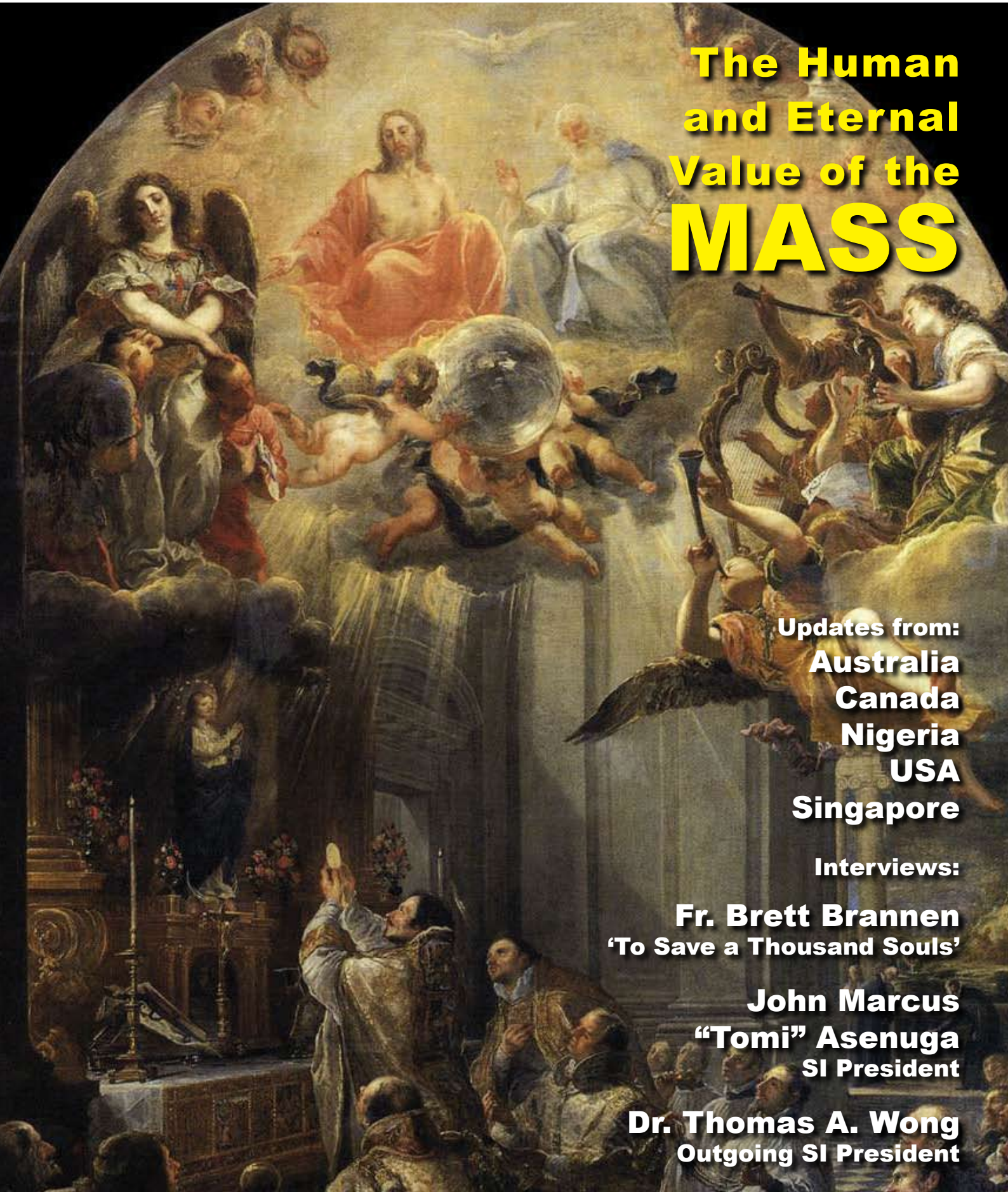
Serra Connects

Connecting Serra Clubs Around the World + Abiding as One in Christ

Issue No. 1 • July-August 2012



The Human and Eternal Value of the MASS

Updates from:
Australia
Canada
Nigeria
USA
Singapore

Interviews:

Fr. Brett Brannen
'To Save a Thousand Souls'

John Marcus "Tomi" Asenuga
SI President

Dr. Thomas A. Wong
Outgoing SI President

My Dear Fellow Serrans,

Wishing you the love and peace of our Risen Lord!

Seven years ago my wife, Lucy, returned home from attending a Convention in Bangkok and shared with me that "Serra is the best kept secret of the Catholic Church". The event was of course Serra's 63rd International Convention which was held in Bangkok in June 2005. That was the first time she attended a Serra Convention and discovered what this lay apostolate was about. Our Club was chartered seven months later in February 2006.

Over the years, I came to realise that there is some truth in that statement. We have around 18,000 Serrans in over 1,160 Clubs in 46 countries on six continents who have been praying and promoting vocations for the last 75 years. Yet, within the Catholic community, we seldom get to hear much about the works done by Serrans. In fact, many priests, not to mention the laity, we encountered do not even know about the existence of Serra.

Although some Serra Clubs do share their activities on their respective websites, these are not widely publicised. This is one of the reasons why I strongly believe that we need to have a platform to facilitate more effective communications among Serrans around the world. Previously, we used to receive "The Serran" newsletter by mail. Owing to cost and resource constraints, this has since been discontinued.

As such, I am pleased to introduce Serra Connects, a new bi-monthly newsletter by Serra International which provides the latest updates to help our big network of Serrans stay connected. Serra Connects' two-fold objectives are - firstly, it serves as a communications vehicle to share with Serrans all over the world the vocation promotion activities of different Serra Clubs in order to promote a lively exchange of ideas to encourage and edify one another as members of the one Body of Christ. Secondly, there is a spiritual focus to the newsletter to help us stay connected to the Lord as it provides inputs which will help Serrans to grow in holiness, which is the primary calling of all Christians.

In this inaugural issue, we are featuring an interview with SI President, Tomi Asenuga and Immediate SI Past President, Dr. Thomas Wong. We have highlighted some of the great works done by Serra Clubs around the world as well as an interview with Fr. Brett Brannen who is the author of "To Save a Thousand Souls". Fr. Brannen was also the speaker at the Serra International Convention in Anchorage, Alaska.

The success of this newsletter is dependent not just on the editorial team but on the contribution of Serrans all over the world. Therefore, I humbly seek your kind support in sending me any updates of the vocation promotion activities that your Club may have successfully implemented, including any challenges that you may have encountered in carrying out those activities. These exchanges and sharing can be a source of encouragement and affirmation for all Serrans serving in different parts of the world so that we can continue to persevere in this lay apostolate.

As Jesus said, **"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."** Matthew 5:16. May our heavenly Father be glorified by the work Serrans do!

Lastly, I welcome your feedback and comments on the newsletter so that we can improve on it as we progress along.

Thank you.
Mary, Mother of Vocations, pray for us.

