



The four seminarians who received awards, Jacob O'Meara, Peter Romens, Deacon Randy Skeate, and Sebastian Spencer posed with Grand Knight, Wally Wysopal and Serra Past President, Ken Cobian. Photo by Mark Eastham.

SERRA / KofC SEMINARIAN AWARDS

by Judy Makowske

The 28th Annual gathering to encourage, acknowledge, and honor young men from parishes in the North-Minneapolis Serra Club charter area on March 20th was filled with warm affirmation and joy in the blessings God has bestowed by his call to the priesthood of these seminarians. We were blessed to be in their company along with a number of priests from the archdiocese, as we prayed the rosary, enjoyed a good meal and conversation, and then heard the individual stories of receiving and responding to the Grace of God.

Jacob O'Meara, from St. Paul in Ham Lake, told of growing up in a Catholic family and entering college to pursue civil engineering and Catholic studies. He was captured by the beauty and depth of the Faith and on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception filled out his application for seminary.

Peter Romens, also from St. Paul, Ham Lake, admired his Dad who spent time in adoration and led the family in praying at home for seminarians. By that example, Peter grew his own prayer life, especially as a senior in college. He commented that he did not believe in being 51% of a saint, but needed to go "all in!"

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 8 – Lunch Meeting 12:15 pm
Church of St. William
Speaker: David Switala (SPO)

Apr 12 - Spring Leadership
Our Lady of Grace, Edina
8:30 am Mass - 2:30 pm
More Information on Page 8

Apr. 15 – Board Meeting 8:45 am
St. Charles Borromeo, Doran Hall

Apr. 22 – Membership Meeting 12:15 pm
Church of St. William
Speaker: Bishop Michael Izen

May 13 – Lunch Meeting 12:15 pm
Church of St. William
Speaker: Fr. James Bernard



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Tim Regan

THE MYSTERY of HOLY SATURDAY

Of all the elements of our faith, Jesus' Descent into Hell is perhaps the darkest, and the most impenetrable. What does it mean? How can God go into Hell, and why would he?

And yet, after Good Friday, we well know that Jesus is absent from us. The altar has been stripped and the Holy Eucharist has been removed to the place of repose. We remain. There is silence.

Pope Benedict, when he was a young professor of theology in Germany, produced a book titled Introduction to Christianity. Written in simple but elegant Ratzingerian prose, the book ultimately became one of the most impactful theological works of the twentieth century. Fr. Ratzinger seemed to focus particularly on the Descent into Hell as one of the most central aspects of our faith. How so? He says in the book that the "Mystery of Holy Saturday," the day on which God seems to be dead, reflects the central angst of our age. In one last gasp of despair, Jesus cries from the cross, "My God, my God, Why have you abandoned me?"

We know that there are times when Jesus seems to be absent, but He is in fact with us. Think of Jesus on the boat with His disciples when a monster storm rises up in the lake. His followers are in fear for their lives while Jesus sleeps. Or, consider the time when some of the disciples are walking to Emmaus after the crucifixion. They are almost inconsolable. They are discussing Jesus, but they do not recognize that He Himself is walking along with them on their way.

In this context of the Descent, Fr. Ratzinger says, "hell" does not refer to that place of eternal punishment from which there is no turning back. It refers, rather, to the "realm of the dead." Death is absolute, radical loneliness. It is the abyss of the loneliness of Man. Man's very being is to be with and for others. Death is utterly contrary to our being.

What, then, is the doctrine of Christ's "Descent into Hell?" It is this, says the future Pope Benedict:

"When Christ in his Passion strode through the gate of our final loneliness, he went down into the abyss of our abandonment. Where no voice can reach us any longer, there is he. Hell is thereby overcome, or, to be more accurate, death is overcome."

You see, my dear Serrans? This work that we are doing is worth the effort. God wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live.

So, keep up the good work on your journey to Holy Saturday.

