



## SAINT PAUL SERRA CLUB



ST. PAUL #9

DECEMBER 2009

### UPCOMING DATES/PROGRAMS:

**Merry Christmas**

December 9th, Wednesday

*Board Meeting*

*St. Joe's Hospital*

*7:30 a.m.*

December 11th, Friday

*John Litchy, District*

*Governor*

*6:30 AM Rosary*

*Annual Visit & Update*

*7:00 AM Mass*

*St. Joseph's Hospital*

December 25th, Thursday

*Christmas Day, no meeting*

***May His Coming Bring Peace In The New Year !***

**December Program .....**

### **John Litchy – District Governor**

John will be here to update us on District happenings and share some thoughts on this year's convention. John graduated from St. John's University in 1961, followed by a Masters degree in Architecture, and eventually opened his own engineering firm. John and his wife Bette have 2 grown children and 2 grandchildren. John is retired but very active as a trustee at Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Hgts. John is a 31 year Serran of No. Mpls. Club and served twice as President.

***Be there to help us welcome our District Governor!***

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## Redneck Naming

Billy Bob's pregnant sister was in a terrible car accident and went into a deep coma. After being in the coma for nearly six months, she wakes up and sees that she is no longer pregnant. Frantically, she asks the doctor about her baby.

The doctor replies, "Ma'am, you had twins! A boy and a girl. The babies are fine and your brother came in and named them."

The woman thinks to herself, "oh no, not my brother... he's an idiot!" Expecting the worst, she asks the doctor, "Well, what's the girl's name?"

"Denise," says the doctor. The new mother says, "Wow, that's a beautiful name! I guess I was wrong about my brother. I like Denise." Then she asks, "What's the boy's name?" "Denephew."



## Looking Ahead.....

**Jeannie Minea**, our Program Director, has a **great start to**

**2010!**

Jan 8, St. Joseph's Hospital, **Fr. Gregory Skrypek**

Jan 22, Joseph's Grill, **Bob Zyskowski**, editor of the Catholic Spirit

Feb 12, St. Joes, **Fr Damien Schill**

Feb 26, Joseph's Grill, **Fr Eugene Tiffany**

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## The Bagpiper

As a bagpiper, I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man who had no family or friends. The funeral was to be held at a cemetery in the remote countryside and this man would be the first to be laid to rest there.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods area, I became lost and being a typical man, did not stop for directions. I finally arrived a hours late. I saw the backhoe and the crew who were eating lunch but the hearse was nowhere in sight.

I apologized to the workers for my tardiness and stepped to the side of the open grave where I was the vault lid already in place.

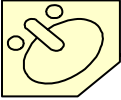
I assured the workers I would not hold them up for long but this was the proper thing to do. The workers gathered around, still eating their lunch. I played out my heart and soul.

As I played the workers began to weep. I played and I played like I'd never played before, from Going Home and the Lord is My Shepherd to Flowers of the Forest. I closed the lengthy session with Amazing Grace and walked to my car.

As I was opening the door and taking off my coat, I over heard one of the workers saying to another" Sweet Jeezuz, Mary'n Joseph, I never seen nothing like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years.

## **“CELEBRATING OUR CELEBRANTS” An Appreciation Dinner to Honor Priests**

A committee composed of members from the Serra Clubs of District 7 has been meeting to plan an appreciation dinner for priests in this “Year for Priests”. The date has been set for **May 11, 2010** at the **Earl Brown Heritage Center**.



### **Chaplain’s Corner**

#### *Baby Erik and the Old Man*

We were the only family with children in the restaurant. I sat Erik in a highchair and noticed everyone was quietly eating and talking. Suddenly, Erik squealed with glee and said, “Hi there”. He pounded his fat baby hands on the highchair tray. His eyes were wide with excitement and his mouth was bared in a toothless grin. He wriggled and giggled with merriment.

I looked around and saw the source of this merriment. It was a man with a tattered gag of a coat dirty greasy and worn. His pants wee baggy with a zipper at half-mast and his toes poked out of would be shoes. His shirt was dirty and hair was uncombed and unwashed. His whiskers were too short to be called a bear and his nose was so varicose it looked like a road map. We were too far from him to smell, but I was sure he smelled.

His hands waved and flapped on loose wrists. “Hi there, baby. Hi there, big boy. I see ya buster, the man said to Erik. My husband and I exchanged looks, “What do we do?” Erik continued to laugh and answer. “Hi. Hi there!” Everyone in the restaurant noticed and looked at us and then at the man. The old geezer was creating a nuisance with my beautiful baby.

