



# SERRA CLUB

OF SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Club 638 District 30 Region 14

[www.serraspcb.org](http://www.serraspcb.org)

December 2008

Volume 22 Number 6

## “Culture of Vocations”

Father Raymond Hubert

Submitted by Bob Venezia



St. Vincent de Paul Seminary

Fr. Raymond Hubert shared his thoughts about vocations with us at Serra Club breakfast on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. Concerning the shortage of vocations and priests, he believes what the Pope said, i.e., there is no shortage of vocations, just a shortage of priests. God is still calling, but an insufficient number of men are responding.

The primary reason that men are not responding is that the “culture” of vocations, he proposes, has been lost. As a youngster in Rhode Island, Fr. Hubert remembers that the churches, the schools, the priests, the parishes, and yes, the families encouraged young men to seriously consider the priesthood. Today, the culture as changed, as there is insufficient recruiting by the just mentioned groups. Times and places have changed, and the culture of active recruiting has been lost.

As a young lad, Fr. Raymond remembers that the priests visited every family each year at home, and they also visited the children at school and in CCD classes. Their mission was one of recruitment, suggesting the priesthood to potential candidates.

So what’s the fix? Be proactive in recruiting and coaching at all levels. Start with the grade schools and continue with the middle and high schools. Be on the look out for prospects! Establish a vocations committee in each parish, with members who will contact potential seminarians. Place a chaplain – a priest but more likely a deacon -- in every college Newman Center. If the college, Catholic or public, does not have one, get one started. Use the internet. Set up chat rooms and blogs. Have communication and positive reinforcement with and among priesthood candidates. Fr. Hubert ended with a challenge to all Serrans. Prayer is great, but not enough. Get involved with recruiting, particularly at the high school level.



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**MOST REV. GERALD M. BARBARITO**

Bishop of Palm Beach  
561 775 9500

**REV. YVES FRANCOIS**

Director of Vocations & Seminarians  
561 775 9555

**MSGR. LEONARD F. BADIA, Ph.D.**

Chaplain  
561 276 6892

**JIM ANDERSON**

President  
561 994 9267

**MICHAEL FARENGA**

President-elect  
561 995 0390

**ROSEMARY VENEZIA**

Vice President - Vocations  
561 279 9393

**ANNETTE FARENGA**

Vice President - Membership  
561 995 0390

**VERONICA M. COMRIE**

Vice President - Programs  
561 752 2988

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Vice President - Communications  
561 752 0535

**NANCY NOONAN**

Secretary  
561 276 3299

**LARRY J. WINKER**

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Newsletter Editor  
Webmaster  
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**FERNANDE CAMINO**

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561 395 9412

**GERRI PRESTON**

Historian  
561 496 0521

**TRUSTEES**

**BARBARA HOSTOMSKY**

561 364 4924

**LON PHILLIPS**

561 445 2234

**RICHARD SIEGEL**

561 266 6114

## **Calendar of Events**

The Club meets on the first Tuesday starting with the 7:00 a.m. Mass and the third Saturday starting with the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Ascension Catholic Church, 7250 North Federal Highway, Boca Raton, Florida 33487. Mass is followed by a breakfast meeting at the nearby Holiday Inn Oceanside, 2809 South Ocean Boulevard in Highland Beach.

| <b>Day</b> | <b>Date</b>       | <b>Program</b>                                                 |
|------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday   | December 11, 2008 | "Girls Night Out"<br>Holiday Inn Oceanside                     |
| Tuesday    | December 16, 2008 | Christmas Dinner<br>Atlantis Country Club                      |
| Saturday   | December 20, 2008 | Mass and Breakfast Meeting<br>Msgr. Badia<br><br>Board Meeting |
| Tuesday    | January 6, 2009   | Mass and Breakfast Meeting<br>Interfaith Action of SW Florida  |
| Saturday   | January 17, 2009  | Mass and Breakfast Meeting                                     |
| Tuesday    | February 3, 2009  | Mass and Breakfast Meeting                                     |
| Saturday   | February 21, 2009 | Membership Drive Breakfast                                     |
| Saturday   | March 3, 2009     | Mass and Breakfast Meeting                                     |
| Saturday   | March 21, 2009    | Morning of Reflection<br>Ascension Church                      |

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## Membership News:

### HOW I JOINED SERRA by Michael Farenga

It was just about this time four years ago! I was looking at different Catholic organizations to volunteer my time, talent and treasure. After several inquiries, by chance my wife and I were invited to a social function given by the Serra Club. The social function was a program called GIRLS NIGHT OUT. At this function I encountered a group of charitable men and women whose purpose was to support and foster vocations to the priesthood, deacons and nuns. That particular night I was exposed to an evening of giving back to the local nuns of our diocese. This group of women comprised local teachers, principals, care givers and cloistered nuns. To see these women enjoy each other's company and have dinner together with the members of the Serra Club was very inspiring to me. It's not very often you get to see nuns in a social situation. They are very gregarious and enjoyed the camaraderie provided by the members of Serra.

After experiencing GIRLS NIGHT OUT I delved into Serra and what it meant to me. I then decided to join the Club in January. Since then I have enjoyed other social functions such as the NIGHT AT THE SEMINARY, and the AFFIRMATION DINNER in the spring. On the spiritual side I have attended many spring and fall DAYS OF REFLECTION. SERRA has many facets, but to me the giving back to the religious is the most gratifying. To see the priests, deacons and nuns enjoy themselves makes me smile.

Since joining the Serra Club of SPBC I have been VP of Vocations and now am President elect for the coming 2009-2010 year. If you, or anyone who reads this article, are interested in becoming a Serran, please call me or my wife, Annette, who joined in giving back this spring. Together we can make a difference in fostering vocations.



