

# Vocare

Toronto West Serra Club Newsletter

Feb. 2016 - 1

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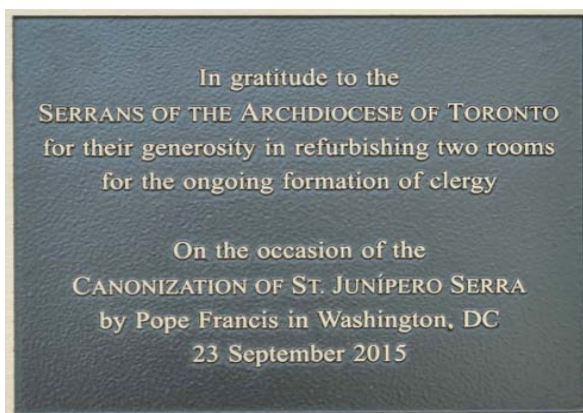
## **R & R FOR TORONTO PRIESTS - IN FLORIDA** **at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach**



Above - The chapel at St. VdeP Seminary

Below - A bronze plaque outside our suites

More photos on page 6



The Serra Foundation of Canada initiated a program to meet the needs of our priests for private retreats and/or moderately priced vacation accommodations.

The Foundation has contracted with St. Vincent de Paul Seminary for two guest suites, (private bed room and bathroom) to be available year-round for Toronto Archdiocesan priests for \$60. per day. (all meals included).

Information, about the location, costs, transportation, reviews and an Application Form can be found on the Serra Foundation page of Serra Canada's website.

[www.serracanada.com](http://www.serracanada.com)

Foundation  
Florida Retreat Program



Serrans and guests who attended the dedication and blessing of the new suites

**Msgr. Terrence D'Souza, Honoured Guest**

Monday, August 31, 2015

Introduced by Irene Skinner Bain

Thanked by Gary MacDonald

Monsignor D'Souza has been a friend of Serra since 1965. He told us we must do our part to make our church a living church. The future is in the vocations that we attract. A religious vocation is the best fruit that anyone can have on their family tree.

Monsignor preaches extensively, often in a different parish each week, frequently without a prepared sermon. He always goes to church at least ½ hour early to pray for guidance. God answers his prayer and inspires his words and his message.

We must become sensitized in a desensitized world so that we can hear God when He speaks to us. Many of us are too impatient to take the time to hear God speak to us when we pray. He urged us to read the Bible. If we read one chapter a day it will take us 3.5 years to complete it.

oOo

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

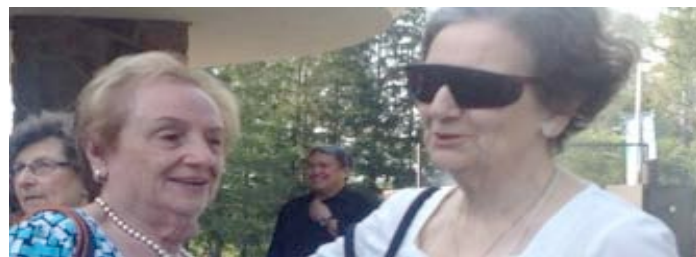
Included in the festivities was Mass in the Shrine Church and the Induction of the 2015/2016 Board of Trustees of each Club by Governor Anthony Mangione.



Our Father Who Art In Heaven . . .



Night Prayers



## BOARD MEETINGS

## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of  
each month for planning and  
management of Club business.

Feb 15 Board Meeting #586  
Mar 21 Board Meeting #587  
Apr 18 Board Meeting #588  
May 16 Board Meeting #589

*The Priest,  
like a father  
watches over  
and walks  
with his people  
as they come  
into life  
and grow up.  
And he is there  
as they one day  
leave this world  
behind.*

## CLUB MEETINGS

Club Meetings are held at the  
Canadiana Restaurant  
5230 Dundas Street West  
Etobicoke  
(unless otherwise noted)

Feb 8 Club Meeting #1171  
Feb 22 Club Meeting #1172  
Mar 14 Club Meeting #1173  
Mar 28 Club Meeting #1174  
Apr 11 Club Meeting #1175  
Apr 25 Club Meeting #1176  
May 9 Club Meeting #1177  
May 23 Club Meeting #1178

## Dr. Moira McQueen, Honoured Guest

Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Introduced by John Gennaro

Thanked by John Plunkett

Euthanasia is one of today's most pressing issues at the moral, social, and hospital levels. The Supreme Court set the standards regarding euthanasia. A person must be in an irremediable suffering (physical and/or emotional) state, and the person must be competent to request and consent to the procedure.

Dr. McQueen is against 'safeguards' after looking at the evidence. No safeguards are strong enough in any legislation to protect the vulnerable from abuse. Just as abortion was originally allowed only if a woman's life or health was endangered, it has quickly become a woman's choice with absolutely no regards to safeguards.

