

# SERRA in Asia



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President, Serra Club of Macau

## 16th Serra Asian Convention MACAU 2012

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
Charter of Serra Club of  
St. Luke, Lopburi, Thailand!



## Message from Serra International's Vice President, Vocations and President of Serra Club of Singapore

**My Dear Serrans in Asia,**

Wishing you the love and peace of our Lord.

Three months ago, I was very excited when I received the invitation from SI Past President Chainarong Monthienvichienchai to attend the chartering of Serra Club of St. Luke in Lopburi, Thailand. Hence I went with SI President Thomas Wong. It was not only the first time that I was witnessing the chartering of a Serra Club in Thailand but also the first Charter Mass that I was attending since our own Club was chartered five years ago.

Chainarong met us in Bangkok and together we travelled for more than two hours by car to Lopburi. On the way there, I could not help but admire the scenic view of the places we passed on the way to the Church of St. Luke where the new Thai Serra Club will be based.

I was therefore utterly shocked and saddened when I received photos from Chainarong recently about Lopburi being submerged by flood waters (please see photos below). I would like to assure our Serrans in Lopburi as well as in other parts of Thailand that have been affected by the flood that we will continue to keep them all in our prayers. We pray that in God's mercy, lives will not be lost and that livelihoods be restored the soonest possible.

In this issue of SERRA in Asia, we have featured the chartering of Serra Club of Lopburi as well as interviews with the President of Serra Council of Thailand, Ms. Anchan Chatugunyaprateep and the President of Serra Club of Macau, Ms. Cristina Chow. I hope the interviews will inspire more women to serve in the Serra ministry.

God bless,

*Sean Yeo*

Vice President, Vocations, Serra International &  
President, Serra Club of Singapore



# Serra Club of St. Luke, Lopburi, Thailand



Serra Club of St. Luke, Lopburi, Thailand was chartered on 31st July 2011. The seed for the formation of the Club was planted by SI Past President Chainarong Monthienvichienchai when he first visited the Church of St. Luke in Lopburi in 2008 and spoke to its parishioners about Serra at the end of the Sunday Mass. He ended his talk with an invitation to them to form a Serra Club. They took up his challenge and hence the Serra Club of St. Luke, Lopburi was chartered.

The Club has been in formation for more than two years with the strong support of its Parish Priest Reverend Father Pitak Silakote. It was through the leadership and guidance of the President of Serra Council of Thailand, Ms. Anchan Chatugunyaprateep that the Serra Club of St. Luke, Lopburi became the second Club to be chartered in Thailand this year. In fact, when Ms. Anchan was installed as President of Serra National Council of Thailand, she decided to focus on forming more Serra Clubs in Thailand. She made it a point to visit the members of the Clubs-in-formation on a monthly basis prior to it being chartered. Often, she had to travel for three hours to reach the Parish and spend another four hours travelling home after each meeting. This clearly bears testimony to her dedication and commitment to the mission of Serra.

There are now 22 Serra Clubs in Thailand – the largest in Asia. And the good news does not end here as another Serra Club in Thailand is expected to be chartered in November this year! So, let us all unite our prayers for the successful formation of the next Serra Club of Thailand.





## **Interview:** **Ms. Anchan Chatugunyaprateep** **President, Serra Council of Thailand**

### **Congratulations on the chartering of the second Serra Club in Thailand this**

**year. We commend you and your team on the growth of Serra in Thailand. Could you please share with us on your involvement in Serra? What has been your most memorable experience in Serra?**

It all began with the chartering of our Serra Club of Phitsanuloke in 2002 after SI Past President Chainarong came and encouraged us to form a Serra Club to serve God by helping to promote vocations. We had the nearby Serra Club of Nakhon Sawan as our coach. We immediately launched two projects which have been going on until now - Friends of Priests, and Funds for the Seminary. I was attracted by the invitation for us to pray daily for vocations, and at that time to pray for a priest in our diocese who had been sick. It is still very much in my fond memory until today.

