



# The Serran Tribune

(Newsletter of Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough)

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018 & 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019  
Volume 1, Issue 1

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Email your articles, ideas and feedback to the editor:  
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## 33rd Annual Bishop's Altar Server Awards – Eastern Region



sponsored by the  
Serra Clubs in the GIA

Congratulations to all the Altar Server Awardees from the Eastern Region who received the Bishop's Medal for Service from the hands of the Most Reverend Bishop Vincent Nguyen, Auxiliary Bishop – Eastern Pastoral Region of the Archdiocese of Toronto. The ceremony was held at St. Leo the Great Parish in Brooklyn, on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Scarborough Region has seventy five awardees represented by 15 parishes. The altar servers were chosen and nominated by their respective parishes for their excellent understanding and appreciation of their responsibilities at the Altar. They are faithful in their altar duties, providing leadership to new servers. It was indeed a very well organized event, with the presence of the Knights of Columbus and Pastors from different parishes, the Eucharistic Celebration was very solemn. Our sincerest gratitude goes to Rev. Charles Forget, Pastor, Choir and the CWL parish of St. Leo the Great Parish for their generous support in making the 2018 Altar Server Awards ceremony and reception a success. Thanks!



Most Reverend Bishop Vincent Nguyen



2018 Altar Server Awardees from St. Maria Goretti Parish with Bishop Nguyen, Fr. Edwin Galea & Fr. Ryan Alemao, Homilist.



New Altar Server Medals laid out for awarding ceremony. Bishop Nguyen blessed them first before distribution.



Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough members attending the 2018 Altar Server Award Ceremony at St. Leo The Great parish.

# Trust in God

(By Aggie Gomez)



Can't believe it will be 30 years in Canada – come September 2019!

Wilfred and I loved the 4 seasons. We always admired Christmas cards showing carolers walking in the snow, red robins perched on snowy birdfeeders, snowman with button on his nose – lovely cards.

So, with our eldest daughter Marcia who was five years old at that time we landed in Canada – *the true north strong and free!* A couple of years later we were blessed with our second daughter Judith. We had no family members to sponsor us to emigrate or assist with childcare for both daughters. We trusted in God and we worked our plans. As the saying goes *“trust in God, do your part and God does HIS”!*

An important task we did after arriving in Canada was to search for a Catholic Church in the area we rented at that time – it was St. Dunstan Church. We completed the census form and volunteered in the ShareLife campaign and got to know many parishioners. After 6 months we bought a townhouse which was walking distance to St. Aidan Church; we made St. Aidan our parish and helped in the building of the church, following in the footsteps of my late father, Anthony. With four other Catholic men they were instrumental in building St. Jude Church in Malaysia in 1957 – the only church named after that saint in Malaysia whose feast day is October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Here at St. Aidan church, together with Wilfred, we involved ourselves in the church's ministries just like we did in Malaysia; two additional organizations for us here in Canada are the Knights of

Columbus, and the Serra Club of Markham-Scarborough.

Parishioners and Serrans have become our extended family. Over the years, our daughters Marcia and Judith married and our family has grown. We are, indeed, blessed with two wonderful sons-in-law, Larry and Alex; we are grandparents to two grandsons (Charles and Julian) and twin granddaughters (Jane and Theresa) – the love of our lives!

Like most immigrants we encountered several difficulties, however, trusting in God we were able to bear our dark moments. There were times when we saw *one set of footprints* along our way and we are certain God carried us through our struggles and trials. We continue to trust in HIM and Our Blessed Mother Mary in all that we do and in all that we are – the faith of our parents and our ancestors!

**Below is a quote from Proverbs 3:5 ...**

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*

## 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!

**January 3, 2019** - Our meeting was another one of those unforgettable meetings. Our guest speaker was **Fr. Martin Kadamattu Antony, CSJ, Associate Pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Scarborough.** He was one of the graduates of Enculturation Program of the Archdiocese of Toronto, wherein they undergo training on integrating with Canadian culture. He spoke about his life and shared his call to priestly vocation.



**Rev. Fr. Martin K. Antony, CSJ**

*Birthday celebrants for the month of*



*January:*

*Norma Rozal, Carmela Ientile & Aggie Gomez*

**February 2, 2019** – **Fr. Terry Gallagher, retired priest of Scarborough Foreign Mission** was our guest speaker. It is interesting to note that Fr. Terry was the officiating priest when one of our members (i.e. Doree De Leon) got married in 1985. He gave us a few anecdotes about his life as an Irish descent youth growing up and about his priesthood. He even sang to all the Serrans, who were mostly entertained and pleased with his talk. Because of his wisdom and profound life experience, all members agreed to invite him for our June meeting as special guest speaker.



