



SERRA CLUB

OF SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Club 638 District 30 Region 14

www.serraspbc.org

Jun 2008

Volume 21 Number 12

Serran Sentinel

Wisdom of the Church

Fr. Germain Kopaczynski, OFM Conv
Parochial Vicar, St Mark's Boynton Beach

Submitted by Michael Farenga

On May 6, 2008 Fr. Germain Kopaczynski OFM Conv., Parochial Vicar and Franciscan Friar from St. Mark's Catholic Church in Boynton Beach gave a talk on the 'Wisdom of the Church in Today's World'.



Fr Germain Kopaczynski

He began with overhead cartoons, one of which shows a teenage boy talking to his grandfather. He asks, "Gee, Granddad, your generation didn't have all these social diseases. What did you wear to have safe sex?" Without looking up from his book, his grandfather replies, "A wedding ring."

Having gotten out attention, Fr Germain continued with the Jesuit view of humans: "Human beings are intelligent, free, creations of God". We are responsible stewards, not absolute Masters of our fellow brothers and sisters and environment. This is the exact opposite of the Kevorkian view that 'Man is autonomous'. To bring that point home he quoted the late Pope John Paul II: "God alone is the master of human life and its integrity".

His main theme was on the subject of health care in today's materialistic world, stressing that care should prolong life not give in to non care, i.e. withdrawal of technology with the full intention of causing death: EUTHANASIA. Quoting philosopher Spinoza "Nothing can be

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Calendar of Events

The Club meets on the FIRST and THIRD Tuesday of each month beginning with 7:00 am Mass at St Vincent Ferrer Church, 840 Palm Trail, Delray Beach, followed by a breakfast meeting at the Holiday Inn Oceanside, 2809 South Ocean Boulevard, Highland Beach

MOST REV. GERALD M. BARBARITO
Bishop of Palm Beach
561 775 9500

REV. YVES FRANCOIS
Director of Vocations & Seminarians
561 775 9555

REV. JOSEPH KUCZBORSKI
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

JOANNE LIZARDI
Vice President - Communications
561 752 0535

NANCY NOONAN
Secretary
561 276 3299

LARRY J. WINKER
Treasurer
Newsletter Editor
Webmaster
561 997 5997

FERNANDE CAMINO
Foundation Representative
561 395 9412

TRUSTEES

BARBARA HOSTOMSKY
561 364 4924

LON PHILLIPS
561 997 5486

RICHARD SIEGEL
561 266 6114

Date	Program
Jun 1	Ordination to the Diaconate Mr. Brian Campbell St Paul of the Cross Catholic Church
Jun 3	Breakfast Meeting Installation of Officers
Jun 17	Breakfast Meeting Fr Yves Francois, Diocesan Director of Vocations
Jul 1	Breakfast Meeting Fr. Richard Florek, OFM Conv. Pastor, St Mark Catholic Church
Jul 1	Blessed Junipero Serra Day
Jul 4	Independence Day!
Jul 15	Breakfast Meeting
Aug 5	Breakfast Meeting Theresa LaPore Director of Development, Cardinal Newman HS
Aug 12-17	Serra International Convention, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Aug 19	Breakfast Meeting
Sep 1	Labor Day!
Sep 2	No Meeting
Sep 16	Breakfast Meeting
Oct 7	Breakfast Meeting Gerald Taylor, Mayor of Boynton Beach
Oct 21	Breakfast Meeting
Nov 4	Election Day!
Nov 4	Breakfast Meeting Dr Stanley Feist, PhD, Mental Health Counselor

PRAY! INVITE! ENCOURAGE! AFFIRM! VOCATIONS

Chaplain's Corner

God's Coffee

A group of alumni highly established in their careers got to talking at a reunion and decided to go visit their old university professor now retired. During their visit conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in their work and lives.



Offering his guests coffee, the professor went into the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite....telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the alumni had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said "notice that all the nice looking, expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problem and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups and then you began eyeing each other's cups.

"Now consider this...life is the coffee. Your jobs. Money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life. The type of cup one has does not define, nor change the quality of life a person lives. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us. The happiest people don't have the best of every thing. They just make the best of everything."

