

**2022 Club Officer Training Slides**  
**Session #4: Membership & Communications**



Club Officer Training  
2022

Session # 4

Membership & Communications

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**Beginning Prayer and  
Inspirational Reading**

- Opening Prayer
- Reading from *To Save a Thousand Souls*  
by Father Brett Brannen  
– p. 13 “Priests Bury the Dead”

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Why Membership is Important

- “We are marching into a desperate battle, and we need more soldiers!”  
– Judy Cozzens, President US Serra
- Need more Prayers for Vocations!
- Need more hands for more service!
- Need to grow membership to demonstrate to priests and religious the strong support from lay Catholics!

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## 2022 Club Officer Training Slides Session #4: Membership & Communications



**Membership is a  
PROCESS**

1. Create **AWARENESS** of Serra among Lay Catholics
2. The **GENERAL INVITATION** to Catholic Community
3. The **INDIVIDUAL INVITATION**
4. The **APPLICATION** form
5. New Member induction Ceremony
6. New Member **ORIENTATION**
7. **RETENTION:**
  1. **ENGAGEMENT** in Serra Vocations Work
  2. **MENTORING & WELCOMING**
  3. Advance **COMMUNICATIONS** of events & programs
  4. **QUALITY** Monthly **PROGRAMS**
  5. Engagement in **LEADERSHIP** Positions

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**1. Create *AWARENESS* of Serra  
among Lay Catholics**

- Serra-sponsored Vocations Programs in Parishes
  - Four Natl Vocations Awareness Events/ Programs
  - Parish-wide 31 Club Rosaries for Vocations
  - Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations
  - "Adopt a Seminarian" prayer boards & cards
  - "Called by Name" programs in parishes
  - Altar Server recognition events
- Planned Publicity:
  - Articles in Catholic Newspaper/Presence on Catholic Radio/  
Bulletin announcements (Monthly or qtrly)
  - Parish ministry fairs
- Serra Prayer for Vocations Cards in parishes
- Printed tri-fold brochures in back of all churches

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**2. The *GENERAL INVITATION* to  
Catholic Community**

1. Tri-fold brochures about Serra with contact information (in English & Spanish)
2. Bulletin announcements w/ contact info
3. Business cards w/ contact info
4. Serra Prayer cards w/ contact info
5. JoinSerra.org
6. Articles in Catholic Newspapers
7. Catholic Radio

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# 2022 Club Officer Training Slides

## Session #4: Membership & Communications



### 2. Special Events to Invite

- Annual prospect dinner (informative only--no pressure to join!)
  - Challenge: must be of interest to current Serrans so prospects see the Club in its best light/high membership turnout
- Inviting prospects to Club events involving the Bishop
  - Lay Catholics like to rub shoulders with their Bishop!
  - Option: using most popular events to inform, recruit
- Ask the Bishop & Vocations Director to regularly suggest Serra membership as a way for Lay Catholics to actively participate in the Diocese's vocation efforts!

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### 3. The *INDIVIDUAL* Invitation

#### To Whom:

Catholics with a special place in their hearts for Vocations

- 40 - 70 Year Olds / "empty nesters"
- Daily Mass & Adoration Participants
- Parents & Relatives of Priests, Seminarians & Deacons
- Adults in charge of Altar Server /YM Programs
- Parish Vocation Committee members
- Your Catholic friends
- Those recently widowed
- Parishes without Serrans (recommendations from parish priest)

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### 3. The *INDIVIDUAL* Invitation

#### Invite with a Strategy

- Triple-team each prospect
- "Plan" the invitation to join
- Each member of Invitation Team contacts prospect twice
  - "Seven Touches" required to reach a person

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### 3. The **INDIVIDUAL** Invitation The Conversation

- Be Excited, Joyful when talking about Serra
- Share "Mountain Top" Experiences
- Share impact on your own spirituality
- Show impact on Seminarians (notes, thank you's)
- Talk about support of priests, sisters, Bishop & Vocation Director
- Cost: \$\_\_ per month and what is accomplished by dues
- Not about what you get out of it, but what you give
- It's God's work
- It's about the future of our Church

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### 3. The **INDIVIDUAL** Invitation Be Prepared for Objections

- **"I can pray for vocations without being in Serra"**
  - Serra is more than just prayer—it is the action prayer calls us to. E.g., service to Vocations office, affirmation of religious and support of priests/ religious/seminarians
  - Serra group prayers offer more quality, quantity, continuity & effectiveness for vocations
- **"Dues seem too high"**
  - \$\_\_/month (and examples of what they accomplish)
- **"Not sure with the Priest Abuse Scandal and all"**
  - Never been more important to affirm and support the many good priests and religious unfairly tarred by the scandal.

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### Texas "Magic" Membership Envelope

- SASE: Addressed to Treasurer
- Application Form
- Membership Brochure
- Serra Prayer Card
- Information sheet on items Serra provides to parishes

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## 2022 Club Officer Training Slides

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#### 4. The **Application Form** (p. 5A-C)

- Form is **confusing** to prospects
- Do **NOT** hand out blank to prospects
- **Pre-fill: Club Name, Number and District No.**
  - (copy for general use by club members)
- **Pre-fill: sponsor's name with signature**
- **Pre-fill: priest's signature (?)**
- **Identify required fields** for prospect to fill in with checkmark or highlighting
- Include self-addressed, stamped envelope to Treasurer & follow up to make sure it is received.

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#### Membership **Initiation Fee \$11.75**

- Many clubs have gotten out of the habit of paying the initiation fee (formerly \$15) and hold applications until the next regular billing cycle
- This delays the applicant from immediately receiving communications from Serra US and Serra Intl.
- The new initiation fee covers all dues until the next regular invoice cycle (no matter when they join)
- Includes a kit including a new member pin, handbook & certificate
- Paid by prospect to Club then Club pays Serra

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#### 5. New Member Induction **Ceremony**

- Lets new members know they are really joining something
- Involve Bishop/Vocations Director/Chaplain if possible
- Great place to deliver new member kit with Serra pin
- Ceremony as part of or following Mass

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# Serra International New Member Application

## New Member Information

Title	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
Date of birth		Parish	
Email address			Phone Numbers: Home /Cell
Street address			City
State	Postal Code	Country	

## Spouse Information

- ☐ Spouse is joining concurrently with applicant named above  
☐ Spouse is already a Serran (fill out NAME only)

Name
Email address
Phone numbers: Home/Cell

## Sponsor Information

Email address	Phone numbers: Home/Cell
Signature of applicant	
Signature of sponsor	
Pastor's approval signature (or witness to pastor's approval)	
Serra club officer signature	
Date Joined	

## THIS SECTION TO BE FILLED OUT BY CLUB

Serra Club of		
Club number	District number	National Council

## New Member Fee: \$11.75

- ☐ I have included \$11.75 for each new member indicated on this application.