Our meal came and he man began shouting from across the room, “Do ya know patty cake? Do you know peek-a-boo? Hey, look, he knows peek-a-boo. Nobody thought the old man was cute. He was obviously drunk. My husband and I were embarrassed. We ate in silence all except Erik, who was running through his repertoire for the admiring skid row bum who in turn reciprocated with his cute comments.

We finally got through the meal and headed for the door. My husband went to pay the check and told me to meet him in the parking lot. The old man sat poised between me and the door. “Lord just let me get out of here before he speaks to me or Erik, I prayed. As I drew closer to the man, I turned my back trying to side step him and avoid any air he might be breathing. As I did, Erik leaned over my arm reaching with both arms in a baby’s “pick me up” position.

Before I could stop him, Erik had propelled himself from my arms to the man’s Suddenly a very old smelly man and a very young baby consummated their love relationship. Erik in an act of total trust, love and submission laid his tiny head

upon the man's ragged shoulder. The man's eyes closed, and I saw tears hover beneath his lashes. His aged hands full of grime, pain and hard labor gently, so gently, cradled my baby's bottom and stoked his back.

No two beings have ever loved so deeply for so short a time. I stood awestruck. The old man rocked and cradled Erik in his arms for a moment, and then his eyes opened and set squarely on mine. He said in a firm commanding voice, "You take care of this baby". Somehow I managed " I will", from a throat that contained a stone. He pried Erik from his chest unwillingly, lovingly, as though he were in pain. I receive my baby and the said. "God bless you ma'am, you've given me my Christmas gift".

I said nothing more than a muttered thanks. With Erik in my arms, I ran for the car. My husband was wondering why I was crying and holding Erik so tightly, and why I was saying, "My god, my god, forgive me". I had just witnessed Christ's love shown through the innocence of a tiny child who saw no sin, who made no judgment; a child who saw a soul, and a mother who saw a suit of clothes. I was a Christian who was blind, holding a child who was not, I felt it was God asking, "Are you willing to share your son for a moment?" when he shared his for all eternity.

The ragged old man, unwittingly, had reminded me, "***To enter the Kingdom of***



***God, we must become as little children"***

**Peace, Fr. Bob**



### **The Christmas Thief.....**

"You admit having broken into the dress shop four times?" Asked the judge.

"Yes" answered the suspect

"And what did you steal?"

"A dress, Your Honor," replied the subject.

"One dress?" echoes the judge. "But you admit to breaking in four times!"

"Yes, your Honor," sighed the suspect. "But three times my wife didn't like the color."

**SERRA CLUB of ST. PAUL**  
**MEETING of OFFICERS and TRUSTEES**  
**November 11, 2009**

ATTENDING: Mike Fratto, Mike Smeby, Jerry Halloran, Jeannie Minea, Tony Roszak, Joe Kueppers, Jane Nelson, John O'Donnell, John Cosgrove, Mike O'Halloran, Karen Beaudette, and Paul Child  
The meeting was held in the cafeteria of St. Joseph's Hospital.

President Mike Fratto led the Serra Prayer for Vocations and then called the meeting to order at 7:48 am.

1. The minutes of the October 7, 2009, meeting were reviewed and approved.
2. Treasurer's Report (Tony Roszak)

Tony distributed his 4-page report (available on request):

- a. Revenue Less Expense, Actual for Four plus Months ending November 11, 2009 to Budget for fye June 30, 2009 (2 pages)
- b. Schedule of Dues (1 page) – lists proposed dues for Serra International, Serra USA Council, District 7 Dues, and District 7 Seminary Fund
- c. Schedule of Membership at 11-1-2009

Tony then went over the reports, pointing out key entries. Page 2 lists the cash balance as \$3,694.31. He noted that Serra International is increasing its dues by \$5.00 a member each year for years 2010, 2011, and 2012, which obviously increases our annual expenses.

Jerry suggested that before we increase our dues we should encourage generous Christmas contributions. Mike S will set up the requesting letter. Karen will provide the labels. The letter head and return envelopes will have Tony's name on them.

Mike F moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report, Jerry seconded the motion and the board approved it.

3. Programs (Jeannie Minea)

Jeannie presented the following schedule:

- a. Meetings in November:

November 13	St. Joseph's Hospital	Fr Joseph Gallatin
November 27	Joseph's Grill	Emily Malay
- b. Meetings in December:

December 11	St. Joseph's Hospital	John Litchy
December 25	No meeting	
- c. Meetings in January

January 8	St. Joseph's Hospital	Fr Gregory Skrypek
January 22	Joseph's Grill	Bob Zyskowski . Catholic Spirit

It was decided that at the November 27 meeting, rather than having the usual buffet, attendees will order from the menu. This will be our first trial; if it works out with the program, this method could save us some funds.

