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Almost 300 altar servers thanked with a special Mass of appreciation

BY JO ANN ZUÑIGA

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HOUSTON — Close to 300 altar servers, boys and girls, were recognized for their dedication to God at the second annual Bishop George Sheltz Altar Servers Appreciation Mass on Nov. 13.

Up to 900 people, including families and others, attended the Mass at the Sacred Heart of the Co-Cathedral to support the youths.

“What a blessing to see the 279 Altar Servers from 42 different parishes come together as one body of Christ!” said Candice Tyrrell, a committee co-chair organizing the Mass.

As a Serra U.S. executive board member, part of an international association to promote religious vocations, Tyrrell said, “As Serrans, our mission is to foster more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. We pray many altar servers open their hearts to a religious vocation as we desperately need more priests and sisters in our world today.”

A recent survey showed that about 73% of newly ordained priests served as altar servers before entering seminary.

Fellow co-chair Larry Massey, president of the Scanlan Foundation, agreed with the strategic mission of “building a culture of vocations to the priesthood, religious life and holy families. That is why we are so excited to help Serra with this Mass.”

They both work closely with Father Richard McNeillie, Archdiocesan director of Vocations, who travels from the Houston chancery to area college campuses and seminaries across the state to encourage and guide students.

Meanwhile, the number of Catholics in the U.S. has increased from 48 million in 1965 to more than 70 million, not counting the 30 million or so lapsed Catholics. An annual ordination report from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) reflects those who responded



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SERRA CLUB

Boys and girls who serve as altar servers around the Archdiocese were recognized at the second annual Bishop George Sheltz Altar Servers Appreciation Mass on Nov. 13.

among the 600 men being ordained in the U.S. The survey shows they are from a variety of backgrounds who responded to God’s call to serve His people — 67% Caucasian; 16% Hispanic; 10% Asian; 6% African/African American.

Across the country, the average age of ordination this year is 34, although the respondents were an average of 16 years old when they first considered a call to the priesthood. About 40% of all respondents attended a Catholic school for at least some of their education. Overall, 73% served as altar servers before entering the seminary. Half served as readers and 40% as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. †





Bishop George Sheltz Archdiocesan Altar Server Appreciation Mass

Honoring Altar Server Attendees Who Served For Five Years Or Longer:

Ascension Chinese Mission
Anthony Nguyen
Jonathan Nguyen

Assumption
Diego Alfaro
Karen Alfaro
Emmanuel Cruz
William Cruz
Christina Escobar
Francisco Escobar
Alondra Rocha
Aaron Flores
Alora Flores
Clarissa Flores
Moises Flores
Dulce Franco
Flor Franco
Hector Lopez
Daniel Morales
Israel Neri
Lizeth Neri
Cittiali Ramirez
Yarezi Ramirez

Blessed Sacrament
Ximena Acosta
Yessenia Hernandez
Delaila Martinez
Valeria Mova
Merlina Ramirez
Heidy Reyes
Abril Vega
Christopher Vega
Allison Velasquez
Darlenne Velasquez

Christ the Good Shepherd
Jacob Lawrence
Theodora Pavlovic
Jesus Morales
Caroline Wheir
Christopher Wheir

Christ the Incarnate Word
Khoi Nguyen
Cindy Vu
Vincent Vu

Christ the King
Esmeralda Chavez
Emilano Lozano
Luis Martinez
Lilyana Palomo
Juritza Pantoja
Itzel Pineda
Maria Jose Ponce
Selena Ponce
Joselyn Sanchez
Mariana Sanchez

Corpus Christi
Matthew Mejia

Guardian Angel, Wallis
Brayden A. Hanzelka

Holy Family, Galveston
Edward S. Hoffman
Preeti Joseph
Pedro A. Koenning
Logan A. Mitchell
Abisai B. Moran
Jonathan Moran

Holy Family, Missouri City
Amarachi C. Asiegbu
Alessandro J. Cubillan
Bethany M. Gaspar
Emanuel Gomez
Luna M. Ramos

Immaculate Heart of Mary
Yuribel Aguirre
Guadalupe Araiza
Felix Cadengo
Diego Cerda
Frida Cerda
Lesley Martinez

Marcos Martinez
Isaac J. Morin
Steve Morin
Samantha Pena
Julia Sanchez
Alexis Torres
Gabriela Varela

Mary Queen
Jayson Babanto
Bryan Camanillo
Joaquin Krancher
Patrick O'Leary
Elodie Ridout
Ethan Westrup

Most Holy Trinity, Angleton
Avery E. Aaron
Marisa L. Aaron
Sophia R. Aaron
Allan Alquinto
Allena Alquinto
Troy M. Bala
Adriana L. Belmares
Enrique S. Buentello
Danny Cortez
Christian M. Estrada
Olivia M. Hernandez
Mary C. Hughes
Patrick Hughes
Peter Hughes
Liam M. Potato
Timothy S. Talavera

Our Lady of Fatima, Galena Park
Julie Arellano
Edgar Arevalo
Evelyn Avalos
David Beavers
Aldredo Bonilla
Judy Cruz
Kelly Delgado
Janet Lara
Juan Lara

