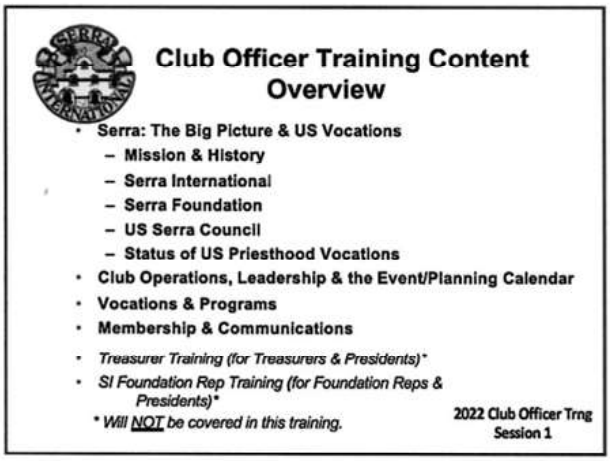
2022 Club Officer Training Support Docs
Session #1 Serra & Vocations—The Big Picture



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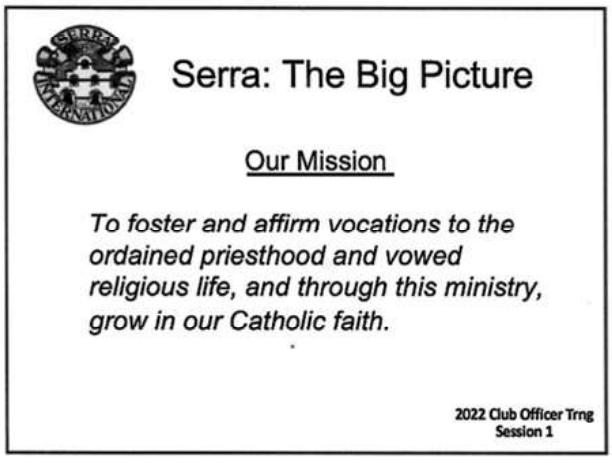

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Three Distinct Missions
• To Foster NEW Vocations
• To Affirm EXISTING Vocations
• To Increase our Holiness
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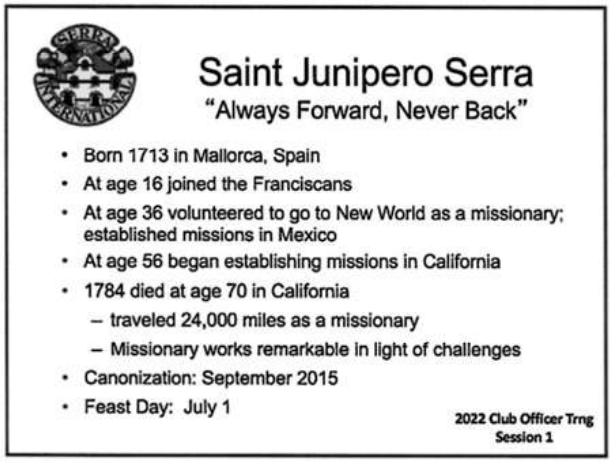
Saint Junipero Serra
"Always Forward, Never Back"
• Born 1713 in Mallorca, Spain
• At age 16 joined the Franciscans
• At age 36 volunteered to go to New World as a missionary; established missions in Mexico
• At age 56 began establishing missions in California
• 1784 died at age 70 in California
– traveled 24,000 miles as a missionary
– Missionary works remarkable in light of challenges
• Canonization: September 2015
• Feast Day: July 1
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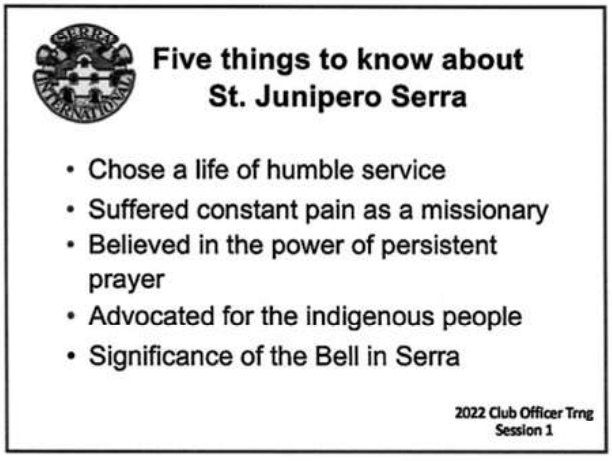
Five things to know about St. Junipero Serra
• Chose a life of humble service
• Suffered constant pain as a missionary
• Believed in the power of persistent prayer
• Advocated for the indigenous people
• Significance of the Bell in Serra
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Session #1 Serra & Vocations—The Big Picture