4. Vocations (Jerry Halloran)

Planning is underway for a district dinner to honor our priests on May 11, 2010.

Meetings are being held monthly. Either Jerry or Jane Nelson will represent our club at these meetings. Clubs will be asked to have their members submit letters telling how a priest has affected their life. Then a few of the letters will be read at the dinner.

5. Newsletter (Mike Smeby)

Mike requested that items for the December newsletter be submitted by November 30.

6. Old Business:

Because with our current income and expenses, we will probably incur a \$1400 deficit at the end of the fiscal year, there was some discussion on how to address the problem. Three possibilities: reduce expenses, increase dues, or ask members for contributions. Mike S suggested that if we decide to increase dues it should be done as a lump sum, not annually. John Cosgrove feels that dues are already substantial, so we should look for ways to cut expenses. Jane suggested that if we decide to increase dues

they should be collected quarterly. Jerry feels that we should see how the Christmas collection goes before increasing dues. It was agreed that the issue needs to be discussed further at the December meeting.

Mike Fratto led the Prayer for the Preservation of Vocations and adjourned the meeting at 8:25 am. The next Board Meeting will be at 7:30, Wednesday, December 9 at the hospital. cafeteria.  
Submitted by Paul Child, Secretary

## **View From the Top: “*The time of anticipation is here*”**

I remember when Sears and Montgomery Ward catalogues were common place in most homes. They even had special mini catalogues with toys that came out early to mid November. This was a time before Malls and boutique stores. This was before we were inundated with advertising for this toy or that doll. It was a time when things were simpler.

Yet it was a time of anticipation for everyone. Children would start looking in the BIG catalogue for what they might want for Christmas. This would help mom make a list of potential gifts. Of course the wish list would never be completed until each sibling had plenty of time to page through that toy catalogue.

Then someone, usually mom, call to place the order. Christmas gifts back then, at least at my house and those of my friends, were underwear, socks, new jeans, a couple of flannel shirts and one, maybe two toys.

We were usually in school when the delivery truck showed up. When it did mom would carefully go over her list with each item delivered. She verified that everything she ordered was there. Of course, it never was correct. So she had to go through the hassle of calling the store and order the correct item and make arrangements to return the mis-sent items.

We kids always anticipated this ritual. We knew Christmas was coming. Of course, only a few years later, I would be one of those people who filled the orders at Montgomery Ward after my classes at St. Thomas.

Many of these rituals have changed in the last couple of decades. Now we adults spend a lot of time walking through Malls and boutique stores; there are an over abundance of cable stations that cater directly to children that manufactures can hypnotize even the very young to demand this or that. In fact, even though children still get a lot of toys for Christmas, they seem to get what they want whenever something new appears on the market.

As adults we too anticipate Christmas. Yes. Many of us spend way too much time planning parties, entertainment functions, and time in stores looking for gifts for children, grandchildren and other significant people in our lives.

However, Christmas isn't about the anticipation of gifts. In fact the only gifts that we recognize that were given to the Christ child were gold, frankincense and myrrh. Yet we know those gifts weren't given at the time of Christ's birth but a couple of years afterward when He was visited by the Wise men.

Our anticipation is for the birth of our God, in the human form of Jesus of Nazareth.

The four Sundays prior to December 25<sup>th</sup> the Church celebrates the anticipation of the Christ child. This is the time the great Hebrew Prophet Isaiah predicted. It was eagerly awaited by the Hebrew patriarchs and prophets. This is the time that the young virgin who found out she was pregnant from the Archangel Gabriel was waiting for. Even the Holy Simeon rejoiced at last to see the newborn child.

This is the season that we, as Church, celebrate with special solemnity. It is the beginning. The beginning that takes us to the reason He was born: His death and Resurrection.

We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery. We need to spend our anticipation time, Advent, by preparing ourselves much like the Nation of Israel has always and continues to anticipate its Messiah.

We know the Messiah has come. We know that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah. He IS the reason for the season.

***On behalf of the St. Paul Serra Board, I want to wish you a glorious and blessed Christmas. May the Peace brought to earth by the birth we celebrate at Christmas be with you and yours throughout the season and during 2011.***

**Merry Christmas!**



**Mike Fratto, President**



### **NOTES FROM THE SEMINARY**

From the evening of Friday November 6<sup>th</sup> until the morning of Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> the Saint Paul Seminary and St. John Vianney had its annual 40 hours of devotion. It started out with Mass on Friday evening at the St. Thomas Chapel and then we had a procession to the Saint Paul Seminary. Overall there were about 300 people in the procession. As a Deacon I was able to be in the front of the procession and when I looked back to see all the people it was truly a great sight, seeing all the people adoring Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Also, having the Blessed Sacrament exposed for 40 straight hours, I am sure that many great prayers went up to God. To end the 40 hours we had a closing Mass with SPS and SJV seminarians, and then had a joint breakfast to grow in a deeper relationship.