**As President of Serra Council of Thailand, you have decided to focus on chartering more Serra Clubs in your country and so far, your efforts have borne fruits in the formation of the Serra Club of Lopburi. What is the driving force behind your strong commitment?**

It is always a great joy to have a new Serra Club chartered, which means there will be more prayers for priests and for vocations. It is equally important to make sure that all existing Clubs are active and strong. It is not wise to just add more clubs without strengthening the existing ones. We are like one big family. We must make sure that all are in good shape. That's why I give much attention to regular renewals of our Serra spirituality to all Clubs.

As for the Serra Club of St. Luke in Lopburi in the Diocese of Nakhon Sawan, after having consulted with the Serra Club of Nakhon Sawan, we started as always by inviting SI Past President Chainarong to come and talk at the end of a Sunday Mass. His talk inspired us all to seriously plan to form a new Serra Club with the strong support of Fr. Pitak Silakote, the parish priest. It is important that from the start we attended their

meetings regularly during the in-formation stage to help them to be deeply rooted in the spirituality of Serra until they can stand on their own. It took me and other fellow Serrans three hours to commute regularly by car to Lopburi and another four hours back to Phitsanuloke, arriving back home well after midnight.

**Your leadership has shown that women have an equally important role in this ministry of promoting vocations which was predominantly male-dominated in the history of Serra. What is your advice to your fellow women Serrans?**

I would like to quote what SI Past President Chainarong said to us during our last Council meeting in Bangkok. He said we are all children of God and were born to love and serve Him. Serving Him through Serra ministry is perhaps the most beautiful way to show our love for Him by caring for His priests. Women understand well whenever we talk about love and care.

**Could you share how you juggle your job, your work in Serra with that of your other responsibilities to your family?**

It is truly a blessing when my family understands my commitments to Serra. We, Serrans are committed to work for the Lord. My family does not only understand but also support me in every possible way. Next, I have my trust in God. I am sure that when God entrusts me with this responsibility, He will provide me with enough blessings, wisdom, light and strength. After all, "I am here to do Your will." (Hebrews 10:9)



## Interview: Ms. Cristina Chow President, Serra Club of Macau



**Congratulations on completing your first year as the President of Serra Club of Macau. How has your journey been thus far?**

The Serra Club of Macau was founded in 1977 and I am honored to be elected the first female president last year. My very first project as President was to organize the 16th Serra Asian Convention, which will be hosted in Macau in 2012.

This project is one of great challenge for both the Serra Club of Macau and for me. However, we believe that this project is a mission call from God. This project also gives us an opportunity to introduce Macau as a unique Catholic city and to share about the activities in the Macau diocese.

This biennial Asian Convention not only gives all Asian Serrans an opportunity to meet, but also to pray, share and learn from one another about vocation promotion efforts. United as one, we will be able to better co-ordinate and support the work of Serra International.

Although the Serra Club of Macau has a history of 30 years, this is the first time the Club is hosting an event on such a large scale. With little experience and a lack of both manpower and material resources, there have been numerous challenges to organize this convention. However, in times when I feel inadequate, the greater I experience God's guiding Hand in those circumstances. "And I tell you, ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." – Luke 11:9

I believe that with faith and constant prayers we will be able to overcome all difficulties. However, I continue to ask the Lord to lead all of us (Macau Serrans) to work together with one heart towards a well-organized convention.

In addition, I would like to thank the President of the Serra Club of Singapore and Serrans for the support and encouragement given to the Serra Club of Macau!

**How did you first get involved in Serra? What has been your most memorable experience in Serra?**

In 2005, with the encouragement of one of the female Serrans, I started taking part in Serra meetings and activities. I officially joined the club in 2006.

Some of my most memorable experiences were with the Serrans during their activities. I found the Serrans loving, co-operative and caring towards one another, in projects both large and small. They also willingly give of their time and money to facilitate the activities. These actions both surprised and touched me and made me feel that this is a life-giving and unique ministry.

**Your leadership has shown that women have an equally important role in this ministry of promoting vocations. What is your advice to your fellow women Serrans?**

My experience is that all things are possible with prayer!

As per the objectives of Serra Club, members should continually strive to improve themselves, to do good as well as actively promote vocations so that they can fulfill their Christian vocation to service and that Catholicism may be furthered.