She pointed out that the criteria in the Netherlands have become so degraded that a 44 year old man was able to request it, simply because he was depressed.

The physician's role in the doctor-patient relationship is to heal, not end life. However, this is what exactly exists with abortion in Canada at the moment. Even if a doctor will not do an abortion, he or she has to refer the patient to someone who will, which is the same as doing it him or herself. The doctor's freedom has been taken away.

Dr. McQueen ended her talk by saying that one of the best examples of how to live one's end-of-life was given by the late Pope John Paul II. He did not hide his difficulties in the later years of his declining health with challenges such as Parkinson's disease. He demonstrated the importance of life from birth to natural death. Thus he left us with an incredible example of how to live one's life overall. oOo

## BIRTHDAYS

## FEBRUARY

Maria Ceresna  
Joe Garwood  
Helen Hussar  
Maria Popik  
Florence Smith

## MARCH

Fr. Gerardo Bandalan  
Mary Veneziano  
Bernard Smith

## APRIL

Patrick Hearn  
Milan Popik  
David Smith  
Maria Tolomei

## MAY

John Gennaro  
Caroline Smith  
Joseph Veneziano

## JUNE

Anna Mangione  
Stella Rzadki  
Ray Track

Wedding  
Anniversaries

## FEBRUARY

Mary/John Plunkett

## APRIL

Frances/Mario Cinelli  
Lina/Nicola Critelli  
Maria/Milan Popik

## MAY

Mary/Joe Garwood

## JUNE

Stella/Edward Rzadki  
Mary/Joe Veneziano

**Mr. Luke Stocking, Honoured Guest**Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Introduced by Anne Brisbois-Abbott

Thanked by Paul Horbatiuk

Luke Stocking was one of five children in an active Catholic family. As a child his day started with a mother's loving hug followed by family prayers and the sharing of household chores.

In time he came to understand that a mother's love for her children is an image of God's love for His people.

For the last 9 years, Luke's livelihood and vocation have combined in his service with the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. (CCODP) A degree in Teleology earned at the University of Toronto has served him well in this work.

In addition to his parents support, Luke also sites the influence of his high school chaplain on his life and career choices.

A high school organized class trip to Hartford, Connecticut provided his first encounter with real poverty. On another occasion, stories of hardship related by a Catholic Union worker also had a lasting influence on Luke and his life as a Catholic. The core Catholic identity is human dignity, which is irreversible. We were made in image and likeness of God.

CCODP has provided Luke with the perfect opportunity to practice his faith in his day-to-day working life. What he loves most about the job is meetings like this, and being able to speak on the merit and value of the lay vocation that most of us are blessed with.

Development and Peace has had this vision from when it was organized in 1967; namely to be a lay organization capable of living that witness to Christ.

oOo

**Bishop John Boissonneau, Honoured Guest**Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

At our Lady of Grace Parish

Thanked by David Bain

Bishop Boissonneau stated that of Faith, Hope, and Love, Love is the greatest. The fruits of love are peace and mercy, which Pope Francis spoke about in April when he declared the Holy Year of Mercy beginning on December 8, 2015 for everyone seeking mercy. The Church's credibility is based on how we show merciful love. While God's central attribute is one of love, mercy is assured by creation and redemption. Mercy is the type of love that is directed towards the sinner who seeks real forgiveness. Pope Francis who has been looked on with mercy said that his life



changed in the confessional as a boy. Bishop Boissonneau pointed out that St. Augustine said that misery and mercy are two sides of the same coin. However, this issue is on the margins not just for the economically disadvantaged, but also, for those who are spiritually poor. We have to accept who we are and then to accept God's healing which St. Thomas Aquinas said was a special virtue of life. Bishop Boissonneau stressed that the Pope said that in this Jubilee Year, people should focus on the corporal and spiritual aspects of mercy - to bring to the fore, Jesus' mission to the poor. We should reach out in any way possible. God's mercy is a product of love. It is what we hope for now and at the hour of our death. Finally, he said this was demonstrated when Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman - with compassion, love, and forgiveness.

oOo

**Father Robert Glynn, Honoured Guest**Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Introduced by David Smith

Thanked by Patrick Hearn



Father Bob Glynn, our former Club Chaplain, grew up in St. Gregory's parish. He told us that he misses us because Serrans have always been a stabilizing influence on his priesthood. He related that being moved from parish to parish can be difficult. A new pastor does not always gain immediate acceptance, it must be earned. It takes time to get to know the new parishioners and to discern their needs and expectations.

There really is a shortage of priests: Since Vatican 2 there has been a drop of 5,000 priests to serve double the number of Catholics. This is one of the saddest parts of today's church. There are just 400,000 priests for 1.2 billion Catholics. Fr. Bob stressed that the most important thing Serrans can do to encourage vocations is to demonstrate our love for Christ. He celebrates school masses three days a week and encourages students to make their lives a symbol of their faith. It's equally important for us to accept that the God who made us loves us too.

