

Year 2020

Volume 1, Special Edition

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*Email your articles, ideas and feedback to the editor:*

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Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough (SCMS)



# The Serran Tribune

Newsletter of Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough

## How SCMS members cope with the COVID 19 Pandemic - Their personal perspectives, vocation promotion goals & aspirations:

The year 2020 will be remembered as the year of the most challenging times of this decade. There were desecrations of Holy Statues, such as St. Junipero Serra Statues in California, the decapitation of Our Lady of Lebanon Church Statue in west end Toronto. Aside from this, there were also statues vandalized at St. Patrick's church in Markham, this one is very close to us, since lots of our members are from this parish. There was also a tabernacle that was stolen in early September from the St. Catherine of Alexandra Cathedral in St. Catharines, in Ontario. This was recovered on Wednesday, September 9. These occurrences are some of the few that have or have been happening around the world. Other than attacks on North American churches and statues there have been recorded attacks in Britain, France, Poland, Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria and the Philippines.

According to Citizens for Public Justice's 2020 Poverty Trends Report, released in October, "the COVID-19 pandemic has made existing problems of inequity and poverty in Canada worse." The same people and communities that were already facing greater barriers to wellbeing because of intersecting forms of systemic oppression now face the additional risks of coming in contact with the virus

itself. At the same time they are losing income and/or access to services and supports, and being left out of emergency and recovery plans.

The study also showed that pandemic impacts are about so much more than just a person's income at stake. People realized the importance of social capital and what it means to be alone and how that affects mankind. Our Catholic faith was tested as well with the full lockdown in mid March 2020 as our government had all places of worship closed. We were attending daily masses virtually, including the cancellation & suspension of the Lenten Season celebration, First communion & Confirmation sacraments. In the late summer, the lockdown was lifted and we can physically attend masses at the church as long as we are wearing masks & practicing social distancing of 6 feet apart from each other. Indeed, we felt a little relieved for we can now unite with Christ present at the Holy Eucharist, the body & blood, soul & divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the summit of our Catholic faith. The real and physical union with Christ happens when we take part in the Eucharistic celebration. It is worth noting that **St. Maria Goretti** said, "*The Holy Eucharist is the perfect expression of the love of Jesus Christ of us*".

The following statement was extracted from the July 2020 issue of The Serran Magazine, for which Most Reverend Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, Ontario, Canada & Serra International Episcopal Adviser said, this is "**A time to enter deeply into Faith**". I find it to be inspiring & healing as we continue to experience and to cope with the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic to date.

*“This is a time of sorrow, a time of struggle and of tribulation. But for all of us, and maybe particularly for those whom the Lord is calling, it is also a time and occasion of grace. So perhaps that should be our prayer as Serrans: that this occasion, which can be in so many ways difficult, stressful and very sorrowful, be also a time for those whom the Lord is calling to make a decision; to think of the purpose of their life and then to step forward to listen to the words of the Lord: “Come, follow me.” I pray the Lord to bless you and keep you safe and give you courage and strength in the vocation which we all share as disciples of the Lord. We pray that these restrictions caused by concern for our health, the health of others, and the common good, be overcome, and especially that we might be able to return to the celebration of the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist. Until that time, as we offer that up because of our love for our neighbor, we pray that each one of us may make use of this time to enter more deeply into our faith; and especially as Serrans, that we may pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into the harvest. May the Lord bless you and keep you always”.*

We asked the members of the Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough & posed the following questions:

1. How are you coping with the COVID 19 pandemic?
2. What are the ways you do to promote & foster vocations, despite the pandemic

Here are their comments & personal perspectives:

For **Zenaida Tare**, it was difficult at first, she was following the guidelines set such as washing hands, using sanitizer, social distancing by WHO, until it becomes a habit. Acceptance is so important, so she can function as herself in the midst of this Pandemic. She is keeping in touch with family, relatives and friends by phone, texting/messenger, video chats, as well as practicing social distancing. During the early months of strict rules, she felt itchiness in her throat, however, her

Facebook friends have been posting ways to beat this virus. Through her daughter’s advice such as gargle salt & water, steaming face with salt water and NetiRinse for her nose, she was healed. She did these things along with prayers, which healed her completely. She is also careful of what she eats every day, full of veggies high in calcium and protein. She prays the rosary daily and the Serran prayer for vocations and Serran prayer for the perseverance of vocations. She also volunteers in her parish for mass preparations, keeping in mind the social distancing and mask rules.

Comments from **Catherine Von Zuben:**

COVID 19 Pandemic has created much suffering and uncertainty throughout the entire world, and most especially for migrant, refugees and poverty stricken peoples. My heart is filled with gratitude for the privilege of residing here in Canada. Being restricted in a number of ways in order to protect ourselves and others causes me little suffering. This allows me to appreciate the time which I spend on a ‘green prayer chair’ in my bedroom, for morning and evening prayer, the rosary and spiritual reading.

