

Serra Comes To Diocese

A new organization comes officially to the Rochester Diocese this week — the Serra Club.

Named for an eighteenth century frontier friar, Father Junipero Serra, the laymen's group aims to develop vocations to the priesthood as well as strengthen the faith and mutual friendship of the members.

First Serra Club was founded in Seattle in 1934. Although Serra membership is strongest in western states, the organization today has more than 200 units in almost 100 dioceses. Serra Clubs also exist in Canada, England, Mexico, Peru and Italy.

Goal of the organization is an elite corps of laymen in each community trained in the principles of their faith. Serrans describe their meetings as a "university in Christian principles for Catholic laymen."

A major aspect of this training is education in the Church's needs for more priests — in this country and in foreign nations. To foster vocations, Serrans provide speakers for religious and civic groups, informational projects for youngsters and, primarily, by prayer and a loyal Catholic life.

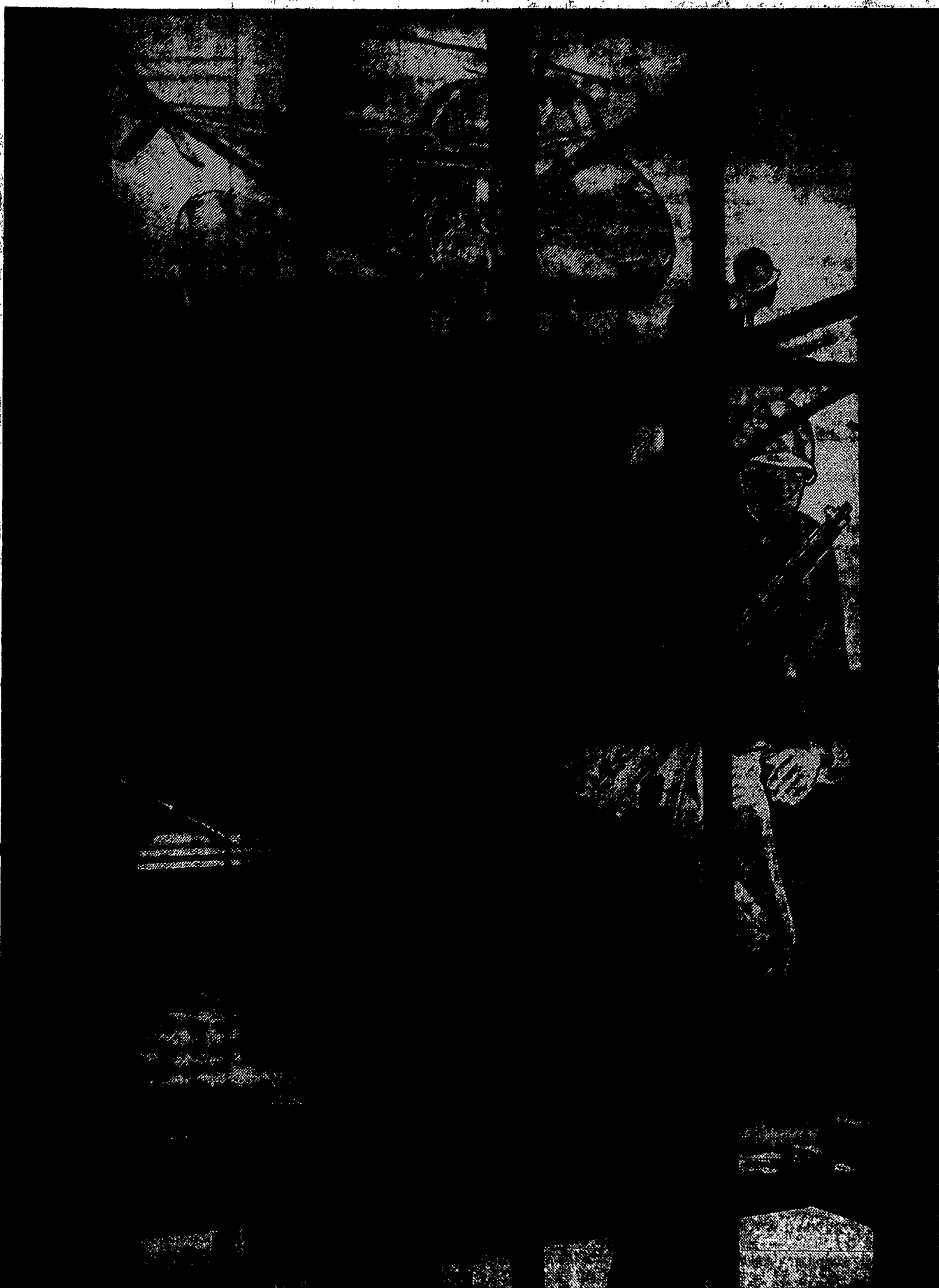
Franciscan friar Father Serra gave the Club its motto — "Always to go forward, never to go back." He said this when advised in his old age to give up his missionary journeys in California. His reply was, "Even if I die on the trail, I will not go back."