The current vocational crisis developed because many people don't know that God loves them. For his first seven days in the seminary Bob only recognized what he did not love about himself. On the eighth day he finally realized that God loved him for who he was. His life was changed forever.

In this Year of Mercy we must 'gather the scattered' with a warm welcome and a message of love, mercy and forgiveness, elements that mark the true spirit of Jesus' life and teaching. oOo

**Kathleen Ancker, Honoured Guest**Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Introduced by Joe Gennaro

Thanked by Gary MacDonald



Because of the lack of Canadian born vocations, we are dependent on immigrant priests from India, the Philippines and Africa to help maintain our parishes. None of the first group of priests who came from these countries stayed for their full term due to the severe cultural clash. For example, they are used to singing and dancing at mass; in Canada, there is limited singing and no dancing. Also, it is mainly older people coming to church in Canada, not the young that they are used to in their home parishes.

An Enculturation program was instituted to help these arriving priests adapt to the life and culture in Canada. Catholic Missions Canada initially funded this initiative. This program is a ten week session that runs from September to December. It provides for cultural and spiritual training to help international priests adapt to Canadian life. A number of Dioceses from across Canada send candidates to attend this program.

Kathleen distributed informational material about the program and invited Serrans to support a fund-raising dinner to help finance the course. She'd also welcome help on a one-to-one basis beginning when these priests arrive in Canada. They need to be taught how to go shopping, how to go to Tim Horton's, or how to get to your house for dinner.

We should realize that these good men have responded to their bishop's call to go to countries like Canada and thus have gone out of their comfort zone to serve us. Toronto being such a culturally diverse diocese, our people have great need for their help.

oOo

continued from page 1 - St. Vincent de Paul Seminary



George Damiani  
President of the Serra Foundation of Canada



A typical block of private suites



Lake view from a suite doorway.

## **Father Paul Duplessie, Honoured Guest**

Monday, November 23rd, 2015

Introduced by Vincent Citriniti

Thanked by Irene Skinner-Bain

Father Paul told us that prayer was always a very important element with his family. His father's cousin was a priest. With these family influences, by grade 8 Paul felt a double call, to be a priest and a capuchin. While his parents were supportive of his wishes, there are other criteria to be met. One must be motivated for good spiritual reasons. You have to be able to stand on your own two feet. You must be able to live life cheerfully and comfortably without unease in the role. And finally, you must be in good physical and psychological health and able to live obedient and chaste.

Father Paul compared religious life to buckets at a well. You start empty and end up full. When you make Jesus the centre of your ministry, then it is not about you as He takes over. Ministry is fulfilling. You are there not only to serve God, but also his people. You don't just go to a wake and conduct a funeral; you visit with the family to find out about the deceased person. You also have to make a wedding very special for young couples.

When you join a Religious Order you never know where it will take you. He began his religious studies in Illinois and completed them in Gary, Indiana.

After Ordination, he taught at a Catholic high school for two years before moving into parish work, first St. Philip Neri and then as chaplain at Marcel Bueno. From there he went 'home' to a small parish in Blenheim. Then his Provincial assigned him to work with young students, which he did for the next three years. Following that he served at St. Nicholas parish and at St. Gregory's (Etobicoke) on weekends.

Following Fr. Paul's election to serve as Provincial of the capuchins, he was appointed to and is currently serving as Pastor of St. Philip Neri Parish in Toronto.

oOo

**Mr. John MacMullen, Honoured Guest**Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Introduced by Anne Brisbois-Abbott

Thanked by Paul Horbatiuk

John MacMullen is an Associate Director of the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Youth. He said he was especially pleased to be here tonight to express his appreciation to Serrans for the vocation work we do. He said two of his five children have received Serra Altar Server Awards and a 3<sup>rd</sup> has been nominated for one.

His experience with some families indicates that many parents are not providing much, if any, guidance in their children's faith development. That's why many young people are never seen in church.

Other children he works with say they don't attend their Catholic parish because they feel ignored. People aren't friendly and the Mass is boring. They prefer some of the Evangelical church services that are much more lively and more youth friendly,

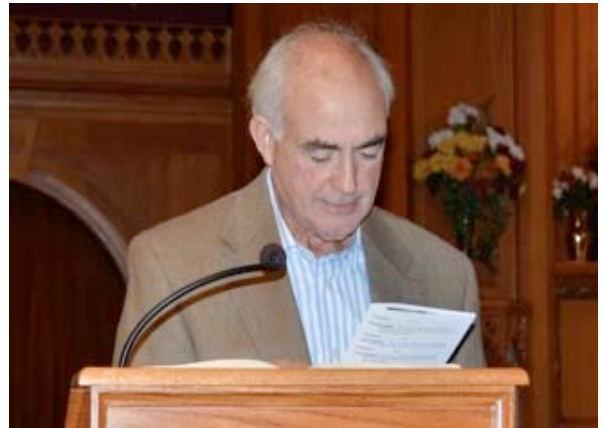
On the other hand, in some parishes, young Catholics are organizing Right to Life programs, and holding Friday night meetings to learn more about Jesus. Last year the Toronto Steubenville youth conference drew nearly 1000 attendees and concluded with a mass celebrated by Cardinal Collins.