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SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

PART ONE: THE JOY OF LENT

February 11, 2025



Thomas Cramer

Our Serra Club invited guest speaker, Thomas Cramer. He holds a Theology degree and an MBA from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. His home parish is Saint Raphael where he is a mission speaker sharing talks about spiritual growth and renewal. With Lent fast approaching, he asked this question:

Why do we need Lent?

by Thomas Cramer

Lent is a season, a time that is set aside, to remember and focus on change. We become holy first by releasing our grip on our own directing of our will. Put Jesus in the driver's seat. Change means leaving old habits, old ways of thinking, and old commitments that all hold us back from responding to the grace God gives us. God's grace must be given permission to change us. By submitting to Him, we tell ourselves God is trustworthy, and any change He initiates, we will allow to finish. Anything that is not God's direction for us is sin, and sin has fruits and consequences. When we release our grip on sin, our life no longer produces the fruit or consequences of sin. We need to recognize the absence of sin's fruits as a sign of health, life, and fulfillment.

Joy is a natural result of fulfilled expectations. When we allow God's Spirit to fill us and direct us, because we want Him to, who we become and who He intends for us to become sync up... and joy will well up within.

God is Love and He created us to love us. He loves us by helping us become like Him.

To transform means to leave the way we were, and arrive at being like Him, as loving as He is:

- not because he creates us to be sinful,
- not because he wants to punish us,
- not because we can earn His love by suffering.
- He created us to be Holy.
- He wants to celebrate with us.
- He wants His relationship to be based on loving obedience.

For this Lent, choose the sacrifice that will produce the greatest Joy, not the greatest suffering. Consider bearing no anger, forgiving all, become generous, saying "thank you Jesus" at least every 5 minutes.

"For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." Ho 6:6



PART TWO: DISCERNMENT

February 25, 2025

by Thomas Cramer

Discernment in General:

Discernment is the ability to perceive His presence, sift out the input from non-God sources, hear His words, understand the goals and details of His direction, and summarize and sequence the actions to be taken. Several helpful points are:

- God's input is peaceful. It may be forceful, but it never overwhelms or frightens.
- God's direction requires faith. He always leads you to where your reliance on Him grows.
- God's goal will always bring God the glory and humility to you. Virtues must prevail. You cannot buy your virtue. You must earn it.
- What is the aftermath? Who gets the glory?
- Does it bring you pleasure? Or does it bring you joy and peace beyond understanding?
- The advantage of Simplicity: simple life = easy to focus, mobility, less maintenance, perspective, less stress
- God's direction will not violate your state in life vows, if you have any.
- God's direction should not contradict any Scripture. Although, care must be given to applying single verses and clauses out of context.
- You must be free from the need to forgive. Whether you have something against someone or they have something against you, it doesn't matter, you must be reconciled with everyone all the time. *"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift."* (Mt 5:23-24 NIV) *"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."* (Mt 6:12 NIV). Frequent Confession is the key to staying in the State of Grace. Your discernment depends on it.
- If the issue is substantially life-changing, spending time before the Eucharist in Adoration can often make things clear.

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from previous page . . .

- Those with substantial depth in prayer should be consulted for life-changing decisions.
- When you start, write it down, but do not let the words assume the stature of scripture.

Obstacles to Prayer and Discernment:

- Lure of Science - looking for answers from technology, medicine, Ozempic, vaccines, even the transitional human
- Lure of Politics - human power vs. divine guidance
- Lure of Health - long life, augments
- Specificity: God's direction rarely lays out a great deal of detail or an extensive future horizon. God wants you to accompany Him as He carries out His plan. From our perspective, we may think it all depends on us alone. In hindsight, you will see that God sometimes has to orchestrate around you and your fear, foolish pride, or disobedience.
- Remember, it is the Journey that brings the growth, not the Destination. You will never see the result of your actions because God is working with generations of people on an individual basis. You will never know if smiling and loving that person in the car next to you at the stoplight will change his life, or his family's life, etc... However, always listening and not being distracted by yourself or the world around you, makes you more available for God's perfect plan.
- Expect distractions and downright harassment when you seek to deliberately focus on God. Expect distractions, but "swat" according to the size of the fly. Praise God in all things. Sometimes letting God be God and allowing yourself to just relax in His Love will be the most sacred time you can ever have.
- Several natural things can also inhibit prayer. Some say not to make any important decisions when you are Hungry, Angry, Lonely, or Tired (HALT).
- Dismiss accusations and fear.
- To obey God is to change everybody's history.
- The gifts of the Spirit are given for the building-up of the Body to encourage, warn, direct us, increase our faith, prophesy, inform us, teach us, and correct us.
- Be available, free of obstacles, then listen and receive.
- Discern the meaning and what to do with it. Test the intent.
- Ask for a confirmation "fleece."

Do Discerning in the State of Grace:

- Singular Discernment is different from discerning as a group.
- Be careful of the "celebrity by proximity" discernment. It does not give instant credibility.
- Be careful of borrowing the credibility of another group (by implication/membership not by effort).
- God isn't the only one talking.
- This is not group discernment for a group which needs a process. Not looking for what the group wants or for what those not involved want.
- Discernment starts with listening. [Parable of the different soils.]
- Discernment is turning down the background noise i.e. noise from the World, Flesh, and the Devil.

Satan will let us be distracted by anything other than God's voice. We should ignore:

- things that we cannot change
- things that will not change us
- things that appeal to our "entertainment" (things that take up time without giving value back)
- the temptations of the desert: food, glory and influence, authority like God

In Genesis 3, the devil set about the temptation of the first man. For at first he enticed his mind to consent to the eating of the forbidden fruit, saying (Genesis 3:1): *"Why hath God commanded you that you should not eat of every tree of paradise?"* Secondly, [he tempted him] to vainglory by saying: *"Your eyes shall be opened."* Thirdly, he led the temptation to the extreme height of pride, saying: *"You shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."*

Destiny

"No one can take you from the Father's hand."

"If God be for us, who can be against us."

The Kingdom of God is not political. It is a band of people obedient to God, loving as God does, working as we wait for our time of preparation to end. Love must move, bless, embrace, protect, and provide.

Reference: <https://cramer-institute.com/>

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS



Many hands make for light work and timely results. Many thanks to Bette Litchy for taking the lead and making the calls to remind/ensure that we have vigorous pray-ers as Seven Serrans for Vocation Directors in New Ulm, Minnesota and Helena, Montana.

For six years, our Serra Club members have committed one hour a day each week to hold in prayer these priests/Vocation Directors who meet, interview, and help young men and women who are discerning God's call in their lives. Their work is integrally tied with their discernment of the Holy Spirit's call; a prayerful, powerful, and sensitive judgment on their part. Our Seven Serran Prayer Partners act as cohorts in this very delicate and spiritual effort!

SEVEN SERRANS FOR:

Father Christopher Lebsock,
Helena, Montana

Monday	Theresa Lund
Tuesday	Donna Engelmeyer
Wednesday	Dee Madden
Thursday	Bonnie Conroy
Friday	Loretta Thielen
Saturday	Lorrie Morse
Sunday	Esther Guzik

**Fathers Brendan Rolling and
Associate, Father Tanner Thooft,**
New Ulm, Minnesota

Monday	Kay Cooley
Tuesday	Bette Litchy
Wednesday	Rita Ranallo
Thursday	Bonnie Conroy
Friday	Joe Spano
Saturday	Stephanie Percic, Kay Cooley
Sunday	Elizabeth Moldenhauer

RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER**Spring 8th Grade Vocations Visits**

by Mark Eastham

April is a beautiful month this year as we transition from Lent to the Triduum and ultimately Easter. Our first vocations visit will take place on the fifth Friday of Lent, April 11th. St. John Paul II (NE Minneapolis), Immaculate Conception (Columbia Heights), and the Way of the Shepherd Montessori (Blaine) are in store for a great trip. The girls will be visiting the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus in St. Paul and the boys will be visiting the Franciscan Brothers of Peace also in St. Paul. We will then all come back together for Mass at St. Mary's Chapel at the St. Paul Seminary. Following Mass, we will have a chance to hear discernment stories, have Q&A, and a short tour of the chapel from our own Deacon Alex Hall and Brother Didacus. Deacon Hall is our "Walk with Me Seminarian" and Brother Didacus is a current Franciscan Brother of Peace in his second year at the major seminary.

During the Easter season on April 24th, we will sponsor our second trip of Spring. St. John the Baptist (New Brighton), Sacred Heart (Robbinsdale), and St. John the Baptist Montessori (Excelsior) will join us. The girls will be visiting the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver in St. Paul. The Sisters were founded by Blessed Mary Theresa Ledóchowska of Austria in 1894. They are rooted in Ignatian spirituality, and from there, they branch into a uniquely Claverian way of following Christ. The girls will attend Mass at the mission house. Boys will start at the St. John Vianney Seminary with discernment stories, a history of SJV, and a tour of St. Thomas University. From there they will walk to SPS to have lunch, attend Mass, and hear discernment stories from major seminarians. Both trips wrap up by 1 pm and then all head back to their respective schools. We will again sponsor an essay writing contest following the trips for all schools with first and second place cash prizes for the boys and girls.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

FOUR EASY WAYS TO PROMOTE SERRA IN YOUR LOCAL PARISH



SERRA INTERNATIONAL

by Maureen Collins

ADD SERRA TO YOUR PARISH WEBSITE

Club member Jim McGuire, a parishioner at St. Raphael in Crystal, MN, talked to his pastor, Fr. Nick, about getting Serra listed on their website under the Ministries tab. Fr. Nick referred Jim to the parish Ministry Coordinator, who referred him to the Website Administrator. Jim sent her some copy and the Serra International logo. A very short time later, Serra was included on the St. Raphael's website. From their website's Ministry Home Page, you simply click on the Serra International logo and it brings you to Serra Club of North-Minneapolis page featuring a paragraph about St. Junipero, a history of our organization, a short description of Serra Club, and three bullet points listing the Serra mission. Club members Mary Szydlik and Jim McGuire's names, phone numbers, and email addresses are listed at the bottom of the page.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Serra was featured on all of our parish websites? Jim says it only took a few weeks from his initial request and that the hardest part was gathering the information to submit to the Website Administrator. We now have samples of those documents available that you can use if you are inspired to reach out to your parish.

SUBMIT A MONTHLY NOTICE TO YOUR BULLETIN PROMOTING OUR LUNCHEON MEETINGS

Consider submitting a monthly notice to your Parish Office Coordinator/Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor for inclusion in the last bulletin of the month listing the dates, time, location, and featured speakers for the Serra Club of North-Minneapolis meetings for the following month.

Include a short statement such as, "The mission of the Serra Club is to: foster and promote vocations to the Priesthood and to support priests in their sacred ministry; to encourage and affirm vocations to the Diaconate and Consecrated Religious Life; and to grow in our own personal holiness."

Club Member Judie Collodora has been successfully submitting Serra notices to the bulletin of her parish, Immaculate Conception.

Include your name, phone number, and email address for questions or to make luncheon reservations. Keep in mind that most parishes require a two-week or even a three-week lead time for bulletin submittals and plan accordingly.

