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The Serran Sentinel





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SERRA CLUB

OF SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY FLORIDA
www.serraspbc.org

Club 638
District 30
Region 14

Next Meeting: July 18th/06
Mass at 7:00a.m., St. Vincent Ferrer, Delray Beach
Breakfast: 7:45a.m. Holiday Inn, Highland Beach
Board Meeting 7:00p.m. 7/25/06 St. V. F. Rectory

NO MEETING ON THE 4TH OF July

From V.P. Program, Veronica Comrie
July 18, Rev. Ray Auger, 50 years as a priest

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER FOR July 2006

General: For those in prison, young people in particular: may they be helped by society to start a new life with new meaning

Missionary: For ethnic and religious groups in mission lands: may they live and work peacefully side by side to build societies with respect for human and spiritual values

July 1st Blessed Junipero Serra Feast Day
July 4th Independence Day

SCHEDULE



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- > Pope Urges New Efforts in Consecrated Life
- > Warns of "Snare of Mediocrity, Gentrification and Consumeristic Mentality"

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- > VATICAN CITY, MAY 23, 2006 (Zenit.org).- Benedict XVI says that
- > "courageous choices are needed, at the personal and community level," to
- > rediscover and to show the beauty of following Christ in a consecrated
- > life.

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- > The Pope posed this challenge when receiving in audience the general
- > superiors of institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic
- > life.

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- > In his address Monday in Paul VI Hall, the Holy Father analyzed some of
- > the key challenges facing consecrated life, which is losing numbers in
- > some parts of the world.

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- > The meeting also gave the Bishop of Rome the opportunity to express his
- > affection for the consecrated persons, in particular, "all those who are
- > in difficulty, the elderly and the sick, those who are going through
- > moments of crisis and loneliness, those who suffer and feel lost," and
- > those who knock at the door of religious families to "give themselves to
- > Jesus Christ, in the radicalness of the Gospel."

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- > Consecrated persons today have the "task to be witnesses of the
- > transfiguring presence of God in an ever more disoriented and confused
- > world, a world in which shades have replaced exceedingly clear and
- > striking colors," Benedict XVI clarified.

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- > In this connection, the Pope said that "in the last years consecrated life
- > has again been understood with a more evangelical, more ecclesial and more
- > apostolic spirit. But we cannot ignore that some concrete choices have not
- > offered the world the authentic and vivifying face of Christ."

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- > Secularized culture

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- > In fact, "secularized culture has penetrated the mind and heart of not a
- > few consecrated persons, who see in it a form of access to modernity and
- > rapprochement to the contemporary world," the Holy Father noted.

- > The consequence, the Pontiff indicated, "is that along with an undoubtedly
- > generous impulse, able to give witness and to commit itself totally,
- > consecrated life is experiencing today the snare of mediocrity,
- > gentrification and the consumeristic mentality."

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- > "Courageous choices are needed at the personal and community level, which
- > imprint a new discipline on the life of consecrated persons and lead them
- > to rediscover the integral dimension of the following of Christ," the Holy
- > Father stressed.

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- > Benedict XVI clarified that "to belong to the Lord" is "the mission of the
- > men and women who have opted to follow the chaste, poor and obedient
- > Christ, so that the world will believe and be saved."

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- > Therefore, the Pontiff counseled them to be nourished daily with prayer --
- > "intimate conversation of the consecrated soul with the divine
- > Bridegroom" -- and with "daily participation in the ineffable mystery of
- > the divine Eucharist, in which the risen Christ makes himself constantly
- > present in the reality of his flesh."

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- > Regarding the vow of chastity made by religious, the Pope explained that
- > "it cannot be framed in the logic of this world." In a reference to
- > Matthew 19:11-12, he said that "it is the most 'unreasonable' Christian
- > paradox and not everyone can understand it and live it."

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The Cracked Pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the masters house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his masters house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?"

"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your masters house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts." The pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the masters house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again the Pot apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pots side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my masters table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We re all cracked pots. But if we will allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace His Fathers table. In Gods great economy, nothing goes to waste. Don't be afraid of your flaws. Acknowledge them, and you too can be the cause of beauty. Know that in our weakness we find our strength.

Submitted by Richard Siegel

The Gift of Blessed Junípero Serra



Blessed Junípero Serra was a man of faith.

At life's crossroads Junípero Serra traded a professorial lifestyle that promised him a beloved homeland, associations of his youth, a cloister and community, books and university, honor and a secure future, for a missionary lifestyle that required him to say farewell to his home and life. He embraced uncertainty and instability by moving forward and never turning back.

Which paths have I chosen at the many crossroads that have been part of my life?

Blessed Junípero Serra was a preacher.

If history were something static, the world would hardly be in need of missionary activity. However, the gospel must be preached and interpreted in every age. As history unfolds, every generation is called to embrace the same challenge as Blessed Junípero Serra and define for themselves how they will proclaim God's message to the world in a new evangelization.

How are we, as a church, responding to the call of evangelization in our new world?

Blessed Junípero was a missionary at heart.

The missionary is one who responds to the privilege of participating in the mission of God by offering himself to work for, and giving witness for the salvation of the world. Fidelity is the quality of response for a missionary to be true to one's self and one's vocation.

How necessary do you think missionaries are today?

Blessed Junípero Serra is just like us.

He was a visionary man who persevered with his mission in spite of adversity, controversy, and hardships.

How do we as Serrans persevere in our vision to foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life and to further Catholicism by encouraging one another to fulfill our Christian vocation to service, through education, about our faith?

Bibliography

Sullivan, Marion. Westward the Bells: A Biography of Junípero Serra. Saint Paul Books and Media, 1988.

DeNevi, Don and Moholy, Noel Francis. Junípero Serra: The Illustrated Story of the Founder of California's Missions. Harper and Row, 1985.



THE STORY OF A SAINT

IS ALWAYS A LOVE STORY.

IT IS THE STORY OF A GOD WHO LOVES, AND OF THE BELOVED WHO LEARNS HOW TO RECIPROCATE AND SHARE THAT "HARD AND DREADFUL LOVE." IT IS A STORY THAT INCLUDES MISUNDERSTANDING, DECEPTION, BETRAYAL, CONCEALMENT, REVERSAL AND REVELATION OF CHARACTER. IT IS, IF THE SAINTS ARE TO BE TRUSTED, OUR STORY. BUT TO BE A SAINT IS NOT TO BE A SOLITARY LOVER. IT IS TO ENTER INTO DEEPER COMMUNION WITH EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS. FROM THAT TEARFUL SUNDAY OVER TWO CENTURIES AGO, WHEN HIS EARTHLY SIESTA FUSED WITH THE PEACEFUL SLEEP OF CHRIST'S LOVING EMBRACE, UNTIL THE PRESENT, SERRA'S MEMORY HAS BEEN REVERED. HIS IS A DYNAMIC PRESENCE AS THE INSPIRING PATRON OF SERRA INTERNATIONAL.

The National Anthem

The Star-Spangled Banner

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight'
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming.
And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen, thro' the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream;
'Tis the star-spangled banner: oh, long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Oh, thus be it ever when free men shall stand,
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation;
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Power that has made and preserved us as a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust";
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Tune: Anacreon in Heaven