**Rev. Fr. Terry Gallagher, SFM**

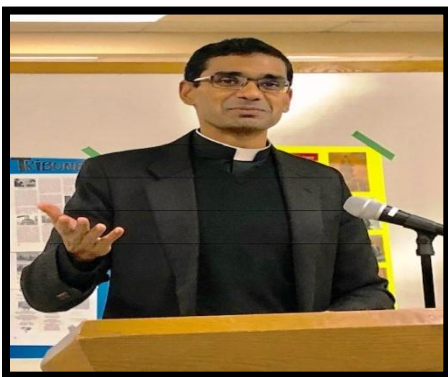
*Birthday celebrants for the month of*



*February:*

*Emilia Mrick, Adrian Muscatt-Drago*

**March 2, 2019** – This meeting was very significant as our guest speaker is very familiar to our club. Firstly, when Fr. Ryan was a seminarian at St. Augustine Seminary (SAS) in 2013, our members have had the chance to meet him when they visited SAS. One of our club initiatives was to bring Altar Server awardees to meet the Seminarians & also to deliver "Welcome Kit" to each 1st Year Seminarians. So when **Fr. Ryan Alemão** who is **Associate Pastor of Blessed Trinity Parish** was introduced by Evelyn Manalo, it felt like we know him very well. Rev. Ryan Alemão was born in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, the third of four children of expatriate Indian parents. An altar server from a young age, he admired the many priests – missionary and diocesan – who ministered at the local cathedral. Although the seed of a vocation to the priesthood was planted at that time, it lay dormant for many years. After the Alemão family immigrated to Canada in 2001, Ryan completed high school and then a B.Sc. in Plant Molecular Biology from the University of Toronto (St. George). At university, he served for two years as a Student Campus Minister at the Newman Centre. The pastor at the time, a former vocation director, invited him to seriously consider the priesthood. The seed began to take root and, after working for two years, Ryan entered Serra House in 2009 and obtained a philosophy degree from St. Philip's Seminary. His priesthood ordination was held in May 13, 2017 at St. Michael's Cathedral along with his brother, Rev. Favin Alemão.



Rev. Fr. Ryan Alemão



## St. Junipero Serra relic venerated at Precious Blood Parish – Nov 3, 2018

A special mass was held at Precious Blood Parish on November 3 to venerate the St. Junipero Serra relic. This relic is a bone fragment of Saint Junipero Serra, housed in a special reliquary and passed down from Serra International president to president. It was also venerated during the weekend masses at Precious Blood Parish Community. When a rosary or cloth touches the relic, it becomes a second class relic as the St. Junipero Serra relic is a first class relic.



## USA RALLY & PILGRIMAGE in VENTURA, CALIFORNIA January 16 - 24, 2019 *(By Felisa Pulumbarit)*

The US Rally was held in Ventura California on **January 16 - 20, 2019** attended by **13 Serrans** led by Serra International President **Mario**

**Biscardi**. The different Clubs represented are **Toronto Central, Toronto West, Markham Scarborough and Halton**.

It was a very successful Rally with our **Episcopal Adviser Cardinal Thomas Collins** as keynote Speaker along with other well-known speakers: Bishops, Sisters, Vocation Director, etc.

The Pilgrimage to the 7 out of 21 Missions was enjoyed by everyone as we learned from the detailed explanations of the Tour guide from Canterbury Pilgrimages how St Junipero Serra fought for the causes of the Natives. The Spiritual Director of the Pilgrimage is Fr Jim Heyd, from the Archdiocese of Chicago. He is a 1985 graduate of Notre Dame with a major in History. Fr Jim has travelled throughout Mallorca, Mexico and California to learn and understand Fray Junipero Serra. Fr Jim sees him as one of the pivotal mission disciples of the Evangelization of the Americas, a staunch defender of human dignity and a learned and saintly man. Currently, Fr Jim is studying the role of pilgrimage in the spiritual and cultural development of western civilization.

Following the Serra US Rally, our journey on Jan 20 started at the **MISSION SANTA BARBARA** known as the Queen of the Missions. We also enjoyed the lovely city of Santa Barbara before we proceeded to the **MISSION SANTA INES** where we had a drive by photo opportunity. The following day we visited the **MISSION SAN LUIS OBISPO** where Fr Jim celebrated Mass. We were met by James Kelty, director of the movie St Junipero Serra - **EVER FORWARD, NEVER BACK**.

