



# SERRA CLUB

OF SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Club 638 District 30 Region 14

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

September 2007

Volume 21 Number 3

Serran Sentinel

## PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY: Oct. 28, 2007 Catholics honor priests nationwide

Submitted by Bob Venezia



St. Thomas More Parish Bulletin, October 29, 2006

Priesthood Sunday

Fr. Alex Vargas, Fr. Peter Truong, Pastor Julian Harris

Photo by Mark Lizardi

Catholics in parishes throughout the United States will rally on Sunday, October 28, to show support for their priests with prayer, celebration and dialogue. The last Sunday of October is designated as Priesthood Sunday, a one-day celebration of the priesthood organized by parish lay leaders and coordinated by the USA Council of Serra International.

Priesthood Sunday was established in 2003 to

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**Calendar of Events**

**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

**LARRY J. WINKER**

President  
 561 997 5997

**JIM ANDERSON**

President-elect  
 561 994 9267

**MICHAEL FARENGA**

Vice President - Vocations  
 561 703 4042

**BARBARA HOSTOMSKY**

Vice President - Membership  
 561 364 4924

**VERONICA M. COMRIE**

Vice President - Programs  
 561 752 2988

**ROBERT A. VENEZIA**

Vice President - Communications  
 561 279 9393

**NANCY NOONAN**

Secretary  
 561 276 3299

**RICHARD N. PARK**

Treasurer  
 Newsletter Editor  
 Webmaster  
 561 737 1782

**FERNANDE CAMINO**

Foundation Representative  
 561 395 9412

**TRUSTEES**

**JOHN MCGILLICUDDY**

561 392 3361

**LON PHILLIPS**

561 997 5486

**RICHARD SIEGEL**

561 266 6114

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
Sep 4	Sr Carlene & Sr Katie, St Ann's Place
Sep 18	Workshop - Presentations to Schools, Essay/Poster Contest
Oct 2	John Dean, Charismatic Prayer Group
Oct 13	Day of Reflection, St Vincent DePaul Seminary
Oct 16	Workshop—Serran Self Evaluation
Oct 28	Priesthood Sunday
Nov 6	Fr. Hubert, St. Matthew Catholic Church
Nov 20	Workshop
Dec 4	Fr. John D'Mello, Interfaith Group
Dec 14	Girls Night Out, Holliday Inn Oceanside
Dec 18	Breakfast Meeting
Jan 1	No Meeting—Happy New Year!
Jan 13-18	National Vocations Awareness Week
Jan 15	Workshop?
Feb 3	World Day of Consecrated Life
Feb 5	Fr. David Toups, St Vincent DePaul Regional Seminary

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provide a way for Catholic communities to express appreciation for the devoted priests who serve them so faithfully. Such a celebration is increasingly relevant in light of the declining number of priests in the U.S. The lay faithful of each parish, school or other ministry are asked to develop their own special way of marking the day and honoring both priesthood and their own priests.

Priesthood Sunday is sponsored by the USA Council of Serra International and the Serra

International Foundation. Serra International is a worldwide Catholic organization of lay men and women dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. More than 12,000 members in over 300 clubs are active in the United States.

## Chaplain's Corner

From your Chaplain:

The June-July issue of Catholic Extension devoted an entire page to the following indicating their response to the challenge of priestless parishes.

Quite a challenge, isn't it! I am sure with their zeal and enthusiasm they will achieve much of their goal for matching donations. We, too, can become involved in operations such as this...pick a prayer partner and match them prayer for prayer toward success of this undertaking...it will leave you with a "good feeling" guaranteed!

## Interfaith Talk

Rabbi  
Jessica Spitalnic Brockman  
Associate Rabbi, Temple Beth El  
Boca Raton, Florida

Submitted by Bob Venezia

Rabbi Jessica Brockman spoke informally and eloquently to us at our breakfast meeting on August 7. Beginning with reading a poem entitled "Epitaph", which speaks of love surviving death, she shared with us her journey in faith.

