

Vocare Newsletter

Toronto West Serra Club



March, 2009

Stewards of God's Mysteries

19th Annual Ordinandi Dinner

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Fr. Ivan Camilleri

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It was a record attendance of well over 1,300 Catholics from the area at this year's Ordinandi dinner honouring ten Deacons from St. Augustine's and Redemptoris Mater Seminaries.

Archbishop Thomas Collins got things underway with his usual charm and humour. The program, directed smoothly by M.C. Jerry Hayes, included the recognition of honoured guests and of priests celebrating 50th and 60th anniversaries of Ordination. An impressive Spiritual Bouquet was presented to the Ordinandi by the President of the Archdiocesan Catholic Women's League. Father Liborio Amaral, whose term as Vocations Director for the Archdiocese ends this spring, introduced Father Hansoo Park who will replace him in this ministry.

The main event of the evening was, as always, the vocation stories told by the Ordinandi themselves. These were sometimes touching, sometimes humorous, but always ended with the Deacon having found in his religious vocation the peace and contentment he was seeking.

During the evening there were many expressions of appreciation to the Serra Clubs and it was fitting that the closing remarks were made by Bishop James Wingle of St. Catharines who is Episcopal Adviser to Serra Canada

Spiritual Bouquet from Toronto West

Masses—58 Rosaries—1,246 Adoration—54 Stations of the Cross—39

Spring Leadership Training Conference

Saturday, April 18, 2009

Holy Rosary Church, Burlington, ON

Hosted by the Serra Club of Hamilton

A great opportunity to increase your knowledge of Club procedure and to meet Serrans from District 26

Speakers in Review

Frank Jannetta **Catholic Cemeteries**

On January 12th Frank Jannetta began his presentation by handing out brochures containing information about cemeteries, funerals, estates, etc. In his remarks he noted that cemeteries should be places of hope. As Catholics are people of hope who have received the Body and Blood of Jesus it is appropriate for them to rest in consecrated ground. He also spoke about the Masses offered on August 15th in the Catholic Cemeteries and other prayers said on a regular basis. Frank told of resources for grieving families, contact made by Catholic Cemeteries with third year seminarians and their support of the Ordinandi dinner.

Father John Bertao, **Pastor, St. Gregory's Parish**

On January 26th, the day after the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, Father John spoke on Conversion. He reflected on his journey to the priesthood from a life of freedom in various jobs ending with the CIBC. There he was questioned by his manager on whether he had a religious vocation. On a trip to Denver to see the Holy Father he was again asked by a man on the bus whether he had considered the priesthood. Finally Fr. Pat O'Dea asked: "Why are you waiting so long?"



Father concluded that when you stop thinking about yourself you have found conversion which has to be repeated every day. He commented on saying the breviary prayers each day which unites you with others and with Christ. Father recommended a DVD by Rick Warren, "The Purpose of Christmas". He handed out souvenirs of St. Gregory's 50th anniversary and also forms for the Called by Name program.

David Bain **Toronto West Serra Club**

On February 23rd David told us the history of his research project in Northern Ontario which came to

fruition shortly after he and Irene joined Serra. He spent eleven months in the North with colleagues from other universities giving residents health services while undertaking research to be of benefit to them. Leaving his family and church to go to an anti-Catholic area with no church was a problem to him but his parish priest encouraged him to go and he was not worried about Irene because of his family in the church and in Serra.



In the North he found that residents would use the services of health care practitioners almost daily when they were available. There is no health promotion such as vaccinations so most care is emergency based. Life in the far North is bleak with unemployment at 90% or more, a suicide rate 30 times the national average and abuse and domestic violence beyond any scale imaginable. In order to collect information for research purposes a relationship first had to be built with the residents.

David quoted Mother Teresa in conversation with Bishop Fulton Sheen and also spoke of Cardinal Carter's influence in his life.

