

Vocare

Toronto West Serra Club Newsletter

August 2016 - 1

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The Toronto West Club Is Hosting the 2016 **SERRA DISTRICT FALL CONFERENCE**

The organizing Committee has made great efforts to make this Conference truly a Serra "University of Christian Principles" learning event.

All District Serrans should seize this unique opportunity to see and hear what these outstanding Catholic academics have to say to us and about us.

Non-Serrans are welcome. Invite your family and friends. Mark your calendar now for this important faith building experience.

Theme:

Jubilee Year of Mercy

Who:

Serrans and their guests from all nine Ontario Serra Clubs.

When:

Saturday, November 5, 2016
Registration: 8:00 AM
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are included.

Where:

St. Dominic's Church.
625 Atwater Ave. Mississauga
L5G 2A8

Masses:

9:15AM and 5: PM included

Presenters:

Start at 10:00

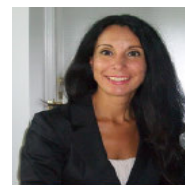
THE CONFERENCE PANEL



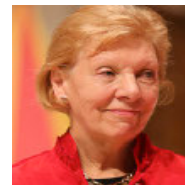
Most Rev. John, A.
Boissonneau
Western Region Bishop
Archdiocese of
Toronto.



Dr. Michael Higgins,
Vice President for
'Catholic Identity'
Sacred Heart University
Connecticut. U.S.A.



Dr. Josephine
Lombardi,
Assoc. Prof. Systematic
Theology, and Director
of Lay Formation
St. Augustine's
Seminary



Dr. Moira McQueen,
Exec. Director
Canadian Catholic
Bioethics and Prof. of
Moral Theology,
University of St.
Michael's College.



Ms. Beverly O'Grady,
Office of Formation
and Discipleship'
Archdiocese of Toronto

The members of the Toronto West Serra Club sincerely offer congratulations and very best wishes to all our Brother and Sister Serrans of the Kitchener-Waterloo Serra Club who are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the founding of their Club in November.

Beverly O'Grady, Honoured Guest

Monday, June 13th, 2016

Introduced by Anne Brisbois Abbott

Thanked by Gary MacDonald

Beverly O'Grady has been employed by the Archdiocese of Toronto in the field of Formation, Ministry Training and Retreat Direction.



She told us that God wants us to be loved. If people don't feel welcome, they will not hear anything. That's why she changed her Catechism Program to have parents and children learn about God and prayer together.

Five years ago, when she was in the Netherlands, she discovered that children do everything through their bodies. In fact, people have to draw on their feelings in order to articulate. Children, on the other hand, know colours and how to move, but not the words. They give back though as a tapestry.

As a professional learner, she has found that being heard is close to love. You must open your hearts to others and their goodness in the eyes of God. Her Pastor, Father Philip Jones, has given her a lot of freedom in this area; namely, what children can do, even to the larger world. In fact, we are all children at heart.

She has worked at the archdiocese for 16 years and at her parish for 19 years. She is now reaching out to other parishes on how to teach and reach out. She concluded her talk by thanking us for the opportunity to come and speak here tonight. We have a very good community where we all know each other's names and where we come together to celebrate mass together with people that we know so closely.

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Members of the Toronto West and Toronto Central Serra Clubs held a joint Barbecue at Marylake.

Included during the event was a
A Pilgrimage to the Holy Door
 Mass in the Shrine Church
 The Induction of our 2016/17
 Board of Trustees by
 Governor Anthony Mangione.



More Barbeque pictures on page 8 > >

BOARD MEETINGS

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES meets on the 3rd Monday of each month for planning and management of Club business. (unless otherwise noted)

Aug 19 meeting moved to >
 Aug 22 Board Meeting #592
 Sept 21 Board Meeting #593
 Oct 17 Board Meeting #594
 Nov 21 Board Meeting #595



Father Gerardo Bandalan has been moved to a distant parish and can no longer serve as our Club Chaplain

CLUB MEETINGS

Club Meetings are held at the Canadiana Restaurant 5230 Dundas Street West Etobicoke on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month (unless otherwise noted)