SUBMIT FLYERS/EXTRA NOTICES FOR SPECIAL SERRA EVENTS TO YOUR BULLETIN

In addition to, or in lieu of, monthly notices you may want to submit separate notices promoting Serra special events, such as: our Club's April 22, 2025 Mass and Luncheon with Bishop Michael Izen; the Annual Priest vs Seminarian Basketball Tournament April 25, 2025; Serra Goes to the Movies – Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality a movie in local theatres from April 27-29, 2025; the Archdiocesan Diaconate Ordination (for Transitional Deacon Candidates on the pathway towards Priesthood) May 10, 2025; and the Presbyteral Ordination (Ordination to the Priesthood) May 31, 2025.

Be sure to include your name, phone number, and email address for questions, luncheon reservations, or more information. Again, most parishes require a two-to-three-week lead time for bulletin submittals.

SIGN-UP FELLOW PARISHIONERS FOR AN EASTER SPIRITUAL BOUQUET FOR YOUR PARISH PRIEST(S)

Our Club's Vocations Committee does a great job of promoting spiritual bouquets for our parish priests for Priesthood Sunday annually in September. If you haven't participated in the past, we strongly encourage you to do so!

The Easter season, especially Holy Week, is a very joyous but labor-intensive time for our priests. You might think about asking your fellow parishioners to sign a spiritual bouquet offering prayers for your priest(s) specifically for Holy Week. Your priest will be most grateful and blessed and you and your fellow parishioners will be blessed as well.

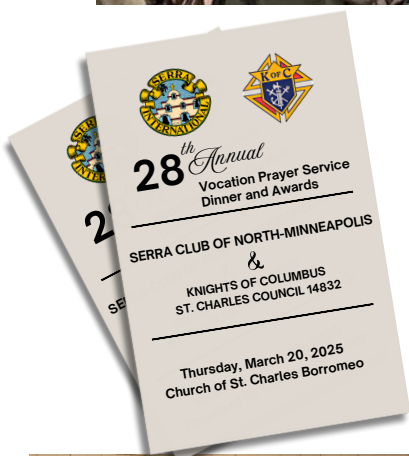
We have samples of Serra spiritual bouquet sign-up sheets available upon request.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

Seminarian Awards Dinner continued from page 1 . . .

Deacon Randy Skeate, from St. Patrick in Oak Grove, shared some of the family experiences that helped to form him - along with the support of his parish priests, including Father David Blume. He spoke of the providential movement of prayers, wanting to follow the redemptive plan of God, and his own desire to be with people.

Sebastian Spencer, from St. Charles Borromeo, St Anthony, was drawn in by the magnitude of God's Love. From home life where his parents wanted the kids to know and love the Catholic Faith and experience a sacramental life - to a deeper conversion in college at U of Mary, Bismarck. He also spoke of the blessings and graces of seminary life.

**BEAUTIFUL STORIES – BEAUTIFUL MEN!**

Mary Walus, Sarah Dahlrup, Shaun Olson and Joyce Swanson, all from the parish of St. William, were guests of Norma Swanson (standing on the right) at the Serra / KofC Seminarian Awards Dinner.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please keep in your prayers:

Jean Buchmann
Terri Glaeser
Esther Guzik
Michaeline Loomis
Jack Quesnell
Joe Spano
Chris Struble*
John Swanson**
Marlene Tacheny
Marilyn Zappia

*Son-in-Law of MaryAnne & Steve

**Son of Norma Swanson

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:

- Fr. Brian Fischer and the Archdiocesan Hermitage
- Deacon Alex Hall - "Walk With Me Seminarian"
- Safety of the Sisters of Jesus the Lord in Russia
- Cascading success of the National Eucharistic Congress

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- Thanksgiving for healing of Our Holy Father Pope Francis
- 8th Grade Vocation Bus Trips on April 11 and April 24
- and, for all those we hold in our hearts.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

CALL TO HOLINESS



by MaryAnne Frank

Here is a daunting thought ~

God, our Heavenly Father, has no one but you.

Yes, YOU! You, me, each of us is called to be Jesus' Love here on earth. If we don't fulfill the work given us, it goes undone. Each of us within our unique selves reveals Christ on earth in a manner that can only be manifested if we generously respond to God's call to be holy.