Father Ivan Camilleri, **Associate, Merciful Redeemer Parish** **Chaplain, Toronto West Serra Club**

On March 9th, Father Ivan explained our call to holiness based on the life of St. Paul by elaborating on six stages in St. Paul's life:

- 1) His conversion beginning with the martyrdom of St. Stephen;
- 2) Allowing Christ to work through him;
- 3) Relying on the richness of tradition;
- 4) Lifting high the Cross — "preaching Christ and Him crucified";
- 5) Paul's theology of the Eucharist and the Church;
- 6) His martyrdom.

In each case Father spoke of how we can imitate St. Paul in our lives today and allow Christ to shine forth through us.

The Canada Council of Serra International

Serra was established in Seattle over 70 years ago by four visionary Catholic gentlemen. The movement was celebrated by both the Church and the individuals who were attracted to membership in the organization. For the Church, it gathered willing and talented volunteers to assist Bishops and Vocation Directors in the vitally important pursuit of Church vocations. For its members, Serra provided a new and attractive opportunity to actively participate in the life of the Church by employing their own personal skills and talents in a positive way in the promotion and support of priesthood.

As Serra grew, a central office was established in Chicago to assist the increasing number of clubs in the U.S.A. and in other countries around the world. Providing communications and translation services in half a dozen different languages and time zones was a daunting task for Serra's small Chicago staff.

To accommodate Serra's international expansion, the next logical development was the formation of National Councils in countries where Serra was active. This was to encourage the better utilization of the skills and talents of its local members in meeting the needs of their local Church. Initially, because of our small membership, Canada joined with our American neighbours in establishing USACC, the United States and Canada Council. This arrangement worked very well for us for a time. After a few years, with the encouragement of our Canadian Bishops, it became evident that the Canadian Church and Canadian Serrans would be better served with our own National Council. The value of this decision is recognized in our subsequent growth in membership.

Today's challenge to the Canada Council is to continue this expansion. One of our goals is to have an active Serra Club in every diocese. The challenge to every Canadian Serran is to renew and refresh your commitment to the noble goals of Serra, review your God-given skills and talents, and discern a positive role for yourself in the Serra apostolate. Junipero Serra said – "always to go forward".

John Plunkett



Celebration of the Eucharist at our Christmas gathering, December 15, 2008

The Last Word

Spring Calendar

Apr. 13 Club Meeting cancelled
 Apr. 18 Spring Leadership Planning Conference
 Apr. 20 Board Meeting
 Apr. 27 Club Meeting
 May 3 World Day of Prayer for Vocations
 May 11 Club Meeting
 May 18 Board Meeting
 May 25 Club Meeting
 June 8 Club Meeting
 June 15 Board Meeting
 June 22 Club Meeting
 Aug. 27/30 International Convention

Ordination Anniversary

May 12 Fr. Ivan Camilleri

Wedding Anniversaries

Apr. 19 Maria & Milan Popik
 June 14 Yvonne & Frank Kennedy

Birthdays

Mar. 27	Gloria Spaziani	May 17	Peter Calzavara
Apr. 11	Patrick Hearn	May 17	Caroline Smith
Apr. 26	Jeff Bonello	May 23	John Gennaro
Apr. 29	David Smith	May 28	Jim King
Apr. 30	Maria Tolomei	June 3	Ann Mangione
May 11	Rita King	June 17	Ray Track

Altar Server Award

At the Club meeting on March 9, John Enright presented a Cardinal Carter Award Medal to David Smith in recognition of David's recent new role as server at the Club Masses.

Serra Canada Website

Have you checked the new Serra Canada website recently? It contains much information for Serrans and prospective Serrans.
www.serracanada.com

Remember your daily decade of the Rosary for vocations

Prayers and Mass Intentions

Please pray for your fellow Serrans

Peter Calzavara

Anne and Ambrose Lucas

Claire Whelton

Martha Gonsalves, R.I.P.
 Mother of Father Edwin Gonsalves

All those we have promised to pray for

Welcome New Member

Peter Takaoka

Toronto West welcomes Peter Takaoka, a member of St. Benedict's Parish, who joins us sponsored by Peter Calzavara and Raynor Track. We hope you will be with us for many years to come, Peter, working and praying for vocations.