July 11 Family Barbecue #1181
 July 25 cancelled summer #1182
 Aug 8 cancelled summer #1183
Aug 22 meeting moved to >
 Aug 29 Club Meeting #1184
 Sept 12 Club Meeting #1185
 Sept 26 Club Meeting #1186
 Oct 10 cancelled Thanksgiving #1187
 Oct 24 Club Meeting #1188

CLUB NEWS

ALTAR SERVER AWARDS

Mark your calendar. On Saturday, October 29, we will stage the Altar Server Award ceremony for 50 parishes in the western region of the archdiocese. Medals will be presented to the 200+/- worthy youngsters recommended by their pastor to receive the Bishop's medal for their faithful service. This annual event, initiated by Serra over 30 years ago, is an opportunity for Serra to plant seeds in the minds of special young boys and girls about religious vocations. It's an important Serra initiative. Contact Patrick Portelli, our Club's Vice President for Vocations and volunteer your services for this important Club vocations event.

CHAPLAIN SEARCH COMMITTEE

Due to the reassignment of Father Bandalan, to a distant parish, he is unable to continue as our Club Chaplain. A search committee has been formed to look for another Chaplain. If you know of a candidate who might be available, please inform President Anne.

We thank Fr. Gig for his friendship and services as our Club Chaplain. We are sorry to lose him. Serrans wish him well in his new assignment.

CLUB BYLAW REVIEW

Our current Club Bylaws were established in 1993. There was a review and update in 2012. Our new Board has determined that there is need for another update now. In addition to implementing 'all inclusive' language, a number of items need updating to conform to current Club practices. A committee will prepare a report on this matter.

TORONTO WEST SERRA MARKS
50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Next April we will celebrate and honour the forward thinking men who established this Serra Club in 1967 - and all the men and women since who carried on Serra's vocation ministry in such a faithful and enduring way. Our Club currently has 37 members including Henry Hodowany and Bernard Smith who are Charter members of the original Club. We are planning a celebration Banquet in April 2017.



**Always
To Go
Forward**



BIRTHDAYS

JULY

Mario Cinelli
 Patrick Portelli

AUGUST

David Bain
 Gary MacDonald
 Anthony Mangione Sr.
 Anthony Mangione Jr
 Milan Popik
 Peter Takaoka

SEPTEMBER

Paul Horbatiuk
 Edward Rzadki
 Tony Tolomei
 Irene Urbaniak
 Harry Gillard

OCTOBER

Frank Kennedy
 John Plunkett
 Marcello Tarantino

Anniversaries

JULY

Anne/Rick Abbott
 Father Gerardo Bandalan
 Rose/John Gennaro

**and 65 years for
 Florence/Bernard Smith**

Maria/Tony Tolomei

AUGUST

Fedela/Carmen DeSantis
 Anna/Marcello Tarantino

SEPTEMBER

Irene/David Bain
 Anna/Tony Mangione
 Caroline/David Smith
 Nadia/Peter Takaoka

OCTOBER

Olga/Joe Gennaro
 Helen/Henry Hodowany

Father Damien MacPherson, S.A.**Honoured Guest**

Monday, June 6, 2016

Introduced by Gary MacDonald

Thanked by Pat Hearn

Our Club welcomed Fr. Damien MacPherson, Director of the Department of Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs for the Archdiocese of Toronto, as our honoured guest. A Franciscan Friar of the



Atonement, Fr. Damian is a native of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. He graduated from the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC.

Fr. Damian described all of us present as pre-

Vatican II people, in that

we can call to mind what the Church was like in the years leading up to this important gathering, which took place from 1962 to 1965. As the bishops examined the issue of “who we were in the Church” it was revealed that the Church had long ignored other denominations within Christianity, such as Protestants and Eastern Rite Catholics, as well as non-Christians such as Jews and Muslims. John 17:21 talks about the unity of believers, and this sentiment inspired ‘ecumenism’ leading to interfaith dialogue with those previously ignored.

It was conceded that other religions have truths and values that we can’t dismiss. Prior to Vatican II the Roman Catholic Church was seen as anti-semitic, however the new mission of the Church that emerged from the Council means that there is respect for all faiths. It is also to be noted that the Quran, the Islamic sacred book, has more text about the Blessed Virgin Mary than our own Bible. More recently, John Paul II referred to the Church when he said, “ecumenism is an organic part of Her life and work”, and he spoke directly to the People of God when he said, “you can no longer be Catholic and not be ecumenical.” During Vatican II, the Church also acknowledged that the laity have a role to play in uniting us with other religions.

