

Vocare Newsletter

Toronto West
Serra Club



March, 2011

21st Annual Ordinandi Dinner

“Witness Awakens Vocations”

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Vocare address
10 Hillavon Drive
Etobicoke, ON

Close to 1,900 people, many of them young Catholics, packed the Pearson Convention Centre on March 1st to hear ten Ordinandi tell the stories of their vocations.

The theme of this year’s event, “Witness Awakens Vocations” came alive as the young people present listened in rapt silence and learned that these regular, fun-loving, sports-minded young men at some point in their lives heard the Call of God and found within themselves the strength to leave all and follow that Call.

The Ordinandi dinner is realizing its potential as each year more young students are given the opportunity to see for themselves how vocations are born.



Photo courtesy of the Archdiocese of Toronto

Preparing for Lent

On February 28th Club members gathered at Nativity of Our Lord Church for the Eucharist and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. During his homily Father Sean exhorted us to add to the usual Lenten practices of fasting, alms-giving and prayer, the virtue of being merciful to others at all times and in all situations.

The evening of prayer was an excellent way to prepare for our coming Lenten journey.

Speakers in Review

Father Jacob Mado, O.S.A. **Retreat Director, Marylake Monastery**



On January 10th Father Jacob spoke of his journey to the priesthood. From the time he was 9 years of age Father Jacob wanted to become a priest and as the years went by the call became stronger. However when he finished high school and applied at the seminary he was not admitted. He waited and applied again and

after disappointments he was finally admitted.

During his time as a seminarian he saw most of his classmates leave or be asked to go until only two were ordained.

Father Jacob came from a family of nine children, of which he was the eighth. His father took them all to Mass every Sunday which was the beginning of his vocation.

He was taught by a priest from the seminary that prayer is essential to know God, that he must thank God for the gift of a vocation, pray for everyone and try to listen to God speaking to him. Finally he felt calmness, peace and relaxation as if he touched God with his heart.

Father continues to thank God after his ordination and has no regrets but only joy, thankfulness and praise. People offered prayers for him and Serrans praying for vocations are all party of the story.

Rev. Peter Shumelda **Associate Pastor, St. Demetrius Church**

Father Shumelda's topic at our Jan. 24th meeting was "The Ukrainian Catholic Church in the 20th Century". He reminded us that the Church suffered ten waves of persecution in its first three centuries and was attacked from within and without. The Church continues to be attacked and he illustrated this by noting that the Ukrainian Catholic Church had suffered under 50 years of Com-



unist rule. However, all bishops remained faithful. He gave details of the life of Bishop Vasyl Velychkovskyi who suffered imprisonment and torture during attempts to turn him away from the Catholic Church. However, he resisted and survived and eventually was able to escape to Canada. In 2001 twenty-seven Ukrainians, including Bishop Velychkovskyi, were beatified.

Father Shumelda emphasized that a strong prayer life is indispensable to keeping one's faith alive.

Deacon Curtis Boone **St. Padre Pio Parish, Kleinburg**

On February 14th Deacon Curtis told us of his road to the diaconate. He said that in difficult moments at the seminary he was aware of the prayers supporting him from people like Serrans around the world.



Deacon Curtis explained how God's call to be his true self came to him in little bits

throughout his life. He was born a Baptist but had never been baptized when in 1995 his daughter gave up singing lessons and his wife convinced him to go in her place. In 1996 he joined the church choir and as time went by he was more and more affected by the Mass. In 1998 his eyes were opened when a choir member, although his son had just been killed in a car accident, came with his wife to sing on Sunday and then took part in a healing ministry praying for others. He wanted to have what this man had. He joined the R.C.I.A., was received into the church and received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist and Matrimony in one day. Later he received the sacrament of Penance, the Sacrament of the Sick and, finally, Holy Orders, all from the same priest.

Deacon Curtis spoke of his work at the Caledon Hospice, of reaching one's true self in prayer and service to others, of making life a prayer and looking outward instead of inward.

COMING SERRA CONFERENCES

Spring Leadership Conference

Saturday, April 30th

St. Aidan Parish
Scarborough

Hosted by Serra Club of Markham
and Scarborough

2011 International Convention



Excerpts from “Proposing Vocations in the Local Church” From the Vatican, 15 November, 2010

Vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life are first and foremost the fruit of constant contact with the living God and insistent prayer lifted up to the “Lord of the harvest”, whether in parish communities, in Christian families or in groups specifically devoted to prayer for vocations.

It is a challenging and uplifting invitation that Jesus addresses to those to whom he says: “Follow me!”...He invites them to leave behind their own narrow agenda and their notions of self-fulfilment in order to immerse themselves in another will, the will of God, and to be guided by it.

The Lord does not fail to call people at every stage of life to share in his mission and to serve the Church in the ordained ministry and in the consecrated life.

Particularly in these times, when the voice of the Lord seems to be drowned out by “other voices” and his invitation to follow him by the gift of one’s own life may seem too difficult, every Christian community, every member of the Church, needs consciously to feel responsibility for promoting vocations.

The Second Vatican Council explicitly reminded us that “the duty of fostering vocations pertains to the whole Christian community, which should exercise it above all by a fully Christian life”...

The complete letter can be found at www.serracanada.com under "Featured News": [Papal Message for 2011 World Day of Prayer for Vocations](#).

A Memorable Evening

On December 13, 2010, the Club met at the Gennaro residence for the celebration of the Eucharist and the annual Christmas fellowship. Rose and John’s home provided a wonderful Christmas atmosphere with their beautiful crèche and other seasonal decorations. At the conclusion of Mass a sumptuous meal was provided by Rose which was greatly appreciated by all present.

To add to the evening’s festivities we were delighted to have present Kevin Hearn, of Barenaked Ladies fame, who charmed us by accompanying carol singing at the piano and also providing background music for Pat’s reading of his Christmas greeting to the Club.

Thanks to the Gennaro family for their warm hospitality and to all who contributed to the evening’s success.

The Last Word

Spring Calendar

- Mar. 21 Board meeting
Mar. 28 Club meeting - *Dr. Andrew Simone*
Apr. 11 Club meeting - *TBA*
Apr. 18 Board meeting
Apr. 25 Club meeting - *Cancelled*
Apr. 30 Spring Leadership Conference
May 9 Club meeting - *Rev. M. Kolarcik, SJ*
May 15 World Day of Prayer for Vocations
May 16 Board meeting
May 23 Club meeting - *Cancelled*
June 13 Club meeting - *Rev. Paul Duplessie*
June 20 District BBQ/Picnic
July 14 —17 International Convention,
Jerusalem

Holy Hour for Vocations

First Friday of each month at 8.45 a.m.
St. Gregory's Parish, Etobicoke
Silent prayer for vocations

Please pray for your fellow Serrans

Anthony Mangione
Peter Calzavara
Carl Spaziani
Ambrose Lucas
Bill and Claire Whelton
Irene Bain's Mother

Gizel Paracka, R.I.P. (sister of Helen Husar)

Ordination Anniversary

May 14 Father Sean Lee Lung

Wedding Anniversaries

Apr. 19 Maria and Milan Popik
Apr. 21 Frances and Mario Cinelli
June 14 Yvonne and Frank Kennedy

Birthdays

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

Remember to offer prayers daily for vocations
and to also pray for those in the ordained
ministry and in the consecrated life.

John A. Donahue, R.I.P.

At the end of February John Donahue passed away at the age of 84. John was associated with Serra International for 34 years as Assistant Executive Director and Executive Director, retiring in 1991. His term of office coincided with John Gennaro's year as President of Serra International in 1985/86.

May he rest in peace.