



SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE Newsletter

April 2019

K.S.C. DINNER

The Annual Archbishop's Dinner, sponsored by the Knights of the Southern Cross will be held on Friday 16th August. This will be the 21st Annual Dinner and it has raised about \$1.2 million, which is given equally to the Dioceses of Victoria and the Military Ordinariate to assist in the education of seminarians and additional study for priests. The Guest Speaker is Susan Alberti.

JUNE 2019 MEETING

As some of the club members will be attending the Serra International Convention in June, the Board has decided to hold the Executive meeting a week earlier, on 12th June, and cancel the general meeting due on 26th June, which normally see the installation of the Executive for 2019-2020. This will now take place on 24th July and is the occasion when prospective Serrans and guests are most welcome.

MEMBERSHIP

At the November meeting last year, the members had a discussion about membership based around the suggestions put forward by the New President of Serra International, Mario Biscardi. While the subject is an ongoing problem, we must face the fact that if we are not successful in recruiting new members, this club will go the same way as have so many other clubs over the past several years.

District 89 currently has four clubs, Melbourne, Oakleigh Deanery, Sale and Bendigo. Melbourne Serra Club will celebrate fifty years since its Charter next year 2020 and the Sale Club is celebrating forty years this April. However, in the 1980's and 1990's there were twelve clubs, and a similar situation exists in District 92.

Anne Larkins, President of SCANZSPAC, at the March meeting continued our discussion as to how we can possibly gain new members. Anne provided a precis of what our Serra International President had given.

She emphasised Mario's suggestion—Before you invite people write down your own thoughts on why you are a Serran, and what convinced you to join. Identify three Serran activities that you enjoy, and that fulfil Serra's mission. Think about why you support Serra and what blessings your membership has brought to you. How important is it to pass on your Catholic faith and to have the Sacraments available to the next generation. How would you feel if there were no priests in your parish, or perhaps the reverse, there are priests, but there are NO people in the pews.

It is the responsibility of every Catholic to pass on our faith, and we as Serrans must do all that we can to ensure that Serra remains an active force in the ongoing struggle to uphold our Catholic faith.

DISTRICT 89 RETREAT

The Annual Retreat was once again conducted at Holy Cross Retreat Centre. The Retreat Facilitator was Sr Brigid Murphy C.P. The Theme of the Retreat was, 'When the Well Seems Dry, Rediscovering the Well Within.' The day was organised by Neville Hackett and John Dalton, with twenty-five Serrans in attendance.

Sr Brigid challenged us to 'Discover the Well Within'. If we look around us, somewhere there is a well, so deep and full of life-giving drink. Some experiences are like wells and often people create them, wells of wonder and of hope. It could be someone we know who is deep and real, life-giving, cool, calm and refreshing. They bring out the best in you, they encourage you when things get rough. When you find your well, drink deeply and you will discover that you have become what you have received and will be a well for others. Look around you, into the hearts of thirsty people. Don't stop looking as there may be well that hasn't yet been discovered.

Sister Brigid said that our life is a journey and there are times when we are travelling well and when the way seems clear, but there are also many twists and turns on the way. As a Church we appear to be at a turning point on the road and there are many challenges that make us question our own journey as individuals whom are part of the Church.

The agenda, which Pope Francis began on the night of his election when he appeared on the balcony and bowing his head asked for a blessing, invites us to grow as we read the signs of the times and respond as true disciples of Jesus.

Sr Brigid quoted from 'Laudate si', written by the Pope, and suggested that we examine his writings. She challenged us to read a series of excerpts that she provided, and to use these to draw out our answers to them.

SEMINARY VISIT

On Sunday 7th April, the day following the Retreat, members from the four clubs in District 89 attended Mass at the Seminary Church of the Sacred Heart. The Serrans are fortunate to be able to take part on an annual basis. Fr Denis Stanley, Rector of Corpus Christi College was the Principal Celebrant, and he was accompanied by priests of the seminary staff. Seminarians sang parts of the Mass, and everyone remarked on how uplifting it was. At the conclusion of Mass, Serrans joined the staff and seminarians at a delightful lunch. Melbourne Club President, John Short, was invited to speak, and he gave a brief outline of Serra's aims and objectives. He gave a great presentation of what we do. A total of Twenty-six Serrans were present, and all agreed that it is inspiring to see the calibre of the men who are discerning as to whether they have a vocation. The Retreat and the Seminary visit give Serrans the opportunity to renew friendships with fellow Serrans.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

April	24th	St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin
May	22nd	Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by
June	CANCELLED	Dinner Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.

SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

April	St Joseph's Elsternwick	10.00am
May	Stella Maris Beaumaris	9.15am
June	St Peter's Clayton	9.00am

MASS ROSTER

	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>July</i>
Reader:	John	Dan	Anne
Prayers of the Faithful:	Jo	Terry	John
Offertory Procession:	Max/Terry	Frank/Jo	Guests
Minister of Communion:	Dan/Frank	John/Anne	Celebrants
Meals Clean Up: All Members urged to assist.			