The Holy Spirit, in ways that may not always be transparent, calls us. He calls us in moments that seem innocuous like sleeping-in versus rising to go to daily Mass, or reaching for a chocolate chip cookie versus sitting for a minute of spiritual reading (a different kind of nourishment). He calls us to listen patiently, to a story we may have heard multiple times, giving kind attention to the teller. He calls us to see, really see, the stranger who may seem a bit 'strange,' to reach out to that person, and recognize Christ in them. He calls us to see and cherish the beauty surrounding us and to know it as a silent gift. He calls us, and to be holy, we must respond to Him!

by Debbie Koop
Serra District 7 Governor



The Perfect Gift for Graduating Grands!

by MaryAnne Frank

As our grandchildren begin to make their way in life after graduation and starting university, our perfect gift to them is to keep them connected to our Catholic faith. Newman Ministries, also known as the Newman Connection, supports young adults during their college years by welcoming them into faith-centered communities as they negotiate the dramatic change from home life to dorm life.

You can be instrumental to all young graduates within your family or within your parish by introducing them to the Newman Connection: info@newmanconnection.org. There, you can learn about the Catholic campus ministries and share your confidence that they will not be alone, and will enjoy the support of other likeminded and faith-filled peers and Catholic leaders.

Our apostolate will be involved by attending parish baccalaureates, bringing written information about the Newman Connection, and inviting the grads to share their names, phone, and email contacts along with their college or university, so that their Campus Ministry can welcome them and invite them to participate in faith grounded activities ~ especially the Mass.

If you are able to connect with your parish priest and/or youth ministers to support their grads, please call MaryAnne at 612-669-4221 for additional information and handouts. **You**, through Serra and the Newman Ministries, can help shape the future and growth of the Church while having an impact on those young ones we love.

SPRING LEADERSHIP

APRIL 12TH, OUR LADY OF GRACE, MASS AT 8:30 AM

All Serrans are encouraged to **RSVP by April 1** so we can order the food and tables needed for our leadership meeting. **Fr. Evan Koop** will give us a presentation on the Virgin Mary praying for vocations at the foot of the cross in preparation for Holy Week. We will train the newly elected Serra leaders and discuss news from Serra International. We will give you Serra tools for membership, vocations, programs, communications, and cultural outreach. You don't want to miss this. **Cost is \$30** to be paid at the door (cash or checks). Please RSVP to **Charleen Zachman** charzach2015@gmail.com (if you are not on the list below) by **April 1**.

Ken Cobian
Maureen Collins
Bonnie Conroy

Kay Cooley
MaryAnne Frank
Rosemary Franzese

Jo Lohnes
Judy Makowske
Ted McCrossan

Tim Regan
Joellyn Soler
Norma Swanson

NOTABLE NEWS

MAILBAG

*Dear Serra Club Members,
Thank you kindly for your gas card Christmas gift. And, thank you so much for all the prayers and support that come through your apostolate. You are a blessing and encouragement to me and many others. May we all, through self-denial and love of God and neighbor, be more conformed to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I will pray you all have a blessed Lent.*

In Christ,

Dominic Miller, Theology III

*Dear Serra Club,
Thank you so much for the gas money gift! It is very much appreciated! May God bless you all abundantly for the good work you do.*

In Christ,

Michael Bauer, Pre-Theology I

SERRA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The 82nd Annual Serra International Convention is coming to Kansas City! Slated to unfold at the **Marriott Downtown Kansas City**, the event begins **Thursday, June 26, 2025**, and concludes on the following **Sunday, June 29, 2025**.

While a full convention schedule is being developed, what can be said is that the event promises to be an exciting and spiritually uplifting experience for attendees.

A Serra International planning committee has been hard at work behind the scenes since the conclusion of the 2024 SI Convention, pouring energy into the creation of another stellar Serra convention.