On the home front I was able to go home over Thanksgiving break and enjoy some good cooking. Also, it was great to be able to Deacon at my home parish, which is St. Joseph's in West St. Paul. Looking ahead to December we seminarians have a pretty busy month with the end of classes, finals, and Christmas break. But, what we are all looking forward to is the ordination of Bishop-elect on December 14<sup>th</sup>, in Duluth, which will be a great day in the Church. I hope all is well and know of my prayers.

**God Bless,**

**Deacon Alex B. Carlson**



# THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

—DECEMBER 2009—

## ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<i>For subsequent months or extra copies call or write</i>		1 YOUR PASTOR	2 REV. THOMAS KRENIK	3 REV. ROBERT KROLL SJ	4 REV. THOMAS KUNNEL TOR	5 REV. JAY KYTHE
6 REV. IHAR LABACEVICH	7 REV. STEPHEN LACANNE CCDP	8 REV. ANTON LACHNER	9 REV. CHARLES LACHOWITZER	10 REV. PAUL LAFONTAINE	11 REV. PETER LAIRD	12 REV. ROGER LAMOUREAUX OMI
13 REV. JOHN LAPENSKI	14 REV. KENNETH LAVAN	15 MSGR. JAMES LAVIN	16 REV. REGINALD LAWRENCE OFM CAP	17 REV. ROY LEPAK	18 REV. JAMES LIEKHUS	19 REV. MATTHEW LINN SJ
20 REV. JAMES LIVINGSTON	21 REV. JOHN LONG	22 REV. WILFRED LOWERY CSSR	23 REV. KENNETH LUDESCHER	24 REV. CURTIS LYBARGER	25 REV. BRIAN LYNCH	26 REV. STANLEY MADER
27 REV. KEVIN MAGNER	28 REV. SEAN MAGNUSON	29 REV. AMBROSE MAHON	30 REV. RICHARD MAHONEY	31 ABP. JOHN NIENSTEDT	<i>Mert Lasonde 20953 Junco Trail Lakeville MN 55044</i>	<i>Phone: 952-469-5895 Email: mertlass@ usfamily.net</i>

## WILL YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

### PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Mass, rosary, fasting  
Day of offering  
Eucharistic adoration  
Offering of sufferings, or  
Whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him

# ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

## MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

**-JANUARY 2010-**

### WILL YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>Mert</b> Lassonde 20953 Junco Trail Lakeville MN 55044	Phone: 952-469-5895			<b>1</b> YOUR PASTOR	<b>2</b> REV. JOHN MALONE
For subsequent months or extra copies call or write:		Email mertlass@ usfamily.net				
<b>3</b> REV. CHRISTOPHER MANAHAN SJ	<b>4</b> REV. GEORGE JACOB MANJANKAL SJ	<b>5</b> REV. THOMAS MARGEVICIUS	<b>6</b> REV. SHARBEL GHATTOS MAROUN	<b>7</b> REV. WILLIAM MARTIN	<b>8</b> REV. STANLEY MASLOWSKI	<b>9</b> REV. BIJU MATHEW CFIC
<b>10</b> REV. WALDERMAR MATUSIAK S.CH.	<b>11</b> REV. THOMAS MCCABE	<b>12</b> REV. DAVID MCCAULEY	<b>13</b> REV. JAMES MCCONVILLE	<b>14</b> REV. PATRICK MCCORKELL SJ	<b>15</b> REV. KEVIN MCDONOUGH	<b>16</b> REV. THOMAS MCDONOUGH
<b>17</b> REV. STEVEN MCMICHAEL OFM CONV	<b>18</b> REV. BENNY MEKKATT VARGHESE CFIC	<b>19</b> REV. LUIS MENDEZ SEMV	<b>20</b> REV. JOSEPH MENKER OMI	<b>21</b> REV. THOMAS MERRILL OFM CONV	<b>22</b> REV. FREDERCK MERTZ	<b>23</b> REV. FREDERICK MEYER
<b>24</b> REV. JOHN MEYER 31 ABP. JOHN NIENSTADT	<b>25</b> REV. EUGENE MICHEL OFM	<b>26</b> REV. MICHAEL MILLER	<b>27</b> REV. MARK MINDRUP OFM CONV	<b>28</b> REV. VICENTE MIRANDA	<b>29</b> REV. JOHN MITCHELL	<b>30</b> REV. ROBERT MONAGHAN

#### PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name of priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life. Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always...

O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (name of priest),  
Amen

**A donation to help support *THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS* will be appreciated**