



SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE Newsletter

May/June 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.

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 that this club hosts will once again be held on the second Wednesday in September. The date is 13th September, **but the venue has been changed**. This year it will be at the Bentleigh R.S.L., 538 Centre Road Bentleigh. It is on the corner of Arthur Street, which has ample parking at the end of the street, and some parking at the rear of the R.S.L. It is alongside Woolworths Supermarket, which is on the corner of Centre and Jasper Roads. The Lunch will be at noon for 12.30pm.

SEMINARY VISIT ON SUNDAY 30th APRIL

What a great day this was. Twenty-nine Serrans from the Melbourne, Oakleigh Deanery, Bendigo and Sale Clubs joined the staff and seminarians of Corpus Christi College at the celebration of Mass followed by lunch.

Fr Denis Stanley was the Principal Celebrant, and priests of the Seminary staff concelebrated. Fr Stanley welcomed the attendance of the Serrans and praised the work of Serra. A most enjoyable lunch followed and again Fr Stanley welcomed the Serrans, and later on invited the President of Melbourne, John Short, to speak about Serra. John spoke briefly, but very eloquently about what Serra's objectives are, which was received with great interest by the seminarians, particularly the young men who have just commenced their first year. At the conclusion of lunch, the Rector invited everyone to join with them for coffee, which gave the seminarians the opportunity to enquire more about Serra. Special mention must be made in praise of the singing by the seminarians during the Mass, which is attended by many Catholics from the surrounding area. It also gave the Serrans the opportunity to "catch-up" with seminarians that they know. It was a wonderful day!

INSTALLATION OF NEW PRESIDENT

As reported in the April Newsletter, the current President, Kathy Hollier, suffered a bad fall, and while she is now recovering, decided that she would be unable to continue in the role of President. John Short was nominated to become President, and was installed by Club Chaplain, Fr Gerard Dowling, at the April meeting. Kathy made a special effort to be present at this Mass, and was thanked for her dedicated service to the club, and was presented with a Past President's badge.

GUEST SPEAKERS

At the April meeting, there were two Sisters, Sr Cecilia and Sr Anita, from the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master, as our guests. They are based at Justin Villa, which is where our Chaplain, Fr Gerard Dowling is currently living. Father has been full of praise for the way that the priests are looked after there.

Sister Cecilia explained about the founding of the Order, as reported in Kairos, in saying:

"We are the modern version of the women of the Gospel called to follow Jesus and to proclaim him to all peoples through our Eucharistic, priestly and liturgical mission. We strive to be like Mary, the first and most perfect disciple of Jesus. She was the first to listen and ponder in her heart the words of Jesus the Divine Teacher and to put into practice the spirit of the Beatitudes.

Founded by Blessed James Alberione in Alba, Italy in 1924, the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master is an international congregation, present in more than 30 nations. We are part of the Pauline Family, sharing in the same spirit and unifying project: to live and communicate Jesus Christ, the Way, Truth and Life to all of humanity.

Our daily life revolves around the Eucharist, the source and summit of the life of the Church. Our Eucharistic experience is transformed into concrete testimony, in a life lived in joyful evangelical simplicity and loving service. Our mission is to lead people to the Eucharist so that they may experience in the depths of their being the love, joy and peace that flow from this great sacrament of communion. We assume a ministry of unceasing prayer which extends itself in perpetual adoration. As representatives of humanity before Jesus present in the Eucharist, we intercede for the needs of the Church and offer up to Christ the hopes, desires, struggles and sufferings of our brothers and sisters, that they may live out faithfully their life in Christ. In this sense we are very much a part of the contemplative tradition of religious life in the Church.

Our love for the Eucharist instils in our hearts a great love and reverence for the priesthood. We contribute to the pastoral development of the Church by praying for priestly vocations, by helping them in their years of formation, assisting and accompanying priests in the exercise of their ministry, and supporting the clergy in friendship, especially in times of suffering, loneliness, and in other difficult situations.

Here in Melbourne, the Sister Disciples help create a warm, homely and prayerful atmosphere in the retirement homes, Justin Villa and George Maher House, for the sick and elderly priest of the Archdiocese who have over so many years generously served God's people. As they continue to live out their priesthood, they now enjoy the loving and compassionate care, hospitality and attention joyfully given by the sisters.

Christ is always present in his Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations. The Sister Disciples enrich the celebration of the Liturgy and the Sacraments in the following ways:

- ◆ The placing at the service of the Liturgy various artistic expressions: painting, sculpture, architecture, music and many forms of handicraft to beautify and dignify the Liturgy.
- ◆ The organisation of formation sessions in Liturgy.
- ◆ Catechesis and biblical-liturgical animation.

We aim through the witness of lives centred in Christ to share with others the richness that we ourselves have discovered. We believe that when persons encounter the Risen Lord present in the Eucharist, the Word and the sacraments, there is a genuinely life-changing transformation. From this intimate relationship with Jesus flows service for others and a deepened sense of mission, solidarity and communion.

In joy and thanksgiving we live our vocation as disciples of the Lord as a gift that is ever new and that needs to be shared.

Convinced of the beauty and the relevance of our charism in the Church and the world, we encourage young women to 'come and see'.

SCANZSPAC PRESIDENT

Anne Larkins, President of SCANZSPAC, will be entering hospital on 17th May for a medical procedure. As any hospitalisation can have serious risks, please keep Anne in your prayers that she makes a full recovery.

REMEMBER to say the Serran Prayer ... DAILY

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

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

SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

May	Stella Maris, Beaumaris	9.15 am
June	CANCELLED	
July	St Finbar's, East Brighton	9.00 am

MASS ROSTER:

	May	July
Reader:	Anne	Dan
Prayers of the Faithful:	Dan	John
Offertory Procession:	Lyn/Terry	Guests
Minister of Communion:	Frank/Barbara	Concelebrant's
Meals Clean Up:	All Members urged to assist.	