# Serra International New Member Application

## 1. New Member Information

Title:	First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:		
Date of Birth:		Parish Name/City:			
Email address:		Cell Phone:	Home Phone:		
Street address:		City:	Postal Code:	State: IA	Country: USA
Signature of applicant:					

## 2. Spouse Information

- ☐ Spouse is joining concurrently with applicant named above  
OR  
☐ Spouse is already a Serran (fill in Member NAME ONLY in Section 1 above)

Title	First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:	
Date of Birth:		Cell Phone:	Email Address:	

## NEW MEMBER FEE (one time)

- ☐ I have included \$11.75 for each new member indicated on this application (\$23.50/couple)

## 3. Sponsor Information

Signature of Sponsor: <i>John E. Eiler</i>	Sponsor Cell:	Email Address: dm@serrainternational.org
Serra Club Trusted Signature: <i>John E. Eiler</i>		
Pastor's Approval Signature (or witness to Pastor's approval): <i>Rev. Lawrence E. Hoffmann</i>		

## THIS SECTION TO BE FILLED OUT BY CLUB

St. Serra Club of Des Moines		Date Joined:
Club number 44	District number 9E	National Council: USA

5B



You may support the Club by your attendance at events, leadership as an officer, participation on a planning committee for one of the special events or simply by your membership – join us!

**If you wish to Join us:**

1. Please complete and sign the top section of the Application form.
2. If you have a Spouse who wishes to join, please complete the second section.
3. Please write a check made payable to "St. Serra Club of Des Moines" for \$11.75 (or \$23.50 if joining with a spouse)  
This one-time fee includes a new member kit for you with a membership pin, prayer cards, and the Serra handbook.  
You will also begin receiving the *The Serran* magazine.

**Membership Dues:**

- Dues are just \$10 per month and are invoiced semi-annually (by June 1 and December 1).
- A spouse may join for half of a regular membership (\$5/month).
- Members under 35 years of age are also half price (\$5/month).

**Semi-annual dues:**

- \$60 for member (\$120/year)
- \$30 for spouse (\$60/year)

**Semi-annual dues for members under 35 years of age:**

- \$30 for member (\$60/year)

**Mail to:**

Treasurer, St. Serra Club of Des Moines  
12822 Lincoln Avenue  
Clive, Iowa 50325



## 2022 Club Officer Training Slides

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#### 6. New Member Orientation

##### Options:

- Special meeting w/ club officers to have each explain area of responsibility and opportunities to participate
- New Member Orientation (NMO) recorded webinar
  - 36 minutes with breaks for discussion
  - Should be viewed by new members in presence of at least one club officer
  - Link: <https://serraus.org/new-member-orientation-anytime-anywhere/>
- NMO webinar as monthly program to refresh all members

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#### 7. Retention

##### 1. Engage new members immediately in club vocations work

- Weekly or monthly club rosaries
- Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations
- Have them adopt a seminarian
- Help with Newman Connection data collection effort

##### 2. Mentoring & Welcoming

- Escort to first six meetings
- Have all members—new and old—introduce themselves at every meeting
- Wear your Serra Name badges!
- Veterans to say hello at meetings

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#### 7. Retention

(Con't)

##### 3. Advance Communications of programs & events

- Regular timely newsletters
- Email reminders

##### 4. Quality Monthly Programs

- Scheduled out well in advance
- Specific, focused topics for speakers to address
- Vocations focus

##### 5. Engagement in Leadership positions

- Initially encouraging them to be part of a team or committee
- Avoid throwing into officer position with no club experience
- Encourage attendance at regional, national and international conventions/conference calls

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### Attracting Younger Catholics 45-55 yo to Join Serra

- FOCUS Alumni
  - Have a heart for vocations
  - Help them see Serrans as mentors
- Legacy programs
- Tap into other Catholic lay organizations

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### When a Member Quits

- Find out why and report to President & VP Membership (keep data!)
- If the reason is "no time to participate" encourage them to become a *Friend of Serra* or *Emeritus* members
- *Friend of Serra/Emeritus* concepts:
  - Financial support of Serra Club in amount determined by individual
  - Continued inclusion in newsletter mailing (kept in the loop)
  - Opportunity to come to prayer-based events (Serra Masses, Adorations, Rosaries) as time permits
  - No dues to US Council or SI/ no official Serra membership

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Growing Membership  
is about Sharing the Joy  
of Serra!

**Be a JOY-FILLED Serran!**

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## 2022 Club Officer Training Slides Session #4: Membership & Communications



### Membership

- Questions
- Comments
- Discussion

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### Communications

- Internal
- External

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### Thoughts on Internal Communications

- Communications critical to membership retention!
  - “Hard to belong if don’t know what’s happening”
- Communications Tools
  - Newsletter or minutes
  - Annual Directory (include schedule for year)
  - Websites
  - Others: email, call tree, teleblasts, newsletter, Facebook, Whatsapp, Groupme, Viber
- Things to communicate:
 

• reminders for events	priest anniversaries
• schedule changes	seminarian birthdays
• deaths or illnesses	current officers w email address

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## 2022 Club Officer Training Slides Session #4: Membership & Communications



### Newsletters Samples 9A-9O

- Purpose is informational and motivational
  - Simple design
  - Large type for easy reading
- Send same time every month
- Upcoming Events most important part of newsletter
  - Cover schedule for next TWO months just in case
  - Include prayer requests
- Don't hold up for anything except upcoming events
- Hard copy mailed to homes recommended at least once a quarter
- Consider obituaries of deceased members
- Include board minutes

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### Serra Newsletter Award Program

- Submit two consecutive newsletters between Sept 1, 2021 and August 2022
- Awards announced at Serra Rally in January 2023
- More information will be coming out in *Always Forward, Never Back* starting July 2022 about to whom to submit.

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### Final Thoughts on Internal Communications

- Communications depends on the Officer team passing information to VP Communications in a timely manner
- The best communications efforts cannot overcome poor planning

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# SERRA OF COUNCIL BLUFFS

*Always Forward, Never Back*

**May 2017**



## **May Meeting**

Our meeting will be at Cutler-O'Neill-Meyer-Woodring Chapel and Reception Center at Walnut Hill Cemetery Thursday May 12th at 6 p.m.

Come and enjoy some chicken and potato salad.

We will review our National Day of Prayer for Vocation activities as well as doing some planning at this meeting for our helping with the May 29<sup>th</sup> IPF dinner.



