



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

May 2008

May Calendar

May 2- Sr. Ignatia- Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George - PRAYER LEADER: Joe Front
May 16- Sr Ellen Dunn – Catholic Services
PRAYER LEADER: Teddi Grogan

Welcome

Our club is pleased to welcome **Greg Marquart**, our newest member, who was sponsored for membership by **Larry Bandi**. Greg's father was a Serran, and Greg has attended our Masses in memory of our deceased Serrans.

Discernment Dinner

The discernment dinner program under the direction of Fr. Hudock hosted a dinner on Wednesday night April 23 at St. Vincent's Parish Center. Six "potential candidates" attended the program which began with a prayer service followed by a tasty pasta and salad dinner. Following dinner **Fr. Chris Turner, Fr. Frank O'Kruta, Fr Harry Geib SJ and Fr. Dennis Schuelkens** talked about the individual experiences of being called to the priestly vocation. All the speeches were inspiring. Our Serra Club cosponsored this event. **Chris Freeman** coordinated the event. Fellow Serrans who helped in the effort included **Tony Spadafore, Bernie Coyne, John Faini, Joe Front, Gary Mulhern, Joe Pangilinan, Bob Schmitt, Cathy Northcraft, and Dave Singer**.
Thanks to all who helped.



Meet the Seminarians: Carlos Melocoton, Jr.

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

I was born 34 years ago in Manila, Philippines as the eldest of five siblings. Education played a vital part while I was growing up and my parents endured the hardship of life just to send me to a Catholic school run by the sisters of the Religious of the Assumption. I did not push through with my priestly vocation right after high school, yet I took an accounting degree in college and worked as an accountant for six years. Through the Assumption sisters, I was connected with the Augustinians of the Assumption, their male

counterpart. In Massachusetts, I started my religious formation with the Assumptionist, whose way of life was inspired by the Rule of St. Augustine. I enriched myself with every mission experienced with my Assumption family.

*I finished three years as a religious brother on temporary vows while doing my three years of Theology. Serving my neighbors and the Church encouraged me to give myself freely as a seminarian for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia. I am wrapping up my Pastoral year with **Fr. Joseph Hayden, S.J.** along with the people of Benwood and McMechen. Then I will continue my last year of Master of Divinity program at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Mass, next semester.*

Leadership Conference

John Anderson and **Dave Singer** represented our club at the Serra District 19 spring Leadership Planning conference held at the Pete Dye Golf club in Bridgeport WV on Saturday April 19th. The event was hosted by our District governor **Bill Scharf** who noted that there were attendees from every Serra Club in WV. John and Dave report it was informative

We all Need a Tree!

*Many thanks to **Joe Front** for sharing this: I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.*



While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands. When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss. Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

'Oh, that's my trouble tree,' he replied 'I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children.. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again.' 'Funny thing is,' he smiled, 'when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.'