God brews the coffee, not the cups.....enjoy your coffee! Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Spend time with God over your coffee!

(Author unknown)

Father Joe

(Continued from page 1)

said so rightfully, that it can be prevented from being badly interpreted." We must respect life in all its forms from the moment of conception to one's final breaths. Fr Germain directed us to these two paragraphs in the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

2278

Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate; it is the refusal of "over-zealous" treatment. Here one does not will to cause death; one's inability to impede it is merely accepted. The decisions should be made by the patient if he is competent and able or, if not, by those legally entitled to act for the patient, whose reasonable will and legitimate interest must always be respected.

2279

Even if death is thought imminent, the ordinary care owed to a sick person cannot be legitimately interrupted. The use of painkillers to alleviate the sufferings of the dying, even at the risk of shortening their days, can be morally in conformity with human dignity if death is not willed as either an end or a means, but only foreseen and tolerated as inevitable. Palliative care is a special form of disinterested charity.

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Serra Club of South Palm Beach County
Minutes of the Board meeting
May 27, 2008

Opening Prayer. Larry Winker called meeting to order at 7:00 p. m. Fr. Joe led the Serran prayer for vocations.

Minutes: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as emailed. Unanimous approval.

Programs for year: Veronica had passed out the schedule at the last meeting. She requests a \$100 donation for the Interfaith Action of SW Florida Group speaking for the farm workers on January 6, 2009. She does not anticipate any other donations for speakers. Unanimous approval. Richard Siegel asked if we should bring long sleeve shirts for the workers. Yes. Veronica mentioned Fr. Richard from St. Mark's is in the hospital. Richard Siegel said that Veronica had been named 2008 "Woman of the Year" for the Diocesan CCW. Congratulations, Veronica!!!

Theme for upcoming year: Jim Anderson is compiling themes and will send them out for review.

Nominating Report: Jim Anderson will automatically move up to President. The other positions/candidates are:

President –Elect; Michael Farenga
V.P. Vocations; Rosemary Venezia
V.P. Membership; Annette Farenga
V.P. Programs; Veronica Comrie
V.P. Communications; Joanne Lizardi
Secretary; Open
Treasurer; Larry Winker
Trustees (3); Richard Siegel; Lon Phillips; Barbara Hostomsky.
Newsletter Editor; Larry Winker
Club Communications Contact; Jim Anderson
Foundation Representative; Fernande Camino
Gerri Preston will consider the position of historian.

Still need someone to be our "Sunshine" person – alerting members of special situations such as an illness. Suggest Fernande Camino and Eleanor Danciu would be excellent co-Sunshine people.

Fr. Joe said he will not be available to serve as our Chaplain next year.

Installation of Officers Ceremony – To take place at 7 a.m. Mass June 3rd. Fr. Joe will conduct the installation.

Planning for Girls' Night Out - Event will be held Thursday, December 11, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Highland Beach. Last year we had 66 people. Need to send a \$500 deposit to reserve the room. Richard Siegel moved, seconded by Lon Phillips to send check. Unanimous approval. Barbara Hostomsky, Veronica Comrie and Rosemary Venezia will coordinate. Veronica suggested for the raffles this year we solicit restaurants, shops etc to contribute to our baskets. Everyone agreed.

Financials - Dick Park distributed a statement of total assets and an itemized break down of revenue and expenses for the year to date. Larry Winker (incoming Treasurer) and Jim Anderson (incoming President) need to go to National City Bank to sign signature paperwork for the checking account.

Affirmation Dinner –Discussed venue for event. Should we go back to Ascension; another Church Hall; restaurant; etc.? Veronica will contact some restaurants/country clubs. Need to have Mass prior to the dinner. Proximity to churches needs to be considered.

Fr. Yves Francois, Director of Office of Vocations and Seminarians – will speak at our June 17th breakfast meeting. He has asked us for help in producing silk screened banners of the colorful poster (of seminarians) for him to use when he visits schools. Richard Siegel suggested a more effective approach may be a Triptych...3 sided white board which can sit on an easel, table, etc and be easily updated. Easy to ship as well as it folds. Believe the banners will be cost prohibitive for us.