He was born in 1713 on the island of Majorca off the coast of Spain and entered the Franciscan order when 17. He taught in Spanish colleges until 1749 when he asked to go to the American missions. On his way to Mexico City he injured his leg which caused him severe pain for the rest of his life.

For nine years he worked in the isolated, mountainous Sierra Gordo region where he taught primitive Indians to farm, cook, build homes and to practice the Christian faith. For the next eight years, he preached missions to Spanish settlers and Indians in Mexico and in 1787, at the age of 54, was assigned to California.

Father Serra's apostolate stretched 900 miles north of San Diego along the Pacific coast and the parishes he established are now the names of California's great cities. He wanted to be a martyr but his vocation called him to live 17 years as a priest in one of history's most extensive mission territories. He died in 1784 with a promise on his lips to pray for his California Indians. His statue stands in the Capitol at Washington as one of the nation's great pioneers.

Serra Club members have, therefore, a stirring model in their efforts to serve God and country in this present era of new frontiers.



Marines' History in Chapel Windows

William Budnick (an Ex-Marine) of the Rambusch Company of New York is shown installing the etched glass windows dedicated Sunday in the Memorial Chapel at Quantico, Virginia. Scenes from Marine Corps History are integrated with religious motifs expressed in words and symbols. Dedication ceremonies were part of special religious observances of the Marine Corps Birthday Sunday, commemorating the 186th anniversary of the founding of the corps November 10, 1775. Father Leo Ward of the Rochester Diocese is chaplain at the Quantico base.

Orthodox Face Modern Needs

(The author of the following article is an American Jesuit who covered the recent Rhodes conference of the Orthodox Churches for the N.C.W.C. News Service. He is specialist in Byzantine Church history, and his command of six languages gave him special insights into the conference as it proceeded. This is the second of a series of analytical articles on the meeting.)

By FATHER JOHN F. LONG, S.J.

There is a new breeze blowing amidst the long-isolated Orthodox Churches, and it promises to bring Orthodoxy to grips with the problems of the modern world.

The conference which brought representatives of virtually all of the world's 170 million Orthodox together on the island of Rhodes at the end of September laid great emphasis on internal unity for these long divided communions. But it was no

less emphatic in its insistence on the adaptation of Orthodoxy to present-day problems.

Such an adaptation has been late in coming. Historical reasons go a long way to explain this. Foreign domination, lack of an educated clergy and laity, and national rivalries and local bitterness all contributed their bit.

The Orthodox have been their own severest critics of various traditions and practices of their churches which have made it difficult for them to carry on their life in the present century.

The effects of this criticism and the desires of the delegates to meet the problems are made evident by the list of topics officially adopted by the conference.

The purpose of the meeting was to determine what are the main problems facing the Orthodox Churches, and what questions have arisen that demands answers. This list—to

Castro Rules Restive Island

(The author of the following N.C.W.C. article is a former correspondent of Noticias Catolicas in Santiago, Cuba, who was persecuted by the government for his news work and leadership of Catholic youth groups. After being granted asylum in a foreign embassy in Havana, he reached the U.S. in September.)

By Father Jorge Bez-Chabebe

Christian Faith will survive in Cuba and the country's future is hopeful despite the persecution of the Church and the people by the Red regime of Premier Fidel Castro.

A clue to the future was provided by the Castro regime's panic and violence in the face of the recent mass demonstration of Cuban Catholics.

On September 10 a vast crowd gathered in front of the Church of Our Lady of Charity in downtown Havana. The people wanted to hold the traditional procession in honor of their nation's patroness. But the Castro government feared that such a demonstration would be extremely dangerous to itself and sent militiamen to fire on the crowd with machine-guns. Then, without any provocation, it deported the church's pastor, Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo Boza Masvidal of Havana, and 131 priests and Brothers, to Spain.

Unprovoked violence is often a sign of weakness. Thus Castro's reaction to the September demonstration is evidence that his communist regime will crumble before the religious faith, traditions and ideals of the Cuban people. His government is now being kept in power only by the campaign of propaganda and terror waged by Red agents.

Although there is hope for Cuba, there are also some disquieting questions facing that island nation.

Where is the national purpose instilled in the people by such patriots as Jose Marti, who led the 19th-century struggle for independence? What is going to happen to the thousands of young people who have been brainwashed by communist propaganda?

The answers are that Marti's teachings will prevail and that not all young people have been deceived.

Where is the national purpose instilled in the people by such patriots as Jose Marti, who led the 19th-century struggle for independence? What is going to happen to the thousands of young people who have been brainwashed by communist propaganda?

The Reds were again absent at Caracas, Venezuela, in July, 1958, when all 10 groups involved in the armed revolt for freedom signed a pact setting forth their common aims and the postrevolution program. The signers, besides Castro's 26th of July Movement and the Student Directorate — two of the most active fighting groups — were the traditional parties and the underground movements.

Six months later the Batista forces were defeated, but not with the help of the communist party. Only weeks before Batista's downfall, the Reds were opposing and sabotaging the 26th of July Movement formed to back up Castro's guerrillas.