God Bless,

Sean Yeo
Editor, Serra Connects

> **Dear Serrans, you are committed in a special way to promoting vocations. Never forget that yours must be above all a commitment to prayer, prayer which is constant, unwavering and full of trust. Prayer moves the heart of God. It is the powerful key to resolving the vocations question.**
>
> **- Blessed John Paul II, 7 Dec 2000**

The HUMAN and ETERNAL Value of the

MASS

By Jon C. Haines

The words written herein come nowhere close to explaining fully the value of the Holy Mass or how we can come to value it more. However, I hope that this will help those reading it to value the Mass more than before by understanding the reason it is the way it is and how to fully participate. I will examine two main points: first, the Mass as a human liturgy and manner of catechesis and secondly, how the Mass nurtures the body of Christ in the world as the highest prayer.

Mass Liturgy

When we consider what the Holy Mass is, we might like to take a step back and view it in light of liturgy in general. Liturgy is not something unique to Roman Catholics, Catholics in general or even to religion itself. Nearly every movement or revolution in thought has an art or liturgy that comes to be associated with it because the human spirit cannot help but express in a fully human way the new insight to which it feels it has come. The word *tradere* in latin means to literally "hand on," and is the origin of the English word tradition, with a lower case 't'. When handing on our 'insight' or anything at all, we easily tire of logic and words and usually prefer to transmit and express our beliefs about the world around us through gestures, symbolism and ritual because this is often much more effective than words. It is like passing a regular 10mb file on a USB drive vs. a 5mb zipped/compacted version of the same file. The saying remains true: "A picture is worth a thousand words, or reformulated as in Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*: "Even when the mouth lies, the way it looks tells the truth."[1] Consider the rituals of the most ancient Aztecs with human sacrifice, the Hebrew temple where a room was secured only for the priest, the intricate graphical symbolism of freemasonry or even gang signs.

1 *Nietzsche, Friedrich Wilhelm, and Walter Arnold. Kaufmann.* ***Basic Writings of Nietzsche.*** *New York: Modern Library, 2000. Print. 282.*

A relevant example of liturgy and art changing with beliefs is that as soon as the prevailing view in the renaissance that the world around us is more or less subjective (called idealism-dependent on the person and the object may not even exist if I am not viewing it) then the artwork changed along with it. Artists stopped pursuing the idea that their work should be as objective and realistic as possible (photography was soon introduced later anyways) and instead should contain a subjective element where the viewer impresses his own experience on the painting...hence, impressionism developed. As time went on the art became more vague advancing even from modernism to post-modernism where one person's interpretation could be nearly opposite another's. Have you ever heard of Pink Floyd, Salvador Dali or Samuel Beckett?

The point in all of this is to give a brief explanation of why the Church uses formulaic prayer--it is standard, symbolic and, when it is orthodox, didactically effective. It is confusing, conflicting and creates a 'wash' of symbolism when it is heterodox. To think that we have reached a stage (as many 1960's liturgists did) in evolution where liturgy and ritual should be left behind in favor of 'reason' or mere words with the artistic aspect remaining interpretive and vague is just silly (and boring). Art and ritual must not only remain, but also to avoid doctrinal corruption of the Tradition (capital 't') of the deposit of faith, it must remain in a spirit of continuity with our past, since being able to read symbols is the origin of their value. In this way we are assured that we hand on what we were given because the principle of the game telephone applies more to words than it does ritual. As an example, a specific type of symbol in the Mass which is often abandoned is that of mystery, which remains important to us as Catholics because it reminds us that, though Christ is our friend, he is also our God who is far beyond our comprehension. Without the symbols of, for example, the veil over a tabernacle centrally located, genuflections or even contemplative music...God seems pretty common, ordinary and well, profane. Profane simply means in latin--anything outside/in front of the temple, rather than in it. The purpose of "prayer postures" in nearly every religious tradition--is one more thing to set that time apart from any other time. This is why for at least 1900 years the priest and the people faced a golden box containing something rather important, and this is why today there is a push in many places today to re-introduce this practice. Nicholas Gomez Davilla once famously said: "The gesture, rather than the word, is the true transmitter of traditions." When, in many places the congregation does not act like Christ is present convening at the altar as though it were just like any other meal, it comes as no surprise that in the U.S.A. in 2003, only 27% of Catholics believed in the real presence[2]. The old law "Lex orandi, lex credendi" (the way we pray is the way we believe) does not cease to be true.

Pope Benedict XVI said the following in his 1989 book, *Milestones*:

> A renewal of liturgical awareness, a liturgical reconciliation that again recognises the unity of the history of the liturgy and that understands Vatican II, not as a breach, but as a stage of development: these things are urgently needed for the life of the Church. I am convinced that the crisis in the Church that we are experiencing today is to a large extent due to the disintegration of the liturgy."[3]

Mass Demystified Symbolically

Even more strongly in the preface to Msgr. Gambers' book, *The Reform of the Roman Liturgy* he stated:

> "What happened after the Council was something else entirely: in the place of liturgy as the fruit of development came fabricated liturgy. We abandoned the organic, living process of growth and development over centuries, and replaced it - as in a manufacturing process - with a fabrication, a banal on-the-spot product. Gamber, with the vigilance of a true prophet and the courage of a true witness, opposed this falsification, and, indefatigably taught us about the living fullness of a true liturgy."[4]

Consider reading Cardinal Ratzinger's book, *The Spirit of the Liturgy,* the encyclical *Sacramentum Caritatis,* the motu proprio *Summorum Pontificum,* or any of his recent homilies or press statements on the liturgy.

You might find that there is a great misunderstanding of what Vatican II intended in the way of adjusting the

2 *U.S. Catholic Survey*

3 *Benedict XVI.* ***Milestones: Memoirs, 1927-1977****. San Francisco: Ignatius, 1998. Print.*

4 *Gamber, Klaus.* ***The Reform of the Roman Liturgy: Its Problems and Background.*** *San Juan Capistrano, CA: Una Voce, 1993. Print.*

Holy Mass.[5] Ask yourself, does your music sound like a folk music or dance club or something from heaven? Have you been edified, lifted up and pointed towards God on a human level by Mass lately? If not, consider the orthodoxy of your liturgy, because the Roman rite in both its forms cannot help but lift the human spirit towards heaven, especially because of this next part.

Communion Far Beyond Words

So far we have only looked at the Mass from a human perspective, but as you might already know and believe, the Mass is a liturgy but not mere liturgy. It is the event where heaven and earth meet and the Holy Sacrifice of Calvary is re-presented to us, allowing us to come into profound communion with Christ. The manner in which we remember this action has developed and our Christian theology has become more and more crystallized in the liturgical actions by tradition. This means celebrating the Mass is more than just saying the words, it is praying the Mass in the form prescribed by the Church and emanating from tradition--not for the sake of fulfilling a formula as if it were magic--but for the sake of communing with Christ and His body throughout the world.

