



The Serran Tribune

(Newsletter of Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough)

10th Year Anniversary Issue

2nd & 3rd Quarter 2019

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Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough

Email your articles, ideas and feedback to the editor:

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All about the 77th Serra International Convention in Mexico City, Mexico June 19 to 23, 2019



It was indeed a lovely and spiritually fulfilling experience that all Serrans from our Club had experienced. Initially, there were five (5) members from our club who joined the pilgrimage to Mexico City before the convention. As you know, Mexico City is one of the world's largest cities, and the most populous one in North America. It offers a wide variety of attractions, activities and experiences for all visitors to its vast expanse, with great ethnic, architectural, topographical and ecological diversity. It also presents a glimpse of the long and rich history of the Mexican capital, from pre-Hispanic times and the colonial era to contemporary life in a city that never ceases to surprise.

Our visit & Eucharistic celebration at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, just over 5 miles away from the Hilton Hotel, was the special highlight of the convention. As usual, our Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough was fully represented at the Convention. There were 12 members from our club who attended this convention. These were:

1. Aggie Gomes
2. Wilfred Gomes
3. Maria Luz Manalo
4. Evelyn Manalo
5. Sophie Manalo
6. Felisa (Baby) Pulumbarit
7. Fran Pulumbarit
8. Lydia Rivera
9. Marissa Tan
10. Zenaida Tare
11. Virginia Tigas
12. Dennis Waking

See below picture taken with all SCMS delegation at the convention with Serra International President, Mario Biscardi and his wife, Luisa Biscardi.





We enjoyed the Mass celebration at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, where we saw firsthand the image of the Virgin left on St. Juan Diego's cloak nearly 500 years ago.



Maria Luz Manalo beside the image of the Our Lady of Guadalupe, outside the Basilica, near the candle offering area.



Statue of St. Junipero Serra located at the grounds of Our Lady of Guadalupe gardens.



Additionally, Mexico City is home to over 100 art galleries, dozens of theatres and concert halls, and more than 150 museums -- the largest metropolitan concentration of museums in the world!



In fact, we were able to see the Folklore Mexican Dance which showcased Mexican history, and culture at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre.



Mexican delegation who hosted the 77th Serra International Convention

A Perspective from a First Time Convention Attendee - by Zenaida Tare



Zenaida Tare was so grateful to attend the 77th Serra International Convention in Mexico City. Through the convention, she was able to attend the Eucharistic celebration at Our Lady of Guadalupe Basilica. She also met a lot of Serrans from different parts of the world and enjoyed fellowship with them. Bonus to this was the fact that she got the chance to be given the best seat close to the flight captain cockpit as her return flight to Toronto got upgraded to the business class seat. Way to go, Zenaida!



Zenaida with Sophie & Virginia in front of the Basilica.

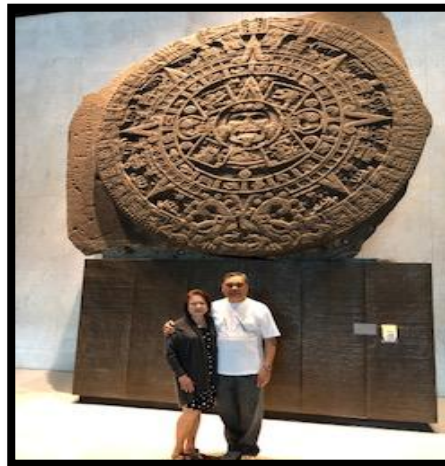
We arrived in Mexico City and met the seven Serrans from Texas who joined us for nine wonderful days full of fun, fellowship and laughter. We started at the Galleria Plaza Hotel in Mexico City at our arrival on June 11th. The following day June 12th we visited Zocalo the National Palace where we enjoyed the murals of Diego Rivera and relevant historical events. We saw the ruins of the Templo Mayor de los Azteca, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Church of Santo Domingo and other temples in the city, also visited Chapultepec forest, Las Lomas, the National Museum of Anthropology.



This day's highlight was the Basilica of Guadalupe where we saw the original image of the Virgin of Guadalupe and the mantle of the indigenous Juan Diego and the old Basilica at the foot of Tepeyac hill.