**Asian Serrans are looking forward to attending the "16th Serra Asian Convention 2012" in Macau from April 20-22. What are some of the highlights that we could all look forward to at the Convention?**

There will be four talks during the convention, of which the topics are:

1. The mystical body of Christ and the laity in Church
2. The clergy, religious and the laity as living witnesses
3. How a Catholic family can evangelize and be a witness of Christ
4. How the laity's faith may increase for further growth and development of their ministry

The four speakers are all from different backgrounds - a priest, a religious nun, a teacher as well as a pastoral worker. We hope that participants would be able to benefit greatly through their sharing of experiences.

Besides the talks, we have also arranged for a pilgrimage tour on Sunday to visit the many churches of "World Heritage" status. This will be led by our professional guides.

Macau has been included in the "World Heritage list" as China's 31st World Heritage site since 15 July 2005. There are 25 Macau cultural heritage sites in Macau's old city which include Catholic churches such as: Our Lady of the Christmas Church (Cathedral), St. Lawrence's Church, St. Joseph's Seminary Church, St. Augustine's Church, Holy Rosary Church, St. Anthony's Church, St. Augustine's Square, Ruins of St. Paul, East Point Ocean Fort.



Since its inception more than 450 years ago, Macau has been the base for the spread of the Catholic and Christian faith in China. I strongly believe that the Catholic city of Macau will give all participants a memorable and magnificent pilgrimage.

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Macau Awaits You!**

# Macau Awaits You!



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*Ms. Christina Chow  
President, Serra Club of Macau*





## See You In Macau April 2012!



**'Since its inception more than 450 years ago, Macau has been the base for the spread of the Catholic and Christian faith in China. I strongly believe that the Catholic city of Macau will give all participants a memorable and magnificent pilgrimage.'**

*Ms. Christina Chow  
President, Serra Club of Macau*

# True Devotion to Mary

## Part 4: Particular Practices of this Devotion

(Excerpts from the Writings of Saint Louis de Montfort)



### Exterior Practices

Although this devotion is essentially an interior one, this does not prevent it from having exterior practices, which should not be neglected. These must be done but those not omitted. If properly performed, exterior acts help to foster interior ones. Man is always guided by his senses and such practices remind him of what he has done or should do. Let no worldlying or critic intervene to assert that true devotion is essentially in the heart and therefore externals should be avoided as inspiring vanity, or that real devotion should be hidden and private. I answer in the words of our Lord, "Let men see your good works that they may glorify your Father who is in heaven." As St. Gregory says, this does not mean that they should perform external actions to please men or seek praise; that certainly would be vanity. It simply means that we do these things before men only to please and glorify God without worrying about either the contempt or the approval of men.

### 1. Preparation and Consecration

Those who desire to take up this special devotion, (which has not been erected into a confraternity, although this would be desirable), should spend at least twelve days in emptying themselves of the spirit of the world, which is opposed to the spirit of Jesus, as I have recommended in the first part of this preparation for the reign of Jesus Christ. They should then spend three weeks imbuing



themselves with the spirit of Jesus through the most Blessed Virgin. Here is a program they might follow:

During the **first week** they should offer up all their prayers and acts of devotion to acquire knowledge of themselves and sorrow for their sins. Let them perform all their actions in a spirit of humility. With this end in view they may, if they wish, meditate on what I have said concerning our corrupted nature, and consider themselves during six days of the week as nothing but sails, slugs, toads, swine, snakes and goats. Or else they may meditate on the following three considerations of St. Bernard: 'Remember what you were - corrupted seed; what you are - a body destined for decay; what you will be - food for worms.'

They will ask our Lord and the Holy Spirit to enlighten them saying, 'Lord, that I may see,' or 'Lord, let me know myself,' or the 'Come, Holy Spirit'. Every day they should say the Litany of the Holy Spirit, with the prayer that follows, as indicated in the first part of this work. They will turn to our Blessed Lady and beg her to obtain for them that great grace which is the foundation of all others, the grace of self-knowledge. For this intention they will say each day the Ave Maris Stella and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin.