**Pam Ratigan**

**June 29, 1943 –  
April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Serran Pam Ratigan [1943-2017] is known to many for her tireless work as a volunteer in the Council Bluffs community. She certainly helped St. Patrick's Church, attending daily Mass, assisting as a lector and Eucharistic minister as needed, helping with the desserts for the St. Patrick's Festival in March, working the Rummage Sale in May and October. Once a month on Monday evening, she participated in Catholic Daughters, giving a ride to one who needed a lift. Once a month on Tuesdays she could be seen at the Phoenix House, a shelter and advocacy center for those enduring domestic abuse and or sexual violence. Pam helped with their recycling of paper, glass, and cans just as she did in the church hall at St. Patrick's. I think of her as the Recycling Queen. She not only procured the bins in the church hall for the recyclables, loaded her car with the materials when the bins were full, and delivered it to local recycling centers, she also dumpster-dived on occasion to retrieve earthly resources that could be reused. She sang with the Memorial Choir at funerals and helped with funeral dinners served in the parish hall. Every Wednesday morning, she joined the Sewing and Craft group, making lap, baby, and bed-size quilts that were donated to nursing homes, Birthright, Gabriel's Corner, Children's Square, MOHM's [Messengers of Hope Ministries], veterans.

Nursing was her career. Being present for important life events of her children and grandchildren was another passion. Her desire for "efficient economy" led to a decision to have both knees replaced at the same time so as to incur only one anesthesia, one recovery, one hospitalization, and one rehabilitation period. That seems like true grit. She traveled far distances to be with family, going to Japan to be with her son and his family. She helped aging persons with daily tasks.

The above are just a few of the many things she did to make life worth living for herself and others. Her example continues to inspire others to make good use of our time on earth and good use of the earth's resources with gratitude for what we enjoy and hope of renewing all that we can for future generations. God Bless Pam as she has blessed us. May light perpetual shine upon her.

Written by Linda Chevalier

John Schlautman

**President**

519 Golden Oaks Dr

Council Bluffs, IA 51503-8474

PHONE:

(712) 256-3339

**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

**[www.serracb.org](http://www.serracb.org)**

**SERRA of Council Bluffs IA**  
3163 Kings Way  
Council Bluffs IA 51503



## Calendar

### Dates to Remember:

May 12th (Thursday) .....	Monthly Meeting at Cutler O'Neil / Walnut Hill Meeting Room 6 p.m.
May 27 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday) .....	Help setup for IPF at Creighton
May 29 <sup>th</sup> (Monday) .....	IPF Welcome Dinner at Great Hall - Queens
June 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Saturday) .....	First Saturday, Holy Family 8 a.m.

### Birthdays

May 16 <sup>th</sup> .....	Nick Stark
May 20 <sup>th</sup> .....	Charles Wuebker





NORTH-MINNEAPOLIS

# SERRAN NEWS

AN APOSTOLATE CALLED TO LIFT UP THE GROWING CHURCH

## An Ode to Father Pedersen

By Norma Swanson

The greatest gift a Serra Club can have is a steadfast, enthusiastic, prayerful "warrior type" Chaplain. One who realizes the importance of our mission to promote vocations and tactfully provides the powerful support we need. How blessed we have been to have Fr. Bryan Pedersen. For more than 10 years, he has shared his extensive knowledge of the Church's history and beliefs with us, making us proud of our faith and eager to invite young men and women to follow him as a Priest or Consecrated Religious. In those 10 years, Father has offered monthly Masses for us preceding a lunch meeting, traveling from his parish of Sacred Heart in Robbinsdale to Holy Cross parish in Northeast Minneapolis close to our meeting place... an immeasurable gift to us.

Of all our nine chaplains, only Msgr. P. W. Coates has served our Club for a longer time than Father Pedersen. He has been the only chaplain several of our members have ever known and he will be greatly missed. Thank you seems inadequate, yet we need to



express how grateful we are for his years of service, concern, and the abundant knowledge shared with us.

He will always be a welcome guest at any Serra function, and we would be proud to have him visit our Club anytime he has a free moment.

May Father Bryan's priesthood continue to be blessed and may his health and happiness keep him young until he reaches the ripe old age of retirement.

Blessings always to our Chaplain!

— The entire Serra Club of North-Minneapolis

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### August - Phantom Garage Sale

**Aug. 4 - Feast of St. John Vianney Day of Prayer for our Serra Chaplains** (see pg. 6)

**Aug. 11 - Lunch Meeting** 12:15 p.m. @ Jax Café.

**Aug. 11 - Holy Hour for Vocations** 7 p.m. @ St. Vincent de Paul, Brooklyn Park

**Aug. 18 - Board Meeting** 8:45 a.m. @ St. Charles Borromeo, Doran Hall

**Aug. 25 - Mass @ Immaculate Conception** ??

**Sep. 8 - Lunch Meeting** 12:15 p.m. @ Jax Café. Speaker: TBD

**Sep. 8 - Holy Hour for Vocations** 7 p.m. @ St. Patrick, Edina

**Sep. 15 - Board Meeting** 8:45 a.m. @ St. Charles Borromeo, Doran Hall

**Sep. 26-27 - Priesthood Sunday**

**Sep. 29 - Miriam Dinner & Mass** 5 p.m. @ Holy Cross. Serrans to serve.

**Nov. 20-22 - Annual North Central Region Conference & Retreat** @ Christ the King Retreat Center, Archbishop Hebda Retreat Master. Waiting list for reservations.

District 7

Club #418



# We're In Improvising Mode

## President's Message

By Mikki Gottwalt

Greetings to all North-Minneapolis Serrans!

I thought by this time we would be meeting together, enjoying having lunch and sharing new ideas to support those who serve our spiritual needs and pray together to achieve this. However, here we are, still in improvising mode! The Board has continued to meet, observing sanitizing and required distancing.

We are approaching that time of year when we "host" our annual Phantom Garage Sale. Please be as generous as possible. Remember all the hard work we are saving ourselves! The elbow grease we save can be used to reach in our pockets and dig deep.



Sadly, Jax remains closed for lunch. Since we are experiencing separation for now, I ask that we all spend time each day praying for each other and for those we support in their vocation as priests and religious. Please join me in praying the following prayer.

### VOCATION PRAYER

God our Father, inspire  
Those to whom you call to  
Priesthood, consecrated life and the diaconate  
To courageously follow Your will.  
Send workers into Your great harvest  
So that the Gospel is preached,  
The poor are served with love,  
The suffering are comforted  
And Your people are strengthened  
By the sacraments.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Continuing this journey together,

Mikki Gottwalt, President

## CLUB OFFICERS 2020-2021

- Chaplain - Fr. James Peterson  
763-788-9062 jpeterson@immac-church.org
- President - Mikki Gottwalt  
612-669-6050 mikki.gottwalt@gmail.com
- President Elect - Ken Cobian  
612-789-2179 kscobian@msn.com
- Secretary - Mary Szydluk 763-561-2742  
mszydluk@usfamily.net
- Treasurer - David Loomis  
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- Communications
  - Judy Makowske 612-781-1163  
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  - Norma Swanson 763-571-3288  
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- Vocations
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  - John Lachna 763-561-7125  
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- Programs
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  - Jo Lohnes 763-757-2990  
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  - Marilyn Zappia 651-415-1549  
marilyn.zap@comcast.net
- Membership
  - Bonnie Conroy 651-633-6651  
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  - Denis Madden 651-633-7157  
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- Trustees
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mafrank09@gmail.com
  - Ed Lohnes 763-757-2990  
elohnesjr@yahoo.com
  - Vickie Osborne 651-484-2794  
vlozz@comcast.net
- Serra Foundation Rep - Art Popehn  
763-559-9438 popehn@msn.com
- District Governor - Larry Gillespie  
651-253-2250 larryg@usfamily.net



# Saint Junipero Serra Celebration

By Judy Makowske

Celebrating our Patron is an annual affair for the six Serra Clubs in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Undaunted by the Covid-19 virus, well over 150 Serrans and friends gathered on July 1 at the Cathedral of St. Paul to celebrate Mass for the Feast Day of Saint Junipero Serra. The custom of coming together originated in 2004 when Seminarian (now Father) Allan Paul Eilen, Norma Swanson, and I (Judy Makowske) put together what we hoped would be the first "annual" Serra Feast Day Celebration.