Zenaida with fellow Serrans, along with the SI President Elect Mr. Gallegos of Mexico City.



Felisa & Fran Pulumbarit

The next stop was the archaeological zone of Teotihuacan - the city of Gods, 50kms away where we can admire the impressive pyramids of the Sun and the Moon, walk down the avenue of the Dead, and view the Quetzal-Butterfly palace and the temple of the feathered serpent Quetzalcoatl. We visited also the Citadel and an obsidian workshop for demonstration.

A Perspective from a Mexico Tour Organizer - by Baby Pulumbarit

On the 3rd day was a hectic 8 hours so we were provided with lunch. We did the panoramic visit to the plaza of the 3 Cultures - the historical site where the last fight between the Aztec and Spaniards took place. The fusion of the 3 cultural epochs are 1) Aztec ruins 2) Church of Tlatelolco and 3) building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Above: Felisa (Baby) Pulumbarit

The Serra International Convention in Mexico City was highlighted by the Pilgrimage/Tour which I organized for the Serrans from Canada and the USA.



Everybody enjoyed going up the two Pyramids and we welcomed our rest at the hotel before dinner.

On our 4th day, we went northwest of Mexico City to visit Tula capital of the Toltecs where we saw the pyramidal temple dedicated to the planet Venus.



Next stop was Tepozotlan where an old convent which is now the seat of the current museum of the Viceroyalty. This convent was built by the Jesuits in the 17th century. It was a fun day and the weather was great.

eternal spring known for its warm climate. We saw the cathedral built as a Mission in 1552 and was elevated to Cathedral in 1891. We travelled through the winding roads of the Mountain range of Sierra Madre to enter the state of Guerrero and reached the colonial mining town of Taxco de Alarcon known as the city of silver. Everybody got excited going shopping of silver of every kind, jewelries, ornaments etc.



Next stop was the town of Coyoacan which is a part of Mexico City and we visited the Frida Kahlo Museum the house where the artist lived together with her husband Diego Rivera. We walked through the plaza of Plaza Hidalgo and enjoyed the market in the neighbourhood.



Felisa (Baby) & Evelyn Manalo in front of an old church.

The next day was a colorful day as we continue our trip to Xochimilco and cross its channels in a Trajinera (flat bottomed wooden boats) colorfully painted and decorated. Most of them have a name at the top of the iron frame at the front of the trajinera.



It was a long day for these events as it took us 12 hours to travel. On route to Puebla, we were delighted with the view of the Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl volcanoes always covered in snow and we learned the legend of the Sleeping Woman. Here the Puebla de Los Angeles city was erected.



The 5th day was highlighted by the Bougainvillea in Cuernavaca City or



We saw the old baroque palaces, the cathedral; and the magnificent Chapel of the Rosary with its golden altar.



Mario Biscardi & Fran Pulumbarit in front of Jesus Christ statue.

We also visited the Cholula City - the city with 366 churches. After a free day on the 8th day where everyone did their own shopping or just rested, we said goodbye to 5 members of our entourage to go back to Canada.



Group picture of the pilgrims at San Andres, Cholula

There were 17 of us who transferred to the Hilton Mexico City Reforma Hotel to join the Serra International Convention from June 20-22, 2019.

We said goodbye to our American pilgrims on June 23rd after a beautiful Convention and fellowship with everyone.

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!

April 6, 2019 meeting was presided by our President Elect, Ed Samson. Our guest speaker was introduced by Evelyn Manalo, Immediate Past President.

Rev. Gerald Mendoza shared his vocation story by starting his unusual journey of ordination on May 12, 2012, the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Fr. Gerald is the eldest of 3 children. It was in the small community of Quezon City, Philippines where he and his siblings grew up to be children with great fear and faith in God. Since then, their family Mass time was 5PM in which Portuguese and Mexican priests presided the Eucharist. And so at the very young age of ten, he joined the Knights of the Altar and had vowed to serve Jesus on the altar for as long as he lives. After his elementary graduation in 1993 he expressed his desire to enter the high school seminary, however, his parents found out that the Divine Word Minor Seminary, in Quezon City was already closed. Instead, he pursued his secondary education at the Far Eastern University in Manila, Philippines. He completed his secondary education in 1997. All throughout his high school years, he was active in church activities. At the age of seventeen, he decided to enter the St. Paul Seminary, in Cavite, Philippines where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree, Majors in Philosophy and Communication.