Each day of the **second week** they should endeavor in all their prayers and works to acquire an understanding of the Blessed Virgin and ask the Holy Spirit for this grace. They may read and meditate upon what we have already said about her. They should recite daily the Litany of the Holy Spirit and the Ave Maris Stella as during the first week. In addition they will say at least five decades of the Rosary for greater understanding of Mary.

During the **third week** they should seek to understand Jesus Christ better. They may read and meditate on what we have already said about him. They may say the prayer of St. Augustine that they will find at the beginning of the second part of this book. Again with St. Augustine, they may pray repeatedly, 'Lord, that I may know You,' or 'Lord, that I may see.' As during the previous week, they should recite the Litany of the Holy Spirit and the Ave Maris Stella, adding every day the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus.

**At the end of these three weeks they should go to confession and Holy Communion** with the intention of consecrating themselves to Jesus through Mary as slaves of love. When receiving Holy Communion they could follow the method given later on. They then recite the act of consecration, which is given at the end of this book. If they do not have a printed copy of the act, they should write it out or have it copied and then sign it on the very day they make it.

It would be very becoming if on that day they offered some tribute to Jesus and his Mother, either as a penance for past unfaithfulness to the promises made in baptism or as a sign of their submission to the sovereignty of Jesus and Mary. Such a tribute would be in accordance with each one's ability and fervor and may take the form of fasting, an act of self-denial, the gift of an alms or the offering of a votive candle. If they gave only a pin as a token of their homage, provided it were given with a good heart, it would satisfy Jesus who considers only the good intention.

**“I am all Yours and all I have is Yours, O dear Jesus, through Mary, Your holy Mother.”**

Every year at least, on the same date, they should renew the consecration following the same exercises for three weeks. They might also renew it every month or even every day by saying this short prayer: “I am all Yours and all I have is Yours, O dear Jesus, through Mary, Your holy Mother.”

### **2. The Little Crown of the Blessed Virgin**

If it is not too inconvenient, they should recite every day of their lives the Little Crown of the Blessed Virgin, which is composed of three Our Fathers and twelve Hail Marys in honor of the twelve glorious privileges of Mary. This prayer is very old and is based on Holy Scripture. St. John saw in a vision a woman crowned with twelve stars, clothed with the sun and standing upon the moon. According to biblical commentators, this woman is the Blessed Virgin.

As an introduction say: ‘Virgin most holy, accept my praise; give me strength to fight your foes’, then say the Creed. Next, say the following sequence of prayers three times: one Our Father, four Hail Marys and one Glory be to the Father. In conclusion say the prayer Sub tuum - “We fly to thy patronage.”

### **3. The Wearing of Little Chains**

It is very praiseworthy and helpful for those who have become slaves of Jesus in Mary to wear, in token of their slavery of love; a little chain blessed with a special blessing.

At one time, nothing was considered more contemptible than the Cross. Now this sacred wood has become the most glorious symbol of the Christian faith. Similarly, nothing was more ignoble in the sight of the ancients, and even today nothing is more degrading among unbelievers than the chains of Jesus Christ. But among Christians nothing is more glorious than these chains, because by them Christians are liberated and kept free from the ignoble shackles of sin and the devil. Thus set free, we are bound to Jesus and Mary not by compulsion and force like galley-slaves, but by charity and love as children are to their parents.



They remind a Christian of the promises of his baptism and the perfect renewal of these commitments made in his consecration. They remind him of his strict obligation to adhere faithfully to them. A man's actions are prompted more frequently by his senses than by pure faith and so he can easily forget his duties towards God if he has no external reminder of them.

### **4. Honoring the Mystery of the Incarnation**

Loving slaves of Jesus in Mary should hold in high esteem devotion to Jesus, the Word of God, in the great mystery of the Incarnation, March 25th, which is the mystery proper to this devotion, because it was inspired by the Holy Spirit for the following reasons:

- a) That we might honor and imitate the wondrous dependence, which God the Son chose to have on Mary, for the glory of His Father and for the redemption of man. This dependence is revealed especially in this mystery where Jesus becomes a captive and slave in the womb of His Blessed Mother, depending on her for everything.
- b) That we might thank God for the incomparable graces He has conferred upon Mary and especially that of choosing her to be His most worthy Mother. This choice was made in the mystery of the Incarnation. These are the two principal ends of the slavery of Jesus in Mary.