During this time of COVID 19, I have read the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina*. Aware of her deep respect and gratitude for the priests who directed her and the sacrifices she made daily for priests in the world, I have made it my habit to offer the Chaplet of Divine Mercy daily, for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Comments from **Dennis Wahking & Marissa Tan:**

Between March 24 & June 1 2020, I essentially worked from home. Exercise every day consisted of walking in a triangle across the living room rug for 30 minutes. I started back working on a full time basis on June 1, driving every day and not taking public transit. My eldest daughter, Francesca moved back home from Ottawa on July 1st and is now working at the Body Shop. Christina, my 2nd is teaching special needs kids full time since school

reopened & Daniella my third has worked all through the pandemic in her fulfillment job. Marissa has worked at Scotiabank all through the pandemic. My District Deputy function with the Knights of Columbus has continued virtually including Installation of officers of my 5 Councils. We have had virtual Zoom meetings with the Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough in September & October of 2020.

Comments from **Aggie Gomez:**

Our first grandson’s 5<sup>th</sup> birthday was in April and second grandson’s 4<sup>th</sup> birthday in May; the pandemic lockdown in mid-March saddened me, for not being able to hug and touch my grandchildren but through digital apps and drive-by I showed them love. The pandemic reawakened in me the value of touch as manifested in the sacraments where we sense God’s presence through touch. Churches being shut down, showed me a new way of life. I participated in live streamed Masses, Rosaries, and listened to many homilies from different parishes, including my



own parish, St. Aidan Church. This ignited in me a deeper love and hunger for the Eucharist and the priesthood especially when I recite the Spiritual Communion prayer. I started praying an extra Rosary for an increase in vocations and an extra Divine Mercy Chaplet for those who contracted the virus.

Comments from our Charter President, **Felisa Pulumbarit:**

This Pandemic is not going to halt or stop our initiatives towards Vocations. Since the lockdown this year from March 2020, the Travelling Vocation Chalice Program at St Patrick’s church was put on hold. On the other hand, the parishioners were blessed when Fr Jihwan Cho, used the Vocation Chalice, during his Ordination Mass last July 2020. Our CHALICE was blessed one more time and on such a wonderful occasion indeed, how grateful are we to the Lord and to Fr Dominic Barber, our Pastor.

Beginning the first Sunday of October, I volunteered to deliver the VOCATION CHALICE, to the family who requests it for a special intention and I want to thank Walter and Celine Mendes for the first family who received it for 2 weeks at their home. This will be ongoing until the parish will be open for a regular schedule. I also sent an email to the parishioners who have received them before to let them know that I can deliver it to their homes with their request. We praise and thank the Lord for this opportunity to share the Vocation Chalice to those who are in need.

Comments from **Maria Luz Manalo:**

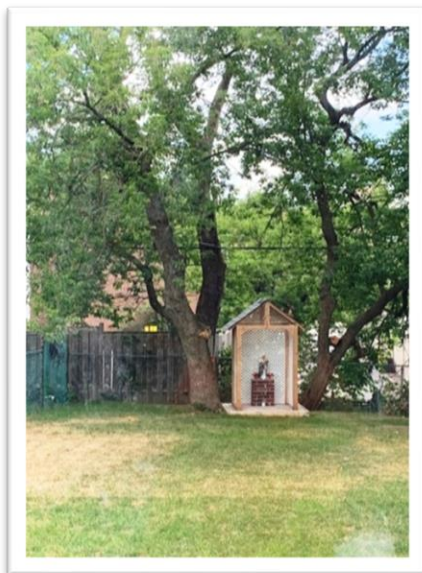
In the midst of the pandemic, we were lockdown in the rented house at Chopin in Birchmount. Since then, it was difficult for our family to be practicing social distancing as the house was small for the six of us, including Martin, my dog. Despite all these inconveniences, we managed to join the Carmelite Sisters virtual (zoom) daily rosary prayer. We started in Mid March 2020 and our family is assigned to lead the rosary prayer for at least once a week.



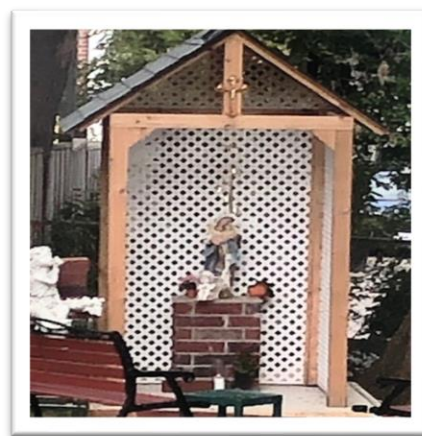
The group has expanded from 20 families to 36 families to date. Once in a while, depending on Fr. Ronald's availability, we get the priest's blessing after the rosary prayer. Fr. Ronald Generao, CFIC is an associate pastor of Epiphany of our Lord Parish, who prays with us on a regular basis. We are still continuing to pray the daily rosary where we offer our prayer petitions, healing for the sick, who got COVID and for those who died and for those where no one prays for them. To me, this is also keeping us healed and