After finishing college, under the guidance of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, Archbishop of Manila, he studied in San Carlos Graduate School of Theology where he took Master of Arts in Theology, Major in Pastoral Theology.

Being a young seminarian in San Carlos Seminary, he had his pastoral exposures in different provinces in the Philippines. He was ordained as transitional deacon on 11 December 2008 at the Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, in Ramos, Tarlac. Three months after his ordination as a deacon, he underwent and finished the whole 4 quarters of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at the Makati Medical Centre. This equipped him to be a certified hospital chaplain. On 28 May 2009, he wrote his ordaining prelate, Bishop Cinense, about his long and secret desire to serve a diocese outside the country. During the time of waiting and intensive reflection, while serving at the Our Lady of Hope parish as deacon, he felt the special 'blue Marian mantle' protecting his vocation. While he was doing the duties of a deacon, he learned the value of patience and perseverance. By the end of the year of waiting period, he received the permission to resume his application for a diocese outside the Philippine Islands.

By the stirring of the Holy Spirit, his application for the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan was revived. By 28 March 2011, he received the Official Letter of Invitation from the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan.

He served the Diocese of Alberta for several years and is currently an associate Pastor at St. Patrick's Church in Markham, Ontario.

24th Ordination Anniversary of Rev. Xavier De Pinto

BLESSINGS on the Anniversary of your Ordination

Congratulatory!

May 8, 2019 – Rev. Edwin Galea, Pastor of St. Maria Goretti Parish, was the guest speaker at our May meeting. He shared his vocation story with passion and conviction. He was born in Rabat, Malta, on 18 June 1954, the first of five children of Paul and Mary Galea. The young family immigrated to Canada on 17 November 1957, and settled in the City of Toronto. Even at an early age, he enjoyed being an altar server. He attended elementary and secondary school in Toronto. In 1972, he graduated from St. Michael College School, and then went to New York, where he obtained a degree in Philosophy from Immaculate Conception Seminary. In 1975, he entered the Franciscan novitiate in Saskatchewan, and began Theology studies at Newman College in Edmonton Alberta in 1976. In 1977, he returned to Ontario and entered St. Augustine Seminary in Scarborough. As a seminarian, he assisted at St. Paul Basilica, Corpus Christi Church and Nativity of Our Lord Church. He was ordained a Deacon by **Bishop Leonard Wall** at St. Thomas More Church, Scarborough, on 3 May 1980, and served in St. Ambrose Parish, Etobicoke, where he was ordained to the Priesthood on 29 November 1980 by His Eminence **Gerald Emmett Cardinal Carter**.

On January 1 2007, Fr Edwin began a six month sabbatical, beginning with a course at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. On April 12, he was assigned by Archbishop Thomas Collins to be the next pastor of St. Maria Goretti Parish, Scarborough, after the current Pastor, Fr. Jan Gogolewski, had been assigned to start the next parish of the Toronto Archdiocese, at the Northwest corner of Brampton. Fr Edwin was introduced to the parishioners of St. Maria Goretti by Fr. Jan on 10 June (the Feast of Corpus Christi), and assumed his role as Pastor on 27 June.

Fr. Edwin is delighted to be serving as the spiritual shepherd of a parish that is fascinating not only for the composition of its parishioners, but also for its

interesting history, dating from its foundation in 1955.

Fr. Edwin is known by a number of parish families from previous parishes and diocesan assignments. He served on the Toronto Archdiocese Council of Priests, acting as a representative at the 1991 conference of the National Federation of Priests' Councils, held in St. John's, Newfoundland. For six years (1990-96), he served as Spiritual Advisor for the Toronto Archdiocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. In interfaith relations, he served on the Holocaust Remembrance Committee of the Christian Jewish Dialogue of Toronto (1984-99), helping to organize and host the annual Christian Service in Remembrance of the Holocaust.

