



# 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

August 2008

## August Calendar

Aug. 1 – **Fr. Chris Turner**, new pastor, Our Lady of Peace Parish Prayer Leader: **John Moore**

Aug. 15 – recent attendees of World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney, Australia. Pope Benedict XVI also attended, but was unable to join us on Aug. 15. Prayer Leader: **Suzanne Nelson**

## Special Prayers

Please say a special prayer today for our members **Frank Carenbauer & Lou Costanzo**, whose health has made it difficult for them to attend our meetings. We will be happy to pass along prayer requests, so please email Janet Boyle ([jobyle@ghost-writers.com](mailto:jobyle@ghost-writers.com)) if you'd like to share a prayer request.

## A Message from our President

Please continue to pray for the success of the Convention. The next convention planning meeting is July 28th at 7pm at the Riley Building 7th floor. Please attend. If you receive this communication after that date contact **Dave Singer, Chris Freeman**, or **Larry Bandi** to volunteer to help. Also please visit our website: [http://www.wheelingserra.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=7&Itemid=7](http://www.wheelingserra.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7&Itemid=7) to complete and submit your registration for the convention today.

## Priests' Picnic Scheduled

Our friend **Pat Felton** is hard at work planning our annual Priests' Picnic. The event this year will be held on Wednesday, August 27, 2008 at Bethlehem Community Park. The bar opens at 5:00pm with dinner at approximately 6:00. Watch for your invitation!

## Meet the Seminarians: Michael Lecias

My name is **Michael Lecias**, 28 years old and born in the Philippines. I have three sisters and three brothers and I'm the youngest in the family. My parents are both 68 years old and live in the Philippines. I started to think of entering the seminary when I was nine years old because at that time I started to serve at the Church as an altar boy. I have an uncle who is a priest-monsignor in the Philippines who serves as my inspiration to study at the seminary, but aspiring to become a priest really

comes from within as I'm attracted to serve God and his people.



Before joining the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, I was with the Order of St. Augustine, the Sto. Niño de Cebu Province or the Philippine Province, for four years as aspirant and then a postulant. I received my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy from the

Augustinian Order through its school--St. Thomas of Villanova Institute, which is an affiliate to University of San Agustin in Iloilo City, Philippines. I studied theology at St. Vincent School of Theology in Quezon City, Philippines under the Vincentian Fathers or the Congregation of Mission. It was at this time that I became active in the following ministries: Couples for Christ, Singles for Christ, Youth for Christ, Kids for Christ, Handmaids of the Lord, and Servants of the Lord.

Before coming to the United States, I was working at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Manila, Philippines, which is managed by the Order of Preachers or the Dominicans, as part-time instructor in philosophy; and, at the same time, a part-time instructor in theology and recollection facilitator and speaker at the Philippine Women's University in Manila, Philippines. I served as an English teacher to Korean and Chinese students as well.

Currently, I'm in Mexico for a Spanish Immersion Program to sharpen my ability to understand, to speak and to read in Spanish for the future ministry within the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Before joining the program, I was working for a month at the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York. Part of my job was to observe in meetings and conferences conducted inside the UN Building concerning different international issues and topics in which the Holy See has maintained its presence and made some interventions. The experience itself was humbling, challenging and interesting. I made friends and met different people from other countries, especially Permanent Representatives or Ambassadors and the UN employees. It was really great to work in the diplomatic realm.

This year I received my Diploma in Forensic Science from Ashworth University in Norcross, Georgia. Sooner, I'll be finishing my Diploma in Paralegal from

Penn Foster Career School in Scranton, Pennsylvania. I have also my Master in Development Communication from the University of the Philippines Open University in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines. This coming fall, I hope to continue my studies at Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland as Third Year Theology student leading to a Master of Divinity.

Honestly, I still don't know when my ordination will be; it's all God's will and my bishop. As of now, I'm still doing what I'm supposed to do to get to the point when I can say it's God's time. The seminary formation is the best place in the world as far as I can attest to its way of forming a human being. To study and to live at the seminary for many years is not like walking in the park; it's a place where a person must learn to appreciate what's in it and learn to accept the challenges that bring a good fruit for the Church.

I spend my free time walking, practicing karate, swimming, reading, and writing poems. I don't really enjoy television except when I'm watching news and if there's a magic microphone being hooked up onto it because I really like singing karaoke. I love to dance as well, which goes with the Karaoke. Traveling to other places is one of my great interests as well. Contacting with family, relatives and friends is also very important as they are mainstream support in the formation process.

Written by Michael O. Lecias  
Feast of St. John the Baptist,  
June 24, 2008  
Querétaro, Mexico

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## **Prayer for the Month**

Loving God, to be your prophet is my desire, but too often I am more concerned about the bottom line. I want to bring your message to the world as so many before me have done.

My heart leads me to you, but I'm not always sure how to respond.

Let me know what it is you are calling me to do and the life you are asking me to live.

Give me strength to share with others who are in need of the blessings with which you have enriched my life.

Thank you, God, for hearing my prayer.

Amen.