January 22 we visited the **MISSION SAN CARLOS BORROMEIO del rio CARMELO**, where St Junipero Serra is entombed beneath the Sanctuary of this mission church. We viewed his tomb as well as that of his fellow missionaries. Then we continued on to the Parish of St Joseph where the **MISSION of SAN JOSE** is. The following day January 23 we participated in the Mass at the **MISSION SAN FRANCISCO de ASIS** which is the home of the " National Shrine Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes ". We continued across the Golden Gate Bridge into the Sonoma Wine Region

and Marin Country area where the last of the originally established California Missions - the **MISSION SAN FRANCISCO SOLANO**. On Thursday January 24 2019, we bid farewell to our fellow pilgrims with a renewed sense of Pilgrimage and an invigorated love of our Catholic faith as we board our plane for the return flight home.

Below is the link to Cardinal Collins, Episcopal Advisor to Serra International, speech about the 4 key spiritual attributes of St. Junipero Serra that Serrans should take as guidance.

Cardinal Thomas Collins

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fe8Z-Oh88MDnYxx\\_JlGLeRTRJv48K50](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fe8Z-Oh88MDnYxx_JlGLeRTRJv48K50)



Serra Rally pilgrims in California



Felisa Pulumbarit at the mission church



St. Junipero Serra grave at Carmel Mission Basilica



We would like to pray and remember our deceased family members who recently died and are now reunited with our Risen Lord.

*Dan McNeil, Almaren Manalo, Cleofas Manalo Jr., Armando Gamboa, Richard Sequeira, Mary Ann Farrel, Josefina Lozada, Pedro Lozada, Christian Angelo Tagulao, & Elena Aclan.*

*A Prayer for those who have died:*

God of all consolation,  
In your unending love and mercy for us  
You turn the darkness of death  
Into the dawn of new Life.  
Show compassion to your people in their sorrow.  
Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

By dying for us, conquered death  
And by rising again, restored life.  
May we then go forward eagerly to meet him,

Be reunited with our brothers and sisters  
Where every tear will be wiped away.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord  
R. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace, Amen.

## Membership Corner

As per our SI President, Mario Biscardi, his mantra is as follows: Membership in Serra is e-v-e-r-y-b-o-d-y'-s business!!

*Serra's Membership Drive for 2018 – 2019:*

- *Every Serran to recruit 1 new Serran in 2018 and again in 2019*
- *Every Serra District to charter 1 new Serra Club in 2018 and again in 2019*

Yes, our club has increased its membership by **10 new members** from the period October 2018 to March 2019. Aside from this, we have 3 potential members who are currently discerning to be a Serran. What an accomplishment!! SCMS has 45 members and 5 associates to date.



*To our new members, welcome to the Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough!*

**Congratulations!**

*Paul Natale, Maxie Palcong, Virginia Tigas, Pat Quisao, Lydia Rivera, Terence Menezes, Terry Largo, Bernard Alvares, Edith DiPede & Gino DiPede*



**Front:** Lydia Rivera, Maxie Palcong, Terry Largo, Pat Quisao & Virginia Tigas  
**Back:** Dennis Wahking, Archbishop Larry, Rev. Xavier De Pinto

The following article was extracted from "The Serran magazine" Vol. 65 No.2 of Serra International

**Maria Luz's favorite membership practices**



**Maria-Luz Manalo, Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough, Canada Council Treasurer**

**Be a role model to your current members.** To be a credible member, one must demonstrate commitment to the club. Have complete attendance, actively participate in club activities, be friendly and encourage members to have a role in club events.

**Communicate and listen well.** Talk to people in the parish community explaining what Serra is all about. Regularly follow up with members on how they are doing, and what challenges they face. Our club has assigned telephone callers to call members to attend the meeting, in addition to sending emails to them.

**Make use of existing resources for membership management.** Provide handouts and materials related to the club. Make sure members sign up for

Serra International newsletters and the membership portal. Update the new and existing members of the club initiatives. Assign a buddy for a new member.

**Maria-Luz's TOP TIP:**

**Don't make your club exclusive; make it inclusive.** Be open-minded. We are all children of God, with different talents to share.

