



**Each One—Reach One
Membership**

Praying for vocations is a relatively easy task for most people when praying comes easy. But most of the time, people don't think to pray for vocations. With the "Called by Name" program coming up soon, the thought of praying for vocations will become part of the thoughts of many Catholics in our diocese. Not only do we need young men and women in the priesthood and religious life, we also need the laity to become an active part of organizations like the Serra Club to assist behind the scenes in our prayer life to bring fellow laborers to the field. We need workers in the vineyard to support these young men and women as they prepare for a life lived for Christ. That is where you and I come in.

At the board meeting in April, the Serra board decided on May 13th to be our annual membership meeting. Our theme is very simple... "EACH ONE - REACH ONE!" The concept of this is easy to accomplish, each member of the Knoxville Serra Club should reach out to one per-

**Reflections of Nine Years—
Fr. Brent Shelton**

Reflecting on the changes in the life of the Church since his ordination in 2001, Fr. Brent Shelton began by stating that our prayers are bearing fruit, indicating the number of men in the seminary at the moment. There will be several other men entering the seminary in the fall. Our prayers and efforts are being rewarded.

If you listen to NCR or read the NY Times, you hear about the sexual abuse cover up in Europe. But the Catholic Church supports law enforcement officials in their investigations into sexual abuse cases. In 2002 the second big priest sex scandal came to the attention of everyone, the first being in 1990. In 2002, priests who were guilty of sexual abuse were sent to therapy and then reassigned. God intended us to learn something from this.

During the 9 years of his priestly life Fr Shelton noted that "We have had a switch in popes as well as liturgical changes in the Mass". His focus has been on teaching what the Church has always taught in language that modern man can understand. In the early years of his ordination, the Church was shaped by Pope John Paul II's emphasis on Theology and Morals. The emphasis since Pope Benedict has been our pope is focusing on teaching what the Church has always taught.

May Calendar

THURSDAY, May 13
 Holy Mass.....11:30 AM
 Lunch.....Noon
 For reservations call
 Helga Deveau
 (865) 982-1566
 Membership Meeting

Program
 Fr. William Oruko

 Thursday May 27
 Holy Mass.....11:30 AM
 Lunch.....Noon
 For reservations call
 Joyce and Frank Carballo
 (865) 980-6164

Program
 T B A

Each One—Reach One	1-2
Reflection of Nine Years	
Letter from the President	2
Prayers and Novena of the Good Shepherd for Priests	3
Grace received from Adversities	
Welcome to Serra Territory	4

son and bring them to the May 13th meeting. But this is not just the work of the members of the Serra Club. If you are reading this article, then it is your job also to bring an interested person to a Serra Club meeting. Priests, religious brothers and sisters, deacons and seminarians are always welcome to join us. Bring with you someone you feel would be a great Serran. A person willing to follow the mission of Serra - to foster and affirm vocations to the ministerial priesthood and vowed religious life in the United States and through this ministry further our members' common Catholic faith.

Who should we look for - what qualities should future Serrans exhibit? According to the Serra Membership manual they should be: 1) Practicing Catholics; 2) Live or work in the territorial boundaries of the Serra Club of Knoxville; 3) Have the ability and willingness to grow both intellectually and spiritually; and 4) be motivated to contribute to the work of Serra - promoting vocations.

If you know someone with these qualities or you may need to talk to someone contact Dee Dutkosky, our Vice President of Membership or your pastor. It is proven that if a priest asks someone to do something the response is more likely to be a positive one. So, don't just sit there, go out and invite others to join us in searching out vocations, praying for and supporting vocations in our diocese and encouraging each other to follow the call of God in their lives.

Both of these are of course Theology but differ because of the background of the popes.

Another item during his nine years has been the rejection of the Vatican in regards to the new translation of the Roman Missal by the Bishops in the United States and other English speaking countries because the Latin does not match the English. In the 80's a new translation of the Roman Missal was begun. This translation however was changing the Order of the Mass. Fr. Shelton stated, "Ten years later, they are still working on it." Some other reflections Fr. Shelton made were:

- There should be a large crucifix on the Altar during Mass.
- The priest and the people should be facing the east (the same direction) looking through Jesus Christ toward the Father.
- The way we celebrate the Mass will affect the faith and morals of the Church.
- Pope Benedict only distributes Holy Communion on the tongue while the communicant is kneeling.

Fr. Shelton answered questions for Serrans and said it was hard to compare Pope John Paul II (younger) and Pope Benedict (older) when they became Pope. He said "we should be known for our love for each other as Christians". Thank you Fr. Shelton, for sharing your reflections on the past nine years. Come back and visit.

Dear fellow Serrans and Friends of Serra,

At our kick off meeting for membership month on May 13th, Father William Oruka will be the guest speaker. In March of 2006 he spoke on the Joys and Challenges of Being a Serran. It was an inspiring presentation. So please bring a friend or family member who will be inspired to be a Serran.

In this newsletter, we have included the Novena to the Good Shepherd for Priest which was in the 2003 newsletter. What a blessing it would be for us and our priests if we at Serra all pray this novena for May 14th—May 22 (Pentecost is May 23rd). But remember to include Mary in your prayer. St Antoninus wrote "He who asks for favors of God without the intercession of Mary is like a bird who tries to fly without wings."

God Bless you and Serra, Hazel Brimi, President

Novena and Prayer for Priests

Novena for Priests

Jesus, Good Shepherd,
You sent us the Holy Spirit to guide Your Church
and lead her faithful to You through the ministry of Your priests.

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, grant to Your priests
wisdom in leading,
faithfulness in teaching,
and holiness in guarding Your sacred Mysteries.