Father Seamus Hogan**Honoured Guest**Monday, March 14th, 2016

Introduced by John Baycroft

Thanked by Gary MacDonald

Father Hogan told us that Serrans are important not just for the Ordinandi Dinner and our youth programs, but also for all the quiet work we do. He said that the Downtown Serra Club, where his father was a member, placed his portrait in St. Michael’s School.

Fr. Hogan grew up in a house attached to the rectory at St. Michael’s Cathedral. There he met many good men

dedicated to God and had the privilege of being an Altar Server at their masses. He later served as a Lector. Finally, while attending York University pursuing degrees in English and Philosophy he realized that God was calling him to be a priest.

Monsignor Boissonneau introduced Seamus to Fr. Pat O’Dea and he enrolled in Serra House followed by five years at St. Augustine’s Seminary. This transformed him completely from seeking what he could get out of life to what he could contribute.

After his Ordination, he served in local parishes. In 2007, Cardinal Collins sent him to Rome for further studies. In Rome, doing every course in Italian and Latin pushed him to grow in ways that he never expected. Upon his return to Canada in 2012, he has been teaching at St. Augustine’s Seminary, doing formation work, being a vocations counsel as well as helping with the associates program.

When men are discerning a vocation they are offered this advice: the best thing they (and we) can do is pray. Pray to God to communicate, and express our love by praying the rosary regularly, making a Holy Hour on the 1st Friday of the month, and encouraging others to pray. With the promise of ordination in their future, Fr. Hogan is helping men to seek holiness and to leave the seminary with the heart of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

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Sister Marilina Cinelli, Honoured Guest

Monday, May 9th, 2016

Introduced by Mario Cinelli

Thanked by David Smith

Sister began her talk with a prayer, the Hail Mary. Her grandmother introduced her to the



M. Tarantino Photo

rosary when she was very young. She has prayed the rosary every day since. In Grade 2 a teacher taught her to meditate on the mysteries. She began to understand the power of the Mother of God.

This devotion led her to enter Religious Life. She started in St. Catharines, teaching children about Our Lady and introducing them to the Rosary. The children had no problem and were very open to it.

When she was transferred to St. Augustines' Seminary in Toronto to continue her studies, she was constantly approached to go into the schools to continue her popular Rosary program. Nothing gives her more joy than to serve this glorious Queen and to lead others to Jesus through her, so she agreed to service 6 schools. When this work began to interfere with her studies she enlisted retired teachers to continue the program and it expanded to 25 schools. With Bishop Lacey's encouragement the program continued and is still active 19 years later. It has now grown to include over one hundred thousand students in seventy countries. Its further expansion is limited only by the difficulty in finding others to lead it.

As Bishop Lacey said we should pray for more rosaries in the schools, families and society in general. The late Pope John Paul II

spiritualism in today's secular world. The Rosary Apostolate is a mission, and a calling. Pope Pius XII said: It is the calling of all lay people (all followers of Jesus) to evangelize.

God calls each of us in many different ways, whether it is praying or the visitations of others, thus opening our gifts and talents. The meaning of the word Apostle is to send out for the salvation of souls. Mother Mary sends us out for this as well, thus making us instruments so that Mary can fulfill God's mission. Jesus said to go out and spread the word to the whole world. Pope Francis has said to go out, not to be afraid and to serve as Jesus commands us to go and to witness our faith by evangelizing the children in the schools. This can be done by little stories or scenes, or by praying with words and love. Do not be afraid; overcome the fear of never having done it before as self-doubt. It is not about what you can do, but what you can do for others. Thus she ended her talk with a plea to let her know of anyone who can help out.