occupied as we all look forward to this evening event. Sister Cristina is very innovative as we also do scripture readings related to the mysteries of the day. For example, during the month of October, Sister Cristina's theme is focused on the Blessed Virgin Mary. We get to choose the theme song and it would be incorporated in our prayers. We even have families whose children or young adults were being groomed/& prayed for as potential religious brothers or sisters. Through the nightly daily rosary prayers, I was able to engage my nephew and nieces along with my brother's family to pray with us and I have assigned them to lead the prayer of the holy mysteries as well as with the Litany of Blessed Virgin Mary prayers. Hopefully, the fruits of this endeavor can manifest into more young people active in the Catholic community as well as discern to become a priest or active in their religious vocations.

During the summer, while settling in our newly built house at Janet Blvd, I was blessed to be able to build a grotto in my backyard. Everything fell into place, including the type of Blessed Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus, as my guardian angel guided me when I ordered it. It came in time for my birthday and the grotto was blessed on my birthday. See the pictures below:



***Blessed Virgin Mary With Baby Jesus Grotto***



Comments from **Sophie Manalo**

As the chef of a family of 5 plus one dog, I am assigned to cook for our daily meals. This makes me busy as I usually plan the menu before the week. During the summer, despite the pandemic, I enjoy cooking and showcasing my talent. In most cases, when I have done the menu for the day, I would ask my nephew to deliver the dishes I cooked to some of my relatives and friends. I enjoyed doing this as it kept me engaged in thinking of others. What happened if they don't have anyone to care for them? We have a family friend who lives alone and had recently celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Whenever I cooked Filipino dishes such as adobo, pinakbet (mixed tropical veggies) and sinigang (pork sour broth with veggies). She is always on my mind to be given a bowl of these dishes. She's very appreciative of this deed of mine. In addition, I kept myself busy in my garden. The geraniums we bought from the CWL Blessed Trinity for 15 pots had grown in our backyard. I enjoyed watering them. See the picture below.





I also planted a lot of succulent plants in the pots inside the house. Overall, I cope with the pandemic on a positive note, going back to my hobbies which are cooking and gardening with the goal of helping others too. Enjoying my hobbies and praying the holy rosary for priests, diaconate and religious vocations helped me cope with this pandemic.

**My hibiscus plant with its blooming flower.**



Comments from **Evelyn Manalo**

## **PANDEMIC**

**I - I start my day with**

**P - Prayers**

**A - Always together with**

**N - None other than our**

**D - Dog spelled backwards  
GOD**

**E - Every day, Every time**

**M - Martin Francis**

**I - In any shape or  
form Dog/GOD**

**C - Completes my day ...**

**4**

### ***“ GOD is the best doctor and PRAYER is the best medicine***

Since the initial lockdown in March, our family, together with our constant companion (Martin Francis) continues to be present every night with our daily Holy Rosary prayer followed by a Litany to our Blessed Virgin Mary led by Sr. Cristina, Carmelite Missionary Sisters. She provides us with so many ways in praying the Holy Rosary. Every night, I read the daily Homily from Fr. Sylvain Lavoie OMI before going to bed. This helps me recharged for the next day.



**Above is Martin Francis, the Serran Wonder Dog**



## **Let's get to know some new SCMS members: Their Perspectives**

Each one of us would fondly recall how we first started as a new member of the Serra Club of Markham and Scarborough. For me, it was in early 2009, when our Charter President, Felisa (Baby) Pulumbarit started to recruit the Manalo sisters. At that time, our beloved sister Remi St. Louis passed away on September 10, 2008. Even though our family is very religious and devout Catholic, it was the mission of Serrans promoting and fostering vocation as well as growing in faith that attracted me. We did not hesitate to join this club and since then I am proud to be a Serran.

### **Catherine von Zuben**

Upon retiring after 35 wonderful years in Education as a teacher and principal, I learned, as a member of ShareLife Board, about the Archdiocese Legacy Society. This is a win/win situation whereas each year I receive a tax receipt for my monthly payment of a Life Insurance Policy whose recipient is St. Augustine's Seminary. I benefit during my life and St. Augustine's will benefit at the time of my death.

It was at that time, that I enrolled at Regis College in pursuit of a Master's Degree which allowed me three wonderful years of intense study of theology, social justice and spirituality. I came to know and love the Jesuits, with whom I continue to work at Manresa Retreat Centre and Regis College.