History of Serra Organization

- 1935: Started by four Catholics in Seattle, WA
- **1951: Serra became Official apostolate of Catholic Church**
  - The ***only*** lay apostolate officially aggregated to the Church
- **Our Role is to be the LEADERS on vocations effort**
  - We LEAD by our own efforts: prayer, service & fellowship
  - We LEAD by encouraging and supporting vocations efforts of other Catholic lay organizations
  - We LEAD by engaging all Catholics in creating a culture of vocations

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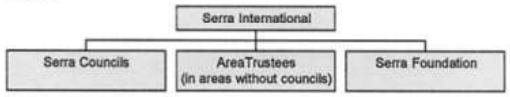
Organization of Serra International



USA	Mexico
Canada	Scanspac
Spain	Brazil
Italy	Great Britain
Philippines	Thailand

(96% of worldwide Serrans served by one of these ten councils)

Episcopal Advisor: Cardinal Collins
President 2021-22: Michael Bragg
President 2022-23: Greg Schwietz
Exec Dir: John Liston
Office staff: 3 FT Employees
1 PT Employee

12,500 Members Worldwide
398 Clubs in 46 Countries

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Serra Intl Financial Overview

	2019 Actual	2020 Est.	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Revenues:	$ 686,000	$ 636,000	$ 756,000	$ 796,000
Expenses:	$ 722,000	$ 632,000	$ 748,000	$ 796,000
Gain/Loss:	**$ -36,000**	**$ 4,000**	**$ 8,000**	**$ 0**
Ending Cash:	$ 26,000	$ 112,000	$ 152,000	na
Debt:	$ --- 0	$ --- 0	$ ---0	$ --0

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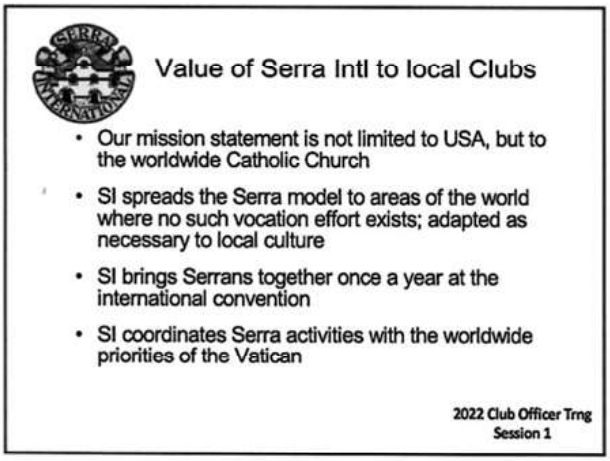
Value of Serra Intl to local Clubs
• Our mission statement is not limited to USA, but to the worldwide Catholic Church
• SI spreads the Serra model to areas of the world where no such vocation effort exists; adapted as necessary to local culture
• SI brings Serrans together once a year at the international convention
• SI coordinates Serra activities with the worldwide priorities of the Vatican
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Upcoming
Serra International Gatherings
• SI Convention: Toronto July 14-17, 2022
• SI Convention: Thailand, 2023
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Serra Foundation
• Mission
– To fund programs that foster & promote religious vocations
– To fund formation programs for men & women in consecrated religious life
– To enhance recognition of Serra International
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Overview of Serra Foundation