Adjournment - Larry adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Fr. Joe said our closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Noonan, Secretary

PRAY! INVITE! ENCOURAGE! AFFIRM! VOCATIONS

Membership News

Barbara Hostomsky
 VP Membership

I am very happy to have been able to serve as you Membership VP for the last three years and am very grateful for all the help and support I have received. I want to thank Annette Farenga for accepting the nomination to this position and know she will do a terrific job. I am looking forward to serving the club as a Trustee and will help Annette in every way that I can.

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As such it should be encouraged.

Our end of life decisions culminate into two parts:

- I. We can refuse overzealous treatments, and
- II. We don't have to provide treatment, but must provide palliative care.

In conclusion we must treat each other with love and respect.

Fr. Germain gave us all a lot to think about over the summer!

One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

Is it me--or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?

Saint Barnabas, Apostle

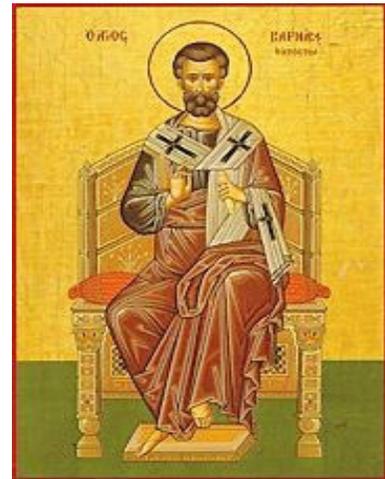
Feast Day June 11th

St. Barnabas is one of the first prophets and teachers of the church at [Antioch](#) (Acts 13:1). He was born of Jewish parents of the tribe of Levi. His aunt was the mother of [John, surnamed Mark](#) ([Colossians](#) 4:10), widely assumed to be the same Mark as the person traditionally believed to be the author of the [Gospel of Mark](#). He was a native of Cyprus, where he possessed land (Acts 4:36, 37), which he sold, and gave the proceeds to the church in Jerusalem. When [Paul](#) returned to Jerusalem after his conversion, Barnabas took him and introduced him to the apostles (9:27); it is possible that they had been fellow students in the school of [Gamaliel](#).

The prosperity of the church

at Antioch led the apostles and brethren at Jerusalem to send Barnabas there to superintend the movement. He found the work so extensive and weighty that he went to [Tarsus](#) in search of Paul to assist him. Paul returned with him to Antioch and labored with him for a whole year (Acts 11:25, 26). At the end of this period, the two were sent up to Jerusalem (AD 44) with the contributions the church at Antioch had made for the poorer members of the Jerusalem church (11:28-30).

Shortly after they returned, bringing John Mark with them, they were appointed as missionaries to [Asia Minor](#), and in this capacity visited Cyprus and some of the principal cities of [Pamphylia](#), [Pis-](#)



[idia](#), and [Lycaonia](#) (Acts 13:14). With the conversion of [Sergius Paulus](#), Paul begins to gain prominence over Barnabas from the point where the name "Paul" is substituted for "Saul" (13:9); instead of "Barnabas and Saul" as heretofore (11:30; 12:25; 13:2, 7) we now read

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"Paul and Barnabas" (13:43, 46, 50; 14:20; 15:2, 22, 35); only in 14:14 and 15:12, 25 does Barnabas again occupy the first place, in the first passage with recollection of 14:12, in the last two, because Barnabas stood in closer relation to the Jerusalem church than Paul. St. Paul appears as the preaching missionary (13:16; 14:8-9, 19-20), whence the Lystrans regarded him as [Heremes](#), St. Barnabas as [Zeus](#) (14:12). Returning from this first missionary journey to Antioch, they were again sent up to Jerusalem to consult with the church there regarding the relation of Gentiles to the church (Acts 15:2; [Galatians](#) 2:1). According to Gal. 2:9-10, Barnabas was included with Paul in the agreement made between them, on the one hand, and [James](#), [St. Peter](#), and [St. John](#), on the other, that the two former should in the future preach to the pagans, not forgetting the poor at Jerusalem. This matter having been settled, they returned again to Antioch, bringing the agreement of the [council](#) that [Gentiles](#) were to be admitted into the church.

