



Serra Club News

Meetings are held the first and third Friday of each month at noon at WesBanco Arena

A Publication of the Wheeling Serra Club

February, 2012

Schedule of Meetings

Friday, February 3, noon at WesBanco Arena – Our guest speaker will be our own Terry McCormick, Executive Director of St. John's Home for Children. Our prayer leader will be Bill Grubler

Friday, February 17, noon at WesBanco Arena. Our guest speaker will be Dr. James Comerci.– Our prayer leader will be Chris Freeman.

Thank You

Thank you, to our District Governor Bill Scharf his visit to Wheeling. Bill encouraged us to continue with our work for vocations and he also encouraged our club to consider the possibility of one of our members being the next District Governor. Thank you Bill for your years of service to Serra.

Thank you, to Joann Drnach and her group of students who gave an inspiring presentation, including an impressive personal slide show, regarding their recent World Youth Day trip to Madrid, Spain. The planning and the fund raising for this trip covered a two and one half year period.

At the onset of this presentation, Joann posed the question, "How do you handle long lines of people, lack of sleep, lack of shelter, lack of food, lack of hot water and disappointments and unmet promises?" She and her students then went on to share both the challenges and obstacles they encountered, but more importantly the joys, the inspirations and the wonderful memories they experienced during their trip. Joann, the students, and the clergy who accompanied them seemed to handle the challenges well. They shared the positive experiences they had such as attending Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict and stations of the cross lead by Pope Benedict. They also talked about visiting the Basilica in Madrid, traveling to France and visiting the Cathedral of Notre Dame and the life size stations of the cross at Lourdes.

Being part of spiritual celebrations in concert with more than a million other students and adults at one time in one place was inspiring for all who attended.

Concerning her initial question, how do you handle.... the answer is they prayed. That is an inspiration for us.

Thank you, to our guest speaker Mr. Richard Allen Beyer, President of Wheeling Jesuit University, for his presentation on the current status and goals for the future of the University. Mr. Beyer talked about his own personal journey from his years in the software technology industry to increasingly following his interest in and involvement in the field of higher education. He volunteered on boards of colleges, attended conferences and eventually was selected as the President of Wheeling Jesuit University.

Mr. Beyer stated that the University's goal is to "find the next level of excellence." He reported that the University remains committed to the Catholic values and identity and it's sense of responsibility to the Jesuits, Bishop Bransfield, and the Diocese. Goals include increasing enrollment from 1300 to 2600 students. He also stated the University is committed to increasing the number of Jesuits at the University, and recruitment programs to increase Jesuit presence as well as student enrollment are underway. One specific recruitment effort involves targeting the Catholic High Schools in the diocese including scholarships for students from our high schools.

Mr. Beyer reported that the high level of academic excellence continues at the University with graduating students who apply to medical or law school having a 100% acceptance rate. He said that his goal is to be able to say, "We are doing it the right way."

Thank you, to Fr. Dennis at Our Lady of Peace and Fr. Bill at St. Michael parish for celebrating our recent Masses for vocations. Thanks to those who attended or those who prayed for those who attended the March for Life Rally in Washington DC.

Congratulations

Bishop Michael J. Bransfield recently announced that Pope Benedict XVI had named three priests from our Diocese to be newly appointed Monsignors. Congratulations to Rev. Msgr. Anthony Cincinnati, Rev. Msgr. Paul Hudock and Rev. Msgr. Joseph Peterson. We are very blessed to have them in our Diocese.

Upcoming Event

Tentative plans for Mass for vocations also include late March at Wheeling Jesuit University. Stay tuned for further details as they are developed.

Bishop's Burse brunch is scheduled for March 18th in the Great Hall at Central Catholic High School immediately following the 10:30 am Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Bransfield, at St. Joseph Cathedral. We look forward to seeing you at the Burse Brunch.

Larry Bandi reported that the diocese is planning to sponsor a Walk for Vocations on Thursday May 17th in Morgantown starting around 3pm. and ending with a Mass at St. Johns that evening. We hope to have a high level of participation.

Prayer for Perseverance of Vocations

O God, You have constituted Your only begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of Your majesty and the salvation of mankind: grant that those whom He has chosen ministers and dispensers of His mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received.

31 Club and Eucharistic Adoration programs

Contact Joe Pangilinan to sign up to attend a daily Mass at your parish to pray for vocations. Joe can be reached at 304-277-3150 (home), 740-391-9465 (cell) or at joeypang@aol.com

Contact Jack O'Leary regarding Eucharistic Adoration that is held at St. Michael Parish Church. Our initial goal is to fill the 7:00pm to 8:00pm time slot although visiting any time that the Eucharist is displayed for adoration would be appreciated. The other times are Monday between 8:00 am to 11:00 pm or Tuesday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Priest Website

Remember to visit the wonderful website our Diocese has developed promoting vocations to the priesthood, www.wvpriests.org. It is artistically designed and very informative. This site is a very important part of the recruitment process because studies have indicated that the internet is where most candidates learn about vocations programs. Make sure you take the time to view it yourself.

Serra Address and Links

Wheeling Serra Club, PO Box 4,
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Wheeling Serra
www.wheelingserra.org

USA Council of Serra International
www.serraus.org

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www.serra.org