



SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE Newsletter

April 2017

CANCELLATION OF JUNE MEETING

As some members will be attending the Serra International Convention in Rome in June, the Board has decided to cancel this meeting. Normally the new Executive would be installed at the June meeting, but this will now be done at the July meeting. This is a good opportunity to invite some people as guests of the club to let them see what Serra is about.

SEMINARY VISIT

The Serra Club of Melbourne has been fortunate in being invited to attend the Mass and Luncheon at Corpus Christi College Seminary each year. We have been fortunate to once again be invited in 2017. The date has been set for Sunday 30th April 2017. The Mass commences at 11.30am at Sacred Heart Church in Rathdowne Street Carlton. This is always a wonderful occasion to meet with the staff and students of the College, and explain to them, particularly the first year seminarians, the aims and objectives of Serra International, and why we see a need to pray for, and support them in their journey, and to continue doing this if and when they are ordained.

Members of other clubs in Victoria joined with us last year, and it is hoped that they will do so once again. Serrans from the Oakleigh Deanery Club have already been attending for a number of years.

SERRA INTERNATIONAL

The 2017 International Convention will be held in Rome from 22nd to 25th June. This will be a wonderful opportunity for those who have not been to Rome previously, to experience the Catholic Faith being demonstrated in a very public manner. Frank McCulloch has been advised that an audience with His Holiness, Pope Francis, has been confirmed, subject to unforeseen circumstances.

The International Convention was last held in Rome in 1983, where there were approximately 2300 Serrans in attendance, including 50 Serrans from Australia and New Zealand. Sadly there won't be anywhere near that number this time.

K.S.C. DINNER

The Archbishop's Dinner for the Priests Support and Education Fund will be held once again at the Moonee Valley Racecourse on Friday 15th September.

Serrans will once again arrange a table so that we can show our appreciation of our priests. This will be the 19th Annual Dinner and Serra has been a strong supporter of this event since its inception. The Fund has raised over one million dollars for the Bishops to assist with the education of priests and seminarians for the four dioceses of Victoria and the Military Ordinate.

PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS LUNCHEON

The Annual Luncheon will once again be held at the Elsternwick club, 1 Sandham Street Elsternwick, on Wednesday 13th September.

KEVIN HURLEY

As reported in the previous newsletter, Kevin was extremely ill, but sadly he died on Tuesday 14th March. His funeral was held at St Cecilia's, Camberwell South, his parish church. Our Chaplain, Fr Gerard Dowling was the principal celebrant, and Kevin's son, Fr Brendan Hurley, who was able to return home from Mexico, and Fr Kevin McGovern, parish priest of St Cecilia's. Kevin had endured a prolonged illness for a considerable time. He was of enormous assistance to Fr Dowling prior to his illness, in that he was a friend and driver for Fr Dowling to take him to various meetings and appointments when Father was unable to drive.

SERRANS IN ILL HEALTH

We have received word that Roger Gheller, a former member, is very ill. He has pancreatic cancer and has undergone chemotherapy, but his prognosis is not good. Please pray for him.

KATHY HOLLIER

As reported previously, Kath suffered a very bad fall and has moved into Cheltenham Manor, but is recovering well, but still unable to drive. She hopes to be able to resume attending the club meetings in the future, and is in good spirits.

ANNUAL RETREAT

The 2017 District Retreat was once again held at Holy Cross Centre, Templestowe, on Saturday 18th March. Neville Hackett was the very capable organizer of this the 37th Annual Retreat. Neville has always been able to organise wonderful Retreat Masters, and this year was successful in obtaining Most Rev Patrick O'Regan, Bishop of Sale. A very good attendance of thirty four were enthusiastic in their praise for him.

The Bishop used the Beatitudes as the basis of his talks, and had prepared a booklet to assist everyone.

He quoted St Clare of Assisi: "We become what we love, and what we love shapes what we become."

JOHN O'CONNOR

Our recently deceased and much loved John O'Connor, has continued his generosity with a bequest in his Will of \$5,000.00 to the Serra Australia Foundation, and \$1000.00 to the Serra Club of Melbourne. John always displayed great concern towards the ideals of Serra, and was an example to everyone in his ability to reach out and assist those around him. He was a splendid model to all who knew him.

REPORT FROM TERRY TAYLOR

Terry Taylor (VP Programmes) presented a very informative talk on the California Missions. Whilst much has been said of the missions of Junipero Serra, Terry's talk covered a broader aspect of missionary activity.

Spain conquered Mexico between 1519 and 1520, after which the Franciscans and other orders arrived. The Spanish "discovered" California in 1542 but didn't colonise the area until the 18th Century.

The Jesuit Order, founded in 1540, spread to the Spanish and Portuguese empires. The Order came to Mexico in the late 17th Century and founded missions in Baja (Lower) California in 1699.

At the time that Junipero Serra came to Mexico in 1749, Spain controlled many areas that are now part of the United States of America. Serra spent a short time at the San Fernando Missionary College that was founded in Mexico City around 1670 before spending nine years in the Sierra Gorda Mission. Serra spent a further nine years at the Missionary College and was almost sent to Texas. The Jesuit order was expelled by order of the King of Spain and Serra was asked to take over the Baja Missions which, in turn, were taken over by the Dominicans.

Serra was placed in charge of the new missions to be established in Alto (Upper) California and established nine missions between 1769 and 1777. Spain was worried about threats from France (which owned Louisiana), Russia (Alaska) and England (through its American Colonies) and viewed the establishment of missions (Church), forts (Presidios) and towns (Pueblos) as means of defence. Junipero Serra died in 1784 but establishment of missions continued.

The late 18th and early 19th Centuries were tumultuous with wars and revolutions on the American continent. The American War of Independence was waged from 1775 to 1783. Following achievement of independence, the Americans began their westward expansion putting further pressure on Spain.

Mexican independence was gained in 1821 and the Mexican Republic was founded in 1822. Over a period, the missions were secularised with the Californian missions falling victim in 1833. In the following year, the missions were confiscated. Mexico entered an anti-clerical phase in 1860. The San Fernando College was closed and all priests were expelled. After the USA-Mexican War in 1846-1847 (won by the USA), many areas were ceded to the USA. California became a US State in 1850.

During the American Civil War (1861 – 1865), President Abraham Lincoln, by an Act of Congress, restored the Californian Missions to the Catholic Church. The mission areas are now under the control of the National Parks Service but the churches remain with the Church, many of which are carrying out their original roles.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

April	26th	St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin
May	24th	Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by
June	CANCELLED	Dinner Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.
July	26th	

SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

April	St Leonard's, Glen Waverley	9.00 am
May	Stella Maris, Beaumaris	9.15 am
June	St Joseph's, Elsternwick	10.00 am
July	St Finbar's, East Brighton	9.00 am

MASS ROSTER

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

REMEMBER to say the Serran Prayer ... DAILY