**Emmanuel:** Our world waits in darkness longing for Your light.

As we long for lasting peace in the midst of war, Be with us.  
As we long for families to be reunited, Be with us.  
As we long for cures and healings, Be with us.  
As we long for decent jobs and economic security, Be with us.  
As we long for love and Community, Be with us.

## Chalice Program, thriving and growing

The Serra Chalice Program involves families in vocations awareness by inviting a family each week to pray daily for vocations. The family assigned for the week receives the chalice from the

celebrant at Sunday Mass, places it on the mantel or dining room table at home, and says a prayer or two daily for vocations. It is best with families with youngsters, as maybe the seed of a vocation gets planted.

In our Southern Deanery, the program began with member Fernande Camino at St. Joan of Arc in Boca Raton. A few years later, members Dick and Katie Park brought it to St. Thomas More in Boynton Beach. Last year, members Bob and Rosemary Venezia introduced it at St. Vincent Ferrer in Delray Beach. Recently, Jeannie Taylor started it at St. Mark in Boynton Beach. Soon, Deacon Lon Phillips will begin the program at Ascension in Boca Raton. And in the Cathedral Deanery, Father Michael has recently started it at St. Paul of the Cross in North Palm Beach. From a tiny mustard seed, a large bush grows.

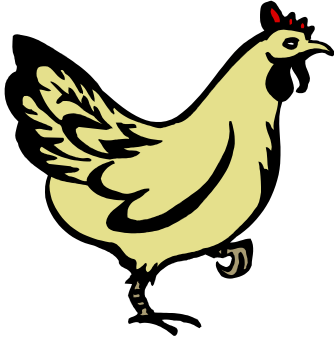


**PRAY! INVITE! ENCOURAGE! AFFIRM! VOCATIONS**

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## Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? Greetings from Dick Park

BARACK OBAMA: The chicken crossed the road because it was time for a change! The chicken wanted change!

JOHN MC CAIN: My friends, that chicken crossed the road because he recognized the need to engage in cooperation and dialogue with all the chickens on the other side of the road... ZZZZZzzzzzzzzzz

SARAH PALIN: BECAUSE, PRAISE JESUS, I WAS GONNA SHOOT THIS SORRY LIBERAL FOR BLOCKING MY VIEW OF RUSSIA

HILLARY CLINTON: When I was First Lady, I personally helped that little chicken to cross the road. This experience makes me uniquely qualified to ensure right from Day One that every chicken in this country gets the chance it deserves to cross the road. But then, this really isn't about me.

GEORGE W. BUSH: We don't really care why the chicken crossed the road. We just want to know if the chicken is on our side of the road, or not. The chicken is either against us, or for us. There is no middle ground here.

DICK CHENEY: Where's my gun?

COLIN POWELL: Now to the left of the screen, you can clearly see the satellite image of the chicken crossing the road.

BILL CLINTON: I did not cross the road with that chicken. What is your definition of crossing?

AL GORE: I invented the chicken.

JOHN KERRY: Although I voted to let the chicken cross the road, I am now against it! It was the wrong road to cross, and I was misled about the chicken's intentions. I am not for it now, and will remain against it.

AL SHARPTON: Why are all the chickens white? We need some black chickens

DR. PHIL: The problem we have here is that this chicken won't realize that he must first deal with the problem on this side of the road before it goes after the problem on the other side of the road. What we need to do is help him realize how stupid he's acting by not taking on his current problems before adding new problems.

OPRAH: Well, I understand that the chicken is having problems, which is why he wants to cross this road so bad. So instead of having the chicken learn from his mistakes and take falls, which is a part of life, I'm going to give this chicken a car so that he can just drive across the road and not live his life like the rest of the chickens.

ANDERSON COOPER, CNN: We have reason to believe there is a chicken, but we have not yet been allowed to have access to the other side of the road.

NANCY GRACE: That chicken crossed the road because he's guilty! You can see it in his eyes and the way he walks.

PAT BUCHANAN: To steal the job of a decent, hardworking American.

MARTHA STEWART: No one called me to warn me which way that chicken was going. I had a standing order at the Farmers Market to sell my eggs when the price dropped to a certain level. No little bird gave me any insider information.

DR SEUSS: Did the chicken cross the road? Did he cross it with a toad? Yes, the chicken crossed the road, but why it crossed I've not been told.

ERNEST HEMINGWAY: To die in the rain, alone.

ALBERT EINSTEIN: Did the chicken really cross the road, or did the road move beneath the chicken?

COLONEL SANDERS: Did I miss one?

JERRY FALWELL: Because the chicken was gay! Can't you people see the plain truth? That's why they call it the other side. Yes, my friends, that chicken is gay. And if you eat that chicken, you will become gay, too. I say we boycott all chickens until we sort out this abomination that the liberal media whitewashes with seemingly harmless phrases like the other side. That chicken should not be crossing the road. It's as plain and as simple as that.

GRANDPA: In my day we didn't ask why the chicken crossed the road. Somebody told us the chicken crossed the road, and that was good enough.

BARBARA WALTERS: Isn't that interesting? In a few moments, we will be listening to the chicken tell, for the first time, the heart warming story of how it experienced a serious case of molting, and went on to accomplish its lifelong dream of crossing the road.

ARISTOTLE: It is the nature of chickens to cross the road.

JOHN LENNON: Imagine all the chickens in the world crossing roads together, in peace.

BILL GATES: I have just released eChicken2008, which will not only cross roads, but will lay eggs, file your important documents, and balance your checkbook. Internet Explorer is an integral part of eChicken 2008. This new platform is much more stable and will never crash.

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