We, the Catholic Church, are the body of Christ in the world--his hands and feet and mouth. Since Christ of course is in heaven with the Father and the Holy Spirit, when we say "We are the body of Christ", obviously we are not Christ in an identical way since he and we are more than just a body, but nonetheless we carry out his humanity in the world. Bodies need to be nourished... and what better gift could Christ give us before he left to help us on our individual journey to continue to participate in the body of Christ? Well, the body of Himself would be hard to beat. Once baptized, we are full *members* of the body of Christ, which, though by sin can be damaged and by mortal sin become dormant and disconnected, allows us to receive and 'consummate' our relationship with God in a most elevated way. The blood, carrying oxygen, reaches the cells of His body so to speak. That is why the Mass is valuable beyond

words. Where else can you commune with the living God in a tangible way? It almost sounds silly. But because of this intense spiritual encounter (though we may not feel it) the Catechism of the Catholic Church goes so far as to say, "In brief, the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith...and the summit of Christian Life." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1327)

Massive Prayer

Some terminology may be useful in communing more deeply. As the highest prayer Holy Mass, on a practical level, is still multifaceted because we are praying in common at times (*external* participation) and at times we find ourselves on a personal level with Christ himself (*internal* participation). Both are essential to the Mass. It is important to note that through personal and spiritual participation we become united to other Christians throughout the world, rather than him simply appearing in our midst just by the fact of us being in the same location. It is true that where one or more are gathered Christ becomes present, but as the Holy Father has pointed out, when the Mass becomes focused on ourselves we detract from the sacrificial and unique

5 *For example, Radio Vaticana, VIS, 31 January 2012: "... the Holy Father's intention is rather to implement conciliar teachings on the liturgy which have been ignored up till now. Present day liturgical practice does not always have any real basis in the Council. For example, celebration versus populum [facing the people] was never mandated by the Council... A renewal of the form of divine worship is necessary for the interior renewal of the Church: "Since the crisis of the Church today is above all a crisis of the liturgy, it is necessary to begin the renewal of the Church today with a renewal of the Liturgy." Cardinal Koch, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.*

character of the Mass. It is our time to receive Christ and meditate rather than attend to giving him to one another. Through the strengthening of our own "cell" at Mass we strengthen our parish, diocese and the whole body of Christ. Of course we then engage each other in community, that is why the Catholic Church has an age old tradition of having coffee and donuts after Mass.

As the great saints and doctors of the Church say, external participation leads to full internal participation. St. John of the Cross in the *Ascent of Mount Carmel* and Theresa of Avila in *The Interior Castle* explain that *Verbal* prayer facilitates *meditative* prayer which is difficult and requires hard work but occasionally leads to *contemplation* which is the highest *manner* of prayer.[6] It can be helpful to keep in mind that the orations (said privately or in common) of the Mass have four purposes before God: *Propitiation*, or atonement for our sins, *thanksgiving*, *adoration/worship* and *petition* of God for our temporal and spiritual needs. All four of these can be sentiments in each of the four manners of prayer, externally or internally. As John of the Cross says, words and even thoughts themselves are merely stepping stones to the highest manner of prayer, whether inside or outside of the Mass: *contemplation*. The silence after communion or at the silence of the consecration (in the extraordinary form of the Mass) are ideal times to commune in this way with the Creator. Communion is what it's all about.

In summary, it is important to understand the Mass from both a human but most importantly a divine and spiritual standpoint. The Catholic tradition is so rich that it is very important to continue to inquire beyond this puny and insufficient article about the profound symbolism contained in the Mass and to attend Mass as frequently as you would like to receive the living God-that's a no brainer. So as you feel the slow pull of Benedict XVI's "New liturgical movement" or "Reform of the reform" you can know that, rather than forgetting the mystery of God by keeping the liturgy consisting of the mere profane, ironically, mystery is meant to aid you in grasping as much of the mystery of God as you can. Even with theology, God is far beyond our language--we know it and should express it. The furthest/oldest observed part of the universe is 93 billion light years away. The Holy Mass pokes a hole in that. †

> **"All the good works in the world are not equal to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass because they are the works of men; but the Mass is the work of God. Martyrdom is nothing in comparison for it is but the sacrifice of man to God; but the Mass is the sacrifice of God for man."**
>
> **St. John Marie Vianney**

6 *John, Of The Cross, and Kieran Kavanaugh.* ***John of the Cross: Selected Writings.*** *New York: Paulist, 1987. Print. 109.*

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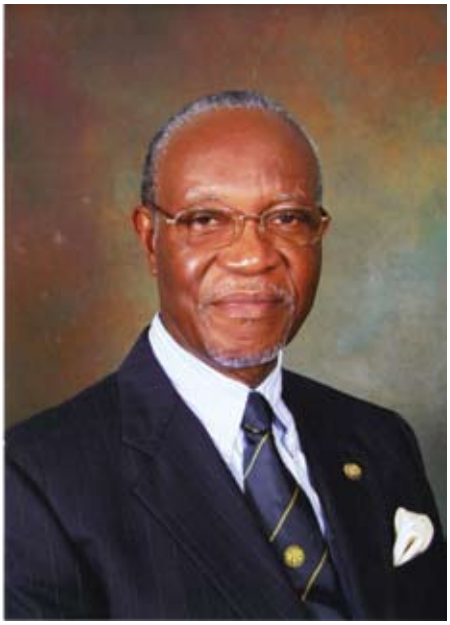


Getting to know new SI President, John Marcus "Tomi" Asenuga

Yes, I Will Serve!

What are your thoughts when you were elected a second time as SI President?

I was conscious that the President-Elect position was vacant due to the resignation of the nominee for the post; however it never crossed my mind that a Past President would be called upon to be President a second time. When I was appointed by the Board, I was briefly in a state of astonishment, thereafter I became aware that it is a great honor to be called upon to serve a second time.

When I joined Serra 24 years ago, it was to offer my service to the Church using my time, talent and treasure for the love of Christ and His Chosen Ones. I was glad to say "Yes, I will serve," inspired by the response of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the Archangel's invitation to her to be the Mother of Jesus.

Could you share with us what are some of the plans you have for Serra?

Firstly, the positive effect of the work of Serra needs to be extended to areas, countries and continents where Serra does not exist. All components of Serra will be encouraged to commit themselves to this task. The drive to take Serra to more countries in the African Continent will be vigorously pursued.

Secondly, commitment to do the work of Serra clearly demands a parallel development of the spiritual life of every Serran. All components of Serra will be encouraged to feature annual programs and retreats that will help develop and maintain the spiritual life of their members. ✝

Outgoing SI President,
Dr. Thomas A. Wong, DC CMD, says

Thanks for a Great Year!

The last one year as SI President must have been an eventful one, what are some of the highlights you would like to share with us?

By the grace of God, it has been a meaningful year as the President of Serra International. It was a great honor for me to serve this historical lay apostolic organization for vocations in the Catholic Church. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and love of the Mother of Vocations, I have been doing my best to humbly serve our 18,000 members around the Globe.

I remember Bishop Pibul from Thailand telling me at the dawn of my presidency in the chartering mass of St. Luke's Church Serra Club, "President Thomas, I am not going to congratulate you as you will carry a big cross in the next 12 months!"

My spectacular journey began in the capital city of Canada last July. I went on our first pilgrimage to the Holy Land immediately after my inauguration in the Ottawa Convention. Serrans around the world offered a Mass for vocations in front of the stone where Jesus' Holy Body was laid and raised from the dead.