Over the years, Serra's Feast has incorporated other celebrations — such as a visit of the Traveling Monstrance blessed by Pope St. John Paul II, and another year as an opportunity to recognize and thank Serra Chaplains for their prayerful guidance and leadership. In the last few years, an additional cause for festivities marking the Serra feast day is that it coincides with the ordination anniversary of Archbishop Bernard Hebda, our modern-day missionary. We are grateful for his priesthood and for celebrating Mass for us in honor of St. Serra. At the end of Mass, those present in the Cathedral were blessed with the relic of our patron saint.

A few thank you's are in order for keeping the Feast Day celebration alive. The St. Paul Serra Club made the arrangements, reserving the Cathedral and putting all the pieces in place, issuing invitations and sending out notices. Many thanks are due to Ken and Julie Dines who truly shepherded the celebration planning along with Deacon Steven Koop and other Serrans from their club. Also noteworthy is the grace and help of the Cathedral Rector, Fr. John Ubel. Our thanks to all who made the day special by their participation.

Following Mass, Richard Arians, the New USA Council President, installed Larry Gillespie as our District 7 Governor. He also presented two Region 8 "Face of Serra" Awards for Cy Laurent and Dave Power. Additional awards were given for the Best Serra USA Newsletter, to Serra Club of North-Minneapolis and Missionaries of Saint Serra Award for increased membership to the Twin Cities SW Metro Serra Club. A beautiful presentation from Sister Anna Mary Swanson of the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus capped off the evening. (See article on page 7.)



**Above left:** Larry Gillespie was joined by Richard Arians, Serra USA Council President, and Jerry Biese, North Central Region Director, after receiving the District Governor pin from Judy Makowske, past Governor. **Top right:** Archbishop Hebda blessed attendees with a St. Serra relic. **Below right:** Norma Swanson accepted an award honoring our Serra Club's newsletter.



Photos by Richard L. Graner



# Phantom Garage Sale Looms

By Norma Swanson

Our Phantom Garage Sale is in full swing despite the fact that we are not able to meet and allow easy ghostly effort for you to contribute your 'old paper items,' particularly those with pictures of Benjamin Franklin, Ulysses S. Grant, Andrew Jackson and so forth \$ \$ \$ \$.

Checks can be made out to Serra Club of North-Minneapolis. Get in the "Spirit" and whisk off your contributions to our awesome Treasurer:  
David Loomis  
3034 McKinley St. NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418



## Rite of Candidacy

By MaryAnne Frank



Photo by James Coleman

An exciting moment to share in the growth of the Church: The Rite of Candidacy! New to me and perhaps to you, but not to the Church, the Admission to Candidacy Rite offers the candidates for ordination the opportunity to publicly express their intention to receive ordination as a Priest. The 'petitioner'/seminarian has first received the institutions of Reader and Acolyte and as they seek to receive Orders, they enter into a formal Rite to express their intentions.

On Sunday, August 2, St. Charles Borromeo Church will host 15 young men and their families as the St. Paul Seminary Theology I seminarians formally and publically declare their intention to respond to God's call for them to serve the Church. Our prayers will be with them as they "begin their preparation as a candidate for ordination to the priesthood!"

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## Call to Holiness

By MaryAnne Frank

Talk about a clarion call to holiness! Our lives are being ordered by government edict: social distancing; wearing masks; limited or no attendance of liturgies in church; fears and concerns about our health risks; anarchy and protests in the streets; arsonists targeting Churches — I could go on and on, but I won't. Distractions all! The lists above are events that should be driving us to our knees! We are living in a world-gone crazy, but can witness to God's love for us. Now as never before, we have the opportunity to share our faith, intensify our prayer life, and remember that our call to faith never included a passive life in a rocking chair.



Photo by Naassom Azevedo



# Ever Forward... Yet Looking Back

*A little history of our Club now and then. Take a look at a few highlights from our past newsletters.*

By Judy Makowske

## 25 Years Ago - 1995

- A garage sale was advertised for August at the Feyereisen home.
- Our Chaplain, Fr. James Burns gathered vocation narratives from priests and religious for a booklet which we titled "Who Me?"
- President's Message by LeRoy Piché included information on the Serra International Convention in Genoa, Italy, attended by eight of our club members.



Photo by Chris Lawton

He wrote, "the important message we all experienced was the commonality of our goals as Serrans...as the convention concluded, we went to Rome for an audience with the Holy Father (JP II). His words were of encouragement and appreciation for the work of Serra. His admonition to us was,

*'Prove to everyone, with clarity and without compromise, your sincere adherence to Christ. Prove at home, at work, in your associations, that the message of Jesus forms real men and women, capable of coping serenely with the harshness of daily life. Be available to contribute with all your strength to the construction of a civil society more worthy of man. Prove in your behavior that, with the grace of God, it is possible to put into practice in the modern world the "Sermon on the Mount" and the "Beatitudes", with all the radicalism they involve.'*

LeRoy concluded by writing, "Maybe we should revisit those words every now and then with a

prayer that the Holy Spirit guide our resolve 'to be available and contribute to a more worthy society.' The Serran movement can be the instrument."

- Seminary Visits Program - Roger Carr, vocations vice president, along with Serra Chaplain, Fr. James Burns, and George Merriam met with Fr. John Ubel, co-director of the Vocations Office for the Archdiocese. Fr. Ubel expressed a desire to change the format of our seminary visits to put the emphasis on vocations. Also, the recommendation was explored to have the young women visit with sisters from local religious orders while the young men visit with priests and brothers at the seminary.

## 15 Years Ago - 2005

Our "Walk With Me Novice" made her First Profession of Vows on the Feast of the Transfiguration, August 6, 2005 at St. Agnes Church. Sr. Maria Stella Whittier received her new habit, scapular, and veil as she made vows with Sisters in Jesus the Lord. She is living her vocational call in Russia. Our prayers continue to be with her.