As they cry out with all the faithful, "Abba, Father!"
may Your priests be ever more closely identified with You
in Your divine Sonship
and offer their own lives with You, the one saving Victim.

Make them helpful brothers of one another,
and understanding fathers of all Your people.

On this Pentecost Sunday, renew in Your priests deeper faith,
greater trust in You,
childlike reliance on our Mother Mary,
and unwavering fidelity to the Holy Father and his bishops.

Holy Mary, intercede for your priests.
St. Joseph, protect them.
St. Michael, defend them.
St. John Vianney, pray for them.

<http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/priests.htm>

"...The priesthood is the supreme gift, a particular calling to share in the mystery of Christ, a calling which confers on us the sublime possibility of speaking and acting in his name. Every time we offer the Eucharist, this possibility becomes a reality. We act in 'persona Christi' when, at the moment of the consecration, we say the words: "This is my body which will be given up for you.... This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me." We do precisely this: with deep humility and profound thanks. This exalted yet simple action of our daily mission as priests opens up our humanity, so to speak, to its furthestmost limits...."

Pope John Paul II, March 13, 1994

<http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/priests.htm>

Grace received from adversity—John Merrill

On April 22nd we heard John Merrill speak to us about his faith and how it has helped him through his life. He is married to Margaret Merrill, Youth minister at St. Mary's Church in Oak Ridge, and is the father of five daughters with the youngest being a 6th grader. His oldest daughter has graduated from Aquanis College while three daughters attend Ave Maria University, near Naples, Florida on athletic scholarships. While growing up in Long Island, he was an Altar server and felt very close to Our Lady. His father wanted him to attend US Military Academy at West Point. He received an athletic scholarship to play football at the Naval Academy where he met his wonderful wife. He stated, "After reading Sirach, I believe that one of the greatest gifts God can give us is a wonderful spouse." He tries to be a daily communicant.

Mr. Merrill told us that he has an engineering background from the Naval Academy and he looks at life as a series of blessings, hurdles and difficulties and how you handle those obstacles". "I am very blessed to have a strong faith and it has been a real blessing to me." Mr. Merrill stated, "Our faith is a gift from God and what we do with that faith is our gift back to God."

My faith has grown the most in the adversities. At 21 years of age and diagnosed with a malignant melanoma he was told he wasn't going to make it. "I told the captain that I was going to be fine and that if the good Lord wanted to take me he was going to take me." Following the surgery and 21 clips in his chest, his career as a Navy pilot ended. After that he played professional football with and against some of the great football players. During the first season he hurt his back and that ended his football career. He also had a near fatal accident while on a riding mower. He was pinned under the mower and knew there was nothing he could do. The mower rolled off of him and he floated to the top of the water. He then went with his family and participated in a very special Mass of thanksgiving to God that Sunday. Mr. Merrill stated, "But all these adversities have brought me closer to God." With his faith, he knew that there was something more God wanted him to do. Mr. Merrill said, "All of you have also gone through these types of struggles in your life." So in the adversities in your life, realize that God is there calling you closer to him. He finished his talk today by asking us to join us in praying the "Hail Mary." Thank you for a wonderful enlightening program for our meeting.

SERRA CLUB OF KNOXVILLE

OFFICERS

President Hazel Brimi
 President-Elect..... Ferrel Smith
 Vice Presidents:
 Programs..... Mona Manning
 Communications..... Joyce Carballo
 Membership..... Dee Dutkoski
 Vocations Jeanne Orzechowski
 Secretary Ferrel Smith
 Treasurer Joe Orzechowski
 Trustees Helga Deveau,
 Frank Carballo and John Smith
 Editor: Angela Feltz,
 3019 Rambling Road
 Maryville, TN 37801
 e-mail: angie@serraclubofknoxville.org

www.serraclubofknoxville.org

Welcome to Serra Territory

Serra International is a volunteer organization of Catholic men and women of various ages, races, occupations and backgrounds. There are more than 20,000 Serrans in 44 different countries embracing more than 1800 Clubs.

Our Territory is worldwide, yet with a local focus in each Catholic community. Serra's mission is to help foster and encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Pope John Paul II has said, "Serra is the lay vocations arm of the Church."

We take our name from the Franciscan missionary Blessed Father Junipero Serra, the 18th century founder of a string of missions along California's El Camino Real.

Founded in 1991, the Knoxville Chapter of Serra puts faith into action in many ways, to help encourage and support religious vocations.

Pray for the intentions of Bishop Stika, all of our priests, deacons, religious and all of our seminarians. Pray also for an increase in vocations.

Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra

Heavenly Father, we ask you to look lovingly on the missionary journey of your faithful servant, Blessed Junipero Serra. His steadfast efforts in founding nine missions in California and the conversion of thousands of Native Americans have inspired the formation and work of Serra International. This ministry in Father Serra's name is to encourage and affirm vocations to priesthood and vowed religious life. We pray that you bless this holy and courageous Franciscan missionary and grant him the ultimate honor of Sainthood in your heavenly kingdom.

We ask this in the name of thy Blessed Trinity and of Mary, Queen of Vocations. Amen.

*OUR MEETINGS WERE
 BRIGHTENED BY OUR
 Guests.....*

*John Merrill,
 John O'Conner*

Let Us Pray For the Recovery of ...

fellow Serrans Joe Bush and Serran's friends
 Andrea Cox's Mother Martina O'Brien
 Carl and Alice Von Beulow

" We pray to the Lord"

**Watch here for our
 Upcoming Programs**

**June—24th
 Annual Dinner**

**October - 31st
 Priesthood Sunday**