Please note that I usually say “slave of Jesus in Mary”, “slavery of Jesus in Mary”. We might indeed say, as some have already been saying, “slave of Mary”, “slavery of Mary”. But I think it preferable to say, ‘slave of Jesus in Mary.’ This is the opinion of Fr. Tronson, Superior General of the Seminary of Saint-Sulpice, a man renowned for his exceptional prudence and remarkable holiness. He gave this advice when consulted upon this subject by a priest.

*(Continued on next page)*

## True Devotion to Mary Part 4

Here are the reasons for it:

- a) It is better to speak of 'slavery of Jesus in Mary' and to call oneself 'slave of Jesus' rather than 'slave of Mary.' We then avoid giving any pretext for criticism. In this way, we name this devotion after its ultimate end, which is Jesus, rather than after the way and the means to arrive there, which is Mary. However, we can very well use either term without any scruple, as I myself do. If a man goes from Orleans to Tours, by way of Amboise, he can quite truthfully say that he is going to Amboise and equally truthfully say that he is going to Tours. The only difference is that Amboise is simply a place on the direct road to Tours, and Tours alone is his final destination.
- b) Since the principal mystery celebrated and honored in this devotion is the mystery of the Incarnation where we find Jesus only in Mary, having become incarnate in her womb, it is appropriate for us to say, 'slavery of Jesus in Mary' of Jesus dwelling enthroned in Mary, according to the beautiful prayer, recited by so many great souls, "O Jesus living in Mary".
- c) These expressions show more clearly the intimate union existing between Jesus and Mary. So closely are they united that one is wholly the other. Jesus is all in Mary and Mary is all in Jesus. Or rather, it is no longer she who lives, but Jesus alone Who lives in her. It would be easier to separate light from the sun than Mary from Jesus. So united are they that our Lord may be called, "Jesus of Mary", and His Mother "Mary of Jesus."

Time does not permit me to linger here and elaborate on the perfections and wonders of the mystery of Jesus living and reigning in Mary, or the Incarnation of the Word. I shall confine myself to the following brief remarks. The Incarnation is the first mystery of Jesus Christ; it is the most hidden; and it is the most exalted and the least known.

It was in this mystery that Jesus, in the womb of Mary and with her co-operation, chose all the elect. For this reason the saints called her womb, the throne-room of God's mysteries.



It was in this mystery that Jesus anticipated all subsequent mysteries of His life by His willing acceptance of them. Consequently, this mystery is a summary of all His mysteries since it contains the intention and the grace of them all.

Lastly, this mystery is the seat of the mercy, the liberality, and the glory of God. It is the seat of His mercy for us, since we can approach and speak to Jesus through Mary. We need her intervention to see or speak to Him. Here, ever responsive to the prayer of His Mother, Jesus unfailingly grants grace and mercy to all poor sinners. 'Let us come boldly before the throne of grace.'

It is the seat of liberality for Mary, because while the new Adam dwelt in this truly earthly paradise God performed there so many hidden marvels beyond the understanding of men and angels. For this reason, the saints call Mary 'the magnificence of God', as if God showed His magnificence only in Mary.

It is the seat of glory for His Father, because it was in Mary that Jesus perfectly atoned to His Father on behalf of mankind. It was here that He perfectly restored the glory that sin had taken from his Father. It was here again that our Lord, by the sacrifice of Himself and of His will, gave more glory to God than He would have given had He offered all the sacrifices of the Old Law. Finally, in Mary He gave His Father infinite glory, such as His Father had never received from man.

### 5. Saying the Hail Mary and the Rosary

Those who accept this devotion should have a great love for the Hail Mary, or, as it is called: the Angelic Salutation. Few Christians, however enlightened, understand the value, merit, excellence and necessity of the Hail Mary. Our Blessed Lady herself had to appear on several occasions to men of great holiness and insight, such as St. Dominic, St. John Capistrano and Blessed Alan de Rupe, to convince them of the richness of this prayer.