# A Time of Thanks: A Day of Prayer for Our Chaplains

By Judy Makowske

In our 45-year history as Serra Club of North-Minneapolis, we have been blessed with the guidance of nine chaplains. All of them deserve our prayer support and thanks for the many ways they have inserted their love of Jesus and His Church and most especially helping us live our vocation to holiness while supporting and working for vocations.

As our thanks, North-Minneapolis Serrans will use this Feast Day of St. John Vianney, Aug 4, to offer prayers by remembrance at Mass, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, rosaries, and Prayerful Good Works for the priests who have been our chaplains. We are grateful!

Our longest serving chaplain was pastor of Ascension Parish, **Msgr. Patrick Coates**, now deceased, who provided us with a wealth of ideas and programs in our early years from 1976 to 1991. Our second longest, and most recent, chaplain is **Fr. Bryan Pedersen**, pastor of Sacred Heart in Robbinsdale, who has guided us with spiritual direction and inspirational homilies at monthly Masses, prior to our meetings since 2009.

Noteworthy, among other chaplains, are pastor of St. Maron, **Fr. (now Chorbishop) Sharbel Maroun**, who introduced our Serra Club to the Maronite Rite of the Catholic Church and **Fr. James Burns**, a parochial vicar at St. Charles Borromeo, who is now the President of St. Mary's University in Winona, where he is actively working to promote a culture of vocations on campus. Another chaplain, at the time pastor of St. Raphael in Crystal, **Fr. Mark Juettner**, celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood last year at the Parish of St. George in Long Lake where

he has been the pastor for the past 5 years.

Two other chaplains who willingly gave us their love and service are **Fr. José Gutierrez**, and **Fr. Michael Monogue**. Fr. José is now retired and living at the Byrne Residence. Was it he who encouraged us to publish the Prayer Folders in Spanish? And, Fr. Michael was recently written up in the *Catholic Spirit* for his ministry at United Hospital and Children's Minnesota-St. Paul Hospital. He was quoted, "I want to help the archdiocese do what it can do, and the Church to do what it can do to continue to (ad)minister the sacraments."

Moving into the new Serra Year of 2020/2021, we welcome our new Serra Chaplain, **Fr. James Peterson**, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Columbia Heights. We look forward to praying with him, working with him, and learning from him. God bless our chaplains, now and forever! Amen.

thank  
you!

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## Membership Memo

By MaryAnne Frank

After three years of serving as VP of Membership, I am turning the reins over to Bonnie Conroy and Denis Madden. Denis and Bonnie

are bringing a renewed vigor and energy to their membership roles. I know that our Club is in good hands as our new leaders step up

to accept the responsibility of furthering the mission of Serra. Please join them as we strive to increase our Club's membership.



# The Handmaids: Fostering Religious Vocations

By Judy Makowske

A special program featuring Sr. Anna Mary Swanson of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was our bonus after-Mass gift on the July 1 Feast of St. Junipero Serra. Deacon Steven Koop of the St. Paul Serra Club arranged for the presentation on "How the 'Handmaids' Foster Women's Religious Vocations."

After introducing Sister Veronica and Sister Cecilia who accompanied her, Sister Anna Mary spoke about the charism of the Handmaids, a relatively new order of vibrant young women who are attracting new members to consecrated life and service to the Church. She shared the wonderful information that they will be opening a house in Hopkins in our Archdiocese. The New Ulm Diocese is home to their Motherhouse. The Handmaids also have a group of sisters serving in the Duluth Diocese.

Sister Anna Mary indicated that lovingly and faithfully living their vocation is one of the best ways to encourage new religious vocations. She also indicated that the opportunity to visit with young women is not about recruitment, but rather about seeking a normal, natural relationship where there can be an exchange of faith and interests and opportunity to dispel fears of a new and changed way of life. In the end, vocations are a gift from God, so helping young women learn to pray is paramount.



Photo by Richard L. Graner

Sister Anna Mary Swanson of the Handmaids inspired her Serran audience during her presentation during our St. Serra celebration.

Sister ended her presentation with a quote from Pope Benedict who addressed a question of declining vocations when he visited the United States in 2008: "To the extent that we teach young people to pray, and to pray well, we will be cooperating with God's call. Programs, plans and projects have their place; but the discernment of a vocation is above all the fruit of an intimate dialogue between the Lord and His disciples. Young people, if they know how to pray, can be

trusted to know what to do with God's call."

After hearing Sister's presentation, my "take" is that we Serrans need to continue on our knees and on our beads trusting that God is hearing our plea, our prayers and our willingness to walk with men and women as they discern God's call. The absence of programs/projects during this "Covid climate" gives us all more time to concentrate on our No. 1 priority — prayer!



## In Memoriam: Fr. Kunnel

Reverend Mathai Thomas Kunnel, 60, passed from this earthly life to eternal rest on June 24, 2020. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 29, 2020 at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines.

Fr. Tom was born in Kottayam, India, one of seven children. At the age of 15, Fr. Tom traveled 4,000 miles to Ranchi, India to enter the seminary. He was ordained a priest of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis, Province of India, in 1988. Father Tom served in six areas throughout India. He gave retreats for Saint Teresa of Calcutta and her Missionary of Charity community.

In December 2001, the Superior of his religious community sent Father Kunnel to the United States to serve as a missionary in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. He served three parish communities between 2002 and 2011: Parochial Vicar at Epiphany, Coon Rapids and St. John the Baptist, New Brighton and Pastor of Immaculate Conception in Columbia Heights. Soon after his arrival in the Twin Cities, he met Bishop Richard Pates, then an Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Their friendship would eventually lead Father Tom to the Diocese of Des Moines in 2011.

Father Tom will be remembered for his courageous and joyful spirit, as well as for the support and friendship he provided to many and for the absolute dedication that he gave to his priesthood and people of God. *Information from his obituary in the Des Moines Register.*

## Prayer Requests

Prayers are needed for our fellow Serrans: Fran Feyereisen, Ed and Jo Lohnes, Dorothy Pearson, Greg Prom, Eileen Spano, and Joe Spano. We continue to pray for Deacon Brian Fischer, our "Walk With Me" seminarian.



## Serra Regional Retreat

Save the Date:

The Serra Regional Retreat will be held Nov. 20-22, led by Archbishop Bernard Hebda with a focus on "Spiritual

Insights of St. Teresa of Calcutta for Missionary Disciples" (That's Us - Serrans!)



Photo by Richard L. Graner

Mother Teresa, one of the great saints of the 20th century, required her Missionaries of Charity to spend three days each year reflecting on these themes:

- Loving Trust
- Total Surrender, and
- Cheerfulness.

Her insights have applicability not only for her Sisters, but also for all of us who are called to be missionary disciples, no matter our walk of life. In the course of this retreat, we will reflect on how our Church can be strengthened, how we can be renewed, and how the mission of Serra International can be advanced by a renewed commitment to growth in these three areas.

This retreat is open to non-Serrans after Sept.