Our Lady of Lourdes, Hitchcock
Callie Patterson
Drake Patterson

Our Lady of St. John
Alejanbro Gassca
Cruz Gonzalez
Sophia Gonzalez
Yuliana Pacos
Alexandria Perez
Kimberly Ortiz
Abraham Ramos

Prince of Peace
Augustine Rudolph

Sacred Heart, Crosby
Abigail Gaytan
Andres Gaytan Jr.
Celestt I. Guevara

Shrine of the True Cross
Dominic A. Clements
Nicholas J. Clements
Bryan Dryer
Michael Dryer
Alex Ortiz
Roman R. Rojas

St. Ambrose
America Arevalo
Sophia Hernandez
Evan Wisnoski

St. Angela Merici
Aiden Abraham
Justin P. Fernandez
Michael A. Fernandez
Markus Karlsson
Laurel Kelley
Addyson Reyna
Ashley Thomas
Dominic Unruh
Lucas Unruh

St. Anne, Houston
Emily Quin
Aaron Rucker
Francesca Sentmanat

St. Anne, Tomball
Elizabeth Helen Riedel
Wesley Paul Riedel

St. Bartholomew
Uriel Barron
Robert M. Chachere
Jocelyn Flores
Yamileth Flores
Jasmin Gomez
Jesus Gonzalez
Luke Gosch
Scarlett Gosch
Anthony Isikalu
Vanessa Isikalu
Gabriela A. Marmolejo
Joshua Okolo
Jessica Okonkwa
Michael Okonkwa
Natalia Perez
Ramiro Rodriguez
Alexis Sandoval
Joseph Troxler
Fatima Vazquez
Nick Williams
Alex Williams

St. Charles Borromeo
Leroy Cortez
Isaac Duran
Angel Esqueda
Diego Esqueda
Christian Morales
Juan Villarreal
Billy Zelaya

St. Dominic
Geanne Albright
Tyson Briggs
Minerva Flores
Miranda Flores

Noelia Franco
Amalia Gomez
Brianna Gonzalez
Kevin Gonzalez
Kathryn Lamanilao
Gustavo Lemus
Lourdes Lemus
Miranda Miranda
Christian Penafior
Jubert Penafior
Jesus Rivera
Jose Rivera
Rene Rivera
Angel Soto
Jericho Urbano

St. Francis de Sales
Maria Garcia
Ariel M. Martinez
Francisco R. Martinez
Noah Martinez
Laura Olvera

St. Helen
Sarah E. Edwards
Gabi A. Falcon
Michael Frausto
Ava E. Ingram
Bailey E. Jarrell
Richard H. Johnigan
Claire T. Michael
Matthew J. Michael
Peyton A. Rucker
Nicholas M. Zakarevicz

St. John of the Cross
Jose Guadalupe Fernandez
Leslie Fernandez
Natalie Ferenandez
Marcos Hernandez
Gabriel Molinero
Brianna Molinero
Jackie Rangel
Jasmin Saldana

St. Joseph, Stoneham
William T. Grant

St. Jude
Tommy R. Gonzalez
Luis A. Gonzalez
Fabian Mejias
Joel Mejias
Gael Segura
Keylen Segura

St. Lawrence
Jamie Reyes

St. Leo the Great
Steven Jordan Salazar

St. Mary Magdalene
Valerie Hernandez
Christopher Julian Mendoza
Nelson Emanuelle Mendoza
Rosemary Mendoza

St. Mary, Plantersville
Madeline M. Holmes
Charles H. O'Brien

St. Mathias, Magnolia
David Benitez
Octavio Daskalos
Daisy Juarez
Nelson Juarez
Jonathan Kreitz
David Rios
Nazli Rios
Josue Sanchez

St. Matthew the Evangelist
Jesse Adam Espinosa
Karol Garcia
Nicolas Israel Gomez
Alan Jesus Gonzalez
America Lozano
Viridyana M. Mendez
Yasmin Nicole Ramirez
Amelia Salome Reyes

St. Paul the Apostle
Marco Jimenez
Aylin Lopez
David Moreno
Leticia Peregrina
Aracely Peregrina
Jayden Ruiz

St. Phillip Neri
David Collins
Christopher Kyle
Matthew Kyle
Chase K. Walker
Chassidy M. Walker
Damren J. Ware

St. Thomas Aquinas
Rhoderic Fernandez
Tyler Thompson

St. Vincent de Paul
Maria Jose Calderon
David Casarez
Jasmine Casarez
Theodore Castillo-Diaz
Angelica Dela Rosa
Bridget Dela Rosa
Catherine Dela Rosa
Nicholas Garcia
John Paul Herrera
Aidan Nanquil
Ira Navaro
Amanda Nguyen
Andrea Nguyen
Hayden Osborn
Mary Rose Rawson
Mikael Mari Roldan
Shawn Varkey

Vietnamese Martyrs
Anthony Do
Nhi H. Le
Thieh A. Le
Donald V. Nguyen
Huy Q. Nguyen

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