



SERRA CLUB

Jan. 2010



Of Wichita Downtown Club

Always Forward

Vol. 10 No.8

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Father Ken Schuckman



Words of Peace from Pope Benedict

The business of the season is causing me to go to my archives and repeat an article from a couple of years ago. The message is still relevant today.

On January 1, 2007 Pope Benedict gave a talk for the World Day of Peace entitled, *The Human Person, the Heart of Peace*. Inaugurated by Pope Paul VI in 1968, the custom of the Pope offering a message.

For this day (which of course is also the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God offers a fitting opportunity for every Catholic to reflect on how our Catholic Faith challenges us to live out the gospel of peace in a world that is so torn by sin.

The following are a few excerpts from Pope Benedict's message:

"[...] Sacred Scripture affirms that "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Gen 1:27). As one created in the image of God, each individual human being has the dignity of a person; he or she is not just something, but someone, capable of self-knowledge, self-possession, free self-giving and entering into communion with others."

"At the same time, each person is called, by grace, to a covenant with the Creator, called to offer him a response of faith and love that no other creature can give in his place. [...] Saint Augustine teaches that "God created us without our aid; but he did not choose to save us without our aid."

"Creation and Redemption thus provide a key that helps us begin to understand the meaning of our life on earth. [...]"

"May Mary show us, in her Son, the Way of peace, and enlighten our vision, so that we can recognize Christ's face in the face of every human person, the heart of peace!"

As we prepare to begin a new decade may God bless you and your families many times over in the Year of the Lord - 2010.

Fr. Ken

Message From The President



EVENING OF PRAYER FOR OUR PRIESTS

At our regular meeting on August 19th, we were treated to a talk by Father Jerry Beat about the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA). Among the things that he talked about and encouraged us to participate in were the mission awareness trips. As many of you know, I had already scheduled a mission trip to Haiti with Food for the Poor (FFTP), an organization that my wife and I support with our limited means. After the trip, I found out that our means are really not that limited. We have always had food to eat, clean water to drink and a home with heating and air conditioning. Living in the United States automatically makes you rich!

I cannot possibly describe the poverty that is in Haiti. We drove through streets in the country that passed along rivers of garbage. People lived in shacks that were made with rusty wasted metal. The stench of the squalor was overpowering. I have never been in an environment where it was accepted that many will die, not because of gangs, or war, or old age, or some virus, but because of a lack of food and water. Yes there was water, but one of the most heart wrenching sights was a four or five year old girl drinking water that had gathered in a puddle between two piles of garbage. There was no water that you and I would see as fit to touch let alone drink.

What was inspiring was the hope of the Haitian people. Where I saw total desperation, they saw dreams. The schools, orphanages, fishing villages, and homes sponsored and supported by FFTP improve the lives of tens of thousands of people throughout. Children are taught, the elderly are cared for, the outcast are welcome, the hungry are fed, people are employed, the Gospel is lived.

We are truly blessed to be citizens of the United States, living the Catholic Faith in the Diocese of Wichita, with some of the best Priests in the country and 45 wonderful young men in the Seminary.

We can sure be content, but then we pick up the Scriptures and read *"from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."* LK 12:48 NIV

I have a couple of invitations for each and every Serran.

Invitation # 1

I know that many of you support CFCA. My invitation is for you to take a look and see if you can increase that support to CFCA. If you are not supporting CFCA, FFTP, Catholic Relief Services or any of the other international relief agencies, consider doing so. Even small amounts of support add up when everyone gets on board. When I returned, Becky and I increased our monthly pledge to FFTP, but we also began a small monthly pledge to CFCA. We are now small, but regular donors to both.

Invitation # 2

I am attempting to get up a Wichita group to go back to Haiti with me. FFTP tells me that I only need 12 people in addition to myself for a group outing. I told them with 116,000 Catholics in the Wichita Diocese, finding 12 should be easy. Consider going to Haiti with me in January 2011 or consider one of the Mission Awareness trips of CFCA. Father Jerry was right when he said that Pilgrimages to Lourdes or Rome are wonderful, but Pilgrimages to visit the poorest of the poor are truly life changing. You will feel the Gospel of the Lord as never before.

Our next speaker

Father Shawn McKnight, Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, has taught graduate studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum and currently also serves on the faculty of the St. Meinrad Permanent Deacon Formation Program. He will speak to us **Jan 6th** about his newest assignment starting in July, working at the US Council of Catholic Bishops in Washington, DC.