Birthday celebrants for the month of:



May:
Louisa Wu, Janet Kasiban, Nattie Aquino, Evelyn Manalo, Francine Wheatley & Zenaida Tare



June 1, 2019 –Our guest speaker was Rev. Terry Gallagher, SFM. This was another one of those unforgettable meetings. Fr. Terry began his talk with song or Psalm, “Here I am Lord”. Since it was St. Justin Martyr’s Feast Day, he went around to give carnation flowers to ladies and provided insight for daily prayers for vocation. Fr. Terry mentioned about the immigrants from different parts of the world, the marginalized, and the indigenous

people. He reminded us to include them in our daily prayers. He also wanted us to give flowers to people who are broken, with no hope. He believes that we need to be inspiration of compassion in our daily lives. Think about a wife, who lost her husband or child, wounded by tragedies of life. We need to be messenger of God’s word. “Nobody knows the trouble we have seen, nobody but me”, Fr. Terry sang.

Birthday celebrants for the month of:



June:
Felisa (Baby) Pulumbarit & Maxie Palcong



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

Zenaida Tare & Paul Ma

To our returning members, welcome back to the Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough

Sonia DaCosta-Spence & Kay Booker



The following article was extracted from the Serra Connects – July to August 2013 issue when Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough won the “Father Serra Award for Promoting Vocations 2012-2013”. Maria Luz Manalo, who was President then, was interviewed by the late Serra International President Sean Yeo in 2013.

Interview with the President (Maria Luz Manalo) of Serra Club of Markham and Scarborough - Winner of the “Father Serra Award for Promoting Vocations 2012-2013”



Congratulations on winning the “Father Serra Award for Promoting Vocations 2012-2013”! Could you give us a brief background of the Serra Club of Markham and Scarborough, how it was formed, the year it was chartered, number of members, etc?

Thank you so much for your congratulatory message! It was a humbling experience for me to receive this award on behalf of our club and we share this award with all Serrans from Canada as we continue to get inspired in fostering vocations and in our spiritual growth. Our officers and members have

done a great deal in promoting vocations through the travelling vocation chalice program. The vocation chalice has touched so many families (more than 700 families to date) by inspiring these families to pray for an increase of laborers for our Church. The vocation chalice has found its way from Christ’s table to every family’s dinner table, becoming the focal point of the family’s main meal for the whole week. These families also recited the prayers from a book we provided them with to ask God to open the hearts of young men and women to listen to His call and answer it. In so doing, the chalice becomes the focal point of family prayer for vocations, and it has been well received by about a dozen parishes in Markham and Scarborough.

Last year, we expanded this initiative by organizing a vocation awareness day, known also as “Breakfast with Seminarians” together with the families involved in the vocation chalices program. The gathering was a special time of grace. We prayed for the renewal and strengthening of all vocations within the Church as we listened to the invited speakers who stimulated our minds and encouraged us to discern God’s calling. Seminarians from the Archdiocese of Toronto shared their life stories with the participants, sharing how they recognized God’s calling, how they responded to the call and their parents’ response to their decision to enter the seminary. The second half of this event was devoted to the families who took part in the travelling vocation chalices program, to whom we gave prayer cards in line with the Year of Faith. Each prayer card had the names of the pastors and associate pastors from Scarborough and Markham that families can include in their prayers.

A Brief History of the Serra Club of Markham and Scarborough

The Serra Club of Markham and Scarborough (“SCMS”) was founded and chartered in 2009 under the leadership of Felisa and Fran Pulumbarit under the guidance of Mario Biscardi, who is the current Treasurer of Serra International. The club was

chartered by His Most Reverend William Hundt on 10 December 2009 at St. Patrick’s Church in Markham. Rev. Ed Murphy, Rev. Edwin Gonsalves and Rev. Thomas Lim also concelebrated the Mass. Our club started off with 52 members. However, due to changes in residency, death, and other circumstances, we currently have only 39 active members. These active members consist of married couples, single men and women who are dedicated to the Catholic faith, and they come from various ethnic backgrounds and parishes in Scarborough. Our club has flourished since 2009 and has actively participated in Serra activities such as the Bishop’s Altar Server Awards – Eastern Pastoral Region, Annual Ordinandi Dinner, Annual Serra Canada Council conference, Annual Clergy Appreciation Night, and the Annual Serra International Convention – just to name a few. We also greatly support the Archdiocese of Toronto’s initiatives for vocations.