John said his generation grew up with a reverence for priests and religious. Today's youth have never met a religious Sister or Brother. The idea of a religious vocation would put them at odds with their family who want them to be rich.

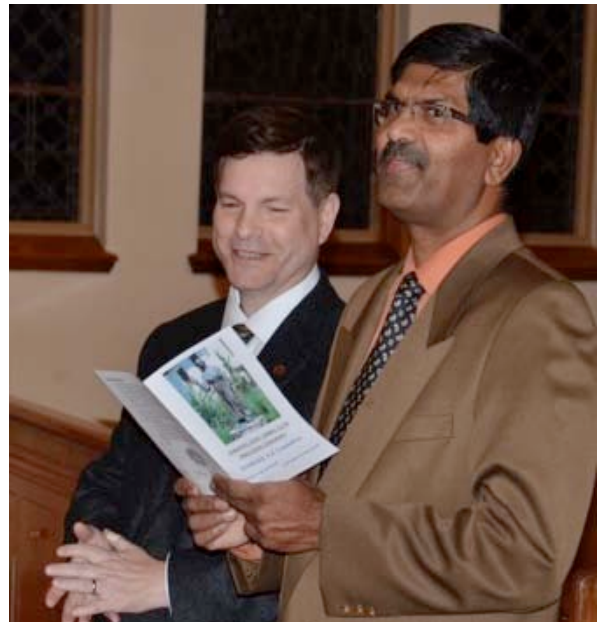
How can we call them to discern a religious vocation when we don't seem to care? If your parish doesn't have a Youth Ministry program, could you volunteer to start one?

oOo

Toronto West Serra Club  
welcomes our newest member  
**Fredrick Gonsalves**



V.P. Membership Mario Cinelli  
Inducting Fredrick



Fredrick Gonsalves  
with sponsor David Bain



Club Chaplain Fr. Gerardo Bandalan  
Final Blessing and Exhortation



**Bishop  
Gary Gordon  
Episcopal Advisor  
to  
Serra Canada**



“Were sin the only thing that mattered, we would be the most desperate of creatures. But the promised triumph of Christ’s love enfolds everything in the Father’s mercy. The Immaculate Virgin stands before us as a privileged witness of this promise and its fulfillment.”

*Pope Francis. December 8, 2015*

“Mercy’ is more than having compassion; it means we enter freely into the other person’s chaos or suffering. We feel the other’s pain, see through their eyes, and place ourselves inside the person’s heart and mind. When that happens, we are moved to respond in a merciful way.”

*Bishop Gary Gordon*

**The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy** is a major event in the Catholic Church, held from the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 2015 to the Feast of Christ the King in 2016. Like other previous jubilees, this is a special holy year of remission of sins and universal pardon, in this occasion focusing particularly on God’s forgiveness and mercy.

It is an extraordinary Jubilee because it had not been predetermined long before; usually ordinary jubilees take place every 25 years. In fact, the 2016 Jubilee was first announced by Pope Francis on March 13, 2015. It is the 27th Holy Year in history, following the ordinary 2000 Jubilee during John Paul II papacy. The opening day was also the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council.

In prior months it was stressed that the Pontiff wishes the Jubilee to be celebrated not only in Rome but all around the world: for the first time holy doors are going to be open in single dioceses, either in the main cathedral or in local historical churches. Pope Francis opened the first holy door in Bangui on November 29, 2015, during a tour in Africa.

The official logo, designed by Father Marko I. Rupnik, shows Jesus, personification of Mercy, carrying on his shoulders a ‘lost man’, emphasizing how deep the Savior touches humanity; His eyes are merged with those of the carried man. The background is filled by three concentric ovals, with lighter colors outwards, meaning that Jesus is carrying the man out of the darkness of sin. On one side the image is also joined by the official motto: *Misericordes Sicut Pater* (Merciful Like the Father), derivative from Luke 6:36, which stands as an invitation to follow the example of the Father by loving and forgiving without limits. The scene is captured within the so-called *mandorla* (the shape of an almond), a figure quite important in early and medieval iconography, for it calls to mind the two natures of Christ, divine and human. The three concentric ovals, with colors progressively lighter as we move outward, suggest the movement of Christ who carries humanity out of the night of sin and death. Conversely, the depth of the darker color suggests the impenetrability of the love of the Father who forgives all.