- Over $3 million given since 2005 to advance Serra mission
- $2.6 million in assets invested (as of 12/30/2020)
  - All assets invested according to guidelines of USCCB to insure consistency with teaching and values of Catholic Church
- $180,000 donations received by Foundation in 2020

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Serra Foundation Grants

Paid in 2019:		**$ 86,500**
– To 13 USA organizations	$ 66,000	
– To 9 org. in 9 other countries	$ 20,500	
Paid in 2020:		**$ 99,500***
– To 11 USA organizations	$ 81,500	
– To 8 org. in 8 other countries	$ 18,000	
Paid in 2021:		**$ 67,500**
– To 12 USA organizations	$ 60,000	
– To 7 org. in 5 countries	$ 7,500	
Proposed to be paid in 2022		**$ 87,800**
– To 9 USA organizations	$ 72,500	
– To 9 Org. in 6 Countries	$ 15,300	

* Does not include $34,000 for San Gabriel Mission

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Serra Intl Foundation

Grant Opportunities

- Inform Seminaries, Convents, Houses of Formation and even Diocesan Vocations Offices of the opportunity to apply for a grant
- Application form for grants due by **Sept 30, 2022** (processed only online)

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SIF Slate of Grants to be paid in 2022

submitted for the approval of the Serra International Board

Every grant request was approved by at least 2 board members. Approximately 5% of corpus is usually paid out – which tends to be around $100,000 per year.

-Pontifical North American College (ROME)	$25,000
-Institute for Priestly Formation (Omaha, Nebraska)	10,000
-Serra's U.S. Council	15,000
-Vocations Symposium in ROME (Feb. 2022) – matching grant with SI	12,000
-Bishop White Seminary (Spokane, Washington) (for a propaedeutic year for several dioceses)	5,000
-Missionary Sisters of Mary Queen of the World (Missouri)	3,000
-Catholic Bishops of Ontario, CANADA (matching grant with Canadian Serra Foundation)	2,500
-St. Mary Sisters – new order in Bismarck, North Dakota	2,000
-Diocese of Kibungo, RWANDA	2,000
-Jesuit Eastern AFRICA	2,000
-Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes – AFRICA	2,000
-Serra Club of Salem – INDIA	1,000
-Midwest Jesuits - to train foreign priests to serve in U.S.	1,000
-Crozier Fathers (CONGO & INDONESIA formation)	1,000
-Congregation of the Mission – KENYA – printer/copier & projector	1,000
-Diocese of Stockton CALIFORNIA - house of formation	500
-Felician Sisters – KENYA	1,800
-Carmelite Sisters of Sacred Heart – Los Angeles, CA	1,000
TOTAL:	**$ 87,800**

Number of Grants: 18

2021 Slate of Grants Funded by The Serra International Foundation		
Organization	**Country**	**Amount**
Wichita Serra Clubs, Metro and East side	United States	$1,000
University Catholic	United States	$1,000
Pray to Love	United States	$1,000
THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF TANGA.	Tanzania	$1,000
The Catholic Diocese of Zomba	Malawi	$1,000
CHUQUIBAMBILLA PRELATURE	Peru	$1,000
USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus (Midwest Jesuits)	United States	$1,000
INSTITUTE OF THE HOLY TRINITY SISTERS	Kenya	$1,000
Arise Milwaukee Inc	United States	$1,000
Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Family	Kenya	$1,500
University Catholic	United States	$2,000
Congregation of the Mission Kenya Region	Kenya	$2,000
KAABONG CATHOLIC PARISH, KOTIDO DIOCESE	Uganda	$2,000
Paulist Productions	United States	$2,500
USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations	United States	$3,000
Catholic Diocese of Brownsville	United States	$3,000
US Council of Serra International	United States	$7,500
Institute for Priestly Formation	United States	$10,000
Pontifical North American College (PNAC)	United States	$25,000
Total		**$67,500**
	USA Organizations	**$60,000**
	Other Countries	**$7,500**