They composed whole books on the wonders it had worked and its efficacy in converting sinners. They earnestly proclaimed and publicly preached that just as the salvation of the world began with the Hail Mary, so the salvation of each individual is bound up with it. This prayer, they said, brought to a dry and barren world the Fruit of Life, and if well said, will cause the Word of God to take root in the soul and bring forth Jesus, the Fruit of Life. They also tell us that the Hail Mary is a heavenly dew which waters the earth of our soul and makes it bear fruit in due season. The soul, which is not watered by this heavenly dew, bears no fruit but only thorns and briars, and merits only God's condemnation.

Here is what our Blessed Lady revealed to Blessed Alan de Rupe as recorded in his book, *The Dignity of the Rosary*, and as told again by Cartagena: 'Know, my

son, and make it known to all, that luke warmness or negligence in saying the Hail Mary, or a distaste for it, is a probable and proximate sign of eternal damnation, for by this prayer the whole world was restored.'

These are terrible words but at the same time they are consoling. We should find it hard to believe them, were we not assured of their truth by Blessed Alan and by St. Dominic before him, and by so many great men since his time. The experience of many centuries is there to prove it, for it has always been common knowledge that those who bear the sign of reprobation, as all formal heretics, evil-doers, the proud and the worldly, hate and spurn the Hail Mary and the Rosary. True, heretics learn to say the Our Father but they will not countenance the Hail Mary and the Rosary and they would rather carry a snake around with them than a rosary. And there are even Catholics who, sharing the proud tendencies of their father Lucifer, despise the Hail Mary or look upon it with indifference. The Rosary, they say, is a devotion suitable only for ignorant and illiterate people.

**“The Hail Mary is the perfect compliment the most High God paid to Mary through His archangel in order to win her heart.”**

On the other hand, we know from experience that those who show positive signs of being among the elect, appreciate and love the Hail Mary and are always glad to say it. The closer they are to God, the more they love this prayer, as our Blessed Lady went on to tell Blessed Alan.

I do not know how this should be, but it is perfectly true; and I know no surer way of discovering whether a person belongs to God than by finding out if he loves the Hail Mary and the Rosary. I say, 'if he loves' for it can happen that a person for some reason may be unable to say the Rosary, but this does not prevent him from loving it and inspiring others to say it.

Chosen souls, slaves of Jesus in Mary, understand that after the Our Father, the Hail Mary is the most beautiful of all prayers. **It is the perfect compliment the most High God paid to Mary through His archangel in order to win her heart.** So powerful was the effect of this greeting upon her, on account of its hidden delights, that despite her great humility, she gave her consent to the incarnation of the Word. If you say the Hail Mary properly, this compliment will infallibly earn you Mary's good will.

**When the Hail Mary is well said, that is, with attention, devotion and humility, it is, according to the saints, the enemy of Satan, putting him to flight; it is the hammer that crushes him, a source of holiness for souls, a joy to the angels and a sweet melody for the devout.** It is the Canticle of the New Testament, a delight for Mary and glory for the most

Blessed Trinity. The Hail Mary is dew falling from heaven to make the soul fruitful. It is a pure kiss of love we give to Mary. It is a crimson rose, a precious pearl that we offer to her. It is a cup of ambrosia, a divine nectar that we offer her. These are comparisons made by the saints.

I earnestly beg of you, then, by the love I bear you in Jesus and Mary, not to be content with saying the Little Crown of the Blessed Virgin, but say the Rosary too, and **if time permits, all its fifteen decades**, every day. Then when death draws near, you will bless the day and hour when you took to heart what I told you, for having sown the blessings of Jesus and Mary, you will reap the eternal blessings in heaven.



#### **6. Praying the Magnificat**

To thank God for the graces He has given to our Lady, her consecrated ones will frequently say the Magnificat, following the example of Blessed Marie d'Oignies and several other saints. The Magnificat is the only prayer we have which was composed by our Lady, or rather, composed by Jesus in her, for it was He who spoke through her lips. It is the greatest offering of praise that God ever received under the law of grace. On the one hand, it is the most humble hymn of thanksgiving and, on the other, it is the most sublime and exalted. Contained in it are mysteries so great and so hidden that even the angels do not understand them.

