



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

April 2008

April Calendar

April 4, 2008 – Bryan Minor, executive director of the WV. Catholic Foundation PRAYER LEADER: **Larry Finneran**

April 18 – **Dawn Noble** will discuss the World Day of Prayer. PRAYER LEADER: **Chris Freeman**

April 23 – Night of Discernment, in conjunction with the Diocesan Office of Vocations – St. Vincent Parish Center – Serrans are needed to cook the meal and offer a couple of short talks. Contact Chris Freeman at 233.5550 if you can help.

Bishop's Burse

Many thanks to **Larry Bandi** for a lovely Bishop's Burse Dinner. There were more than 105 attendees, Larry reports. Larry passes along thanks to committee members **Gene & Jack Fahey, Bernie Coyne, Chris Freeman, Fr. Paul Hudock, Ed Schmitt** and **Dave Singer**.

Meet the Seminarians: Kevin Kayda

*Our President, **David Singer**, has asked our seminarians to share something about themselves with us so we can get to know them better. **Kevin Kayda** was kind enough to be our first guest columnist. Here's what he had to say:*

My name is Kevin Kayda and I am originally from Carlisle, PA. I am the oldest of three children, having two younger sisters. I first thought about the priesthood when I was six years old, but I thought that priests only had to work one day a week and got to watch cartoons the rest of the week. As I grew older I kept thinking about the priesthood, but I never received any real encouragement for it, especially from my parents who wanted me to find a job that paid well and one when where I could pass on the family name.



After high school, I went to WVU for my freshman year to study pharmacy. However, after my first chemistry class, I realized I hated chemistry and looked to change my major and my search led me here.

The two priests there at the time, **Fr. Victor** and **Fr. Donald Higgs**, convinced me to apply to this Diocese instead of going back home to Harrisburg. After this, I

was in Wheeling for two years studying at WJU under the tutelage of the Diocese.

This past fall, the Diocese sent me to St. Vincent Seminary to finish my college degree and to get in my pre-theology credits. Right now, I hope to be ordained around the year 2013. I believe that the person who influenced my vocation the most was the late deacon of my home parish. I did not realize it at the time, but what he taught me about the faith stays with me to this day. Every week he would come in for an hour to our classroom and either answer any questions we had or go over a difficult area of the faith. However, I think just his living out the Catholic teachings was what would later set me on the path to the priesthood.

About me personally: I am a die-hard Pittsburgh fan: Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates, in that order. I have never been to a Steelers game, but I hope to go sometime in the near future. My ideal priesthood job would be as the Catholic chaplain for the **Rooney family** (owners of the Steelers). I have been a Pirates and Penguins fan all my life, but only became a Steelers fan about 5 years ago. Before that, ironically, I was a Dallas Cowboys fan. I love to go hiking and fishing, something that I do not get to do enough during the seminary year or the summer. I also enjoy learning about history and, of course, praying.

The thing I like best about the seminary is all of the opportunities there are to grow in one's spiritual life. There are plenty of priests for confession or different prayer groups going on. In a parish, a priest has to struggle sometimes to find time to pray, but that time is built into the Seminary's schedule. This summer I will have a great opportunity to continue working on the Spiritual aspect of my development, as **Tom Gallagher** and I have been accepted into the Creighton University Institute for Priestly Formation Program in Nebraska. Here we will have a 10 week course on deepening our prayer and spiritual life, something I am looking forward to.

Leadership Planning Conference

Bill Scharf wants us all to know that the West Virginia Serra District 19 Spring Leadership Planning Conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 1:15 Saturday, April 19, 2008, Pete Dye Golf Club, Bridgeport, W. Va.,. The day starts with a complimentary buffet breakfast. All Serrans are invited. There will be several presenters, of particular interest to incoming club officers. For info call Bill at 304,345,8151.