Year 2011 coincided with the 60th Anniversary that Serra International was aggregated to the Pontifical Pastoral Ministry for Priestly Vocations. I led 81 Serrans from all continents of the globe to participate in the Congress to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the Pontifical Pastoral Ministry for Priestly Vocations by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, in the Eternal City in November 2011. I had the privilege to deliver a review of our past 76 years of historic activities on vocations and cooperation with the Pontifical Pastoral Ministry for Priestly Vocations. On that occasion, I also had a chance to be greeted by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI.

In November 2011, I stepped on five continents. Countries that I visited included the Vatican City, the United States of America, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Australia and Singapore. Throughout all these visits, I gave an update about the latest in Serra International, asking Serrans to participate in our new program "Serra Unites" in the Day of Prayer in September, Day of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in April and "Pray for Priests Year 2012". More importantly, it was the friendly reception among members, which brought us closer together both socially and spiritually.

In the month of April 2012, I participated in the successful 16th Serra Asian Convention, which was organized by our Macau brothers and sisters. At this convention, we achieved a deeper understanding, better communication and consolidated support among Serrans in Asia. I look forward to the next Convention in Bangalore, India in 2014.

I went on to Europe, where I visited the birthplace of our Patron, Blessed Junipero Serra in Petra, which is located in the beautiful countryside of the Island of Mallorca, Spain. I believe we will have a great convention in Barcelona next year to celebrate the 300th Anniversary of Blessed Serra's birthday in Spain.

Rounding off my stint as President, I visited Taiwan and the Philippines. Finally, I took up my round-the-world ticket to visit Bangalore, India, to participate in the

bi-annual National Congress in Italy and then finally, flew over the Atlantic Ocean for our 70th International Convention in Providence, Rhode Island in the United States of America.

The statement by Bishop Pibul about the "big cross" on my back this year is really true. However, I know our Lord has been embracing me throughout my journey. Yes, there have been personal sacrifices but it is nothing compared to His agony and crucifixion on the Cross. Besides taking care of the administration of Serra International as a whole, I needed to make judgment calls from time to time. As you read along, you know I was traveling to visit as many Serrans as I could, in fact, I was away from home almost every month. At the end of my term, I have visited 18 countries, 38 cities and flew at about 30,000 feet for almost 350 hours. With all these efforts, I felt Serrans are closer together now and I was able to bring the relic of our Patron, Blessed Junipero Serra, so that members have a chance to encounter him first-hand and with the help of local leading Reverends, be blessed with the relic. I also had a chance to bring the teachings of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Blessed John Paul II and Blessed Junipero Serra together with Serra International news to each place I visited.

Although your term as SI President has ended, how do you intend to continue serving as a Serran?

Time really flies. In a blink of an eye, I have reached the end of my term as President of Serra International. It has been a colorful year and I must thank all Serrans for entrusting me with this leadership position. Yet I will be joining the past presidents' club and will continue to serve. I shall be the youngest of them all!

I will continue with what I had begun this year, I shall assist in the establishment of the Serra movement in Germany and South Korea. I shall follow up with the new Serra Clubs in Hong Kong and Canada. I will continue to work with my contacts in Japan, Vietnam and even Mainland China. Together with Past President Chainarong Monthienvichienchai and in-coming President Elect Sean Yeo, we will strengthen the bond of Serrans in Asia. I will work together with all Past Presidents to renew all Serrans' pledge to Vocations, so that each of us will truly live our vocation as a Serran and be a peaceful instrument for vocations in the universal Catholic Church.

As St. Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Now, I have finished my spectacular journey as President, I shall pledge myself to continue as a "fisher of fishermen" to fish more fishermen, hoping there will be many workers for the harvest of His vineyard, I will keep my course in life to support and foster vocations.

As a handover of the SI Presidency to Tomi Asenuga, what would you like to say to him?

In order to paint a clear path for the future of Serra International and hand over a better organization to Mr. Tomi Asenuga, I shall strive to implement the following in the Serra Governing Board as the Chair:

1. Two-year term for each of the trustee;
2. Enlargement of the Serra Governing Board;
3. Stating clear duties of each trustee in the Board, and the line of authority from the International President to each club level;
4. Establishment of an office or send a staff to the Vatican to enhance our relationship with the Holy See;
5. Create our office in the Diocese of Chicago, if possible;
6. Bi-annual International Convention in every odd year; and bi–annual National or Regional Congress in every even year;
7. Ensure "Serra Unites" program will be an on-going annual event.

For the first time in the history of Serra International, I am going to hand my Presidential pin to my predecessor. I hope I will hand over a more united Serra International organization. I do not need to say too much to him because he is experienced and I shall pass on a beautiful eternal flame of vocations to my successor. I will say "God speed, President Asenuga! Mary, Mother of Vocations, pray for us!" ✝

Author of "To Save a Thousand Souls", Fr. Brett A. Brannen is still

PASSIONATE about VOCATIONS

What would be the ONE characteristic in a young man that may indicate that he has a vocation to the priesthood?

Love for the Church. A man cannot be called to become the husband of the Bride of Christ if he does not love the Bride of Christ. A man must be in love with a woman before he can marry her. The Church is the Bride of Christ, Jesus Christ is the true Spouse of this Bride, and the priest, as an alter Christus, is called to this marriage! I used to ask young men, "Do you think you are called to marriage or priesthood?" But once I studied the Theology of the Body of Blessed Pope John Paul II, I began to ask them "To which marriage are you called?"

How was your life as a priest changed after you wrote "To Save a Thousand Souls?" What have you gained/benefited from the experience?

I feel very blessed that Jesus chose to use me to write this book and I am humbled by everything that has happened since its publication. I have always loved being a priest but I love it even more now, especially as I see so many fine young men generously answering the call to go to seminary. Men from all over the world have told me that the book was a big help in their decision. I believe that God is asking me, in this season of my life, to work to help promote priestly vocations all over the world, not just in my own diocese or country. I pray about this and think about this a lot. Since I wrote the book, I was invited by the Serra Club of Singapore to go there and give a vocation retreat to young men, which I did this past fall. It was a wonderful experience! That is just one example of how God has blessed me since the book was published.

Has the Spanish version of "To Save a Thousand Souls" been released? If so, how has the response been?

The Spanish version was released in January 2012, thanks to a generous donation from the Serra Club of Houston, and we are still getting the word out. It is not just a translation, but a new edition, which is shortened by a few chapters. Certain language and concepts have been edited to make it more useful, not just for Spanish speakers in the U.S.A., but in all Spanish-speaking countries. We carefully tried to remove ideas or images that would not fit culturally in Mexico, Colombia or Spain, for example. The translator and editors worked very hard to make the book universally useful. We are currently seeking to offer any individual bishop or Bishop's Conference the rights to print the Spanish version in their diocese or country ***royalty free.*** We just want to help promote priestly vocations in the Spanish speaking world! **If any Serrans in Spanish speaking countries can help us make this happen,** please contact me (*frbrannen@saintmatthewsparish.com*) or my publisher and business manager Mr. Sam Alzheimer (*sam@vianneyvocations.com*).

N.B. There is now an "International Edition" of the book, likewise condensed, that is available to be translated into any language in the world, royalty free. It is currently being translated into Romanian and being re-printed in England and Australia. Serra Club of Singapore printed and distributed 1000 copies in Singapore.

Now that you are no longer the Vice-Rector of Mount St. Mary Seminary, could you please give us an update of what you have been doing and how is life in the parish? Are you still actively helping young men discern the diocesan vocation?

