



# SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE Newsletter

May 2018

## K.S.C. DINNER

The Annual Archbishop's Dinner, sponsored by the Knights of the Southern Cross will be Friday 24th August 2018. This will be the 20th Annual Dinner and it has raised over \$1,000,000.00 to date to assist in the education of Seminarians, and additional study for priests. The Guest Speaker is Andrew Bolt, journalist and commentator.

## SCANZSPAC CONVENTION

A booking has been made at Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne, for 19th and 20th October. The SCANZSPAC Board Meeting would be held on the previous day. Registration is anticipated to be \$300 per person, with a \$25 discount for 'early bird' bookings. Accommodation is available at the Centre at an additional cost. Serrans should remember that this was the venue for the Serra International Convention held in Melbourne in 2015, and what a wonderful occasion this was.

The Theme of the Convention is "The Universal Call to Holiness". The keynote speaker will be Father Marcus Golding. Other speakers will be Sister Melanie Edwards MGL, Father Nick Pearce, assistant Vocations Director for the Melbourne Archdiocese, and Father Denis Stanley, Rector of Corpus Christi College Seminary.

## DISTRICT 89 RETREAT

The Annual Retreat for Serrans and friends, was conducted on Saturday 14th April, at Holy Cross Retreat Centre, 207 Serpells Road, Templestowe. This was the 39th Annual Retreat, and was once again organized by Neville Hackett. As remarked previously, Neville has organized wonderful Retreat Masters, and this year was no exception, as he was Fr Kevin Hennessy CP, Superior of the Holy Cross Passionist Community at Templestowe. This is the second time he has made himself available, as he conducted the Retreat in 2009. A total of 36 attended, with representatives from all four Victorian Clubs.

Fr Hennessy said that he has always been very grateful to Serra, because, a number of years ago, he was endeavoring to establish a Mission in Papua-New Guinea and he contacted Serra International in the United States and asked could they provide assistance. He was overjoyed to receive \$10,000 which enabled the project to go ahead, and obviously has continued to have an effect in the spread of the Catholic faith there, and no doubt has been the source of many vocations from that country.

Father gave a brief overview of Holy Cross Retreat Centre and its place in the community. For example for the last three years, it has been the venue for the highly successful Passion Play. Which has been financed and organized by Pat LaManna since its inception. The Play is re-enacted on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Students are also in residence, and currently there are six students from Papua-New Guinea studying English, two from China doing their Masters and one from

Johannesburg. The Centre is in almost continuous use, with for example, the Lutherans have come as a group for a number of years.

Father Hennessy based his discussions on the Easter Season, covering the period leading up to Jesus' death, and consequent sorrow and despair, through the confusion and joy of the Resurrection. Father led us into the first session asking us to think of any miracles we had received in our lives and gave us a sheet on which were four photographs and a brief explanation and requested that we find a quiet place and meditate on our life. We came together and many shared their wonderful experiences.

Father said that the Church is going through a transition where, in the Western World, the majority of Catholics no longer practice their faith. But in the developing countries the increases have been enormous. For example, in Africa in 1900 there were 2 million Catholics, and now approximately 180 million, and in Latin America and the Caribbean there were about 59 million, and now about 480 million.

As the Catholic Church has performed well in Health, Education and Social Services, and is moving from the Traditional Church, Father challenged us to discuss this and to evaluate where we stood on this issue. General discussion was very positive and the consensus was that the Catholic Church should remain in providing these services, and indeed everyone should be proud of what has been achieved, and should certainly continue on in these fields.

The afternoon session was confronting, initially, for some. We were invited to discuss, in groups, as to whether we were ready to face death. A wonderful session and we came back together to present some of the findings. It certainly was interesting in that some were very prepared, even to having their Requiem mass set out, others emphasised the need to have an enduring Power of Attorney and a Medical Power of Attorney completed, and for relatives to know that it existed, and who had, and where the information was.

This was followed by Mass, fellowship and dinner. Father made the Mass very meaningful and was able to incorporate the Readings for the Third Sunday of Easter with what had been discussed throughout the various Sessions during the day.

As always it was wonderful to be able to talk with fellow Serrans at the Dinner, and to be part of such a wonderful group.

## **CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE**

On Sunday 15th, the Serrans from District 89 were invited to join the Seminary staff and students for the Celebration of Mass in the Sacred Heart Church, and then to join with them for lunch. Twenty-eight Serrans were able to attend, and it was a very joyful occasion. There are over 50 students at the Seminary, but some are in parish placements, and some of the staff were assisting parishes with the celebration of Mass, to relieve some of the burden on the parish priests.

Some members from Bendigo and Sale who were at the Retreat stayed overnight and so were able to attend both events, so this worked out very well.

John Short, President of the Melbourne Club was invited by Fr Denis Stanley to speak to the gathering, and he gave an excellent overview of what Serra is, and its accomplishments over the years. This gave the students, especially the First Year ones, the information that there was a group of committed people who were very concerned about the welfare of the Seminarians and were praying for them.

Fr Stanley also emphasised the high esteem which he has for Serra.

### NOTICE OF MEETINGS

May 23rd St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin  
 June 20th Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by  
 July 25th Dinner Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.

### SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

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

### MASS ROSTER

	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>
<b>Reader:</b>	Barbara	Dan	Anne
<b>Prayers of the Faithful:</b>	John	Terry	Dan
<b>Offertory Procession:</b>	Anne/Max	Jolyon/Christine	Barbara/Terry
<b>Minister of Communion:</b>	Terry/Dan	Concelebrants	John/Frank
<b>Meals Clean Up:</b>	<b>All Members urged to assist.</b>		