1. Put your name on the waiting list now before you miss out on this great Serran spiritual benefit! Call King's House at 763-682-1394. Retreat deposit is \$30.

## Hear Ye, Hear Ye

There is a fresh energy and renewed commitment that is emanating from our Board. A Task Team was appointed by President Mikki Gottwalt: Norma Swanson, Denny Madden, Jo Lohnes, Ken Cobian and MaryAnne Frank along with the assist of Treasurer, David Loomis were able to review and update the Bylaws. They were presented and accepted by the Board and will soon be presented for approval of all members.

## ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

**MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS****~ AUGUST 2020 ~**

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
For subsequent months or extra copies call or write:	Frank Renshaw 2450 Merrimac Lane N Plymouth MN 55447-2118	Phone: 763-473-4096 Email frenshaw@hnoj.org				<b>1 POPE FRANCIS</b>
<b>2. YOUR PASTOR</b>	<b>3 REV. ADAM TOKASHIKI PES</b> ORD 1992	<b>4 REV. ROLF RUSSELL TOLLEFSON</b> ORD 2001	<b>5 REV. JON BENNET TRAN</b> ORD 2008	<b>6 REV. TIM TRAN</b> ORD 2020	<b>7 REV. JAMES-PETER MICHAEL TARES OP</b> ORD 2017	<b>8 REV. FRANCISCO TRAVERSO-FELICIANO SEMV</b> ORD 2018
<b>9 REV. PAUL CULLIGAN TREACY</b> ORD 2006	<b>10 REV. JOHN LAVEDAN UBEL</b> ORD 1989	<b>11 REV. STEPHEN DONALD ULRIC</b> ORD 1982	<b>12 REV. MARK JOHN UNDERDAHL</b> ORD 1996	<b>13 REV. VICTOR CORTEZ VALENCIA</b> ORD 1993	<b>14 REV. ROBERT LELAND VALIT</b> ORD 1961	<b>15 REV. JAMES(JIM) VAN DORN OFM CONV.</b> ORD 1967
<b>16 REV. MICHAEL VAN SLOAN</b> ORD 1995	<b>17 REV. NICHOLAS WILLIAM VANDENBROEKE</b> ORD 2012	<b>18 REV. JON DAVID VANDER PLOEG</b> ORD 2001	<b>19 REV. ANTHONY GERALD VANDERLOOP</b> ORD 2003	<b>20 REV. CHAD RICHARD VANHOOSE</b> ORD 2017	<b>21 REV. RICHARD R VILLANO</b> ORD 1958	<b>22 REV. ALPHONSE TRI VU CRM</b> ORD 2012
<b>23 REV. MINH XUAN VU</b> ORD 1994	<b>24 REV. JOSEPH-QUOC THIEN VUONG</b> ORD 2007	<b>25 REV. THOMAS JOSEPH WALKER</b> ORD 1990	<b>26 REV. FRANK JOSEPH WAMPACH</b> ORD 1984	<b>27 REV. PETER WANG</b> ORD 1957	<b>28 REV. CYPRIAN VICTOR WEAVER OSB</b> ORD 1972	<b>29 REV. MARK HOPKINS WEHMANN</b> ORD 1972
<b>30 REV. GREGORY THOMAS JOHN WELCH</b> ORD 1967	<b>31 ABP. BERNARD HEBDA BP. ANDREW COZZENS</b>					

**WILL YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?****PRAYER SUGGESTIONS**

Lord Jesus Christ, You ordained the apostles priests at the Last Supper to continue the mission of mercy to the end time. We believe that every Catholic priest traces his ordination to that first ordination on Holy Thursday night. We know how much You expect of Your priests, and we also know how weak and human they are. Inspire us, dear Jesus, to pray and sacrifice for Your priests, that by their faithfulness to You in this life they may bring countless souls to You in the life to come. Mary, mother of priests, pray for priests that they may love your Divine Son, even as you did unreservedly, all the days of their lives. Amen.

(From Fr. John Hardon's Catholic Prayer Book)



## Serra Club of North-Minneapolis Board Meeting – 7.21.2020

**Officers Present:** Jean Buchmann, Ken Cobian, Bonnie Conroy, MaryAnne Frank, Larry Gillespie, Mikki Gottwalt, John Lacina, Jo Lohnes, Denis Madden, Judy Makowske, Norma Swanson, Mary Szydluk, Marilyn Zappia. **Absent:** Donna Engelmeyer, David Loomis.

**Minutes** of the 6/16 meeting were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion (K.Cobian), Second (M.Frank) Approved as presented.

**President's Items - M. Gottwalt:** Following the updating by the Task Force formed at the June 2020 Board in order that the by-laws comply with those of Serra International, the amended by-laws were approved and accepted: Motion (M. Frank), Second (N. Swanson). • Serrans were urged to register for the Nov. 20-22 Retreat with Archbishop Hebda although they will now be on a waiting list. Suggested that the conferences be made available on Zoom. • Because next year's International Serra convention will be in Toronto, Serrans were urged seriously to consider attending. • On July 28, the monthly Mass for No-Mpls. Serrans will be concelebrated at 11:30 am at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Robbinsdale by Fr. Bryan Pedersen and Fr. James Peterson, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Columbia Heights. Fr. Pedersen has served as our Chaplain for 10 years and is stepping down now. It was moved: Motion (M. Zappia), Second (K. Cobian) that a monetary gift in appreciation for Fr. Pedersen's great prayer and work for us, be presented following the Mass, accompanied then by our personal notes of prayers and good wishes. It's hoped that, with Archbishop Hebda's approval, Fr. James Peterson will be our new Chaplain.

**Past President's Items - L. Gillespie:** Gratitude to M. Gottwalt for stepping in to the position of president; for D. Loomis's taking charge of straightening our relationship with the IRS; and for the work of the Task Force in updating the by-laws of North-Minneapolis Serra. • He strongly urges our Serrans to attend the International Convention in Toronto next summer.

**Vocations Vice Presidents' Items - J. Lacina and D. Engelmeyer:** What ways can we use to invite the parents of "bus" students into Serra? Information attached to a permission slip, then to be removed and kept? • Because of the virus, 4 schools couldn't have the experience of glimpsing the daily routine of seminaries or convents last spring. How shall we plan ahead? John will be contacting the Office of Vocations, seminaries and religious houses as well as the schools. • Through her contacts with the persons in charge in the 30 parishes of our area, Engelmeyer is sending to the Newman Connection the names of Catholic college students who will be on the campuses this fall.

**Programs Vice Presidents - M. Zappia, J. Buchmann & J. Lohnes:** To encourage attendance at the Mass at Sacred Heart Church on July 28, the roster will be called. Jax will not serve lunch to gatherings like Serra until at least mid-August. • Zoom meeting July 29-Talk by Father Andrie on St. Thérèse. • Phantom Garage sale checks, written to Serra Club of North-Minneapolis, send to Marilyn Zappia, 2613 Rosetown Court, Roseville, MN 55113.