One year ago, my bishop assigned me as pastor of St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Statesboro, Ga., and as Campus Minister for Georgia Southern University. There is a vibrant campus ministry here, with four wonderful FOCUS missionaries and many active Catholic students. This past year, 18 young men participated in The Melchizedek Project (www.melchizedekproject.com), a discernment group for young college men, using

the book "To Save a Thousand Souls". This project was funded through a grant from The Our Sunday Visitor Institute. As a result, we have several young men who are seriously discerning priesthood. I also do private spiritual direction for many students, especially those who are actively seeking their vocations from God.

N.B. The Melchizedek Project discernment groups are spreading to high school students in U.S. parishes this year and we are happy to offer the resources to any college campus ministry or high school youth group anywhere in the world.

Could you share your experience on the "Save a Thousand Souls Diocesan Vocation Retreat" you conducted in Singapore last year?

The vocation retreat in Singapore was one of the highlights of my life! Serra Club of Singapore organized an entire week of Catholic school visitations, where I gave a brief talk on priesthood and then books were distributed to every young Catholic man. The week ended with a weekend retreat at the seminary for adult men and for the Singapore seminarians. I was very inspired by the work of the Serra Club of Singapore and their love for the priesthood! As a parting gift, Serra Club of Singapore gave me a spiritual bouquet: 1000 Holy Masses and 1000 decades of the Holy Rosary! I could have flown back to the U.S. without an airplane.

If you were to write another book on vocations, what will it be?

Well, I never intended to write a book in the first place, but Jesus clearly pushed me to write "To Save a Thousand Souls". If He wants me to write another book, He will let me know. I try to pray and listen, and follow the Blessed Mother's advice: "Do whatever He tells you."

Do you have any advice for Serrans in promoting vocations?

My experience with Serrans worldwide is very limited, though I have always been impressed with the Serrans I have met, wherever they are! The two Serra Clubs which have done the most impressive work regarding "To Save a Thousand Souls", are the Serra Club of Singapore and the Serra Club of Houston (U.S.A.). Both of these clubs have given away thousands of books to young men and I am hopeful that great good for the Church will come as a result of their efforts. The Serra Clubs in my own diocese of Savannah, Ga., (in Augusta and Savannah), have always been strong supporters of everything I have tried to do to promote vocations. So before I give any advice, I want to say thank you to all Serrans worldwide!

All the Serrans I know are prayer warriors and that would be my first recommendation: to continue to be rooted in prayer and living a sacramental life, daily Eucharist, regular confessions, etc. A holy Church raises up holy priests. Praying for and supporting our current priests is also a very important work of Serra.

I would also recommend that Serrans help the diocesan vocation director to promote The Melchizedek Project discernment groups on college campuses and in high-schools or youth groups. Getting **good information** to young men about priesthood and about discerning priesthood is of critical importance to our mission as Serrans. This is precisely why I wrote "To Save a Thousand Souls" in the first place.

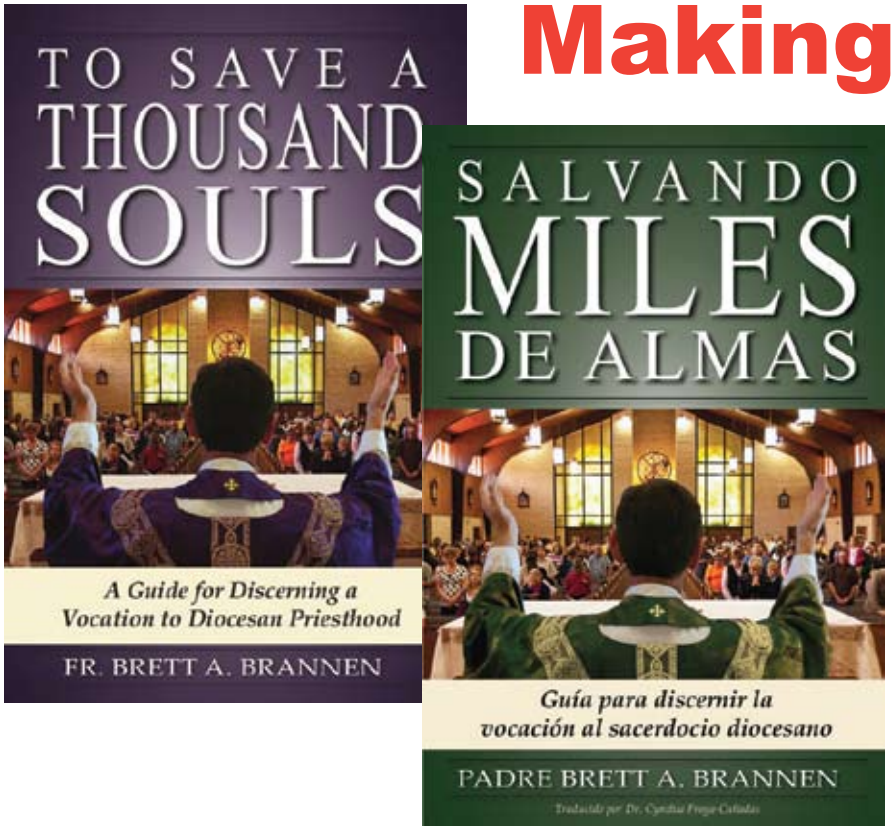
The diocesan bishop or vocation director is the one who can best advise the local Serra Club of what is most needed.

God bless all of our faithful Serrans! †

Fr. Brett Brannen with Vocation Retreat Participants from Singapore

Making It Happen

How the Serra Club of Houston funded the Spanish Version of Fr. Brett Brannen's "To Save A Thousand Souls"



On receiving the inputs to the email interview questions from Fr. Brett Brannen, the editorial team of Serra Connects was very edified by the good work of the Serra Club of Houston and wanted to find out what inspired them to fund the translation of the Spanish version of "To Save a Thousand Souls". Here's the inside story...

Vice President for Vocations of Serra Club of Houston, Serran Ted Wandstrat humbly shared that it started with him sponsoring 50 copies of Fr. Brett's books as Christmas presents to the young men who were in contact with Fr. Dat Hoang, Vocation Director, Office of Vocations, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. With the grace of God, he and his wife, Carolyn agreed to fund the translation which cost a little more than US$10,000.

District 10 Governor, Ms. Margie Geddie recounted interestingly that at the Serra International Convention in Alaska, when she heard that Fr. Brett had just written a book on how to discern a Diocesan vocation, she had thought that his talk would have been "a real sleeper"! However, to her great surprise, when Fr. Brett began speaking, she found his presentation riveting and could not take her ears or eyes off him. She said, "I knew I had no choice but to bring this book to Houston and in a big way. We had to get this book into the hands of every young man in Houston whoever had the slightest inkling about becoming a priest. To do otherwise would have been a mortal sin of omission! So not only did we bring the book to Houston but also Fr. Brett to speak at the University of St. Thomas. His presence and his book have moved mountains in Houston. The Archdiocese of Galveston Houston Vocations Office Director told us that he has seen a direct increase in the number of young men who have come to him to discern a vocation to the Priesthood as a direct result of Fr. Brett's book.