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2020 Slate of Grants Funded by The Serra International Foundation			
Organization	**Country**	**What the Grant's Purpose?**	**2020 Grant**
Instituto DAR	MEXICO	Formation program	$1,000
Sisters of St. Dominic	Nigeria	Renovate the church	$1,000
Missionary Congregation of the Evangelizing Sisters of M	KENYA	Spiritual Training	$1,000
Serra Club of Lincoln Nebraska	U.S.A.	To fund student scholarships	$1,000
Catholic Diocese of Singida	TANZANIA	Seminarian Education	$1,500
Pray to Love	South Sudan	Movie project - promoting religious sisters	$1,500
Vincentian Family Office	USA	Create Culture of Vocations	$2,000
Piarist Fathers	Cameroon	Formation of 70 Piarist Seminarians	$2,000
Diocese of Fort Wayne- South Bend	USA	"Come and See" Men's Discernment Retreat	$3,000
Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angele	USA	Vocations Outreach	$3,000
Capuchin Province of Mid-America, Inc	USA	Priesthood and Religious Training	$5,000
Diocese of Phoenix	USA	Expanding Vocation Outreach of Consecrated	$5,000
Orantes Sisters of the Assumption	Cote D'Ivoire	Formation program	$5,000
Serra Club of Lekki	NIGERIA	Pilgrimage Centre Project	$5,000
Serra's National Council for the United States, Inc	USA	Serra SPARK: Parish Vocation Programs	$7,500
Serra International	USA	Supporting the Serra International Convention	$10,000
Institute for Priestly Formation	USA	Seminarian Programs	$10,000
NCDVD	USA	Vocational Training	$10,000
Pontifical North American College	USA	Pontifical North American College	$25,000
Total			**$99,500**
		USA Organizations	**$81,500**
		Other Countries	**$18,000**

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2022 Club Officer Training Support Docs
Session #1 Serra & Vocations—The Big Picture

Serra US Council

President: Richard Arians (2020-22)
President Elect: Mike Downey (2022-24)
Episcopal Advisor: Bishop Tom Daly, Spokane WA

U.S. Regions, Effective July 1, 2018

9 Regions: each with a Regional Director

44 Districts: each with a District Governor

Overall USA: 7,300 Serrans 197 Clubs

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Serra US Financial Overview

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Revenue:	$ 367,000	$ 384,000	$ 305,000	$361,000
Expenses:	$ 361,000	$ 396,000	$ 283,000	$356,000
Gain/Loss:	$ 6,000	$ -12,000	$ 22,000	$ 5,000
Ending Cash :	$ 209,000	$ 146,000	$ 220,000	NA
Debt:	$ ---0	$ ---0	$ ---0	$ ---0

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Value of US Council to local Serra Clubs

- Repository of "Wisdom" of Serra through the years
  - *Serra Meets*, training programs, officer & club manuals
- Clearing House for new ideas and problem solving
  - National workshops, national conventions
  - Serran magazine (with SI);
- Communicates vocation priorities of US Bishops
  - Annual vocation awareness program support materials
  - Newman Connection
  - Digital resources for Vocations Directors / SerraSpark.org
- Professional support for all-volunteer clubs
  - Maintenance of membership records/database/mailing labels
  - Liability insurance certificates for club & vocation activities
  - Maintaining serraus.org website

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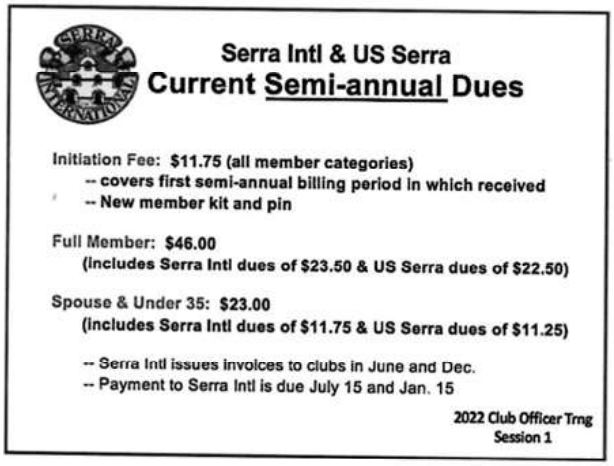
Session #1 Serra & Vocations—The Big Picture