Serra International has launched a new initiative this year, namely, the “Blessed Junipero Serra 300th Birth Anniversary Awards”. Would your Club be implementing a new vocation promotion initiative for this year’s award?

Yes, the Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough will be implementing a new vocation program this year. We will think of new ways to promote vocations, perhaps with more vigor and passion, and it will be an initiative that will involve all members of the Club. I am very optimistic of this and will definitely share more details with you soon!

Can you tell us more about the vocation situation in Scarborough? How many seminaries are there? For example, number of seminarians, number of diocesan priests, and the activities the Club has been embarking on to promote vocations, etc.

I would say the vocation situation in Scarborough is not at the level where we would like it to be; but there’s a lot of potential. There are thriving

community parishes in Scarborough, with 22 parishes (22 pastors and 12 associate pastors) under its wing. The Seminary in Scarborough, St. Augustine's Seminary, currently has 14 seminarians. Our club continues to pray that the harvest will be plenty!

Every year, we present to each new Seminarian at St Augustine's Seminary a small gift bag of everyday useful items along with a religious book. We also express our love and support to the new seminarians as well as Serra's appreciation for answering their call to priesthood. This initiative this year was held in conjunction with a day trip of selected Altar Servers, who were accompanied by three newly-ordained priests who brought them on a tour of the Seminary. The Altar Servers got a taste of how life is like as a seminarian. Through our vocation chalice programs in Scarborough parishes, we continue to talk to young families and encourage them to take the vocation chalice home and pray for vocations. Recently, our travelling vocation chalice campaign at St. Barnabas parish saw 73 families signing up for the program. These families will take the vocation chalice home and pray for an increase of laborers for our Church. The travelling vocation chalice schedule is completely filled from 2 June to 31 December 2013 by 31 families who signed up earlier. Another 42 families have been scheduled for next year.

In line with Serra's third objective, how do you encourage holiness among your Club members?

I am a proponent of encouraging holiness amongst our club members by asking them to pray the Holy Rosary daily, be a model like Christ, and participate in the travelling vocation chalice program in their parishes where they pray for vocations within their families, so that they will be faithful servants of God in their life's journey. I also encourage our members to read the scriptures daily, for the Lord speaks to us in silence as we meditate upon the Gospel. In fact, this year during Lent, our club gave each member a Little Black Book, which contained six-

minute meditations (*lectio divina reflections*) on the Sunday Gospels. I certainly believe that God speaks to us 'live' through the sacred Word and where the Holy Spirit comes alive to us. Other than the daily prayer for vocations and active participation in Mass, I believe that each Serran has a responsibility to **"live their faith as Blessed Junipero Serra did – all in 100 percent, no holding back, with charity, endurance, passion & hope"**. This was my main takeaway from Archbishop Chaput's talk at the Serra's 71st International Convention.



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

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.

Vincent Alvares, Dr. Hernani Pulumbarit, Maxima Acosta,

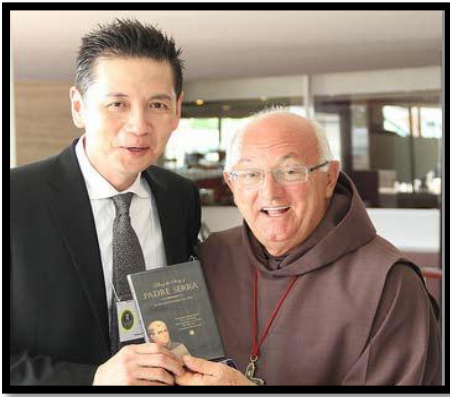
We also remember the departed souls of Friar Joe Scerbo and Sean Yeo, Past Serra International President, for their legacy of holiness and Prayerful Devotion. We were humbled to have known these Serrans, who inspired us in our work with our club. Pictures below were taken at the Serra International Convention held in Sacramento, California USA.