***To our 2020 new members,  
welcome to the Serra Club of  
Markham/ Scarborough! As a  
Serran, we all work together for  
the Glory of God!***

***Catherine Von Zuben  
Samantha Koon  
Tony Fernandez  
Venus Fernandez  
Hamilton Wiltshire  
Olive Wiltshire  
Val Rego***

For some 55 years I conducted children and adult Church choirs, and for the past two years I have had the privilege to sing with an outstanding choir of Blessed Trinity parish, under the direction of Dr. John Holland. All choir members the world over lament what COVID has done to choral music.

For the past five years, as chair of the group 'Friends of St. Augustine' I have worked in parishes throughout the archdiocese, with Samantha Koon and others for the purpose of promoting St. Augustine's Seminary. It seems very fitting that I also am involved with the Serra Club and look forward to contributing in whatever way I am needed.

**Samantha Koon**

I was born and raised in a Catholic family in Hong Kong. At that time, I had heard of Serra Club helping the priests in Hong Kong but never associated it with the Canadian Serra Club, that is, until I served as a Development Officer at St. Augustine's Seminary and attended the Ordinandi Dinner. I was impressed by the Serrans' energy in fostering priestly and religious vocations and in supporting youth to recognize their callings. I have been actively involved with the Catholic Church since I was 16 years old; I am a lector, I have served as chair of a parish council and I was a lay director of the Chinese Cursillo Movement. I am glad to meet with other like-minded Catholics, such as the Manalo's sisters, who are interested in promoting vocations and are called to evangelize to the others.

I am looking forward to learning more about the Serra Club and to walking with the Serrans on the path to holiness in Jesus Christ.

**Gino Di Pede**

I am now a Serran because of two beautiful Catholic Christian role models - Aggie and Wilfred Gomez! You see, Aggie and Wilfred don't just talk the faith - they live it! My Catholic commitments are as follows:

1. With Knights of Columbus - District Deputy 111, Ontario State Bursary Chair, trustee BCPG Assembly 2113 & Life Director Ave Maria Council 9494;

2. At Epiphany of Our Lord Parish - Usher, Lector, Socials Chair, Stewardship Lead, Finance & Pastoral Council member, Outreach & ShareLife;

3. Locally - On Board of the QHRS Charity - Rosary devotion promoter & builder of Rosary Path & Stations at Marylake.

I am a retiree of 7 years after a rewarding 39 years as a Catholic high school Mathematics teacher/Department Head. What my loving wife Edie and I treasure most in life is our family - proud parents of two married boys (James & Nicholas), one girl (Laura) and two precious granddaughters (Anna & Ibiza)

God Bless and pray your rosary daily - the only sure vaccine for this pandemic

**Edie Di Pede**

I am a retired music teacher and have been involved in church music since childhood. Since 2002 I have coordinated the music ministry at the Epiphany of our Lord parish. I joined the Epiphany Outreach group in 2008 and have volunteered at an Out of the Cold program ever since. At the beginning of 2020 our pastor asked me to chair the Share Life committee in our parish and, despite COVID 19, I hope to successfully lead this ministry.

Besides music, church and family, I have a passion for knitting and crocheting and have used my skills for several charities as well as volunteering at Presentation Manor, helping with the knitting club.

My husband Gino and I were brought into the Serra club by Wilfred and Aggie Gomez and are happy to support vocations however we can.

**What have I been missing?**

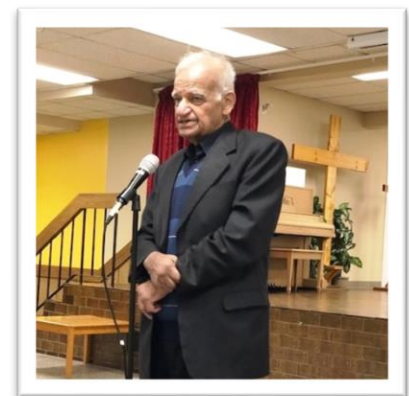
**Stay in touch:** if you haven't been able to attend our recent meetings, this section will highlight some memorable monthly meeting moments.

We usually feature our Guest Speakers for sharing their vocation stories. We'd like to see you come back & see what's new & exciting and at the same time get you inspired!

**January 5, 2020** meeting was another one of those unforgettable meetings for we have Abp. Larry attend our meeting. This was the first meeting of the year. **Archbishop Lawrence (Larry) Saldanha** was our special guest, who celebrated his Priestly Diamond Jubilee. Celebration at Precious Blood Parish on January 12, 2020. He was presented with a Spiritual Bouquet offered by all the SCMS members on behalf of Archbishop Lawrence Saldanha.