Ted and his family witnessed the fireworks over the initial 12 month period that the book made its way through Houston and because of their love for the Hispanic community, were deeply troubled that there was not a Spanish translation of the book. So Ted and his wife took it upon themselves to secure financing to have the book translated into Spanish. It took them a year to accomplish because Fr. Brett wanted to make sure the translation was not any bit short of a universal Spanish translation. Now I am proud to say that because of Ted and his family, the book will be in the hands of millions of potential savers of a thousand souls worldwide."

She gave credit to the Holy Spirit in inspiring them in different ways in accomplishing God's will for this project. †

"To Save A Thousand Souls" is available at www.vianneyvocations.com

Let Us Pray for Priests by Name Every Day!

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel…" Philippians (1:3-5)

"Pray for Priests Year 2012" is a project initiated by Serra International in thanksgiving to God the Father for the gift of the priesthood, the gift of our priests to the Church. It was launched on January 3, 2012 on the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus.

Praying for our priests by name everyday is a profound expression of our love and support for our priests. We echo the words of St. Paul to the Philippians (1:3-5): "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel…"

The emphasis of this prayer initiative is to pray for every priest by name on a daily basis for the whole of 2012. We encourage all Serra Clubs around the world to implement this initiative. If you have not started yet, it is still not too late!

The objective of this initiative is also to actively inculcate in the laity a need to keep our priests in daily prayer. Therefore, this is a great opportunity for Serrans to reach out to the lay faithful and involve them in praying for our priests more conscientiously and with greater commitment.

How It Works
In this initiative, the minimum objective is for every priest to be spiritually covered on a daily basis with a Holy Sacrifice of Mass, seven decades of the Holy Rosary and seven Divine Mercy Chaplets. The prayers are offered on a daily basis for the priestly intentions and sanctification of each priest. This means that a team praying for a particular priest will comprise a minimum of seven intercessors.

Minimum Commitment of Each Intercessor
The minimum commitment of an intercessor is simple; once a week, attend one Mass and offer it for the priest concerned. The day of the Mass will be assigned to each intercessor by an appointed team leader from the outset to ensure that there is one Mass offered for the priest every day of the week. For example, one intercessor is assigned to offer a Mass on every Monday, the next intercessor on every Tuesday and so forth. In this way, it is also easier for the intercessor to remember his/her obligation in this commitment.

On a daily basis, pray the short "Daily Offering Prayer" found on the "Pray for Priests Year 2012" prayer card, one decade of the Holy Rosary and one Divine Mercy Chaplet for the priest. *(At most, this takes only 10 minutes even when prayed in an unhurried manner!)*

Each intercessor will be given a prayer card with the name of the priest to pray for, the team leader's name and contact and the day he/she is supposed to offer the Mass for the priest concerned and the daily minimum prayer commitment.

The artwork for the prayer card can be downloaded by all Serra Clubs from the Serra International website (*www.serra.org*). A limited number of the printed prayer cards, incorporating a simple explanation of the dynamics and FAQ (frequently asked questions) can be obtained from Serra International's office.

Lastly, let us exhort one another in the words of St. Paul; "Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 16:14) ✝

Dynamics of "Pray for Priest Year 2012"

The objective of this initiative is to form teams of prayer intercessors (minimum of 7 intercessors per team to pray for one priest) to spiritually cover every priest serving in the Archdiocese with prayers for the whole of 2012.

Each prayer intercessor's role is as follows – to pray for one priest by NAME everyday for the whole of 2012 with the following commitment:

1. Offer ONE Mass per week for the priestly intentions and sanctification of the priest concerned.
2. Pray one decade of the Holy Rosary and one Divine Mercy Chaplet

This takes at most 10 minutes!

CANADA

2012 Ordinandi Dinner

Toronto Central Serra Club, Toronto West Serra Club, Toronto Downtown Serra Club, Markham and Scarborough Serra Club and Durham Region Serra Club

In one of the largest Catholic events of the year, more than 1,900 faithful came out in full force for the 22nd Annual Ordinandi Dinner, an opportunity to hear from men on the cusp of priesthood. Organized by the Toronto area Serra Clubs, it is a joyful occasion for our family of faith to support our priests-to-be and reflect on the vocation each one of us is called to discern in our own journey.

We heard from four men to be ordained this May for dioceses including Toronto, Pembroke and Halifax/Yarmouth. What struck me most this year was the joy in each one of these men as they shared their vocation story. Each one included the ups and downs of life but all wove a common thread of being drawn to their faith, falling in love with the idea of the priesthood and coming to the point where they could provide the resounding "yes" to the call, not to mention up to 10 years of formation in some cases.

The dinner has come a long way in 22 years, from humble beginnings to where we are today, with virtually no additional room in the banquet hall for any more guests. There were also close to 400 students in attendance, in no small part due to the extensive efforts of Serrans to build bridges with our Catholic schools, encouraging them to be proactive in fostering vocations. In addition to facilitating participation from the students, chaplains, teachers and even Directors of Education were there to demonstrate their own personal support for the event. Yet the concept remains simple: sharing a personal faith journey. It is a fascinating glimpse into a journey that most do not have the opportunity to hear about.

There is always an opportunity to recognize priests celebrating significant milestones and this year's dinner was no exception. Ten priests were honored, ordained 50 years ago in 1962 - imagine the considerable service and commitment they have given to the community over the last half century. It was also a special moment to have Bishop Pearce Lacey recognized, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Toronto and still very much engaged in the life of the Archdiocese at the age of 95 and coming up to 69 years of priestly ordination. †

AUSTRALIA

Appreciation Luncheon

Serra Club of Melbourne

Each year, the Serra Club of Melbourne arranges an "Appreciation Luncheon" for priests and members of religious communities. As the name suggests, it is the Club's way of showing its appreciation to those who have chosen clerical or religious vows and of demonstrating Serra support for their vocations.

The Luncheon is held in the dining room of a private club, usually in September. Invitations are sent to priests (retired and in active service) and to Religious Orders.

The Club generally hosts between 30 and 40 at the Luncheon. In 2011, due to a chain of circumstances, the luncheon was held in October. Unfortunately, this became a problem to the invitees as many sent their apologies. We found that October was a popular month for priests' holidays! At that time, also, our bishops were on their "Ad Limina" visit to Rome and none were able to attend.

The luncheons allow Serrans, clergy and religious to meet in an informal atmosphere and provide a great opportunity to speak with our guests in such a manner. The support of Serra is always favorably commented upon by our guests.

During the luncheon, the Club makes a donation to the Priests' Retirement Foundation which was established by the Archdiocese of Melbourne some years ago to look after the needs of Diocesan priests in their retirement and during illness. †

Msgr. Bernard Okodua presenting award to Mrs. Jane Ebong, a patron.

NIGERIA

Fundraising Dinner

Serra Club of Gbaja, Lagos

On April 21, 2012, Serra Club of Gbaja, played host to guests from all walks of life in a relaxed atmosphere with priests and fellow Serrans. The event was the maiden Annual Fundraising Dinner / Award Night.

