



# SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE Newsletter

May 2022

## OAKLEIGH DEANERY CLUB

Following the death of Sr Mary Batchelor, the Club's Spiritual Director, the Club approached Sr Elaine Cochrane FDNSC, who has accepted the position. Sr Elaine will be an excellent person to assume this role.

## ANNIVERSARY CARDS

At the beginning of each year, Jubilarian Co-Ordinator, Margaret McCulloch, contacts the various Religious Orders to obtain the details of the anniversaries that occur during that year. Approximately 40% approached provide the requested details, and anniversary cards are then sent to those at the appropriate time. Many of the recipients express their thanks, and are pleasantly surprised to receive the congratulations.

## SALE SERRA CLUB SPORTS DAY

Each year, on the Monday of Holy Week, the Serra Club of Sale conducts a 'Sports Day' for participants in either golf or bowls. The invitees are the clergy from the Sale Diocese and members of the other religious from the other churches.

Because of COVID, the day had to be cancelled for the previous two years, so this was a welcome return for club members and their guests.

The Dinner that marks the conclusion of the day was attended by 93 members and guests, and it was certainly a welcome return.

## K.S.C. DINNER

The Annual Knights of the Southern Cross, Priests Support and Education Dinner, which was commenced in 1999, to raise funds to support our bishops with the education of Clergy and Seminarians for the four Victorian Dioceses and the Australian Military Ordinate, is proposed to be held on Friday 19th August 2022, at the Moonee Valley Racecourse.

This function had to be cancelled in 2020 and 2021, but it is anticipated that it will be alright to proceed this year, and so subject to another outbreak of COVID 19, it is scheduled to go ahead.

The Dinner has raised over \$1.3 million since its inception.

Greg Craven AO has been confirmed as the Guest Speaker. Greg was the Vice-Chancellor and President of the Australian Catholic University from January 2008 to January 2021.

Serra members have had a table at all of these Dinners.

## SCANZSPAC

The Board met on Saturday 9th April by ZOOM.

The Board has made enquiries in regard to 'Simple Insurance guidelines for Clubs', and hopes to have something to provide to clubs in the near future.

Max Spencer reported that the Serra Club of Canberra has, in conjunction with Catholic Mission, set up a partnership with the seminary in Cambodia and is raising funds for the seminary.

Terry Scanlan suggested that to attract new members, it may be better to describe Serra as Ministry rather than a Club, as he felt that 'Club' put off many people.

Anne Larkins, as Chair of SCANZSPAC, gave a report from the International Board Meeting that was held on 8th April 2022. It is proposed to make changes to the By-Laws regarding the number of and attendance at meetings. Changes are also proposed for low income members whose gross annual income is less than US\$15,000 or equivalent, as established by the World Bank for other Countries, will be entitled to a reduction in dues. Another change proposed is that International Councils will pay their dues in local currency amounts. The dues will be by the Purchasing Power Parity index. For Australia, if the US rate is \$55, our rate would be AUD\$50 or about US\$38. The proposals will be put to the delegates at the Toronto Convention.

**Secretary, Frank McCulloch**, has once again done an incredible task, in producing the updated edition of the Serra Directory which was mailed to all clubs in December, with copies sent to Regional Bishops in Victoria.

## Vice-President Vocations, David Carson

David presented his overview of the current situation and provided the following information from several seminarians:

### **SEMINARY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

The anticipated diaconate of six seminarians was realized. In addition, Solomon Okovido was ordained a Transitional Deacon for the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. Two more seminarians, Nam Le (Bathurst) and James Arblaster (Wollongong) will soon be ordained Transitional Deacons.

Broken Bay Diocese has seven students including three in year one.

Earlier this year, Good Shepherd Seminary Homebush celebrated its 25th Anniversary following its move from St Patrick's Manly.

### **MISSIONARIES OF GOD'S LOVE**

Three Brothers made their final vows in December 2021. It is believed that one of the Brothers will be ordained a Transitional Deacon overseas with the remaining two to be ordained Transitional Deacons in Australia.

The Order has five Brothers studying in formation in Garran (ACT) and 21 studying in the Melbourne seminary and there are several others in the Aspirancy stage.

The MGL Mission in Indonesia is very active in attracting young men to discern a vocation with Brothers participating in a pre-novitiate program, six undertaking studies at Ledelena University and others in the Aspirancy stage.

### **REDEMPTORIS MATER SEMINARY CHESTER HILL**

On 3rd December 2021, two Deacons were ordained to the Priesthood at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney by Archbishop Anthony Fisher (regretfully, David was unable to accept the invitation of Father Eric Skruzny to attend the ceremony).

With borders closed, Fr Eric advises that, along with the 'freezing' of the visa applications, no new students have been received for about two years. He hopes this will be adjusted soon with the likelihood of two new students entering the seminary. Currently there are 13 seminarians undertaking studies with two achieving the role of Lector in recent days. Eight of the seminarians are enrolled at Notre Dame University and Catholic Institute of Sydney with the other five on mission and placement. It is hoped that, later this year, there will be candidates for ordination as Transitional Deacons.

Because of the border closures, the students undertaking (in Fr Eric's words) 'an outback mission of discovery' to Adelaide, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Cooper Pedy and beyond was welcomed throughout their travels.

Fr Eric advised that there are three Redemptoris Mater Seminarians in Ukraine with their situation becoming, 'more dangerous by the day and hour.' Fr Eric has asked for our prayers for their safety.

**HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARY BANYO QUEENSLAND**

Three Seminarians are preparing for their ordinations as Transitional Deacons later this year. Two other Deacons, one from Toowoomba Diocese and the other from Brisbane Archdiocese are both expecting to be ordained later this year.

The Seminary has fifteen seminarians in residence at the Seminary. Three students left the Seminary last year—two were quite advanced in their studies (which was a great disappointment to all at the Seminary). The current 'roll call' of students shows that there are no students in either years one and three.

**CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE CARLTON**

The College has thirty students this year,

**NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

May 25th St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin  
 June 22nd Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by Dinner  
 July 27th Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.

**SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS**

May	St Joseph's, Chelsea	9.00am
June	St Peter's, Clayton	9.00am
July	St Finbar's, Brighton East	9.15am

**MASS ROSTER:**

	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>
<b>Reader:</b>	John	Frank	Anne
<b>Prayers of the Faithful:</b>	John	Frank	Anne
<b>Offertory Procession:</b>	-	-	-
<b>Minister of Communion:</b>	Frank	Anne	John

**Meals Clean Up: All Members urged to assist.**