophie & Dennis trying on the Photo Booth*



*Outgoing President, Baby P., Maria-Luz, Early Bird Raffle Draw winner and Fran P.*

## 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress Dublin, Ireland: June 10-17, 2012

The cheers from the 70,000+ audience at **Croke Park** in Dublin, for the Papal address of **Pope Benedict XVI** was billed as the highlight of the **Statio Orbis Mass** which was the climactic end to the week-long Eucharistic Congress. The closing ceremony on June 17<sup>th</sup> includes a 4-hour musical, liturgical celebration and the triumphant set piece of the Pope confirms that the renewal of the battered Catholic Church in Ireland was officially under way.

I am so blessed and so fortunate to be able to attend this Congress in Dublin, an amazing grace indeed, in addition to my answered prayer to visit Our Lady of Knock. The presence of about a thousand Priests and 200 Cardinals/Bishops in the daily Masses for the week is overwhelmingly beautiful; in addition, the Music provided by the different Choirs and Soloists lifted up the pilgrims ( the smorgasbord of music was topped by the beautiful rendition of “**You Raise Me Up**” by the **Three Tenors** ).

The Congress focused on its theme: **The Eucharist - Communion with Christ and with One Another**. Deeper communion with Christ and with one another must be the aim and the outcome of our efforts at renewal and regeneration within our Church. As per the welcome address of **Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Bishop of Dublin**, “by your very presence here, you express the unity and diversity of the Church’s communion, Jesus Christ has gathered us to form us into one body”. He also said that, “It is crucial that our sense of Church extends beyond the boundaries of our own parish community, our family members and fellow parishioners at home are joined with us in communion”.

**Cardinal Thomas Collins** walked with other Clergies, Deacons and other Canadians in the Congress area, as they all lined up to attend the different sessions offered to all the attendees. The most exuberant of all during the closing ceremony was the large contingent of Filipino pilgrims, overjoyed at Pope Benedict’s announcement that the next Eucharistic Congress would take place in **Cebu, Philippines in 2016**.

During the week, the mood of the pilgrims was not altered by the occasional brief showers, sending rows of bishops and cardinals scrambling to don their plastic

ponchos. Overall, the 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress was worth attending with the Spiritual guidance of Fr. Yolande Ouelette, Director of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Cape in Quebec. Our group also enjoyed our trip to London, Wales and other parts of Ireland, just after the Jubilee celebration of Queen Elizabeth II. How wonderful it is to celebrate my birthday on June 22, at the shrine of Our Lady of Knock, away from my family but truly in the presence of the goodness of the Lord and the Blessed Mother – what a great gift, thank you **LORD**.....by Felisa Pulumbarit

*We extend our Belated Happy Birthday greetings to our indefatigable President, Baby (Felisa) who turned 60 years ‘young’ on June 22. May you have many more blessings to come!*



*From your Fellow Serrans*

## Your 2012 -2013 SCMS Executive Members

**President:** Maria-Luz Manalo  
**VP Programs:** Fran Pulumbarit  
**VP Vocations:** Wilfred Gomez  
**VP Memberships:** Evelyn Manalo  
**VP Communications:** Dennis Wahking  
**Treasurer:** Iselyn Murray  
**Asst. Treasurer:** Sophie Manalo  
**Secretary:** Aggie Gomez  
**Trustee:** Classina Lewis  
**Trustee:** Robert Atkinson  
**Trustee:** Tony Ientile  
**Trustee:** Peter Hospedales

**Past President:** Felisa Pulumbarit  
**Chaplain:** Rev. Edwin Gonsalves,  
**Pastor St. Barnabas Parish**

### Committee Chairs:

**Breakfast –** Louisa Wu/ Nattie Aquino  
**Baptismal Bib –** Sophie Manalo  
**Altar Server Award Coordinator:** Robert Bentley  
**Asst. Coordinators:** Larry Blas & Dan McNeil  
**Travelling Chalice Program:**  
**Felisa Pulumbarit – Chair**  
**St. Patrick’s –** Mario S/Carmela I  
**Precious Blood –** Gloria Wilson  
**St. Barnabas –** Classina S/Dan M.  
**St. Aidan –** Aggie/Wilfred Gomez  
**St. Thomas More –** Dennis W/Sophie M

## Upcoming Events

**Date:** 08 September 2012  
**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**General Monthly Meeting**  
**St. Barnabas Parish**  
**Guest Speaker: Rev. Luis Calleja**

**Date:** 29 September 2012  
**St. Bonaventure Parish**  
**Annual Serra Fall Conference**  
**Hosted by Serra Toronto Downtown**

**Date:** 13 October 2012  
**Saturday, Holy Redeemer Parish**  
**Altar Servers Awards Ceremony**  
**Date:** 20 October 2012  
**Saturday, St. Patrick’s Church**  
**Breakfast with Seminarians,**  
**Travelling Vocation Chalice**  
**Families, Priests**

**Date:** 03 November 2012  
**9:00 am – 12:00 pm,**  
**General Monthly Meeting**  
**St. Barnabas Parish**  
**Guest Speaker: Rev. R. Asch**

**Date:** 01 December 2012  
**Anniversary Mass & Appreciation**  
**Night for Priests, Deacons, etc.**  
**St. Patrick’s Church**

**God invites vocations – you can help!**

Serra strives to strengthen the bonds between the ministries of the laity, clergy, and religious, as fellow-workers in our church.

If you wish more information contact the Serra website [www.serracanada.com](http://www.serracanada.com)



### OUR PATRON

The founders chose Father Junipero Serra as their patron. He was the Spanish-born 18th century Franciscan missionary who established the first missions in Mexico and the coast of California. Father Serra was beatified in 1988.