Mark this date

January 20th we have Jim Sheldon - Jim joined the Downtown Serra Club in 1985 and held several offices over the years. He is going to speak to us about "That Man Is You" - Becoming a Man after God's Own Heart. This program is currently being held at St. Thomas Aquinas in 2 - 13 week sessions. It is one of the premier programs for men in the Catholic Church.



Another Enjoyable Christmas Dinner

Article by Johnnie Bell Photos courtesy of John Betzen

The 2009 Christmas Party held at the Newman University, Dugan Conference Center was a treat we all enjoyed. The invitations were to all three Serra Clubs in our Diocese, the night was cold, but the turn out was substantial. To see the ladies dressed in their Christmas party and the men dressed to fit the occasion, added to the enjoyment.

A tasty Prime Rib dinner with all the trimmings, served by the Staff at Newman University, was a focal point of the celebration. What makes the party a little more festive is, "Our Newman University". Such facilities, so perfect, offer such a great place for celebrations such as our Christmas Party.

The entertainment was THE THEODORE SPONSEL FAMILY. The nine children sang a series of Christmas Songs with their father. We had this family as our entertainment two years ago at the Serra Christmas Party. It was such a success we repeated again. It was a real treat seeing how the children have grown in the last two years.

Great preparations by Tony Duran, Past President John Marstall was master of ceremonies.

Priests Anniversaries		Vocation Mass	
Fr. Walter Karrer		January 27, 2010 12:00 Noon at the Cathedral	
Jan. 12			
<i>Seminarian Birthdays</i>		New Officers for 2009-2010	
Yancey Burgess	Jan. 16	Chaplain.....	Rev. Ken Schuckman
Zachary Williams	Jan. 17		Phone: 796-1224
Isaac Dennis	Jan. 18	President.....	Mike Corrigan
Jeremy Huser	Jan. 28		Phone: 942-1574
Paul Leeker	Jan. 23	President- Elect	Tony Duran
<i>Priests Birthdays</i>			Phone: 788-2251
Rev. Paul Oborny	Jan. 01	Secretary.....	Juanita Smith
Rev. Hung Quac Pham	Jan. 01	Treasurer.....	John Marstall
Rev. Daniel Vacca	Jan. 12	VP Programs.....	Elizabeth Flax & Michael Wescott
Rev. James Mainzer	Jan. 14	VP Membership.....	Mark Wetta
Rev. Jerome Beat	Jan. 24		Phone: 682-5867
Rev. John Lanzrath	Jan. 27	VP Vocations.....	Barbara Pinaire
			Phone: 253-4943
		VP Communications.....	Dick Dwyer
			Phone: 269-3937



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"Always go Forward,
 Never Turn Back"
Junipero Serra
Franciscan Missionary



Check the Serra website at <http://www.serraus.org>

**Holy Hour For Vocations every 1st Sunday
 At Blessed Sacrament 4:00pm to 5:00pm.**

ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS Starts 30 Minutes before our Noon Meeting. Ask for Our Lady's help in fostering vocations.

January Calendar	
January 1	Holy Day of Obligation Feast of Mary Mother of God
January 3	Holy Hour for Vocations 4 PM At Blessed Sacrament
January 5	January Board Meeting @ Newman U Lunch 11:30 Meeting @ noon
January 6	Regular Meeting –St Pius X room 12pm Speaker: Fr Shawn McKnight
January 20	Regular Meeting –St Pius X room 12pm Speaker: Jim Sheldon
January 20	Newsletter Deadline
January 27	Vocations Mass at Cathedral

**Pray for our Priests,
 Religious and Friends**



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| Msgr. McGread | Tuy Le Tran | Bill Janousek |
| Rev. Ron Gilmore | Rev. Don Thissen | Mary Blick |
| John Lekas | Elizabeth Corbett | Nick Logan |
| Al Schuckman | Kathy Logan | Sherry Logan |
| Janet Yocum | Morris Perkins | Sylvia Duran |
| Rev. Andy Kuykendall | Peggy Hipp | Kristin Mertes |
| Rev. Stephen Thapwa | Linda Lavid | Russell Carlile |
| Fr. Pepe (Pe-pay) | Arlen Freund | Joanne Hentzen |
| Betsy Montolio | Helen Bergkamp | Larry Nolting |
| Pete & Bonnie Aberle | John Cunningham | |

For all the military Chaplains, especially for Father Ned Blick And for all of the retired and ill priests of our Diocese.

Larry Duran, brother of Tony Duran recently passed away. May He Rest in Peace

Please call Mike Jones at 682-0576 if you know of anyone who needs to be added to or removed from this list.