The president, Serran Peter Ezike, gave a brief talk on Club programs and activities of the year and solicited the continuous support of all "friends of Serra". He thanked the parish priest, Monsignor Bernard Okodua and the Club chaplain, Rev. Fr. Matthew Ogunyase for their blessing and unwavering support.

Some patrons of the Club were honored for their support of our programs in the past year. Serra International President-elect, Serran John Tomi Asenuga and Serran Christopher Tugbobo, a Trustee of Serra Club of Lagos, spoke about the Serra Movement to our delighted guests with some indicating interest in joining us.

The main event was to raise funds for some of our 2012 programs which include: Training a Priest, Contribution to the building of the proposed St. Albert the Great Seminary, Visits to two Novitiates and hosting the 3rd Annual Communication Seminar for Seminarians in the Lagos Archdiocese in November. †

NIGERIA

Gift of Computers and Ancillary Equipment to All Saints Seminary

Serra Club of Lekki, Lagos

From a friendly discussion with Very Rev. Fr. Michael Olusola Omojola, Professor of Scriptures and the Dean of Seminarians of the All Saints Seminary, we were informed that the Seminary was in dire need of computers.

The Seminary had only 15 computers; with most of them not working optimally, for a student population of 300 seminarians, meaning that most of the documents and research papers prepared were carried out outside the Seminary and at a high financial cost to the Seminarians. We also found out that the Computer Centre was outdated and needed a major facelift.

We approached the Archbishop of Lagos, Anthony Cardinal Olubunmi Okogie, who with other Bishops supports and directs the affairs of the Seminary, to seek his approval for our planned activity. Cheerfully, this was given to our Club.

With that, we promptly arranged to buy and install the computers, from a parishioner – OK Computers Limited - 25 desktops, 5 laptops, 25 UPS, 2 laser jet printers, 25 wireless receivers/5 wireless routers, cables, complete range of office furniture items, chairs, electrical equipment, window blinds and repainting of the entire computer room facilities.

This project meant that all the members of Serra Club of Lekki tasked ourselves with the target of raising the needed funds, using every opportunity to ask benefactors to rise to the occasion and donate to the appeal fund. The project took us, all of a year and a half to complete, with the hardest part being raising the funds required.

Serra Club of Lekki Members travelled from Lagos to Ekpoma to launch the facility on Saturday, February 25, 2012. The Rector of the Seminary, Very Rev. Paul Kehinde Oredipe and other Teaching Staff were in attendance with all the Seminarians.

The Seminary is now better placed for the Seminarians and Staff to utilise the state of the art computers and ancillary equipment delivered. Special thanks also to Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Fadairo, the Parish Priest of the Catholic Church of Divine Mercy and our Chaplain, Rev. Fr. Peter Abatan for their prayers and constant encouragement. †

NIGERIA

Dinner with Priests and Religious

Serra Club of Maryland, Lagos

On Sunday, May 6, 2012, Serra Club of Maryland hosted the second edition of its fund raising dinner for the promotion/support of priestly and religious vocations.

The response to the dinner was quite impressive as guests who bought the admission tickets and the invited priests and religious were all in attendance. One of the priests in attendance gave a talk on “Understanding the New Media: A Challenge to Pastoral Agents” while another entertained the audience with a beautiful rendition of African folk songs.

Apart from the dinner tickets purchased, guests also made donations towards the Club’s project of training and welfare of priests and religious as well as supporting the continuous growth of the Church. †

USA

Vocation Panels

Serra Club of Northwest Denver

A project that Serra Club of Northwest Denver uses to help students discern if they have a calling to a religious life is vocation panels. We held four panels last year for confirmation classes at St. Joan of Arc and Sts. Peter and Paul, the 8th grade religion class at Shrine of St. Anne School, and a Family Ministry program for Our Lady of Fatima. Each of the panels included at least one priest, a deacon, several Seminarians from St. John Vianney and/or Franciscan Capuchins and/or Brothers from St. Dominic Priory. The Sisters were from Sts. Peter and Paul Parish/school. We also had two Vincentian Volunteers at St. Joan and Sts. Peter and Paul. We started each session with a short presentation about Serra Club and Junipero Serra (stressing it was not the Sierra Club which most of all the students had heard of). Each of the panel participants then gave a short biography of themselves and told how they had received the calling of a vocation and decided to act upon God's call. Following the bios, students were seated at tables in small groups of 5-8. The religious rotated from table to table to talk to the students in a more personal way.

We provide list of questions for the students just in case they cannot think of any to ask the religious. It does not really appear the list is necessary because most of the students seem to enjoy asking their own questions. Nevertheless, we still plan to provide them just in case.

The time frame for each session ranged from 11/2 to 2 hours. All feedback from the teachers/sponsors was good, and we have been invited back again this coming year. †

USA

Vocation Awareness Program

Serra Clubs of Dallas and Fort Worth

The Vocation Awareness Program, commonly referred to as the "VAP", is a weekend of discernment offered for single, Catholic, men and women, between the ages of 18 and 40, who have an inclination towards a religious vocation, such as Priests, Sisters or Brothers.

The VAP was adopted from the Northwest Houston Club's "Life Awareness Program." The Serra Clubs of Fort Worth and Dallas have sponsored the VAP every summer since 1990. For 20 years, the VAP weekend has provided over 700 men and women with support in their process of discerning whether they may have a religious vocation in the Catholic Church.

The next VAP will be held from Friday, June 22 through Sunday June 24, 2012 at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, Texas. The weekend activities will be led by the Dallas and Fort Worth Dioceses Vocation Directors, Father Rudy Garcia and Father Kyle Walterscheid. The weekend includes presentations, panel discussions, question and answer sessions, one-on-one personal conferences with diocesan and religious order Priests, Sisters, and Brothers who volunteer to serve as staff. There are no fees, private rooms and meals are furnished. For more information, please see http://www.vapinfo.org/ †

SINGAPORE
Altar Servers at the Vatican for the First Time

Serra Club of Singapore

Altar Servers are very close to the heart of Msgr. Francis Bonnici, Director of the Pontifical Pastoral Ministry for Priestly Vocations (Congregation for Catholic Education), Vatican. In response to the Serra Club of Singapore's "Serra Altar Server 2009" initiative which recognizes altar servers who have been exemplary in their service to the Catholic Church in Singapore, Msgr. Bonnici wrote the following: *"Your award is also in line with the pastoral work for vocations followed in different parts of the world to promote altar servers who are a source of vocations. I myself heard God calling me to the priesthood when I was serving a Mass in my parish one day and while the priest was elevating the Host, I said to myself, 'I want to be like this priest…' "*

It is no surprise then that Msgr. Francis Bonnici has been faithfully gathering Altar Servers from Malta every year for an attachment program at the Vatican. For one month, young altar servers with a basic command of Italian would spend part of their summer holidays serving at Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, and praying and having fellowship with each other when they are not serving at Mass.

Thanks to the generous invitation and acceptance from Msgr. Bonnici, for the first time, the Serra Club of Singapore, sponsored the two winners for the "Serra Altar Server 2009", namely Brendan Kok and Shawn Wong, to join the "Altar Server Attachment Program" at the Vatican, together with the altar servers from Malta in August 2011.