Having returned to Antioch and spent some time there (15:35), St. Paul asked Barnabas to accompany him on another journey (15:36). Barnabas wished to take John Mark along, but Paul did not, as he had left them

on the former journey (15:37-38). The dispute ended by Paul and Barnabas taking separate routes. Paul took [Silas](#) as his companion, and journeyed through Syria and Cilicia; while Barnabas took his younger cousin, John Mark, to visit Cyprus (15:36-41).

St. Barnabas is not mentioned again by [St. Luke](#) in the [Acts of the Apostles](#). However, in Gal. 2:13 a little more is learned about him, and his weakness under the taunts of the [Jewish Christians](#) is evident; and from [1 Corinthians](#) 9:6 it may be gathered that he continued to labor as missionary. Certain Jews coming to Syria and Salamis, where Barnabas was then preaching the gospel, being highly exasperated at his extraordinary success, fell upon him as he was disputing in the synagogue, dragged him out, and, after the most inhumane tortures, stoned him to death. His kinsman, John Mark, who was a spectator of this barbarous action, privately interred his body in a cave, where it remained till the time of the Emperor Zeno, in the year 485 AD.^[1]

A monastery built in his name at [Salamis, Cyprus](#), is where a tomb reputed to hold his remains was found in 488.^[2] He is venerated as the [Patron Saint](#) of [Cyprus](#).

From the Editor's Desk

It is with a very red face that I offer my sincerest apology to Mr. Bill Carducci. All of the pictures of the Affirmation Dinner story in the last newsletter were taken and graciously donated by him. I completely failed to mention this fact or give proper attribution. I am truly sorry for this oversight.

I have included a (short) trip down memory lane on pages eight and nine: the article from the May 2002 Newsletter on the Affirmation Dinner held that year. It highlights some of our longer serving Priests and Religious even though it includes the Ordained Clergy in the term 'Religious'. Once again the marvelous pictures are courtesy of Mr. Bill Carducci!. Thank you again, Bill!

Since this is my last edition of the Serran Sentinel as Editor I want to thank all those who have helped with newsworthy stories, especially Col Bob Venezia. He has written virtually every lead story we have had for the last two and one half years. Again I assert that if every member wrote just one story per year, we would have a truly outstanding newsletter. It is not too late! With Larry Winker, who has actual artistic talent, taking over you have the opportunity to have an award winning newsletter!

-30-

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ZENIT, The world seen from Rome News Agency
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About 17% of World Is Catholic

New Church Yearbook Gives '00-'06 Statistics

VATICAN CITY, MAY 27, 2008 (Zenit.org).- Catholics still make up almost a fifth of the world's population, a ratio that has stayed steady with the start of the new millennium.

This is one of the many statistics found in the Vatican Publishing House's new edition of the Statistical Yearbook of the Church, comprising information on the main aspects of Catholic Church in various countries for the period 2000-2006.

Over these seven years, Catholic presence in the world has remained stable at around 17.3% of the total population.

In Europe, despite the fact that 25% of all Catholics live there, the growth in the number of faithful was less than 1%. In the Americas and in Oceania, numbers grew, respectively, by 8.4% and 7.6%. In Asia the number remained more or less stable with respect to population growth, whereas in Africa the number of Catholics increased from 130 million in 2000 to 158.3 million in 2006.

The number of bishops in the world went up from 4,541 in 2000 to 4,898 in 2006.

The number of priests also increased slightly over this seven-year period, passing from 405,178 in 2000 to 407,262 in 2006, an overall rise of around 0.51%. In Africa and Asia their numbers increased by 23.24% and 17.71%, respectively. In the Americas the number remained stable, while it fell by 5.75% in Europe and 4.37% in Oceania.

The number of diocesan priests increased by 2%, going from 265,781 in 2000 to 271,091 in 2006. By contrast, the number of religious priests showed a constant decline, down by 2.31% to 136,000 in 2006.

Only in Europe was there a clear reduction in priests: In 2000 they represented 51% of the world total, in 2006 just 48%. On the other hand, Asia and Africa together represented 17.5% of the world total in 2000 and 21% in 2006. The Americas remained steady at around 30%, and Oceania a little more than 1%.

Female religious are almost double the number of priests, and 14 times that of non-ordained male religious, but their numbers are falling, from 800,000 in 2000 to 750,000 in 2006. As for their geographical distribution, 42% reside in Europe, 28.03% in America and 20% in Asia. The number of female religious has increased in Africa (up by 15.45%) and Asia (up by 12.78%).

PRAY! INVITE! ENCOURAGE! AFFIRM! VOCATIONS

May 2002

[Photos courtesy Bill Carducci]

Serra Affirms Vocations

The Serra Club of South Palm Beach County held its annual Religious Affirmation Dinner at St Vincent Ferrer Hall on Wednesday, April 24th to thank all the religious of our Diocese and affirm them in their vocations. Featured speaker was Father Irvine Nugent, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Palm Beach.



Father Irvine Nugent addresses Affirmation Dinner

Father Nugent began his 'State of the Union' address with a reference to the current crisis in the American Church and pointing out that the Japanese word for crisis is made up of two words: one meaning danger and one meaning opportunity. We are a

people of hope and must remind ourselves of opportunity. God calls people to ministry and those of us in the vocations ministry must be a light to the rest of the Church, constantly seeking opportunity to promote and foster vocations.

The people of God are always going to need Priests, Nuns, Brothers and Deacons. Father gave special recognition to three of the Sisters present for their long and devoted service to the Lord:

- Sr. M. Finbarr Morrissey, RSM 58 yrs
- Sr. Paula Blue, SC 56 yrs
- Sr. John Marita Fenton, SC 65 yrs

Together they have 179 years of service! During that time they have touched many people and made a difference in many, many lives.

[Ed. Note: My family was particularly touched by Sr. Mary Finbarr, who taught three of our children at St Vincent Ferrer School. She was especially important to our youngest daughter Caroline, who had the bad luck to be a member of the most infamous eighth grade class in the school's history. Caroline was able to get through it because of the guidance, love and example of Sister Finbarr. Thank you, Sister Finbarr! To this day Sister still asks about each of our children by name every time we see her]

Many, if not most, of these stories will never be told.

Father Irvine has just returned from the North American Congress on Vocations in Montreal, Canada where the vocation directors endeavored to come up with plans for the future. He reported that they hold great hope for the future because of three major characteristics they find in the youth of today:

They have incredible generosity and idealism.

They have great spirituality.

They view Priests and Religious as role models.

Father Nugent closed by thanking all the Religious of our diocese and recognizing three Priests who are celebrating 50 years of Priesthood this year:

Rev. John A. Skehan, Pastor of St Vincent Ferrer Church

Rev. Joseph Lang

Rev. Maurice O'Connor.

Thank you, Fathers for your great gifts to us and for being an inspiration to our youth.

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Father Lanz, Father O'Connor and Father Shehan Celebrate 50 Years of Priesthood



Sister M. Finbarr Morrissey,
58 Years of Service



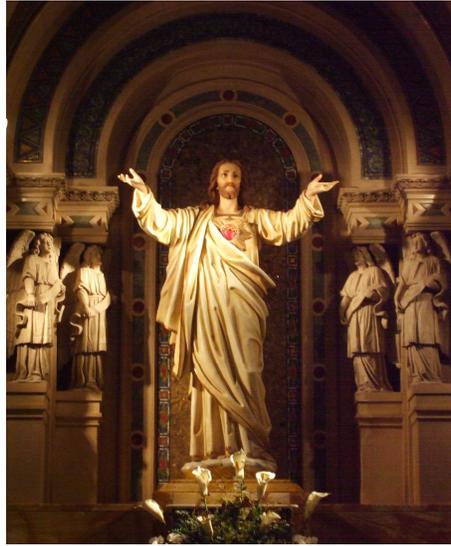
Sister Paula Blue, 56 Years of Service



Sister John Marita Fenton,
65 Years of Service

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**The Sacred Heart Sculpture
on the High Altar of the
[Cathedral Church of Saint Patrick in El Paso, TX.](#)**



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