



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 2009

Tony Spadafore 1928 - 2008

One of the lions of Serra Club, **Dr. Tony Spadafore**, joined Our Lord on Dec. 18. **Chris Freeman** spoke for many of us when he wrote, "If Tony is not sitting peacefully next to our Lord right now I have no chance... Tony was a model Christian in everyway... he talked the talk and walked the walk. We pray for peace to his family and to ask Tony to continue to guide us."

Tony was a retired orthodontist, a U.S. Army veteran and was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, the Serra Club, the Civitan Club and the Short Circuit Club. He was a professor of dentistry at the University of Pittsburgh and WVU, and served on the board of directors of numerous professional associations.

We know how much he will be missed by his children, **John, Charles** and **Melissa**, his companion, **Eva Marie Nagem**, and the rest of his family and friends.

As Tony's time on earth drew short, he and his family remembered the Serra Club, requesting that friends who wished to honor Tony make contributions in his memory to our club. This moving gesture demonstrates again Tony Spadafore's faith, his commitment to nurturing vocations, and his loyalty to his friends in the Serra Club.

God bless you, Tony. We will miss you.

January program

Jan. 2 – no meeting

Jan. 16 - **William Scharf**, Serra District Governor; Prayer Leader: **Jeff Smay**

Diaconate Ordination

Congratulations! We are happy to announce the Ordination to the Diaconate of **Carlos Legayada Melocoton Jr.** The wonderful ceremony, presided over by **Bishop Michael J. Bransfield**, was held on Sunday December 14 at the

Cathedral of St. Joseph and was followed by a reception. We thank Carlos for his dedication and service and look forward to his eventual ordination to the Priesthood.

Thanks

Thanks to **Bernie Coyne, Renee** and **John Anderson, Larry Bandi** and a few others (you know who you are), the Sisters' Appreciation Luncheon / Christmas Party was a very enjoyable event. In addition to the 18 Sisters who attended, we also had former Wheeling Serran **Bill Nolan** and his wife visiting. Live music was provided by **Paul Camilletti** at piano. Thanks again to all you Sisters for your service to God's people and may God continue to bless you.

Meet the Seminarians:

All our seminarians are between semesters, and have scattered in many directions. For this reason we will not have a seminarian bio to share with you this month. Please check back in February for our next "Meet the Seminarians" profile.

Prayer for the Month

May the gift of the birth of our Infant Savior inspire in us a commitment to live our vocation in life, and to encourage others to live their vocation to Christian life, especially those called to the Priesthood and Religious life.

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Please check out page 2 of this newsletter for a terrific article about our Convention that appeared in the Detroit Serra newsletter. John Anderson was kind enough to share it with us.



They called it a *Super Regional Convention*, and it was! Wheeling, West Virginia, October 10-12

Many things about this Regional Convention made it *super*, starting with the opening Mass on the day of arrival. Just count the red hats in the picture! Four of them! (sorry, in black and white they look black)

The Mass was concelebrated by the Most Reverend Michael J. Bransfield, Bishop, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; Most Reverend David Zubik, Bishop, Diocese of Pittsburgh; Most Reverend Bernard Schmitt, Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; and Most Reverend Edwin F. O'Brien, Archbishop, Archdiocese of Baltimore.

It is not uncommon to experience this much firepower at an international convention but the host Serra Club of Wheeling pulled out all the stops on this multi-regional convention.

And it was multi-regional with five regions represented. The regions encompass 11 states plus the District of Columbia. They are New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana.

The venue was the Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in the hills just south of the Ohio River. A beautiful spot at any time of year but especially with the fall colors blanketing the hills.

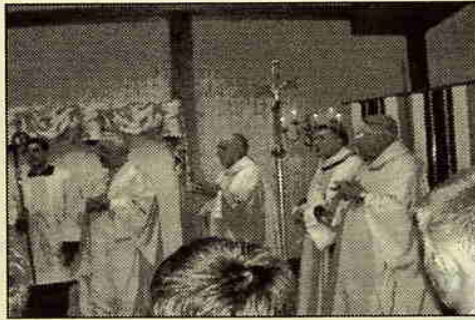
Perhaps the RHIP (rank has its privileges) factor was in effect but the Archbishop gave the keynote address. More likely the program planners knew of his unique capabilities as a motivational speaker.

In his speech, Archbishop O'Brien noted that in recent years a vowed commitment to anything is a problem. We live in a culture where, at the least bump in the road, the tendency is to simply "walk," but the commitment, permanent commitment to a vocation calls for developing skills, whether for a dramatic relationship with God or marriage.

It is parents who need to present examples to their children of love and

commitment to values.

In Cardinal O'Brien's words, the



(L-R) Bishop Bransfield Wheeling-Charleston, Archbishop O'Brien Baltimore, Bishop Zubik Pittsburgh, Bishop Schmitt Bishop Emeritus, Wheeling-Charleston

Christian family is the child's first seminary and, in Pope John Paul II's words, marriage is the school of love.

A child who is loved by siblings, parents, teachers and grandparents is a prime candidate for a vocation.



Doug McRoy
President-Elect—Serra USA

Doug McRoy, Regional Director for Region 6, headed up the panel discussion on membership. Doug has been President of the Lima, Ohio, Serra Club, District Governor and Regional Manager. He is now the President-Elect for Serra USA which is the part of Serra International to which all clubs in the United States and

Canada report.

As you can imagine, Doug has devoted much time and many miles to the cause of Serra. He and his wife, Ann, have attended countless meetings, conferences and conventions all over the United States, along with the last couple of international conventions: one in Bangkok and one in Brazil. We wish him well and look forward to his presidency.

The author felt this was one of the most intense conventions as far as the amount of good usable ideas was concerned, and as a result brought back a few (four pages to be precise) notes which were then given to our president. He had also attended the convention but a few notes can't hurt, can they? If you attend and bring nothing back, why did you go?

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