

Byzantine Catholic Serra Club



of Pittsburgh

O God, grant an increase of laborers
for Your Church.

“Our mission...

...is to foster, affirm, promote and support, by prayer and deed, vocations to the priestly and diaconal ministries and to the consecrated life, in the Byzantine Catholic Church.”

Wednesday, June 19, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
Installation of Officers & Dinner
Crowne Plaza Hotel - South

JUNE 2013 NEWSLETTER

June 19 Biennial Installation of Officers – We will hold our installation of officers during the June dinner meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel-South. *If you are planning to attend, please call either Joe Senko (412) 343-5031 or Rich Trankocy (412) 672-4665 by Sunday, June 16, 2013.* Entrée choices are baked cod with redskin potatoes or chicken parmesan with a side of spaghetti, plus the usual accompaniments. Cost of the dinner is \$25.

Serrans Honor Clergy Achieving Milestones – On May 19, 67 people gathered at the Crowne Plaza-South hotel to honor clergy who had reached milestone anniversaries during 2013. The event reflects the gratitude of the thousands of people they have collectively served and counseled over the years. Very Rev. Eugene P. Yackanich, Protosyncellus, gave the invocation, which was followed by dinner.

Byzantine Serra Chaplain Father Valerian M. Michlic introduced Martin Bovee (*husband of Serran Patricia Bovee*) of the Cathedral Parish, who spoke candidly and with humor, honoring the many priests and bishops he's encountered during his life.

Then came the time for which this event was held – Serra Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Mayernik called the honored priests to be recognized and awarded. Father Anselm Orlosky (60 years, *shown at right with Serra President Joe Senko and Father Eugene*), Father Donald Voss (20 years) and Father James Ragan (15 years) were present. Each priest was presented with a Good Shepherd icon by Father Eugene, who represented Archbishop William, and a certificate of appreciation by Joe Senko, Serra President.

Presentations were made during the Clergy Days to most of the priests who had been unable to attend the event. Those priests were Father Roy Schubert (50 years), Father John Petro (45 years), Father Regis Dusecina and Father William Lascelles (40 years), Father John Mihalco (30 years) and Father Paul Alexander Shutt, OSB (15 years). Very Rev. Archpriest David Petras was honored upon his retirement from the Seminary.

Father Ronald Borsuk (55 years) and Father Richard Whetstone (30 years) were unable to attend either function due to ill health. They will receive their icons and certificates in the mail.

For those who haven't received the BCW, we are including some highlights of Marty's speech:

The first priest Marty came to know and appreciate was Fr. Stephen Loya who served Marty's home parish of SS. Peter & Paul in Duquesne. Marty particularly remembered Fr. Stephen's wisdom, saying "that he would rather have a good Protestant than a bad Catholic." This meant a lot to Marty whose father was First Christian and mother, Byzantine. As he grew up, Marty became familiar with the faith traditions of both of his parents.



(continued)



Pictured above, left to right: Fr. Donald Voss, his friend Fr. Ed Litavec, Fr. Ed Lucas, Fr. Bob Oravetz and Fr. Jim Ragan. Marty's speech continues:

His home parish "has had its share of vocations...I believe 10 in all." Times were different then. "On the feast of St. George, April 23rd, 1960 and 1961, I went...to the Cathedral to see the ordination of the new priests. In 1961, there were two ordination classes – April and December. From the December class, Fr. John Puskar was sent to be our assistant." Marty and Fr. John became good friends until Fr. John's reassignment

As other priests were assigned to SS. Peter & Paul, Marty got to know them well, as he served as an altar boy when he was 11 or 12, and began cantoring when he was not quite 14, and "as they say – the rest is History, since I am still cantoring."

In the early 1970's Marty became a member of St. John's Cathedral Parish. Marty's friends in the clergy grew to include bishops, other priests and deacons as well.

Marty drew attention to the Fifth Chapter of Luke's Gospel in which Jesus called his first disciples. He continued: "It is everyone's calling to reach out to others – 'Go be my witnesses and make disciples of every nation.' What is your primary occupation? Teacher, Clerk, Accountant, Plumber, Electrician, Funeral Director, Homemaker, Retiree, Lawyer, yes even the hated lawyer – no matter what – 'Christian' should be first.

Then I think of the Priest. Yes, the Priest is human and sometimes does very human things, but he also has the most awesome job." By the power of the Holy Spirit, the common bread and wine he prayerfully holds in his hands is changed into the Precious Body and Holy Blood of the Lord.

Upon reflecting on Fr. Valerian's request that he speak at this event, Marty made a list of clergy with whom he's worked. All told, this list tallies at over 60 priests and eight bishops, and those are exclusively Byzantine Catholic. "I have also served with several Roman Catholic priests, including a retired two-star general who was a chaplain in the Air National Guard (ANG) during my 36 years in the PA ANG. So my total is really about 70. I knew there were many, but honestly the number amazes me."

Marty ended his talk with words of thanks for the priests, saying: "I personally, and I'm sure all of you here present, would like to say 'Thank You.' Thank you for knowing God; thank you for loving God, and really, thank you for serving God and His people."

June 5 Board Meeting – Father Valerian Michlik, Joe Senko, Sam Barone, Bill and Kathe Kress, Dorothy Mayernik, Mike Pillar, Gerry Rhoades, John Tomko, Rich Trankocy and Joe Warhola attended.

Joe Senko's presentation at the Clergy Days in May was well-received, as were the Seminarian Prayer Cards and Serra Brochures Joe distributed. Father Andrew Deskevich has the remainder of the cards and Dorothy will try to coordinate sending cards to the parishes of Seminarians from other eparchies who graduated this spring.

The Clergy Appreciation Dinner was a remarkable success, with the 67 attendees exceeding our expectations. We are already arranging for a bigger room for this event next year. Marty Bovee did an excellent job as main speaker. Kathe has submitted an article and many pictures to the BCW.

We are working with Father Valerian to put together welcome packages for the priests and their families who are moving into the North and South Side rectories. Father Valerian is preparing a list of needed items.

We are also planning to be a visible presence at this year's Pilgrimage at a table in the "vocations" area where we will have a table with the club banner, icon of Fr. Junipero Serra, introductory brochures and newsletters. There will be a sign-up sheet for time slots at the June 19 Dinner Meeting.

Father Valerian challenged the Club with a request to produce a vocations DVD to be shown at ECF Classes. We will need to do much planning to make this a reality.

Calendar of Events

June 19 – Dinner Meeting and Installation of Officers – 6:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza