



Wheeling, WV
Serra Club

Prayer Leaders

- Larry Bandi - Jan. 4
- Janet Boyle - Jan. 18
- Frank Carenbauer - Feb.1
- James Caveney - Feb. 15

If you can't make it to the meeting at which you are to lead the prayer, please find a substitute.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 4 - Gretchen Wilson, Adoration
- Jan. 18 - Jeff Smay

Serra Club News

January 2019

Seminarians Feted at Christmas Luncheon

Nearly 100 Serrans and guests came together at the Jack & Nancy O'Leary Christmas luncheon to honor our seminarians, priests and sisters.

Many thanks to Nancy for her contribution in memory of her

husband, a long-time Serran, which helped defray the cost of meals for our guests.

If you brought a guest to the luncheon, please ask him or her to join us as members of the Serra Club. President Chris Freeman and

his officers have already hosted a number of terrific events, and have plans for more in 2019.



At left: Nancy O'Leary and Chris Freeman welcome the guests.



Left: Serra treasurer Frank Carenbauer presents a Christmas gift to seminarian Nic Cochran. Right: Vincent DeGeorge, Rick Teachout and Fr. Martin Smay enjoy John Yelenic's presentation. See more photos on Page 4.



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Nurturing the Faith Brings Rich Rewards

John Yelenic, one of our favorite speakers, gave a wonderful talk on faith and vocations at the Serra Christmas luncheon.

Formerly the superintendent of schools for our diocese, John today is the director of admissions and retention for Wheeling Central Catholic High School. He described how his mother and grandmother instilled his faith. "Every time we saw a priest, sister or seminarian, my mother would have us say to them, 'Thank you for your service.'"

At the time, Yelenic suspected his mother of trying to lead him and his brothers into the priesthood. However, he understands now that she was simply nurturing their faith. He raised his own children in a similar way, he said, and he's proud that all of them attend

Mass and have a deep understanding of what it means to rely on and value their Catholic education.

Yelenic thanked all the seminarians in attendance at the luncheon for their service, and shared with them the call to action given to him by the Most. Rev. Bernard Schmitt, the bishop who hired him.

"Bishop Schmitt was a wonderful role model for me," Yelenic said. "He told me

he wanted every kid in our Catholic schools to be holy. He said, 'Teach them well, because that's important, but once they're holy, everything else will fall into place. You'll have no other worries about their fate.'"

Yelenic thanked all the priests, sisters, seminarians and teachers who lay the ground for us to remain faithful and holy.



John Yelenic

Please Support the Gabriel Project Diaper Drive

The Gabriel Project's Annual Diaper Drive is drawing to a close. Serrans have been very generous in the past in their support of this important project, but donations are down this year and the project ends Dec. 31.

As you probably know, the Gabriel Project of West Virginia works to protect and honor life by providing

immediate, practical and compassionate assistance to needy pregnant women and to families with infants and children two years of age and younger. The practical support it offers helps parents give their child a healthy and safe start in life.

The easiest way to support this project is to make a check to



Wheeling Serra and indicate on the memo line that it's for the diaper drive. You can give the checks to Frank or mail them to Wheeling Serra Club, P.O. Box 4, Wheeling, WV 26003.

Fr. Paul Finds Inspiration in the Lives and Work of Priests Who Served the Poor

By *Cindy R. Freeman*

Fr. Paul Mundumoozhikkarani-rappel, who was introduced to us as “a true man of God,” shared his vocation story and talked about growing up in south India. Fr. Paul is a member of the Little Flower Congregation, an order of the priesthood that was started in India in 1931. The pastor at Corpus Christi Church in Warwood, Fr. Paul was kind enough to speak with us at our Dec. 7 meeting.

God has blessed Fr. Paul’s family with four vocations – three priests and one sister. His parents lived long lives – his father died at 97 and his mother at 96. He was inspired to become a priest by his cousin, who served as a priest in rural India and told of the blessings and hardships he encountered.

Fr. Paul’s cousin had no transportation and he had to walk miles and miles to anoint the sick. When his cousin died, he had no money in his bank account, but left behind a life of service to others.

Fr. Paul said he was also inspired by a parish priest who influenced his life by his service to the poor.

In 1974 Fr. Paul joined the order of the Little Flower. His greatest desire was to become a missionary. In India there are 100 candidates a year for priesthood.

Fr. Paul worked five years in youth ministry, then was assigned to Rome, Germany and Italy. After that, he entered into parish work.

The parishioners of Corpus Christi are very happy to have Fr. Paul as their pastor.



Fr. Paul Mundumoozhikkarani-rappel, CST

A Note from our President

Dear Fellow Serrans,

I want to thank everyone who helped with the seminarians’ Christmas luncheon. We had more than 100 people in attendance and the mood was upbeat. I’m sure the seminarians felt our appreciation for their commitment.

While our treasurer Frank Carenbauer provided a stipend to each of them, I also received a gift, which someone anonymously sent to my house. I do so appreciate the gift and the sentiment expressed on the card but I think the credit goes to all of you. This is a hard-working club and all the members are involved in our success.

I look forward to continued success in 2019. Happy New Year to all of you.

Chris Freeman

“To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.” ~ Thomas Campbell

We were sorry to learn that the list of beloved deceased Serrans that we included in the December newsletter was incomplete. Rusty Grubler let us know that we were missing the name of his dear father, Dr. Bill Grubler, who was a good and faithful Serran for decades. Please forgive our oversight, Rusty. Members, please let us know if we inadvertently omitted any other names.



Msgr. Jeremiah McSweeney, luncheon sponsor Nancy Ellen O'Leary, and Rev. William Matheny



Seminarian Stephen Hill



Seminarian John Spolinski



Serran Vickie Joseph offers a prayer.



Msgr. Jeremiah McSweeney with seminarian Daniel Callihan



The turnout was fantastic.