Shown above from left to right: Norma Rozal, Maria Luz Manalo, Evelyn Manalo, Sean Yeo and Louisa Wu



Louisa Wu & Maria Luz Manalo with Friar Joe Scerbo, Sharon Bragg, Anne Knapp & another Serran.



Friar Joe Scerbo, SA presented Sean Yeo with a DVD on Blessed Junipero Serra on July 2013 at Palma De Mallorca.

***Serra International
Canada Council Mass
sponsorship at Loretto
Abbey May 12
- by Bernard Alvares***

Celebration of the Catholic Mass daily for television and online viewing is the source of the Roman Catholic faith we share in the Sacrifice of the Mass, with the obvious advantage of reaching a larger audience especially those who are unable to venture out of their homes to witness the words of the gospel, reflect on the daily homily and worship God. Thanks to Serra, I had the occasion to recently attend a live taping of a Daily TV Mass at Loretto Abbey on April 29, 2019 for TV broadcast on May 12, 2019. The mass was celebrated by Bishop Bergie of St. Catharines to commemorate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. It was a unique opportunity to research the genesis of the TV Mass. Beginning as TV broadcast for shut-ins in 1987, it was set up as a one-year experiment by the Archdiocese of Toronto as pilot project to gauge if there was an audience for it. Launched by Msgr. Brad Massman as a Sunday Mass TV broadcast. In an age when most TV programs have failed in the fickle cyclical business of Network Television, here we are 31 years later,

with robust audiences. The Sunday Mass for a television community went nationwide in September 2018.

The National Catholic Broadcasting Council (NCBC) has taken over production as the program has moved to Loretto Abbey, where NCBC has produced the National TV mass since 2014. The move from the studio to the Abbey's beautiful chapel has been refreshing for viewers.

"The Sunday TV Mass" have also benefited from joining the online presence the NCBC has been steadily tapping into. The *Daily TV Mass* has seen substantial growth in its online audience and on its YouTube channel and Facebook pages. These platforms allow the Mass to be accessed at any time of the day anywhere in the world.

The Daily TV Mass is taped each week on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday at 4:30pm and 5:00 pm at Loretto Abbey Chapel in Toronto. If you are in the neighbourhood, please feel free to join the congregation.

***Pilgrimage to the Holy
Land and Jordan
- by Teresita Largo***

A group of 39 pilgrims from Precious Blood Church under the spiritual leadership of **Rev. Xavier de Pinto, SCMS Chaplain**, and the competent and efficient tour guide Edgar Tetelbaum made a pilgrimage this September to the Holy Land. On the first day in Nazareth where Jesus spent his boyhood, we visited the House of Mary and Joseph and the carpentry of Joseph which was across the hotel where we stayed. It looks so near but far to reach. Most of the Holy places are on the hilly part and walking on the shiny cobbled streets was exhausting. Fr. Xavier celebrated mass at the church built over the house of Jesus and Mary. The following day, we attended the Holy Hour. I felt the Holy Spirit opened my soul when I was looking face to face with Jesus in the Monstrance. It made me tremble and tears came rolling down my eyes. Day after day we walked & follow the footsteps of Jesus, the Virgin Mary and the apostles, bringing new

