



Serra Club News

Meetings are held the first and third Friday of each month at noon at the Wheeling Civic Center

A publication of the Wheeling Serra Club

January 2008

Invite a Young Person to find a Lasting Peace

The Vocation Awareness Retreat that we co-sponsor with the Diocese, religious congregations, parishes and the Knights of Columbus, is scheduled for Feb. 8 - 10 at the Paul VI Retreat Center. This year's theme is "Life Puzzling? Find a "Peace" that Fits."



Our own retired Bishop **Bernard Schmitt** asks us to *personally invite* any young man or woman we think might find this experience beneficial.

If you'd like more information or know someone who would like to attend the weekend, contact **Sr. Judy Minear, CSJ**, at 232.7733 or jminear@csjoseph.org.

Serra International News

Representatives of Serra International and its Councils reached agreement in December on ways to handle certain "core challenges" identified as hindering the relationship between the SI and the councils: lack of communication, lack of role clarity and lack of a clear financial strategy at the international level.

Ernest P. Doclar, president of the USA Council of Serra International, said there was a clear acknowledgement that SI is the parent organization and as such sets the overall vision and direction of the organization. There was also a general understanding reached of the participants' views on the roles of Serra international and the councils respectively.

In addressing these issues in a frank and honest dialogue, several potential solutions were identified by the participants. These solutions will be presented to the SI board of trustees at its March 2008 meeting for their consideration and approval. In addition, council representatives agree to submit this agreement to their council for support.

"I am delighted to report to all of our USA Council Serrans that we arrived at an agreement that should please all of us," Doclar wrote.

"This memorandum of agreement has been drafted with the intention of moving Serra forward in mutual solidarity. We issue it with a call to all Serrans to join us in that same spirit of unity and to take up with

renewed vigor our mission of promoting vocations to the Catholic priesthood and vowed life."

Dear Priests, Sisters, Brothers & Seminarians

President **David Singer** invites you to send us any information you might wish to share with Serra members. "If any of you want to send a report or update on your activities, we'll include it in our next newsletter," Dave said. "We look forward to hearing from you." Please send your updates to jboyle@ghost-writers.com.

January Calendar

Jan. 4, 2008 - **William Scharf**- Serra District Governor. Please attend and learn what's happening in Serra in West Virginia!
PRAYER LEADER: **James Caveney, DDS**

Jan. 18, 2008 - **Fr. Paul Hudock** - Vocations Update
PRAYER LEADER: **Bernie Coyne**

National Evangelization Team Shares God's Word with Wheeling Teens

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God."
Ephesians 2:8*



Jeff Smay, left, and Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, far right, pause with two members of the National Evangelization team that visited Wheeling.

For nearly two decades Wheeling Central Catholic students have been given an amazing opportunity to strengthen their faith. Each year Serran **Jeff Smay**, Central's Campus Minister and head of the Religion Department, brings the National Evangelization

Team (NET) to Wheeling to present a retreat for freshmen and sophomores.

The team is part of NET Ministries, an international youth ministry that fulfills its mission by providing personal witness of faith and by inviting young people to live for Jesus.

President Dave Singer notes that Serra International donates money to the St. Paul, Minnesota-based organization as part of its work to foster vocations.

Incredibly, **Fr. Dennis Schuelkens**, now the associate rector of St. Joseph Cathedral and Central's Chaplain, once came to Wheeling to present a NET retreat. "I met Fr. Dennis when he was just out of the Navy; he hadn't even gone to college yet," Smay remembers.

NET comprises young adults between the age of 18 and 28; each makes a one-year commitment to go on the road for Our Lord. Like Fr. Dennis, fully 15 percent of NET members pursue a priestly or religious vocation.

Central's NET retreat, held in November, was exceptional. "The value of bringing them in is exposing our students to a deeply committed group of young people who have a tremendous love for the Church," Smay said. "I was overwhelmed by the response of our young people." Central will continue to invite the team to visit Wheeling, he said, because of the program's effectiveness.

May God bless you and your families during this New Year.

SINCE ITS BEGINNINGS IN 1981:

- NET has grown from a one-month pilot project of the St. Paul Catholic Youth Center
- Over 17,000 retreats have been conducted
- 1.5 million youth have been reached
- 2,150 young adults have been trained in youth evangelization

IN SERVING WITH NET, TEAM MEMBERS MUST:

- Commit to nine months of service, from September to May
- Raise sponsorship from their community in support of their year
- Travel 20,000 miles in a van as part of their team of 11 or 12 men and women volunteers
- Lead retreats six days a week

IMPACT ON NET TEAM MEMBERS:

- 90% of NET alumni continue in active service to the church
- 15% of those pursue priesthood or a religious vocation