

# THE BELLRINGERS

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR SERRA LEADERS

DECEMBER 2008

## *President's Christmas Message*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Serra,

We are already in the season of Advent, a time in which we live for the coming of our Lord, a time in which we must live with great dedication.

Living with this anticipation is to understand that the Lord comes to us seeking to be present and a part of our lives. But beyond this time of waiting, Advent must also be a time of witness, an invitation for us, as it was for John the Baptist, to be bearers of the announcement that God sent His only begotten Son among us for our salvation.

This missionary statement continues to be the work of the Church and it in turn must further inspire us as Serrans.

In these past months since I became President, I have already had the good fortune to visit countries, diverse by language, climate, culture and tradition, from Brazil to Bangladesh, from Canada to Thailand, from Mexico to China and Singapore. I know that there are many different ways we celebrate Christmas in each part of the world, but, I also know that all Serrans feel the same way about this significant event. I also know that we share the desire to hold the Holy Family in Bethlehem as a model, because we share the firm belief that the family, cradle for vocations, witnessing its faith, embodies Christianity in today's society.

My wish is that in sharing this common thread, we will always be united - in spite of all that exists in the world that brings egoism and division.

With great affection, my wife Irene and I, wish you and your precious families the joy of the arrival of Jesus.

Our wish, for all, is that the New Year will bring serenity and satisfaction in all your endeavours as ideal Serrans.

Mary, Mother of Vocations, Pray for us!

Cesare Gambardella  
President  
Serra International