meaning in the scripture readings and Mass. In Capernaum, the place where Jesus lived and the center of His ministry, we saw the Synagogue where He preached and performed miracles. We had a boat ride in the sea of Galilee where Jesus told Peter to be fishers of men. We had lunch at the Restaurant that served St Peter fish which we know as tilapia. We also had Mass at Cana where Jesus performed his first miracles turning water into wine. My husband and I plus four more couples had the privilege of having our marriage vows renewed by Fr. Xavier. We went to Mt Tabor, the hottest area in Israel where the Transfiguration happened. We received the holy Eucharist at the mass celebrated by Fr. Xavier. We passed by Mount Carmel where the Carmelites order began, we visited Magdala, the birthplace of Mary Magdalene, where Jesus performed miracles. We had Mass at a boat shaped altar overlooking the sea of Galilee. We went to Jordan and stayed at the Hotel by the Dead Sea. It is the lowest point on earth. The Dead Sea has the highest concentration of salt that even bacteria don't thrive. We had mud bath and float in the sea of salt. The water is supposed to heal skin diseases like scabies. At Jordan River we had our rite of baptism renewed. This was the site where John the Baptist baptized Jesus. We also visited Petra the capital of the Nabataean Empire in the first century. The great earthquake destroyed the place and was abandoned. In 1812 a Swiss explorer rediscovered the place. Now it's a UNESCO World Heritage and one of the Seven Wonder of the New World. This is where natural, cultural archeological and geological factors merge. Petra is more than wonder because its facade was built and sculpted in the red sandstone cliffs. We still could see the fascinating structures, monuments, tombs and carvings. We also went to Bethany, Mt. of Temptations, Mt Olives, Church of Visitation, and Mt Nebo, the alleged burial site of Moses, and were visited by St. Pope John Paul II. We also went to the place where Jesus shared his last meal with the apostles. At their Museum, we saw the Dead Sea Scroll. We went to Bethlehem where Jesus was born on the manger, and also the place

where the angel announced to the shepherd the birth of Christ. Finally, we followed the last footsteps of Jesus as He walked the Via Dolorosa to His death on Calvary and to the site of the Holy Sepulchre. We had Mass and venerate the tomb.

The last day we attended the special ceremony with the bishop of Jerusalem who awarded two of our fellow pilgrims the Knight of the Holy Sepulchre with the Pilgrim Shell. We learned that only three percent of the remaining Christians are present in Jordan because they left the country due to difficult life and being persecuted by the Muslims. We must pray for them. On the 12th day we returned to Canada with memories that will last for a lifetime.

The Travelling Vocation Chalice at Precious Blood Parish Community
by Francine M. Wheatley

My involvement as Coordinator of the Travelling Chalice took place by a chance meeting on October 02, 2016 with Maria Luz Manalo (a fellow Serran) and our parish priest, Rev. Xavier De Pinto, after the 12 noon mass.

The travelling vocation chalice program is in place at Precious Blood Parish and offered to families only at the 10:00 A.M. mass to pray for vocation and religious life. The Coordinator for this was Nattie Aquino, another Serran. Fr. Xavier wanted the chalice to also be given to the families who attend the 12 Noon Mass. So right there on the spot I was appointed as a coordinator for the travelling vocation chalice for the 12 Noon Mass. Looking back to the first family I had booked on October 09, 2016 to receive the chalice, I can confidently say it had been both a rewarding and a fulfilling service to the Lord.

Parishioners interested in receiving the Vocation Chalice are contacted by phone. Each family displays the Chalice in their home for a week. The families love receiving the Chalice to take home and pray the Novena prayers and the Rosary for vocations to the priesthood. I have the pleasure to speak to and get to know so many families in our parish on a personal level. Some of the mothers of our altar boys are also praying for their own children to be inspired and called to join the Seminary.

I feel blessed that the Lord is using me and all the other Serrans who are volunteering to coordinate the Travelling Chalice at the different parishes to reach out to families to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. We will need more priests to ensure that our grand-kids and great grand-kids will have the sacraments available to them.

Luke 10:2 The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Let us continue to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more labourers into His harvest.

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



Upcoming Events

Date: Oct 19, 2019 Saturday
34th 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,

Date: Dec 7, 2019, Saturday
SCMS 10th Anniversary Gala Night at 6:30 pm
Shangri-la Banquet Hall
50 Esna Park Dr, Markham

Monthly Meetings are usually held every first Saturdays of the month following 9:30 am mass at Precious Blood Parish, 1737 Lawrence Ave East Scarborough, Ontario.

