

# *The Saginaw Serran*

*Where Vocations are Fostered*

*Established June 20, 1951*

March, 2007

## **The Lenten Season** by Fr. Ron Dombrowski

Once again we are beginning the Lenten Season which lasts for 40 days from Ash Wednesdays until Holy Thursday evening. Our Lenten journey begins with ashes, a solemn reminder of all our limits upon this earth, as we hear "Remember you are dust and unto dust you will return." Our Ash Wednesday observance calls us to repent of our sins and return to the Lord with all our heart in preparation for the joy of His Easter Resurrection.

Lent is a time of repentance, when we are called to turn away from sin return to a faithful walk with the Lord. In Hebrew the word repentance is teshuvah, which comes from the root word shuvah, meaning "to turn", like the turning of the earth to the sun, or the turning of soil before planting begins. This Lenten season let us turn over the sin dead soil of our hearts, planting His word deep in fresh soil so that we can turn our face to the Lord.

Some questions that we may ask ourselves during this Lenten Season: Where am I going: Where is my soul? Is it at peace: If troubled, why? Am I fulfilling all the duties of my position, (God, family, relationships) in life? What are those duties? What efforts have I made to amend my ways and conquer sin? Have I been faithful to the light that God has given to me to follow? How have I changed my life since the Lenten Season last year: If not, why? These are questions that we should be asking ourselves every day.

## **President's Message** by Bernie Copolino

### **Why I Am a Serran** by Bill Ruger

The Serra Club of Saginaw offered me some benefits that were hard to find elsewhere. The fact that I was personally invited to join this organization was especially gratifying to me. I knew little of its objectives when contacted but soon could see the personal benefits of belonging and participating in its activities.

I have long held convictions that the spiritual connections in our church were important and they had to be continuously fostered within myself. It is not enough to give one hour a week to my God at church without trying to carry on the mission that Jesus challenged us to during His time on earth. My benefits from membership in the Saginaw Serra Club come from the common goals; the camaraderie with other members; the educational aspect from the various program speakers; the contact and support of our clergy and religious; and the special events. All of these further club efforts to promote and strengthen vocations.

Our club has become very active in supporting activities in the diocese for fundraising and education. We are not just a social club but an active group participating in and living the mission of the church and the Serra Club.

At first mention of the two meetings per month, I thought that this would be excessive since I am involved in many other organizations and spend much time with my family. However, I now look forward to the two opportunities each month to meet and learn more about my faith, the Saginaw Catholic community and my Universal Church. It has also been enlightening to travel the world to meet with other Serrans and learn of their challenges and opportunities. I have learned that we are all working toward a common goal even though we come from different cultures.

I wondered when I joined what I would get out of the Saginaw Serra Club but quickly learned that the more that I put into it, the more I get out of it. It is wonderful that a group of Seattle businessmen had the foresight and vision to start a club that has had so much impact on Catholic men and women and their Church. I am proud to be a member of this wonderful organization. Why wasn't I a member sooner in life?

It is up to us as Serrans to increase our membership to help accomplish the Serran missions.

## **Convention Update**

Planning for the **Great Lakes Regional Convention** (October 18-21) is progressing. Chairman Louie Rapin has done a great job in lining up speakers, planning workshops, masses, special trips and a great many other details. A spaghetti dinner is being planned to raise funds for the Convention. It will be held on April 25 at St. Stephen Church. Information about the Convention will be mailed to Serra leaders in the Great Lakes Region in mid-March. Visit our website ([www.saginawserraclub.org](http://www.saginawserraclub.org)) for more information.

## **Bishop's Dinner for seminarian education a big success**

The second annual Serra dinner to benefit the seminarian education endowment fund was a great success. The event, held on February 7 at the Center for Ministry in Saginaw, raised over \$20,000. The main speaker was Fr. Patrick Jankowiak, pastor of St. Cecilia Parish in Clare, MI. He spoke on the role of the priests in liturgy, stressing the importance of the priest being well versed in scripture and knowledgeable about liturgical prayers. He said that perhaps the most significant characteristic a priest can possess is kindness. Special guests included Serra International president Robert Wright, past International president Judge Dennis Lieber, seminarians Richard Budd, Nick Caffaro, Chris Coman, Andrew Franboise, Ben Moll, Bill Spencer, and David Wallman. The Serra Club is grateful to all those who attended the gathering and looks forward to next year's event.

## **Condolences and prayers**

The Serra club wishes to extend its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Angelo Guerriero who passes away on February 11 at The Cartwright Center. Angelo was a member of our Serra club since 1987. We also would like to extend our prayers to Jerry Parent who is enduring significant health issues.

## **Program Schedule thru June**

March 6	"Seminary Visits"	Mike Shabluk
March 20	"Partnership Center"	Georgann Hemker
April 9	No meeting due to Holy Week observance	
April 17	"Importance of Music in Liturgy"	Fr. Jim Bessert
May 1	"Stroke Prevention"	Jill Loftus from St. Mary's Hospital
May 15	Youth Appreciation Luncheon	
June 5	"Little Books"	Catherine Haven
June 19	Charter Night (Invitations will be mailed)	

Please contact Jean Seman at 792-2011 if you have a suggestion for a program.

**All meetings, unless otherwise notified, are held at the Center for Ministry and began at 12 noon. The rosary is said in the chapel at 11:30. Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the office of Yeo and Yeo, 3023 Davenport at 12:15 p.m.**