*The Spiritual Bouquet contains the following:*

<i>Masses</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Rosaries</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Stations of the Cross</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Hail Mary's</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>Our Father's</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>Other Prayers</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Blessed Sacrament Visit</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>293</i>



*Archbishop Lawrence Saldanha*



**Members of SCMS with Archbishop Larry & Fr. Xavier De Pinto**

**February 1, 2020** – Our guest speaker was **Rev. Greg Chisholm**, born in Canada & studied in St. Augustine Seminary. He was ordained Priest in the Archdiocese of Toronto. He went to Peru in his younger years then stayed and served as a Priest there for 40 years. He came back to Canada in 2019 and was assigned as Associate Pastor at St Patrick's church for a year until March 2020. He decided to go back to Peru where he spent most of his Priestly life in order to retire and enjoy his retirement with the people he served. In the future, Fr. Greg would be the Spiritual Advisor for the pilgrimage, organized by Felisa & Fran Pulumbarit, to Brazil, Peru, & Latin America.

**March 7, 2020** – The guest speaker was **Sister Maria Lucia (Malou) Serrano**, a member of Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in USA. She is currently the Pastoral Associate & Adult Education at St Gabriel Passionist Parish in North York, Toronto. She shared her vocation story in how she became a nun of the sisters of mercy. The founder of their congregation was Catherine McAuley, who envisioned a just world of people who are poor, sick & uneducated. Sister Malou takes 4 vows of her profession as a member of sisters of mercy. These are: vows of poverty, chastity, obedience & service.



**Sister Malou**

**October 24, 2020** – This was the first zoom meeting that we had. We were so blessed to have this meeting, despite the pandemic. It was started with a live stream mass celebrated by Rev. Xavier De Pinto at Precious Blood Church for which members attended in the comfort of their homes.



**SCMS members attending Zoom meeting per picture above**

Our guest speaker was **Rev. Steven Szakaczki**, Pastor of St. Aidan Parish. He began his vocation story by saying that he immigrated to Canada when he was seven years old. His vocation discernment took him three years and he was encouraged by Fr. Joseph Moncada to become a priest. Fr. Steven realized the importance of God in his life but questioned everything if the Catholic religion was the true religion. There were three things that convinced him that the Catholic Church was the true church. Firstly, we have saints who are great and perform miracles. Secondly, there is continuity of the church all the way back to the Apostles. Thirdly, the Catholic Church has not changed its official teachings regarding faith & morality. All these reasons convinced

him to discern a vocation to the priesthood. He was ordained for the Oratory and served there for 11 years with eight of these as a Chaplain for the Latin Mass. Fr. Steven had to leave the oratory due to health reasons and became a Diocesan priest for Archdiocese of Toronto. He believes in proclaiming the truth about our faith but also making sure you are sensitive to everyone. He said that the Priestly vocation story is not a one-time calling. As a Priest you are called every day to live out your priestly vocation call.

## Travelling Vocation Chalice Program:



### How the Markham / Scarborough Serra Club Travelling Chalice Vocation Program (MSSCTCVP) arrived at Blessed Frederic Ozanam Parish in Markham

There are two families from Blessed Frederic Ozanam Parish (BFO) currently in the Serra Club, they being Tony & Carmela Ientile and Eardley Adams. I have been a member of Serra Club for approximately 6 years and I cherished the idea of supporting the mission of Serra Club. I became the founder of the Knights of Columbus Council at BFO and the Council's Charter Grand Knight. I had spoken to the Pastor Fr Joseph Grima about the Chalice Program and asked if he would have any concerns or perhaps objections to introducing it to the BFO Parish. At that time the Parish was going through some trying times with moving the worship space from one school to another, because we do not have a church at this point in time, so Fr Joseph suggested perhaps holding off for a few months.

I had attended the Knights of Columbus St John Paul II Assembly 3325 meeting and it was during the meeting I stood up and spoke about the MSSCTCVP (Chalice Program) and it developed into a motion, so I moved that the Assembly support the Chalice Program by purchasing a Chalice from “Knights Gear”. The motion was duly seconded and unanimously supported. It was later agreed that I would purchase the Chalice on behalf of the Assembly, which I did.

Unfortunately, it was the time of COVID 19 and because I requested that the Chalice be engraved as being donated by the St John Paul II Assembly, the Chalice was shipped by the supplier to their engraver who unfortunately closed his business due to the Pandemic. Many weeks went by but eventually, I did receive the Chalice and I found someone in the parish to make the box for it.

Alas another delay, as the person who agreed to make the box had a family crisis and was no longer able to make the box. At this point I spoke with Fr Joseph who recommended me to contact someone in the Carpentry business and also a member of the Parish, Mr. Paolo Biasutti, owner of G&P Antiques and Custom Cabinetry. I phoned and spoke with Paolo and later went to see him armed with my sketches of the box and various details I wanted to have incorporated into the design. We seemed to hit it off immediately. I helped with the Chalice housing and securing while Paolo made the box.



The Box is lined with scarlet velvet and the chalice is fitted into a molded housing and secured with a concealed velvet strap.