In February, 1959, the influential magazine, Bohemia, which was the voice of those who signed the Caracas pact, expressed alarm that "some leading figures of the Revolution seem to be cooperating in the infiltration and deceit of the eternal saboteurs of democracy." It added this warning: "The way of Cuba is not the way of Russia. The Cuban Revolution does not answer to Marx, but to Marti."

Today the cream of this leadership among workers, students and political groups is fighting Castro's Red regime in the underground or in exile.

Respect for and concern for minority groups should be the spiritual task of Catholics. After all, we, in the past, have suffered much of the abuse and hate now being leveled at Negroes and to a smaller extent the Jews of this country.

SERMONETTE

WISDOM

By Rev. Richard Madden, O.C.D.

Wisdom was one of the real jewels we lost when Adam and Eve teamed up in Eden to make the blunder of all blunders. With wisdom gone, and the only thing left to pass on was ignorance, they gave us something that not only stayed with us through the centuries, but which has been the cause of more mistakes than we could ever estimate.

A man gets himself killed on the open highway because of ignorance. He was too stupid to evaluate the need of a coffee break or getting more sleep before he left. He gets himself killed because he failed to realize that there were more horses under his hood than the highway could take. Or because he was too thick to understand that at high speeds he ceased to drive his car, but aimed it instead. Ignorance causes death.

Likewise, ignorance is the reason why we must spend so many years of our life entombed within the four walls of a classroom. Ignorance, many times, will create and maintain poverty. It will thwart progress.

Of course, there are some types of ignorance that do not really create any problems. It will not hurt us, for instance, if we are ignorant of the fact that women live six years longer than men. So what? And if we do know, there's nothing we can do about it. Furthermore, if we are ignorant of the migratory habits of the Japanese beetle, or the breeding habits of the potato bug, it is small loss indeed. We can be ignorant of many things, and we don't have to give a hoot about it. We were born ignorant, and we die ignorant. Of many unimportant things, that is.

But the one great ignorance, the type of ignorance that must be wiped out by the blessing of wisdom is ignorance of God. This is the kind of ignorance that will jeopardize our earthly happiness and then reach its ugly claws into the outer fringes of our eternal life. The planned determined ignorance of God is the tragic ignorance.

It only takes a little bit of wisdom to recognize the emptiness of earth. It only takes a little wisdom to be able to see God as our only and greatest good.

Reapings at Random

By GERARD E. SHERRY
Editor, Central California Register

Mr. and Mrs. William Bowman of San Francisco are a typical American couple. They are a quiet family at peace with their neighbors, and, so they thought, with the rest of the world. Alas, things didn't work out that way.

For more than a year they suffered abuse, including vandalism of their home; and numerous telephone calls marked by obscenities and anti-Semitic remarks. Yes, the Bowmans are Jews. It seems to some people that this is a crime in San Francisco.

Recently a group of youths were arrested and charged with being responsible for the sufferings of the Bowmans. They appear to be typical American youths — good scholastically, and coming from responsible parents. Yet, here they are accused of responsibility for the crimes against the Jewish couple.

What is more shocking is the fact that during the preliminary court hearings, further telephone and other attacks were made against the Bowmans, in which anti-Semitism played a role. The judge hearing the case did not at-

Year of Abuse Against Jewish Couple

tribute the additional attacks to the accused youths; but he did warn them and any others listening that he would not tolerate such conduct.

One would have thought in this enlightened age that anti-Semitism was a thing of the past. Sad to relate, this is by no means the case. It has happened in San Francisco in relation to the Bowmans. It happens in New York, in Baltimore, and many other areas of the country. We are apt to think only of discrimination against Negroes. Unfortunately, the Jewish minority still suffers its disabilities. Real estate men, politicians, and extremists of all shades of opinion, find the Jews a profitable target for their hate and distrust.

There's one bright star in the whole of this sorry business of the Bowmans. Mayor George Christopher of San Francisco invited Mr. and Mrs. Bowman to City Hall last week and gave them a key to the city. The Mayor also offered an official apology for the year of abuse the couple had suffered at the hands of the group of youths.

The Mayor said "I feel the reputation of San Francisco has been unfortunately tarnished. I just want to extend a friendly hand to

Internal Combustion

Taichung—Maryknoll Father Francis X. Keelan, of Cambridge, Mass., is sure glad his mission isn't located in a small town near here. Especially when it comes to fire protection.

He rushed into the house to tell the people that their house was on fire and found himself in the local firehouse.

While walking along the streets of the town recently, the veteran China missionary

noticed smoke and flames pouring out of the second-floor window of a nearby building.

He rushed into the house to tell the people that their house was on fire and found himself in the local firehouse.

While walking along the streets of the town recently, the veteran China missionary

THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

Vol. 73 No. 6 Friday, November 10, 1961

MOST REV. JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D., President

MAIN OFFICE — 31 Scio St., Bldg. 6-4210 Rochester 4, N. Y.
TELEPHONE 33-1111 Foreign Countries 66-81
ALBANY OFFICE — 76 Capitol — AL 14823

Second class postage paid at Rochester, N. Y.
Magazine copy Oct. 1 year, subscription in U. S. \$4.00
Outside U. S. \$6.00 Foreign Countries \$8.00
A member of the National Association of Catholic Pressmen