2019 -2020 SCMS Executive Members

President: Dennis Wahking
President Elect: Ed Samson
VP Programs: P. Menezes
VP Vocations: Sophie Manalo
VP Memberships: Evelyn Manalo & Felisa Pulumbarit
VP Communications: Louisa Wu
Treasurer: Marissa Tan
Asst. Treasurer: M. 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

SCMS Activities through the Years 2009 to 2019



SERRA CLUB OF MARKHAM & SCARBOROUGH

HOSTED BY SERRA CLUB OF MARKHAM & SCARBOROUGH
Serra Fall Conference
At Mt. Carmel
Nov 12-14, 2010



**1st Anniversary Celebration, St. Patrick's Parish – Markham
December 9, 2010**

In appreciation of their faithful service to the Catholic Church and to their religious congregation, the following were recipients of first anniversary celebration of Serra Club of Markham & Scarborough awardees:

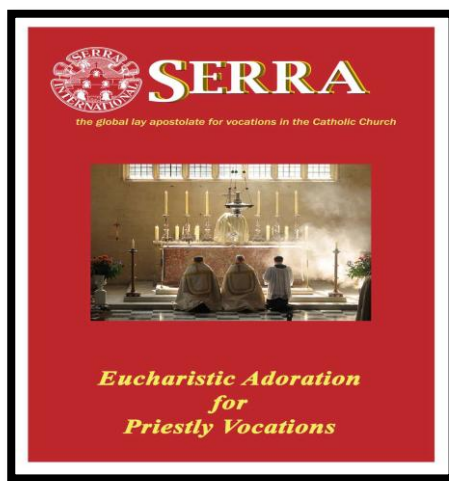
- Sr. MAUREEN BALDWIN, CND
- Sr. CATHERINE MARIE ROSS, SISTERS OF LIFE
- Sr. JOHN MARY, SISTERS OF LIFE
- Sr. CLARA CASTANEDA, FMM
- Sr. ANNA CASTANEDA, FMM



SERRA CLUB OF MARKHAM & SCARBOROUGH

26th Bishop's Altar Server
Awards Ceremony
Eastern Region – Scarborough
Held at St. Rose of Lima Parish
October 15, 2011

**SCMS Eucharistic Adoration
for Priestly Vocation at St. Barnabas Parish – Serra
Monstrance – August 2, 2013
(200 parishioners joined the
Eucharistic prayer adoration)**



26th Bishop's Altar Server Awards Ceremony at St. Rose of Lima on October 15, 2011



SERRA'S 71st INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION PALMA DE MALLORCA SPAIN 20 to 24 JUNE 2013



Ordinandi Dinner - March 5, 2013



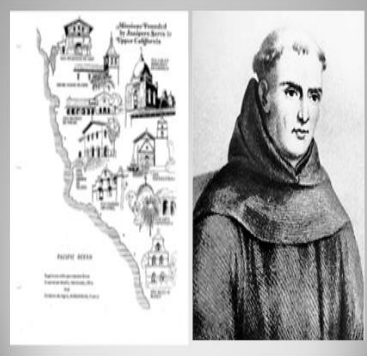
Our Guest Speakers in action - at our Monthly Meetings



SERRA'S 71st INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION PALMA DE MALLORCA SPAIN 20 to 24 JUNE 2013



SERRA'S 71st INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION PALMA DE MALLORCA SPAIN 20 to 24 JUNE 2013



Serra Annual Picnic at Sagrada Familia Retreat Centre in Orangeville, Ontario - August 17, 2013



Tour of St. Augustine Seminary with Selected Altar Servers Awardees - January 19, 2013



A beautiful vocation prayer from St. Pope John Paul's private prayers book (1987) - Consider the call

Lord Jesus, just as you called the first disciples to make them fishers of men, so may you continue to make your sweet call heard today, "Come follow me".

Give young men & women the grace to respond readily to your voice.

Sustain our bishops, priest & consecrated people in their Apostolic labours. Let our seminarians persevere, along with all who are achieving the ideal of a life totally devoted to your service.

Reawaken in our communities the missionary commitment. Lord, send labourers into your harvest and do not let mankind go astray because there are not enough pastors, missionaries and others vowed to the cause of the Gospel.

Mary, Mother of the Church, model for every vocation, help us to answer "YES" to the Lord who calls us to collaborate in the divine plan of salvation. Amen