Both her family and community in the Bronx, NYC, were culturally Jewish, but neither steered her to the seminary. It was only after college at the U. of Wisconsin-Madison and a trip to Israel that a suggestion from her rabbi implanted the seed to search out ordination for herself. She was

surprised at the idea, maybe because female rabbis have existed for only thirty years in Reformed Judaism, for only the last ten years in Conservative Judaism, and not at all within Orthodox Judaism. She also mentioned the schism between Judaism in Israel and in the United States, where Jews are either Orthodox or only cultural in Israel, but neither Conservative nor Reformed. Rabbi Brockman concluded this part of her talk by stating that her five-year rabbinical studies began with one year in Israel followed by four years in seminary.

Very appropriately she credited Rabbi Emeritus Merle Singer of Temple Beth El and Monsignor John McMahan of St. Joan of Arc with creating support and friendship between Jews and Catholics in Boca Raton.

Early in her talk, Rabbi Brockman asked, "Do clergy pray?" "When do clergy pray?" The implication of course was that clergy must find time for prayer, and that clergy must ask the congregation to do no more than what the clergy is willing and able to do. At the end, she stated that we must have balance in our lives -- time for our faith, our work, our family, etc. She concluded with her belief that her role as a rabbi has two components:

1. Comfort those people needing to be comforted.
2. Discomfort the people who are comfortable.

Think about it. The members did, and applauded Rabbi Brockman for her talk.

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**Minutes of Serra Club of South Palm Beach County Board Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday, August 28, 2007

**Place:** St. Vincent Ferrer

**Present:** Jim Anderson; Veronica Comrie; Michael Farenga; Barbara Hostomsky; Fr. Joe Kuczborski; Nancy Noonan; Richard Park; Robert Venezia; Larry Winker

**Absent:** John McGillicuddy; Lon Phillips; Richard Siegel

**Call to Order:** Larry Winker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with our Serran prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** Jim Anderson moved, seconded by Bob Venezia to approve the minutes as prepared and emailed by Nancy Noonan. Unanimous approval.

**Priesthood Sunday, October 28, 2007** Bob and Rosemary Venezia have done a lot of work on this event. Bob has sent a press release to the Florida Catholic. Discussion of what we may do on an individual parish basis. Many churches are "sold out" on Mass intentions for that date. Ascension has a Sanctuary Candle. We have the Serran Mass cards which we used last year. Individual parishes can decide if they want to send them to their priests. \$10 per Mass card.

Rosemary Venezia will bring packets to the September 4<sup>th</sup> breakfast meeting on Priesthood Sunday activities. Each parish will decide what they will do.

**Options for developing and collecting biographies/pictures of Serran members; seminarians; priests for presentation in our newsletter & other publications:**

Barbara Hostomsky and Larry Winker will prepare their bios and email them to Dick Park. Dick Park will contact Fr. Yves and Consuelo for bios/pictures on seminarians.

Each Serran should try to obtain bio/picture of his/her parish priests and send them by email to Dick Park for inclusion in our newsletter.

**Seminarian picture card format/distribution options:** This project is postponed. Seminarians must appear in a group picture not as individuals. The group picture is taken sometime in December.

Fr. Joe asked if we were also going to do the same for those studying to become a nun. Sister Helen is no longer involved with the program. She is now in charge of Deacons. Board recommended starting out with the seminarians. Let's see how this works out first.

Barbara Hostomsky asked whether we had heard from Fr. Yves concerning his budgetary needs to print/distribute the seminarian poster to elementary schools. (The plan calls for distribution to churches; high schools) Larry Winker will follow up. Larry suggested we establish a quarterly meeting with Fr. Yves. At a later date, Fr. Yves' office could expand the meeting to include representatives of K of C; Columbiettes; CCW as well as Serra.