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A Thought To Ponder

**YOU ARE FREE TO CHOOSE
BUT YOU ARE NOT FREE
FROM THE CONSEQUENCES
OF YOUR CHOICE**

E. T. Benson

Mario Biscardi, Honoured Guest

Monday, April 25th, 2016

Member of the Canada Council of Serra International

Former Member of Toronto West Serra Club

Member of Toronto Central Serra Club

Founder of Serra's Ordinandi Dinner

Treasurer of Serra International

Past District Governor

Introduced by Pat Hearn

Thanked by John Plunkett



Mario told us that Serra was born on the island of Majorca. While attending school there his Franciscan teachers recognized his great intellectual abilities. Within a year he became a novice in the order.

Following his ordination he spent years in further studies leading to his appointment as a professor of philosophy. In 1749 Father Serra was sent to the missionary territories on the American West Coast. He is credited with establishing the nine missions in what is now the state of California.

In 1934 four men in Seattle initiated luncheon meetings of Catholic business men with the objective of encouraging priestly vocations. They named the Club after Junipero Serra. In 1952 the first Serra Club outside the United States was chartered in Toronto, Canada. As Serra continued to grow, the organization now known as Serra International established a headquarters office in Chicago.

By then Clubs had been established in Canada, Mexico, Peru, England and Italy. The 1960's saw new clubs formed in Spain, Venezuela, Brazil, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Australia. The 1970's > >

witnessed more growth leading to the formation of ten National Councils of Serra International to serve nearly 20,000 Serrans in 750 Clubs in 42 countries.

In closing, Mario encouraged our members to consider attending the 2016 Serra International Convention in St. Louis, Missouri to meet other dedicated Serrans from around the world. The 2017 Serra International Convention will be held in Rome, Italy. (Join Serra and see the world!)

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THE SERRA MISSION

*To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service and to support priests in their sacred ministry;

*To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church; and

*To assist its members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

SPIRITUAL BENEFITS

Available to the members of all Serra Clubs because of the affiliation of Serra International with the Pontifical Work For Priestly Vocations.

1) A plenary indulgence is granted on the day a person joins the society if he receives the Sacrament of Penance and the Holy Eucharist and prays for the intentions of the Holy Father.

2) A plenary indulgence is granted at the moment of death, when the person has confessed and received Holy Communion or at least is contrite, and has invoked Our Lord's Holy Name.

Anthony Mangione
Serra District Governor - Ontario and Quebec
Monday, April 11th, 2016
 Introduced by David Bain
 Thanked by Vincent Citriniti

Anthony brought greetings from Guy Coughlin, President of Serra's Canada Council. Governors



M. Tarantino Photo

are members of the Canada Council Board. They meet annually to review programs and share ideas and plan ways to help the Clubs. The Council is responsible for the promotion of Serra in Canada by assisting

clubs in their work and by encouraging the formation of new clubs. The long term objective of the Council is to have a Serra club in every diocese in Canada.

There are 10 Serra Clubs with a total of 250 members in Tony's District. Tony reported that Past District Governor Pat Hearn has been a big help in assisting the new Montreal Club. Presently there are two new Clubs in formation, Brampton and Halifax.

While it is hard work for a Governor to get a new Club started, tapping someone on the shoulder and inviting them to join our Club is everyone's (that's you) responsibility. We need younger members, especially young adults from the high schools and Universities.

This year the Serra International three day annual Convention took place in St. Louis, Missouri. Attending an International Convention is a recommended endeavour for all Serrans

Meeting with Serrans from around the world is a pleasant and enriching experience. Motivating speakers, educational workshops and beautiful Liturgies are hallmarks of Serra Conventions. Attendance can help you grow in Serra by experiencing the breadth and depth of the Serra Apostolate. Next year's Convention will be held in Rome

Finally, Tony stressed that we need all members to take an active role in our own Club activities. Volunteer to V.P. of Program Gary MacDonald to introduce or thank a speaker. Befriend a new member. Volunteer your skills and talents on a Committee of your choice. And last but not least, PRAY. PRAY. PRAY.

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M. Tarantino Photo

Our Club members were delighted when Toronto West's John Holland announced that he and Rosemary Castellarin would be married in June. The happy couple are planning a private family wedding.



Induction of the Toronto West Serra Club Board of Trustees for 2016/17



Toronto West and Toronto Central Serra Clubs Joint Family Barbeque - Marylake Shrine 2016



Barbecue photos by A. Mangione