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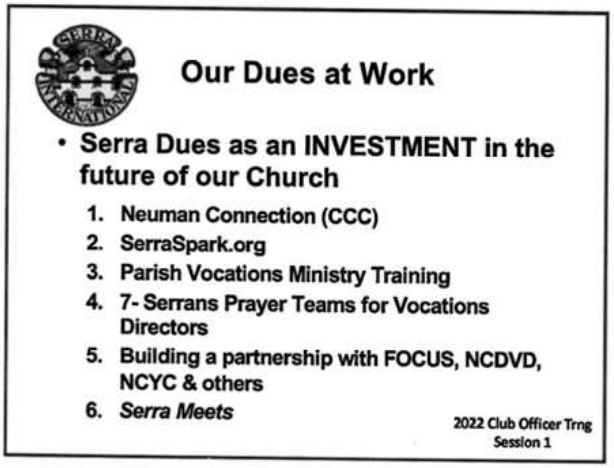

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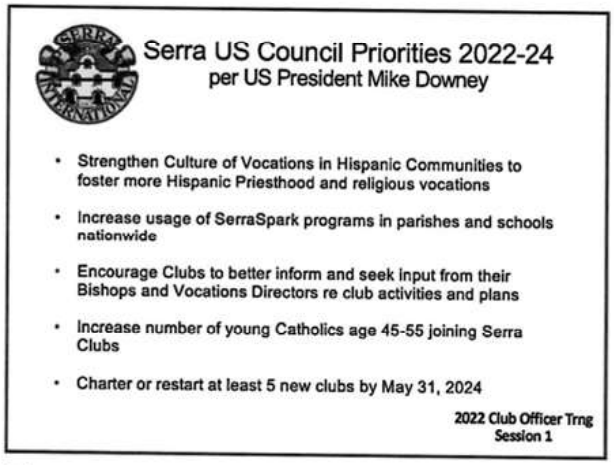

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Challenges for Serra
in USA

- Covid-19 Impact on Clubs meeting, membership
- Visibility/Awareness problem in most parishes
- Name confusion problem
  - Too often confused with Sierra Club
- Limited Hispanic and other ethnics representation

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Serra: The Big Picture

- **Questions**
- **Comments**
- **Discussion**

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Status of US Vocations

- Shortage of Priests remains a CRISIS
- Lots of Good things happening:
  - Priestly ordinations steady for last 25 years
  - Grad level seminarians steady for last 25 years
- Due to death and retirement, total No. Diocesan Priests still declining (down 30% since 1965)
- US Catholic population up 50% since 1965!
- 35% of US Catholics are Hispanic while only 5% of priests are Hispanic

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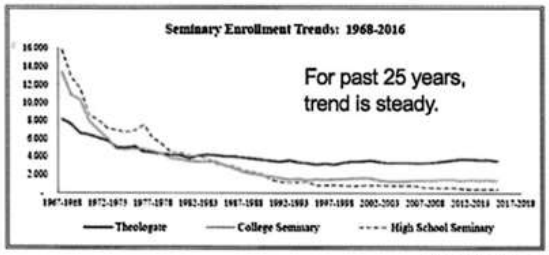
CARA Research Report
Current US Catholic Data