The chalice within the box is touch less and the booklets are designed to fit within the box lid. During COVID only one booklet is enclosed in the box which is plasticized to enable it to be sanitized after every use. The Prayer normally a separate document is now part of the box lid and the presiding Priest simply reads the prayer before presenting the box to the next family.



The entire case is able to be sanitized before each use.



The Chalice was used for the first time at all four weekend masses on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 and on three Masses on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. It was placed in the box and it was presented to me after the Noon Mass on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 as the first recipient of the Travelling Chalice and there are

15 families registered to receive the Chalice.

*Written by:  
Eardley Adams, Member of -  
Markham / Scarborough Serra Club  
Travelling Chalice Vocation Program.*

## Let's Congratulate!

**A. Canadian Serrans  
Receive Special Honours –  
Vila Nova Carvalho and Dr.  
Moira McQueen are recognized  
for their dedication to the Church  
(Extract from SI the Serran Magazine  
Nov 2020 issue)**

### Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice

Past Serra International Vice President **Vila Nova Carvalho**, Serra Club of Vancouver, has been awarded the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice papal medal. Established by Pope Leo XIII in 1888, it is the highest recognition the laity can receive from the Pope. The award is given for distinguished service to the Church by lay people or clergy.

### Christian Culture Gold Medal

Serra International Trustee and Halton Serran **Dr. Moira McQueen**, Executive Director for the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, was presented the 2019 Christian Culture Gold Medal Award by Assumption University. This award recognizes Dr. McQueen as an outstanding exponent of Christian ideals. Dr. McQueen was a lawyer before becoming Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. She teaches moral theology at St Michael's in the University of Toronto, and is a member of the Vatican's International Theological Commission. Moira and husband Matthew have seven children and 11 grandchildren. She is president of the Serra Council of Canada, and the founding president of the Serra Club of Halton.

**Congratulations to  
you both!**

## B. From Serra Canada Council Announcement:

Dear SCC Board Members,

On behalf of Serra Canada Council, we are pleased to announce that Fran Pulumbarit has been nominated & approved as President Elect for Serra Council for Canada effective October 2020. Fran has done outstanding work for Serra as Treasurer & as District Governor of Ontario, has demonstrated a strong passion for Serra and for priestly vocations, has demonstrated excellent leadership skills and is therefore well prepared to lead Serra in Canada.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Fran Pulumbarit.

To all District Governors, please pass along the announcement to all Club Presidents.

Mary, Mother of Vocations, pray for us. St. Junipero Serra, guide us

Evelyn Manalo, Secretary  
Serra Canada Council

Below is the reply from the President Elect, Fran Pulumbarit:

Dear Fellow Board Members of Serra Canada Council,

First and foremost, I thank our Almighty God for allowing me to continue to serve in His vineyard as a true and sincere promoter of the vocations to the priesthood, religious life and permanent diaconate.

I owe a ton of gratitude to Mario Biscardi who from day one had supported, molded and guided me as a true Serran. You have been my mentor and will continue to be. The same gratitude goes to all of you who extended your heartfelt and sincere congratulations. I would not be in this position if it were not for your support and vote of confidence. I had worked so hard during my term as District Governor and I will work even harder

to execute my new and challenging role.

To Anthony Mangione, rest assured that I will give my full commitment to whatever is asked of me as your President-Elect. As the famous adage says - "one for all, all for one". I will have a lot to learn from you as you guide and prepare me for this next role in my life as a Serran. My many thanks in advance.

Please keep me in your prayers to be able to perform the duties as your President-Elect.

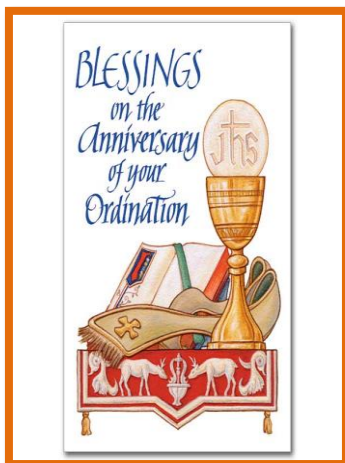
Blessings,

Fran Pulumbarit, President-Elect  
Serra Canada Council of Serra International

On behalf of all SCMS members, we wish Fran all the best in his journey as the new President Elect of Serra International Canada Council.

*Congratulations!*

**Congratulations to our  
Chaplain, Rev. Xavier De  
Pinto on your 25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of Priestly  
Ordination**



**Ordinations for the Archdiocese  
of Toronto at St. Michael's**

**Cathedral Basilica**

**June 27, 2020**

**Congratulations to the  
following newly ordained  
priests:**

**Rev. Michael Corpus  
Rev. Martin Dicuango  
Rev. Joshua Lobo  
Rev. Jhi Hwan Cho  
Rev. Neil Pereira  
Rev. John Steven Sutka  
Rev. Rafal Michal Bartosinski  
Rev. Andre Luis De Lima**

**I have chosen you.  
John 15:16**



**The Archdiocese of Toronto  
celebrated the ordination of  
seven new permanent deacons at  
St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica  
on Sunday, October 3, 2020.**

**SCMS congratulates the following  
newly ordained permanent deacons:**

**Deacon Paul Bar  
Deacon Michael Lewis  
Deacon Daniel McPhee  
Deacon Donald Muller**

**Deacon Bill Nalepka**  
**Deacon Carlos Retamales**  
**Deacon Martin Treash**

These exceptional men will serve the priests and laity of the Archdiocese of Toronto for years to come.