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**PRAY, AFFIRM, PROMOTE VOCATIONS**

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**Chalice Program:** Fr. Joe talked about his interest in this program for St. Vincent's. We had approved the purchase of a chalice for St. Vincent's a year ago. Fernade Camino had ordered a couple of chalices. Bob Venezia will email Fernade about the chalices. (There is a lot of work involved in lining up families to participate.)

Two parishes currently have a Chalice program: St. Joan of Arc (run by Fernade Camino) and St. Thomas More (Katie Park).

**Essay, Poster, Coloring Contests:** Will be topic of our September 18 workshop. We will ask Jose Rodriguez to help. At this workshop we will also provide Dick Park with some time to discuss the Chalice program at St. Thomas More.

**Day of Reflection:** Michael Farenga announced our retreat will be on Saturday, October 13. Michael said Msgr. Bosso agreed to be our leader. Cost: \$20 per person.

**Programs:** We will invite Deacon Andrew Brierly to speak to us at our October 16 breakfast meeting. He would replace our workshop on the Serran self evaluation. (We want to be sure Fr. Joe will be able to attend that morning.)

**Adjournment** - 8:25 p.m. Fr. Joe closed the meeting with our Serran prayer.

## **New Supermarket**

The new supermarket near our house has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and the smell of fresh rain.

When you approach the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and witness the scent of fresh hay.

When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and cackle and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying.

The veggie department features the smell of fresh buttered corn.

I don't buy toilet paper there any more.

## **Women as Rabbis**

Submitted by Veronica Comrie

[Editor's Note: This is another perspective on the August 7th program]

Our guest speaker on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007, was Rabbi Jessica Spitalnic Brockman, She is the associate Rabbi at Temple Beth El, in Boca Raton, Florida.

Rabbi Brockman has also been an Assistant Rabbi at temple Beth El in North Carolina, where she helped raised awareness on issues including gun violence, battered women, the separation of church and state and the role of women in the synagogue.

She has worked in many Jewish Communities in New York, Chicago, London, Jerusalem and Israel, has pub-

lished several books and publications, and is part of a rabbinic leadership program entitled "Synagogue: Transformation and Renewal" (STAR), which is a leading organization, inspiring innovative Shabbat programming.

Originally from New York, she has a husband and two children, and was ordained as a Rabbi in 1999, from the Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute in Religion.

Her message was, "that people can influence your life". She was raised in a family which shifted from a strong Jewish Identity in the older generation, to a cultured reformed one in the present generation, She has seen her cousins marry Catholics and drift

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away from their traditions, this loss of identity pushed her to learn more about her roots, but it was only after meeting Rabbi Tony Bayfield and having an-enlightened conversation with her, that really influenced her to apply to Rabbinical School and become a Rabbi.

Today, it's been over 30 years since women have been ordained as Rabbi in the Jewish Religion she said, and in these Rabbinical schools over 50% of the students are women. There are judged differently from the men and must find a balance between home, children and being a Rabbi. However, there have

been achievements, women can now sit beside their husbands in the synagogue during services and even turn on the lights before the services in the Synagogue.

The Jewish Faith she says has many branches and even sub-branches with their own Rabbi, these changes were caused by displacements of the people due to the holocaust and migration. The Western Jews e.g. Jews from Austria and Germany are more liberal vs. the Eastern Orthodox Jews who continue the traditional ways. But regardless of the splinter groups such as the Hasidic, Modern Jews, Reconstructed Jews, Reformed Jews etc., they all

follow the 613 commands/principles of the Torah, with their own flavor. So to be a Rabbi requires constant learning and life experiences to minister to them.

Today the Jewish Temple in Boca Raton, Temple Beth EL has had a unique relationship with St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church as a result of their interfaith sharing; both sides visit each other and have lectured to the youths on the Holocaust and other topics, and are encouraged to participate in activities together. This unity has become the power of the religious community in Boca Raton which is essential, and hopes it will continue for years to come.

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«AddressBlock»

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