Here are their testimonies of how this attachment program has deepened their love for Jesus, His Church and their experience serving Mass at St. Peter's Basilica alongside altar servers from Malta and their God-moments during the whole trip. Currently, they are also discerning their vocation to be Diocesan priests.

Shawn Wong, 22 years old

Years of service as altar server – 14 years
Position in the Altar Servers Society – Advisor

The Altar Servers' attachment to Vatican City was a grace-filled one month for me as I had the opportunity to serve at the heart of the Roman Catholic Church and encounter God in a very special way through the liturgy.

Having had the opportunity to serve Mass in St. Peter's Basilica and staying within the walls of Vatican City was indeed a great honor and blessing that God gave me as I was able to appreciate the richness and traditions of our Catholic faith from a perspective like no other!

My most fond memories of Vatican City would indeed be the times spent serving Masses in St. Peter's Basilica as I truly encountered the universality of the Catholic faith. I had the chance to serve Mass in Latin, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Vietnamese, English and German. Serving Mass at the Altar of Blessed John Paul II was especially a very spiritually moving encounter for me.

Being at Vatican City before and after the World Youth Day in Madrid also meant getting the opportunity to meet many Priests and pilgrims from all around the world who were either en route to Madrid or their home countries.

Most importantly, this trip gave me an opportunity to come away from my busy life in Singapore and it helped me in my discernment process as I left Vatican City with an even greater appreciation for my faith and a stronger conviction to devote my entire life to God in whatever state of life He may be calling me to.

Brendan Mark Kok, 22 years old
Years of service as altar server – 14 years
Position in the Altar Servers Society – President

Upon receiving the news that the co-winners of the Serra Altar Server 2009 would be going to Vatican City to serve at the altar on a Vatican Attachment programme, I was thoroughly humbled by such an offer and privileged to be able to experience this God-given opportunity to serve in the Basilica of St. Peter and to visit Malta and other holy sites in Italy. It has always been my hope that one day I would visit the Eternal City and if possible, to see the Holy Father. Under the meticulous care of Monsignor Bonnici, I was able to hone skills and was able to experience Italian and Maltese culture in an unconventional manner.

Exchanging experiences and living with the Maltese servers and the other Vatican officials/clergy, I gained great spiritual and practical knowledge about the service at the altar, the management of the offices in the Vatican and the life in the Vatican as Altar Servers.

There were many experiences that drew me to love the Lord and His Church in a deeper way. Truly, the Lord was full of surprises for Shawn and me. The first Mass I served was in Spanish at the tomb of Blessed John Paul II. It took me by surprise when the priests led me to that altar. There, I assisted in Holy Mass, with the Pope that I admired from young, and who encouraged young people with the words of our Lord, “Do not be afraid!”

My second Mass was also a pleasant surprise. We were about to have a short tour through the Basilica and a briefing for Sunday’s Solemn High Mass when the Sacristan requested for 2 servers to assist at the evening Mass. Monsignor Bonnici immediately signalled the 2 Singaporeans to serve the Mass. Just five minutes before Mass, we were told that Cardinal Brandmüller would be saying that Mass in Latin at the Altar of the Cathedra. That was, for us, the first Prince of the Church we served.

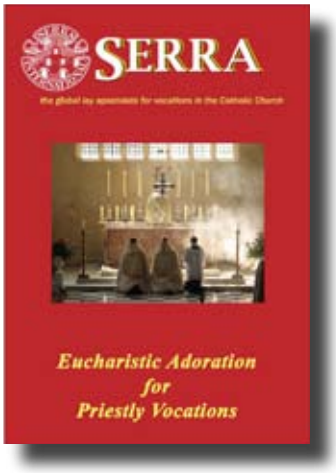
I could see God’s Hand in these experiences and it truly deepened my love for Holy Mother Church. Seeing the Church in its multiplicity of language, expressions of faith and people from different walks of life, history and stages amazed us. I could see clearly, before our eyes, that the Church is Mother and God is Father of all. When I set foot in Vatican, I felt that I was Home. During that month’s stay, what kept me going was our personal commitment to daily Holy Hour. This helped me fuel up daily to face each day in the Eyes of the Lord and to keep my eyes always on Him. Apart from Mass, this was the most important part of the day for me.

Because of our faithfulness to our prayers and prayer times, always putting our personal pleasures second to our time with God, some of the Maltese servers, most of whom were a few years younger than us, noticed our routines and asked us why were we so faithful to our prayers. Some of them were drawn to this and requested that we inform them when we were going to pray, and they would join us in our prayers. I realised that the Lord was using us to draw them to Himself. I was humbled by this moment. God used us, imperfect though we may be, as His instruments.

Serving Mass and living alongside the Maltese was also a fun and enriching experience for me. Their zest for life, with different characters and personalities were a lot of fun to spend our stay with and time passed quickly. As Singaporeans, we can be quite meticulous about upholding standards and making things go according to plan. The Maltese taught us how to take things easy and let them fall into place.

For all these things, I thank God for this great experience and thank the Serra Club of Singapore for their support and organisation. Indeed, God calls us to be faithful, because faithfulness bears fruit in the Lord’s vineyard. †

Brendan (left) and Shawn (right) with Msgr. Francis Bonnici



Serra's Eucharistic Adoration for Priestly Vocations Booklet

"Remembering the counsel of Jesus: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37), we readily recognise the need to pray for vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. It is not surprising that, where people pray fervently, vocations flourish. The holiness of the Church depends essentially on union with Christ and on being open to the mystery of grace that operates in the hearts of believers." Pope Benedict XVI, 5 March 2006.

"Eucharistic Adoration for Priestly Vocations" is a 67-page prayer booklet by Serra International for use by Serrans praying as a Club. The objectives of this prayer booklet are to help the lay faithful unite their prayers as one powerful prayer movement in which Eucharistic Adoration is the focus, to pray for an increase of vocations to the ministerial priesthood and the religious life and spiritually support our priests.

The booklet comprises three parts. The first part outlines the format of a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Part two contains a series of prayers which can be used during the Holy Hour: traditional Eucharistic Prayers as well as prayers for vocations, of saints and scriptural passages with reflections and intercessions for young men to be granted the grace to answer God's Call to the priesthood. Part three constitutes the Holy Rosary with meditations on the priesthood and prayers for priests which can also be used during the course of the Holy Hour.

This booklet constitutes an important practical prayer tool for all clubs to consider using in the near future. To learn more about how to obtain the booklet, simply visit *www.serra.org*. or contact Jon Haines at *jhaines@serra.org* or tel: +1 (312)-419-7411. †

> **Know also that you will probably gain more by praying fifteen minutes before the Blessed Sacrament than by all the other spiritual exercises of the day. True, Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, for He has made the promise, 'Ask, and you shall receive,' but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament will obtain a more abundant measure of grace. - St. Alphonsus Liguori**

SI Pray for Priests Year 2012 Prayer Cards

The "all-in-one" Pray for Priests Year 2012 prayer cards comprise the following:
1. Brief write-up of the initiative
2. Role and commitment of an intercessor
3. A list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) pertaining to the initiative
4. Daily Prayer of Offering
5. How to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

A limited number of the prayer cards are available from Serra International's office. For copies of the prayer cards, please email Jon Haines at *jhaines@serra.org* or tel: +1 (312)-419-7411. †

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