



NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Issue 4

October 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Serrans,

During the past two meetings I have been making available copies of the Handbook for Serrans. The purpose of the Handbook is to help you in understanding your role in the Club and the opportunities for you to serve our Church in a very special apostolate for Vocations. Please make sure that you obtain a copy.

Serra Christmas Function / Celebration of Your Vocation Final Reminder

Date: Friday 13th November 2015
Location: Pennant Hills Bowling Club
Address: 52 Yarrara Road Pennant Hills
Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm
Parking: Club car park, or in the street behind the Club.

Please confirm your attendance tonight / ASAP and see the treasurer for payment.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT)

A Message to Serrans

The recently canonised Saint John Paul II had the following message for Serrans:

"Prove to everyone, with clarity and without compromise, your sincere adherence to Christ and to the Church. Prove, at home, at work, in your associations, that the message of Jesus forms real men and women capable of coping serenely with the harshness of daily life. Be available with all your strength to the construction of a civil society more worthy of mankind. Prove in your whole behaviour that, with the grace of God, it is possible to put into practice in the modern world the *'Sermon on the Mount'* and the *'Beatitudes'* with all the radicalism they involve.

With these wishes I invoke the abundance of divine favours on your meritorious activity, on you all and on your dear ones and I willingly impart my Apostolic Blessing..."

Saint John Paul II – pray for us.

Terry.

REFLECTION

On 1st October we celebrated the Feast Day of St Therese of the Child Jesus (The Little Flower). It seems appropriate that at this time of the year, the spring gardens in this part of the world display all their beauty, whether it be roses, flowering trees and shrubs or annuals. Throughout her life, St Therese had an unbounding admiration in the beauty of God's creation even to a single petal of a rose. When referring to the "lilies of the field", Jesus said "Not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed as one of these" MT Ch 6 V 29. My memory from a young age was of statues of St Therese garlanded with flowers at her feet.

This month also marks the Canonisation by Pope Francis of Louis and Zelie Martin, the parents of St Therese. They will be the first spouses canonised as a couple.

Although they were married for a comparatively short period of time (19 years), in their marriage they became one in their devotion to one another, finding the Lord in each other.

REFLECTION (CONT)

Louis and Zelig had 9 children, five of whom, all girls, survived to adulthood and all entered religious life.

Accounts of family life of the Martins would indicate an engaging and busy life in which the children were instilled with a love of God and of each other. The practice of their faith was central to their daily routine. On one occasion, Zelig wrote, with reference to the children, "We lived only for them. They were all our happiness."

In expressing this love, they focused on family prayer and taught their daughters to know and love Jesus. They attended early Mass on each weekday, on many occasions accompanied by one or more of their children.

Although by today's standards, the Martins were comfortably off, they gave generously to the deprived and those less fortunate than themselves and welcomed them into their home.

Although St Therese was just 4 years old when her mother died, she already in her little way, experienced the reciprocal love of Jesus which was to be central to her whole existence as a Carmelite Nun, leading to her own early but joyous departure from this life.

Whilst Louis Martin had the responsibility of rearing his children after the death of Zelig, one can imagine his own joy in overseeing his daughters advance to adulthood and the consecrated life. It is worthy to note that Celine stayed with her father till his death in 1894, following the onset of dementia, and became a Carmelite within weeks of his passing.

With this background, what joy there must be in Heaven for the Martin family at this particular time. The 20 th Century was greatly blessed by the presence of the Martin family.

Oh Jesus, send your Holy Spirit to imbue in all families a faithful response to each other and to you and may they enjoy and reciprocate the bountiful love and gifts you freely bestow upon them.

David Carson – Secretary

THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2015 MEETING

Venue - Sacred Heart, Pymble

Priest - Fr. Joseph Lam

Catering – Kevin & Maureen, Nora Cliff, James & Grace Cheah

PRAYER REQUESTS

Trenna Scanlan, Fay Vale, Monica Gibbons, John Swan, Elena Fergusson, Elizabeth Sheldon, Sr Catherine Ann Therese, Phil Connors, Jim Hussin, John Garretty, Fr Phil Hicks.

DAILY SERRAN PRAYER

God, our Father,

We praise You for Your goodness and thank You for Your gifts.

We thank You for our priests, deacons and consecrated men and women. May they be holy and filled with the fire of your love.

Father, look upon Your Church with love and bless us with an increase in vocations: people of faith, hope and love to lead and guide us.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Mary, our Mother, protect and strengthen our priests, deacons and consecrated men and women.

May they know your loving presence and follow your words "Do whatever he tells you." (Jn 2.5)

St Joseph, faithful spouse of Mary, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross, pray for us.

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