



Saint Croix Valley Serra Club

October 2009

Events for Saint Croix Valley Serra

Saturday, Oct. 3: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Jude's. Speaker - Mgrs. Matthew Odong

Thursday, Oct. 15: 6:30 p.m. Tinucci's – No speaker -Club planning meeting

Saturday, Nov. 7: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Jude's. Speaker – Brother Pio FBP

Saturday, Nov. 7 or 14: Possible Dates for Annual Seminar Buffet Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 19: Tinucci's – Speaker: District Governor John Litchy

Friday – Sunday, Nov. 20-22: District Retreat at Christ the King Retreat House in Buffalo

Club Officers:

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President's Message

Greetings every one! I would like to try something new to help everyone with a computer to have a new way to find stuff. I have created an account on live.com that helps me share files with you. The three files I would like to share are:

1. A fifteen month planning calendar
2. A list of active members
3. Sun Shine Hospitality list for Saturday meetings

The fifteen month planning calendar would have the speakers for our meetings and a list of events as we hear about them. So if you lose the newsletter you can still find it online. From there I would like to put all our newsletters up to share. I would like to thank everyone who showed up in Stillwater Saturday and Sunday for God's Right Hand Fair.

At our October 15, I would like to have a business meeting to see where we are going with our future plans.

Dave Nagan

Please pray for Sister Rosemarie Cramble and Sister Antoinette Kassa who live in Regina Nursing Center in Hastings.

Report from the S. I. Convention – Omaha, NE, Aug. 27-31, 2009, by David Dries Serra Around the World:

Below are some statistics presented in the review of Serra activity around the globe:

- The United States has the largest Serra presence with greater than 150 clubs for approximately 200 dioceses. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the dioceses in the United States have a Serra presence. Preparation moves forward for Priesthood Sunday in October. The *College Connection* program linking graduating high school students with parishes or Newman Centers on their prospective college campuses is receiving significant attention.
- Canada briefly reported three new Serra clubs.
- After reorganization, Mexico and Central America report a 60% growth in Serra membership. The largest seminary in the world is Guadalajara, Mexico with greater than 1000 seminarians.
- Africa now has approximately 20 clubs. More than one-half of these are new clubs. There are many vocations to the priesthood in Africa but facilities are scarce.
- A report from Australia reports strong seminary numbers and commends Cardinal Pell for strong leadership.
- Among Italian reports, Italy notes 82 Serra clubs concentrated largely in the south.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Parish Priests During the Year for Priests

Lord, God, thank you for these men. We know they do not seek or desire recognition for the Priesthood you have chosen them for, yet it is to You, Lord, we wish to give thanks for calling them to guide and nourish our Parish during the years of our existence. We ask You to bless them, wherever they are now, for providing the Eucharist for us – our spiritual sustenance -- and for proclaiming “The Good News” with conviction and enthusiasm at our Church.

Grant them the joy experienced on their Ordination Day all the days of their lives and look kindly upon them as they strive to do Your will. Bless them abundantly, care for them tenderly and above all, let them feel the love and appreciation we have for them. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from Norma Swanson’s prayer for Priests (Thanks, Norma)

From our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI

THE ROLE OF PRIESTS IS IRREPLACEABLE

VATICAN CITY, 17 SEP 2009 (VIS) - This morning in Castel Gandolfo the Holy Father received a group of prelates from the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (Northeast 2), who have just completed their "ad limina" visit.

Highlighting the functions of the various members of the Church, the Pope explained how "the particular identity of priests and laity must be seen in the light of the essential difference between priestly ministry and the 'common priesthood'. Hence it is important to avoid the secularization of clergy and the 'clericalisation' of the laity".

"In this perspective", he went on, "the lay faithful must undertake to give expression in real life - also through political commitment - to the Christian view of anthropology and the social doctrine of the Church. While priests must distance themselves from politics in order to favour the unity and communion of all the faithful, thus becoming a point of reference for everyone".

Benedict XVI indicated that "the lack of priests does not justify a more active and abundant participation of the laity. The truth is that the greater the faithful's awareness of their own responsibilities within the Church, the clearer becomes the specific identity and inimitable role of the priest as pastor of the entire community, witness to the authenticity of the faith, and dispenser of the mysteries of salvation in the name of Christ the Head".

"The function of the clergy is essential and irreplaceable in announcing the Word and celebrating the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. ... For this reason it is vital to ask the Lord to send workers for His harvest; and it is necessary that priests express joy in their faithfulness to their identity".

The Pope made it clear that "the shortage of priests must not come to be considered as a normal or typical state of affairs for the future". In this context he encouraged the prelates "to combine efforts to encourage new priestly vocations and find the pastors your dioceses need, helping one another so that all of you have better-trained and more numerous priests to support the life of faith and the apostolic mission".

Referring then to the 150th anniversary of the death of the "Cure of Ars", which the Church is currently commemorating with the Year for Priests, Benedict XVI indicated that St. John Mary Vianney "continues even now to be a model for priests, especially in living a life of celibacy as a requirement for the total giving of self, expressed through that pastoral charity which Vatican Council II presents as the unifying centre of a priest's being and actions".

The Holy Father concluded by assuring the prelates of the existence of "many signs of hope for the future of particular Churches, a future that God is preparing through the dedication and the faithfulness with which you exercise your episcopal ministry".

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