**Philippines 500 years  
 Celebration of Christianity  
 on March 21, 2021:  
 by Felisa BABY  
 Pulumbarit**

The Celebration for the Philippines 500 years of Christianity was initiated by His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins, and will be celebrated on March 21, 2021 with an announcement from the office of the Archdiocese of Toronto, to all the parishes, this coming December 2020. A Committee was formed early this year to head the activities for the PH500 Celebration with their Spiritual Leader, Fr Sherwin Holandez, Pastor of Our Lady of Assumption Church and the AFCM Archdiocesan Filipino Catholic Mission. Due to the Pandemic, the various activities and celebrations will probably be Virtual, but the Committee is working very hard to put together a beautiful program for this very special event in the lives of the

Filipinos in Toronto. I was invited to join the Fundraising Committee, and we need all the assistance and support from our fellow Filipinos and Friends of Filipinos, to help us in our initiatives to make this Celebration a moment to remember in our lives. More information will be available in the next few weeks.

**Mabuhay Philippines and the  
 Celebration of its 500 years of  
 Christianity. To God be the  
 glory.....**

## Let's Remember & Celebrate!

### Wedding Anniversaries



Happy  
 Wedding  
 Anniversary!

*Angela FF*

**Fran & Felisa Pulumbarit**  
**May 29**  
**21 Years Wedding Anniversary**

**Kay & Patrick Booker**  
**August 16**  
**56 Years Wedding anniversary**

**Adrian & Helen Muscat-Drago**  
**August 30**  
**40 Years Wedding Anniversary**

**Terence & Philomena Menezes**  
**October 30**  
**40 Years Wedding Anniversary**

**Aggie & Wilfred Gomez**  
**December 11**  
**38 Years Wedding Anniversary**

**Congratulations!**

## Congrats! Grandparents

**Adrian & Helen Muscat-Drago for  
 being grandparents to Brielle, born on  
 January 15, 2020**



**Tony & Carmela Ientile for celebrating  
 their grandson's birthday Oliver  
 Simms, who turned 2 on November 8,  
 2020**



**Felisa Pulumbarit for being a  
 grandma to Elo Azariah Joaquin, who  
 celebrated her first birthday on  
 October 24, 2020**



Zenaida Tare with her son & granddaughter named Hollie, born on September 22, 2020



**Birthday Celebrations**



We extend **Happy Birthday** greetings to the following SCMS members, who celebrated their birthdays in the month of:

**January**

Aggie Gomez – Jan 12  
Norma Rozal – Jan 14  
Carmela Ientile – Jan 31

**February**

Edie Di Pede – Feb 1  
Adrian Muscat Drago – Feb 6  
Emilia Mrick – Feb 12

**March**

Lydia Rivera – Mar 27  
Kay Booker – Mar 31

**April**

Paul Di Pietro – Apr 5

**May**

Louisa Wu – May 4  
Nattie Aquino – May 10  
Evelyn Manalo – May 20  
Francine M. Wheatley – May 23  
Fr. Edwin Gonzalves – May 24  
Zenaida Tare – May 25

**June**

Maxie Palcong – June 8  
Felisa Pulumbarit – June 22

**July**

Ed Samson – July 8  
Teresita Largo – July 11  
Marissa Tan – July 12  
Maria Luz Manalo – July 29

**August**

Wilfred Gomez – Aug 04  
Lorenzo Marquez – Aug 10  
Gloria Wilson – Aug 10  
Philomena Menezes – Aug 13  
Tony Ientile – Aug 28

**September**

Gino Di Pede – Sept 1  
Bernard Alvarez – Sept 10  
Doree De Leon – Sept 11  
Robert Bentley – Sept 12  
Angelina Ruedas – Sept 29  
Sophie Manalo – Sept 30

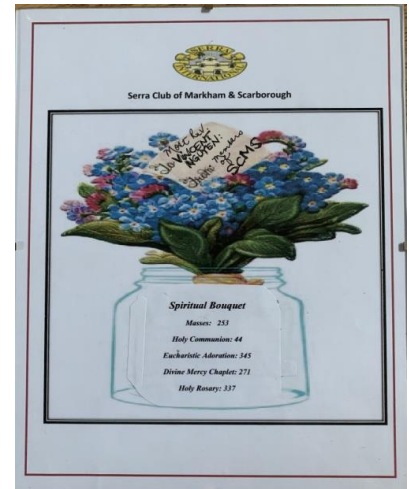
**October**

Catherine Von Zuben – Oct 3  
Fr. Xavier De Pinto – Oct 6  
Classina Lewis – Oct 6  
Dennis Wahking – Oct 10  
Terence Menezes – Oct 10  
Eardley Adams – Oct 12  
Fran Pulumbarit – Oct 15  
Judith Niles – Oct 15