**Membership Vice-Presidents - D. Madden & B. Conroy:** Motion (M.Frank), Second (J. Lohnes) to accept the adjustment of spousal dues to \$75 per year to comply with Serra International's 50% of the full amount. Passed. Madden is analyzing Roster data. • Memorials are a suitable gift for many occasions, for the recipient receives the benefit of worldwide Serran prayers and the monthly local Masses. Memorial cards are available at the luncheon meetings. • Report on a recent Zoom meeting addressing recruiting and engaging new members; involving non Serrans in our prayer for vocations.

**Communications Vice Presidents-J. Makowske and N. Swanson:** Makowske gave the Board members the opportunity to commit to a day each month (31 Club) for vocations to priestly and religious life, reminding them of a Serra tradition. • Motion (M. Frank), Second (J. Lohnes) that the gift card for First Place in Newsletter quality won this year from Serra USA be given to our Walk With Me seminarian, Deacon Brian Fischer. Passed. • August 4, the Feast of St. John Vianney, is a day to pray for all our past Chaplains. Our members will all be notified with this request. • Makowske is working on recruiting members from the Hispanic parishioners in our area.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 10:15 a.m. Respectfully submitted, Mary Szydluk, Secretary



# Serra Club of Dubuque May 2021

P.O. Box 461 • Dubuque, IA 52004-0461

## Upcoming Events

### Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

12:00 Noon: Mass for Vocations at St. Patrick Church

### Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

12:00 Noon: Serra Club of Dubuque Board Meeting via Zoom

### Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

7:00 AM: Morning Prayer and Mass with the seminarians at St. Columbkille Church

7:30: First Friday Mass at St. Raphael Cathedral

### Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

11:00 AM: Serra Meets Webinar

Here is the link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95992451924?pwd=RFdZZi9ybDk0VVIKVihyYXNINkpkUT09>

Passcode: 853558

### Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

7:00 AM: Morning Prayer and Mass with the seminarians at St. Columbkille Church

### Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

7:45 AM: Mass for vocations at St. Anthony Church

### Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

7:00 AM: Morning Prayer and Mass with the seminarians at St. Columbkille Church

### Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

12:00 Noon: Rosary and Monthly Meeting St. Raphael Cathedral Center (no lunch)

Speaker: Fr. John Haugen

Topic: His vocation calling and his ministry to five different parishes

## President's Message

The month of May is a special time for Serrans when the young men we have prayed for and have followed through formation are being ordained. During the month of May, four seminarians will be ordained. On the evening of Friday, May 28, Ben Valentine will be ordained a transitional deacon. On Saturday, May 29, Deacons Jacob Dunne, Kyle Tietz and Martin Coolidge will be ordained as priests. The assignments of priests have been announced and are listed below in the quotes taken from the Archdiocese of Dubuque website.



"After Deacon Jacob Dunne is ordained a priest, he will be assigned as Associate Pastor of Epiphany Parish in Mason City, and Sacred Heart Parish in Manly."

"After Deacon Kyle Tietz is ordained a priest, he will be assigned as Associate Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Marshalltown."

After Deacon Martin Coolidge is ordained a priest, he will be assigned as Associate Pastor of the Cathedral of St. Raphael Parish in Dubuque, and St. Patrick Parish in Dubuque, with chaplaincy duties, together with Father Andy Upah, at Holy Family Catholic Schools in Dubuque."

Attendance at the Masses of Ordination are by invitation only, but they will be livestreamed at [www.dbqarch.org/live-broadcasts](http://www.dbqarch.org/live-broadcasts). You can also view other assignments of priests by going to the archdiocesan website and clicking on "Announcements."

We Serrans are thankful for the commitment to the priesthood that these young men have made. In this newsletter is a prayer for priests by John J. Cardinal Carberry, who was made a cardinal by Pope Paul VI in 1969 and is entombed in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. Let us keep these men in our prayers and thank God for their vocations.

Our monthly meeting will be at the Cathedral Center on Wednesday, May 26, beginning with the rosary at 12:00 noon. Fr. John Haugen will speak on his vocation and his experience of serving five parishes.

One more thing to note is that the January term at Loras College has been replaced by a May term this year. The seminarians will be enrolled in a single course for an intense, three-week session, so the Friday morning Masses will continue as noted in the calendar in this newsletter.

*Siempre Adelante!*

Always Forward!

Chuck Olson

Phone: 563-590-3143

E-mail: [cjolson@mchsi.com](mailto:cjolson@mchsi.com)

**SERRA** – Catholic laity dedicated to the encouragement of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, to further Catholicism by encouraging its members to fulfill their Christian vocation, through fellowship and education

9M



## **Dubuque Area Serra Club Board Meeting – Meeting Minutes from April 7, 2021**

**Present:** John Freund, Joyce Honkamp, Karen Michels, Chuck Olson, Pat O'Neill, Mark Singsank, Len Uhal, Jim Unsen    **Absent:** Dr. Mike Ward

President Chuck Olson called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

**Approval of minutes from March 3, 2021 board meeting:** Approved as written.

**President's Report** – Chuck Olson: Serra USA is hosting club presidents from around the country for quarterly roundtable discussions to share ideas. Chuck shared several of the ideas with the board.

**Treasurer's Report** – Jim Unsen: As of March 31, the Serra account has \$9,824.82. Jim will discuss with Tom Oglesby the possibility of promoting our Serra Club through the newsletter or other means available through Aquinas Communications.

**Program Committee** – Joyce Honkamp: Archdiocesan seminarians Hung Le and Thiet Hoang are the featured speakers for the April 28 meeting at the Cathedral Center. The May program speaker will be Fr. John Haugen. Jim Unsen will contact Terry Friedman to see if he has any feedback to indicate what kind of attendance we can expect at the Sisters' Picnic. Anyone with ideas for program speakers—please contact Joyce Honkamp: Email – [honkamp@mchsi.com](mailto:honkamp@mchsi.com) or phone number: 563-582-3908.

**Vocations Committee** – Dr. Mike Ward: No Report

**Communications Committee** – Len Uhal: Any other ideas for expanding the monthly club newsletter are welcome, please contact Len at [luhal@dwci.edu](mailto:luhal@dwci.edu) or 563-580-8413.

**Membership Committee** – Karen Michels: Jennifer Porter is a new member. Welcome Jennifer! The annual banquet is scheduled for Sunday, November 7. Chuck will contact Richard Arians, President of Serra USA, to see if he will be the main speaker. The board needs to establish a policy regarding the criteria for selecting which deceased persons should be honored at the banquet. There seems to be a willingness to honor some who were Serrans for many years but were not active members for the last few years of their lives.

**Other Business:** Several of the board officer positions are open for the next club year. If you would like to join this esteemed group, please contact incoming president Jim Unsen at [junsen6901@aol.com](mailto:junsen6901@aol.com) or 563-663-0291 or contact current president Chuck Olson at [cjolson@mchsi.com](mailto:cjolson@mchsi.com) or 563-590-3143.