	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2016	2017	2018	2020	2021
Total priests	58,632	59,192	58,909	58,398	57,317	52,124	49,054	45,699	41,399	39,993	37,192	37,181	36,580	35,513	34,923
Diocesan priests	35,925	37,272	36,005	35,627	35,052	34,114	32,349	30,607	28,094	27,182	25,760	25,757	25,254	24,653	24,204
Religious priests	22,707	21,920	22,904	22,771	22,265	18,010	16,705	15,092	13,305	12,811	11,432	11,424	11,326	10,308	10,709
Religious sisters	179,954	160,931	135,225	126,517	115,386	102,504	90,809	79,814	68,634	57,544	47,170	45,605	44,117	41,357	39,452
Priestly ordinations	994	805	771	593	533	595	511	442	454	459	548	504	518	495	441
Graduate-level seminarians	8,325	6,602	5,279	4,197	4,063	3,658	3,172	3,474	3,308	3,483	3,520	3,405	3 553	'--'	'--'
Parishes	17,637	18,224	18,515	18,794	19,244	19,620	19,331	19,236	18,891	17,958	17,233	17,156	17,007	16,703	16,579
Parishes without a resident priest pastor	549	571	702	791	1,051	1,812	2,161	2,843	3,251	3,353	3,499	3,552	3,363	3,544	3,377
% of diocesan priests active in ministry	94%	90%	88%	85%	84%	80%	76%	74%	70%	68%	63%	63%	66%	65%	66%
Catholic population (*The Official Catholic Di*	46.3m	47.9m	48.7m	50.5m	52.3m	55.7m	57.4m	59.9m	64.8m	65.6m	67.7m	68.5m	68.7m	67.7M	66.8M
Foreign-born adult Catholics (survey-based e	--	--	4.7m	4.1m	4.8m	5.6m	7.0m	10.9m	15.8m	13.2m	15.1m	16.9m	12.7m	15.6M	15.0M

Only 5% of priests in the US identify as Hispanic or Latino. Hispanic Catholics make up 35% of US Catholics

U.S. Vocations Trends



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Priesthood Vocations USA

(CARA Research)

	New Priests	Total Diocesan Priests
1995	511	32,349
2000	442	30,607
2005	454	28,094
2010	459	27,182
2016	548	25,760
2017	504	25,757
2018	518	25,254
2019	468	24,857
2020	495	24,653
2021	441	24,204

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What We Know about Vocations

(from A Priest in the Family by Fr. Brett Brannen)

- Holy Spirit calls the vocation, not us
- Culture of Vocations critical to call being heard
- Key influencers: **Priests**/Spiritual Directors, Mothers, others
- Time of most serious consideration: **Age 17**
- Time spent in **Eucharistic Adoration**
- 60% of Priests were **altar servers**
- 50 % of Seminarians "discern out"
- 92% of Priests are happy being priests
- Inability to marry is not cause of shortage--mainline protestant churches have same shortage

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Labouré Society

- Labouré is a national, Catholic, non-profit organization that rescues Catholic vocations from the impediment of student loan debt.
- Prospects are mentored in cash management & debt alleviation
- Prospects reach out to individuals (Serrans) for contribution to Labouré Society
- Contributions made to Labouré Society are tax deductible; Individuals receive "credit" for contributions and Labouré helps alleviate student debt allowing vocations calling to be followed

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Status Of U.S. Vocations

- **Questions**
- **Comments**
- **Discussion**

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Closing Inspiration Reading

- **Excerpt from Pope Francis' talk to Serrans in 2017:**

"...to be a special friend to priests and seminarians."

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Pope Francis

Private Audience with Serrans 2017

"To be friends to priests, sustaining their vocation and accompanying them in their ministry: with this great gift you enrich the Church! This is, above all else, what a Serran is—a "special friend" whom the Lord has brought into the lives of seminarians and priests."…

"The Serra Club helps foster this beautiful vocation of being laity who are friends to priests. Friends who know how to accompany and sustain them in faith, in fidelity to prayer and apostolic commitment. Friends who share the wonder of a vocation, the courage of a definitive decision, the joy and fatigue of ministry. Friends who can offer priests support and regard their generous efforts and human failings with understanding and tender love. In this way, you are to priests like the home of Bethany, where Jesus entrusted his weariness to Martha and Mary, and, thanks to their care, was able to find rest and refreshment."…

"The Church and priestly vocations need you."

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Closing Prayer

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