**November**

Remiel Rozal – Nov 15  
Patria Quisao – Nov 15  
Nenita Mackenzie – Nov 16  
Peter Hospedales – Nov 18  
Virginia Tigas – Nov 28

**Spiritual Bouquet  
presented to Bishop  
Nguyen on July 2, 2020**



**For Healing & Speedy  
Recovery:**

**Let's Pray**

Anthony D'Souza  
Norma Rozal  
Walter Mendez  
Peter Hospedales  
Remiel Rozal



**Let's Pray**

**For Deceased members,  
friends and families of  
SCMS:**

**Michael De Pinto,  
(Died on March 2, 2020)  
Father of Rev. Xavier De  
Pinto**

**Frank Macapagal,**  
(Died on July 17, 2020)  
Brother of Candy & Lito  
Martin

**Luis Manuel Calleja, Sr.,**  
(Died on Sept 12, 2020)  
Father of Rev. Luis Calleja

**Rocco Saullo,**  
(Died on Sept 20, 2020)  
Nephew of Mario Biscardi

**Carmen M. Smith,**  
(Died on Oct. 5, 2020)  
Sister of Candy & Lito  
Martin

## Your 2019 -2020 SCMS Executive Members

President: Dennis Wahking  
President Elect – Ed Samson  
VP Programs: Aggie Gomez  
VP Vocations: Sophie Manalo  
VP Memberships: Felisa (Baby)  
Pulumbarit  
& Evelyn Manalo

VP Communications: Philomena  
Menezes

Treasurer: Marissa Tan  
Asst. Treasurer: Maria Luz Manalo  
Secretary: Doree De Leon  
Trustee: Maria Luz Manalo  
Trustee: Felisa Pulumbarit  
Trustee: Fran Pulumbarit

Immediate Past President: Evelyn  
Manalo

Chaplain: Rev. Xavier de Pinto,  
Pastor, Precious Blood Parish

### Committee Chairs:

Altar Server Award Coordinator:  
Maria Luz Manalo

Travelling Chalice Program:  
Felisa Pulumbarit – Chair  
St. Patrick's – Felisa Pulumbarit  
Precious Blood – Nattie Aquino/  
Francine McIntyre Wheatley  
St. Barnabas – Classina Lewis  
St. Aidan – Aggie/Wilfred Gomez  
Blessed Trinity Parish – Manalo  
Sisters

Blessed Frederick Ozanam – Eardley  
Adams & Tony Ientile

## Milestone/Scheduled Events in 2020

1. March 3, 2020 – Ordinandi Youth Event was cancelled
2. March 21-22, 2020 – Scheduled Launch of Travelling Vocation Chalice at Blessed Trinity Parish was cancelled due to the pandemic
3. March 14, 2020 – SCMS Lenten Retreat at St. Patrick's Parish in Markham was cancelled
4. March 19, 2020 – Pope Francis urged Catholics to unite spiritually to pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary simultaneously with the prayer of the Feast of St. Joseph
5. May 1, 2020 – Eucharistic Celebration of the Consecration of the Archdiocese of Toronto to the Blessed Virgin Mary by Cardinal Collins
6. May 1, 2020 – SCMS sent 28 Serra Ordination Anniversary Cards, assigned by SFC to all priests in the Archdiocese of Toronto
7. May 14, 2020 – 25<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary of our Chaplain, Rev. Xavier De Pinto
8. May 12, 2020 – June 2020 Serra International Convention to be held in New Orleans, LA was cancelled
9. May 30, 2020 – Altar Servers visit sponsored by GTA Serra clubs to St. Augustine Seminary was postponed for May 2021

10. July 1, 2020 – Feast of St. Junipero Serra
11. August 28, 2020 – Daily TV Mass at Loretto Abbey sponsored by Serra Canada Foundation & SI Serra Canada Council
12. October 1, 2020 – Redemptoris Mater Annual fundraising event re-scheduled for May 21, 2021



## Upcoming Events

Date: Saturday, 12 December  
2020

10:00am – 12:00 noon  
SCMS General Meeting  
Via Zoom Meeting

Date: Saturday, 9 January  
2021

10:00 am – 12 noon  
SCMS General Meeting  
Via Zoom Meeting

Date: Saturday, 6 February  
2021

10:00 am – 12 noon  
SCMS General Meeting  
Via Zoom Meeting