The next board meeting is Wednesday, May 5, 2021.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Mark Singsank, Secretary

### **Annual Serra Picnic for Religious Sisters**

**June 16, 2021**

**Eagle Point Park  
5:00 PM – Social**

**6:00 PM – Meal Served**



Please remember the Serra Club of Dubuque in your will and support Serra activities for years to come.

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## **Dubuque Area Vocation Association – DAVA Notes**

Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family, Dubuque, Iowa

By Sister Janet May, OSF



The Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque were founded by Mother Xavier Termehr in 1864 in Herford, Germany, where the needs of many homeless and hungry children touched her heart and conscience. Here she and her sisters staffed an orphanage and nursed the elderly who were homebound. The Sisters also ministered as nurses on the battlefields of the Austro-Prussian and Franco-Prussian Wars.

In 1875 a new law ordered religious communities not involved in hospital work to either disband or emigrate. At that time, we were a community of 29 members and each one desired to remain a religious community, even though this meant exile from their native land. Fortunately, a priest from Iowa who had visited the sisters invited them to Iowa City. We arrived September 8, 1875. Here we established an orphanage and nursed the sick. In 1878 Bishop Hennessy invited us to Dubuque to open a German Catholic orphanage. Mother Xavier and her sisters responded to this need by moving our community to Dubuque. Once we became proficient in speaking English our services as teachers were requested by an ever-growing number of pastors and bishops. By 1915 we were teaching in 44 schools. We also staffed a home for elderly (St. Francis Home, now Stonehill Care Center) and a boarding school for working women (Mary of the Angels). In 1930 in the midst of the Great Depression, we established Briar Cliff College (now University) in Sioux City. In the 1930's they also opened a school in Chicago for African American children, and a mission in China. Through the years other international missions followed in Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador, Poland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Our community also operated Xavier Hospital in Dubuque and two other hospitals through the years.

Today our community sponsors Shalom Spirituality Center and maintains a Franciscan influence in Stonehill Communities, Briar Cliff University, Mercy Hospital and Alverno Apartments. Sisters continue to serve as educators, pastoral associates, spiritual directors, social workers, administrators, mental health counselors, social justice advocates, and volunteers for many religious and civic organizations.

Our mission statement guides our work and life: "Rooted in the Gospel and in the Spirit of Francis and Clare the Sisters of St. Francis live in right relationship with all creation."

Presently we commit ourselves to ongoing conversion as we:

- Deepen our relationship with Mother Earth and Sister Water;
- Stand with persons who are poor;
- Make peace and practice nonviolence.

This commitment finds us involved in addressing the current needs of the day: the climate crisis, systemic racism, human trafficking, immigration reform, and the hunger for spirituality in our world.

Presently we minister in 10 states and in Honduras, St. Lucia and Canada. We number 181 perpetually professed sisters, one temporary professed, Sr. Reyna Helen Badillo Salazar who works as a Hispanic Outreach Coordinator in Okolona, MS, and one canonical novice, Sr. Katy Meylin Orellana Denos who presently lives at our Motherhouse in Dubuque and attends classes at Divine Word College. We also have 165 lay associates (141 in the United States and 24 in Central America).

We invite others to join us in our prayer and outreach of service to the larger world. For further information: check out our website: [www.osfdbq.org](http://www.osfdbq.org) or email us at [charism@osfdbq.org](mailto:charism@osfdbq.org).

*Sister Janet May is a member of the community's Charism team and serves as the contact for women discerning vowed membership in the community. You are encouraged to support and invite young single women to consider responding to a call to religious life. Sr. Janet is a member of DAVA.*



## **From the Desk of Fr. Jon Seda, Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Dubuque**

Along with the Serra Club, the Knights of Columbus are wonderful supporters of vocations. They give generous support to our seminarians so that they can buy toothpaste, which I am in favor of. They also support our annual Iowa seminarian convocation and Iowa recently ordained priests' convocation.

This year the KCs are giving a one-time grant of \$5,000 to the vocation directors of the four Iowa dioceses for a new initiative. We will have a gathering of about 20 priests from the four Iowa dioceses in July to spark ideas on how to encourage our brother priests to be more active in inviting young people to consider the priesthood and religious life.

Only 30% of priests have ever invited someone to consider the priesthood, even though Msgr. Rosetti's studies have shown that Catholic priests report the highest levels of happiness compared to other "careers." Studies also show that the invitation and encouragement of one's pastor is often key to someone beginning to think and pray about the priesthood. What if our state could get the number of priests engaged in invitations up to 40, or 60 or 80%? Wow!

I suspect one reason this does not happen more often is that it is not urgent. I was a pastor for 20 years and know that much of one's day is responding to what happens that day. Matthew Kelly has said the most important thing is usually not the most urgent thing. Vocation ministry by the whole Church, and especially our priests, is critically important. But it is not the most urgent so often does not happen.

I want to take this occasion to express my gratitude to the Serra Club of Dubuque for your actions and especially your ongoing prayers for vocation ministry. Sometimes I have a great candidate contact me out of the blue, and wonder how did that happen? Then I think of you and your intercessory prayers, and it makes sense. Yes, we need to do our part, but it is the Holy Spirit who does the heavy lifting.

Prayers + Invitations = more priests and religious to serve our beloved Church. Thank you.



### **Prayer for Newly Ordained Priests**

*O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear my humble prayers on behalf of Thy priests. Give them deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life. In their loneliness, comfort them. In their sorrows, strengthen them. In their frustrations, point out to them that they are needed by the Church; they are needed by souls; they are needed for the work of redemption.*

*O Loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your sons who are close to you because of their priestly ordination and because of the power which they have received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs them so much. Be their comfort, be their joy, be their strength, and especially help them to live and to defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy. Amen.*

----John J. Cardinal Carberry)

### **Annual Serra Picnic for Religious Sisters**

**June 16, 2021**

**Eagle Point Park  
5:00 PM – Social**

## 2022 Club Officer Training Slides

### Session #4: Membership & Communications



#### External Club Communications

- **Publicity**
  - Diocesan newspaper articles
  - Catholic Radio
  - Diocesan vocations websites
  - Club website
  - Sunday bulletins
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Instagram

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Session 4

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#### Legal Considerations (especially for websites)

- **Copyright pitfalls**
  - Not everything on the web is free!
  - Pictures and artwork may be copyrighted and require a fee to use.
  - Wikimedia Commons: online repository of free-use images
  - Diocesan website pics usually safe but check

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#### Communications

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

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**2022 Club Officer Training Slides**  
**Session #4: Membership & Communications**



**Closing Inspirational  
Reading and Prayer**

- Reading from *To Save a Thousand Souls*  
by Father Brett Brannen
  - p. 8 “**Priests Celebrate the Holy  
Sacrifice of the Mass**”
- Prayer

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