



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010 #1

CLEVELAND—EAST

Gus Skapek, President + Rev. Dave Ireland, Chaplain

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Vocation Week



January 10-17

Serra East meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at the Ursuline Educational Center on the Ursuline College campus, located at 2600 Lander Road., Pepper Pike, OH @ 6:15 for Mass or prayer service followed by dinner, brief business meeting and speaker with topics concerning vocations, social justice, scripture, evangelization and other timely subjects.

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Well, we have rushed into the Christmas Season and advanced into the New Year of 2110.

For us Roman Catholics, we have had the season of Advent, beginning with the four Sundays before Christmas. The season heralds the coming of our Holy Savior Jesus Christ. It was a penitential time for each of us to prepare ourselves to receive Jesus.

Advent, symbolized by the Wreath, gave us all the opportunity to examine our lives and perhaps do something special. It was less fasting and penance and more a time of prayer and reflection to appreciate the coming of Christ at Bethlehem and His coming again at the end of time.

It truly has been a time for giving and sharing. But not the biggest, most expensive plasma TV set (or whatever), but giving to those who don't have and are in need.

We are now into the New Year of 2010, a new decade is upon us.

Vocation Week begins on the 10th of January. Have you encouraged someone to think about a Vocation within the Church? If not, why not. I have requested various people to contact their pastors (all of whom have received an information packet) to get an announcement in their church bulletins. I ask that each of us offer prayers specifically for the intention of increasing vowed religious vocations. Attend an extra Mass each week and pray for Vocations. If your parish has an Adoration Chapel, make a visit and pray for Vocations. We are Serrans, we pray, we call forth vocations and we encourage vocations.

St. Teresa of Avila said: "There is but one road which reaches God, and that is prayer; if anyone shows you another you are being deceived."

Happy New Year to everyone.



Gus Skapek, President

Mark Your Calendars

Monday, January 11, 2009: Sister Erin Zubal of the Ursuline Sisters will be our speaker. Sister Erin is the youngest member of the order here in Cleveland and will talk about her background and discernment process as well as the young women she teaches at Beaumont High School.

Monday, January 28th: Mass, dinner and speaker

Sunday, February 21st: Mass at 11:00AM, followed by breakfast with the Seminarians at the Center for Pastoral Leadership.



November Speaker

Fr. Damien Ference witnessed to the Serrans how a good priest and friend was instrumental in his vocation. He shared that vocations are not about programs, but develop with a very personal knowledge of Jesus Christ. "God uses priests to be the person of Jesus Christ. Priests educate men to know Jesus Christ."

If the Church presents good Catholic teaching, our kids will accept a "High Bar Challenge".

It is Fr. Damian's experience that when you encourage the young to come to daily Mass, give them a Breviary. It allows them a chance for prayer and Church teaching. Make morning and night prayer available to them as a means of better knowing Christ, and include Eucharist Adoration for quiet time with the Lord.

For youth groups, have social service, scripture and teaching about Jesus Christ. For strong youth groups, it is important for the priest to be present.

ABC's for Vocations

*Attend weekday Mass + Be humble + Call forth +
Dine out with a priest + Encourage someone you know +
Frequent church + God's spirit dwells in you +
Help a seminarian + Invite someone +
Jesus calls many + Keep learning +
Laughter is the beginning of prayer +
Maintain constant love for one another + Nurture friendships +
Offer time + Patience is a necessary part of the vocation call +
Quit complaining + Remember to pray + Serve one another +
Trust God + Uphold your faith + Visit the adoration chapel +
Write a note to a priest/seminarian/nun + eXpect vocations +
Yearning for God makes us worthy +
Zip thru your day knowing God loves you.*



ClevelandCatholicVocations.com

The Seminarian and Priests Prayer Calendar for the months of February thru May is attached to this newsletter.

Both this calendar and the prayer calendar for priests in our diocese may be found at the website:

parentsofpriests.net

Is there a priest who made an impact on you? Is there a priest whom you admire? Is there a priest who might need a bit of encouragement from someone?

Grab a pen and paper today, write him a short note.. Don't you feel great when you get a note on an ordinary day? There is a priest who will be happy to receive a note from YOU.



**YEAR FOR
PRIESTS
USCCB.org**

By Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

If God called men to the priesthood by reaching down and tapping them on the shoulders, we would not be lacking for vocations.



But the "call" is much more subtle than that, and responding to it requires a good measure of human encouragement. Vocations are seldom the result of visions, dramatic miracles or near-death experiences. Instead, nurtured by others, they grow quietly and gradually. Like seedlings which receive the necessary sunlight and water to mature into beautiful trees.

Note: Email addresses in this newsletter are not listed with the @ symbol. If you wish to contact anyone, please use @ instead of (at)



NEWSLETTER INFORMATION We appreciate articles for the Serra East Newsletter Send your article, comments to: MaryAnn Trask; 13355 Foxmoor Tr.; Chesterland, OH 44026 , OR email: mat13355@gmail.com