Gerson, a pious and learned scholar, spent the greater part of his life writing tracts full of erudition and love on the most profound subjects. Even so, it was with apprehension that he undertook towards the end of his life to write a commentary on the Magnificat, which was the crowning point of all his works. In a large volume on the subject he says many wonderful things about this beautiful and divine canticle. **Among other things he tells us that Mary herself frequently recited it, especially at thanksgiving after Holy Communion.** The learned Benzoni, in his commentary on the Magnificat, cites several miracles worked through the power of this prayer. The devils, he declares, take to flight when they hear these words, "He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the proud-hearted."

#### **7. Contempt of the world**

Mary's faithful servants despise this corrupted world. They should hate and shun its allurements, and follow the exercises of the contempt of the world, which we have given in the first part of this treatise.

*To be continued – Final Part: Special interior practices for those who wish to be perfect*

# Serra Unites!

## 8 September 2011

“Serra Unites!” is a day of prayer, held on 8 September (Feast of the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary), throughout the Serra world where 20,000 Serrans in 1,160 Clubs in 46 countries on six continents unite our prayers for a more generous response on the part of young men called to the ministerial priesthood as well as for the holiness of our priests and consecrated religious. It is also a designated day for Serrans to pray for God’s abundant blessings on the work of Serra for vocations, for more vocations and for the sanctification of our priests.

Here’s a report on what Serrans in Asia did for the “Serra Unites!” initiative:

### Serra Unites! – Bangalore

A good number of Serrans, their friends and family attended the “Serra Unites!” Holy Hour followed by Mass. Quite a number of the audience were Counsellors who came from quite a distance at the invitation of the Bangalore Serran who work as a counsellor and also because Fr. Eric, Chaplain of Serra Bangalore, is the Director of the Counselling Centre.

In addition, the Serra Club in formation in Panjim, Goa joined in to pray the rosary with our rosary intentions before Mass and did the readings and the Prayer of the Faithful, while the celebrant spoke about praying for vocations. Their Chaplain is a Salesian and is very supportive.

### Serra Unites! – Hong Kong

Hong Kong held the “Serra Unites!” initiative both on a club-wide and on an individual basis. On the former, we started with an evening Mass celebrated by our spiritual director during which the initiative’s intentions were prayed for. Immediately afterwards, we were also graced with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Some 28 Serrans and their spouses attended the Mass and the fellowship dinner that followed. We were, indeed, privileged to have our SI President Thomas Wong speak to us at the fellowship dinner. He gave an informative talk on Serra International and plans to be implemented during the course of his presidency.

On an individual basis, each Serran, particularly those who were unable to attend the aforesaid club organised programme, was encouraged to make time for rosary and/or adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in addition to attending Mass.



### Serra Unites! – Macau

In response to the initiative of Serra International, the Serra Club of Macau conducted ‘Serra Unites!’ an evening of prayers on 8th September in the St. Joseph’s Seminary Church. A total of twenty eight Priests, nuns, Macau Serrans and faithful were present for the prayers. We began with a Holy Hour followed by Mass concelebrated by Fathers Jose Kou and Lee Hoon Jun and prayed for more priestly and religious vocations for the Church.

### Serra Unites! – Thailand

Serrans in Thailand joined Serrans all over the world in praying the rosary to celebrate the Nativity of Our Mother of Vocations. Thai Serrans will continue to pray the rosary together with other Catholics in Thailand until the end of October, the month of Our Lady of Rosary. The aim is to pray a total of 300,000 rosaries—the number of Catholics in the country.



### Serra Unites! – Singapore

Singapore Serrans were joined by our “Friends of Serra Club” (a programme where Catholics pledge to pray one hour a month in front of the Blessed Sacrament for more priestly vocations and for priests) on 8 September. Altogether about close to 50 faithful prayed together for one hour in an Adoration Room in a church in the heart of town. It was also a chance for Serrans to meet our Friends in person and to have some fellowship and to thank them for their prayers for the last five years since the programme started. Holy Mass was offered for the Serra Unites! intentions, in the evening before the Eucharistic Adoration.