**2019 Ordinandi Dinner – A Perspective (By Philomena Menezes)**

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Ordinandi Dinner was held on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Pearson Convention Centre in Brampton. The celebration was an incredible event with over 1640 attendees who were there to show their support to the young men who will be ordained this year in May 2019. The volunteer committee work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that everything runs smoothly on that day.

This event is spearheaded by the Serra Club. The Archdiocese of Toronto has 6 Serra Clubs which are spread over the GTA. The new Pastoral plan for the Archdiocese emphasizes 5 pillars and Cardinal Collins states that promoting and supporting a culture of vocations is one of the main pillars. There are 2 parts to this event – the morning Youth session and the evening formal dinner.

The morning Ordinandi Youth Event is held specifically for Catholic High School students in collaboration with the 6 Catholic District School Boards and some independent Catholic Schools. This was the 6<sup>th</sup> year where nearly 800 students were chosen by their school Chaplains to experience this event. The value of this event is that it does not focus on recruiting to be future Priests and Religious. Rather it celebrates the various ways to serve in the Church and helps to create an environment where vocation discernment is encouraged and nurtured. The energy and enthusiasm in

the room is tremendous and all who volunteer feel rejuvenated. The evening dinner event has two highlights. The first is listening to the stories of the vocation journey that helps these young men with their discernment. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is the presentation of the Spiritual Bouquet collected by the Catholic Women's League (CWL) councils. These numbers have been steadily rising and this year we had close to two and a half million prayers. The President of the Toronto Diocese CWL, presents each Ordinandi with a certificate stating the final number.

It was an honour for me to serve on the Ordinandi committee again this year as the CWL liaison – helping to co-ordinate with the sale of 200 dinner tickets and the compiling of the Spiritual bouquet. Let us heed Pope Francis' call to pray for vocations as only prayer can ignite the flame of discernment and only prayer can help to bear fruit. St. Junipero Serra prays for us.



**The 2019 Ordinandis with Moira McQueen, SI Serra Canada Council President**



**The 2019 Ordinandis with Cardinal Thomas Collins, Bishop Boissonneau & Bishop Nguyen & Moira McQueen**

# Your 2019 -2020 SCMS Executive Members

**President: Dennis Wahking**  
**President Elect: Ed Samson**  
**Acting VP Programs: Evelyn Manalo**  
**VP Vocations: Sophie Manalo**  
**VP Memberships: Evelyn Manalo (Scarborough) & Felisa Pulumbarit (for Markham area)**  
**VP Communications: Louisa Wu**  
**Treasurer: Marissa Tan**  
**Asst. Treasurer: Maria Luz Manalo**  
**Secretary: Doree De Leon**  
**Asst. Secretary: Janet Kasiban**  
**Immediate Past Pres. – Evelyn Manalo**

**Board Members:**  
**Trustee: Fran Pulumbarit**  
**Trustee: Maria Luz Manalo**  
**Trustee: Felisa Pulumbarit**

**Chaplain: Rev. Xavier De Pinto, Pastor Precious Blood Parish**



**President Dennis Wahking,  
Immediate Past President – Evelyn Manalo**



**President Dennis Wahking, Immediate Past President - Evelyn Manalo & President Elect - Ed Samson**



**VP Membership - Felisa Pulumbarit, VP Communications - Louisa Wu, & VP Vocations - Sophie Manalo**



**Secretary - Doree De Leon,  
Assistant Secretary - Janet Kasiban,  
Treasurer- Marissa Tan & Assistant Treasurer- Maria Luz Manalo**

## Upcoming Events

**Date: 8 May 2019, Wednesday**  
**General Meeting 7:30 pm**  
**Guest Speaker: Rev. Edwin Galea, Pastor, St. Maria Goretti Parish**

**Date: 1 June 2019, Saturday**  
**General Meeting 9:30 am**  
**Guest Speaker: Rev. Terry Gallagher, SFM Retired Priest**

**Date: 19-23 June 2019**  
**Serra's 77<sup>th</sup> International Convention to be held in Mexico City, Mexico**

**Date: Oct 19, 2019 Saturday**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Bishop's Altar Server Awards Ceremony 10:00 am**  
**St. Joseph Highland Creek Scarborough, Ontario**

**Date: Nov 22 -24 2019**  
**Ontario District Fall Conference**  
**Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls,**

**Monthly Meetings are usually held every first Saturdays of the month following 9:00 am mass at Precious Blood Parish**

**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.

**Fr. Junipero Serra was canonized on September 23, 2015 by Pope Francis. St. Junipero Serra, pray for us!**