The three day conference boasts a terrific line-up of speakers including:

- Archbishop Joseph Naumann
- Bishop James Johnston
- Stephen Minnis
- Cardinal Thomas Collins
- Bishop Thomas Daly
- Abbott Primate Gregory Polan, OSB
- Sr. Nancy Rose Gucwa, OSB
- Rev. Paul Sheller, OSB

Click this link and scroll to the bottom of the convention website's homepage, where you can sign up for email notifications as news about convention development occurs: [82nd Serra International Convention | Kansas City, MO](https://www.serra-international.org/convention/2025/kansas-city)

Make plans now to attend the 2025 Serra International Convention right in Kansas City!



SERRA INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION



Serra MEETS

SERRA, NOW MORE THAN EVER!

An online speaker series
with vocations in mind



Rosie Shawver

Catholic Campus Ministry Assoc.
Executive Director

Vocations at College Campuses

Date: Mon, Apr 21st, 7 pm CST
Webinar Link:

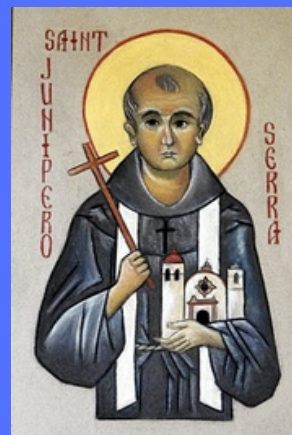
[pwd=RFdzZjgybDk0VVIKVIhyYXNINKpkUT09#success](https://www.serra-international.org/convention/2025/kansas-city)

Phone Access:

+1 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: 959 9245 1924

Passcode: 853558



SUBMIT NEWSLETTER CONTENT HERE: SerraClub418@gmail.com

DEADLINE: Submission of all articles and event photos are due on or before the **25th** of the month.

Editor: Judy Makowske (612-781-1163) Publisher: Michelle Eastham (651-276-5158)

NOTABLE NEWS



YOU ARE INVITED TO



THE SERRA CLUB APOSTOLATE FOR VOCATIONS

22
APRIL
2025

11:30 AM MASS AND LUNCHEON MEETING**ST. WILLIAMS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

6120 5th Street NE

Fridley, MN 55432

with **Bishop Michael Izen****RSVP:** Maureen Collins 612-850-3003
maureen.okane.collins@gmail.com

HEAR ABOUT VOCATIONS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE,
OUR WORK WITH AND FOR SEMINARIANS
AND RELIGIOUS ORDERS,
AND HOW YOU AND YOUR PRAYERS
CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN VOCATIONS TO SERVE THE CHURCH.



NORTH-MINNEAPOLIS SERRA CLUB



MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31  ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS	1 POPE FRANCIS	2 YOUR PASTOR	3 REV. DANIEL ROBERT MOULD FSSP ORD 2018	4 REV. SEAN DAVID MULCARE ORD 2024	5 REV. DESMOND MURTALA ALHASSAN ORD 2003
6 REV. WILLIAM ARNOLD (BILL) MURTAUGH ORD 1972	7 REV. JUSTUS MUSINGUZI ORD 2001	8 REV. HOANG DINH NGUYEN ORD 2005	9 REV. JOSEPH HOAN NGUYEN ORD 2022	10 REV. TUAN A NGUYEN C.S.S.R. ORD 2009	11 REV. THOMAS TUAN VAN NGUYEN CRM ORD 2004	12 REV. THOMAS MICHAEL (TOM) NIEHAUS ORD 2008
13 REV. MARK JOSEPH NIEHAUS ISP ORD 2003	14 REV. SCOTT THOMAS NOLAN ORD 2013	15 REV. JEFF THOMAS NORFOLK ORD 2009	16 REV. TIMOTHY LUKE NORRIS ORD 1994	17 REV. MATTHEW JOHN NORTHENSCOLD ORD 2016	18 REV. PETER CONRAD NOSBUSH ORD 1970	19 REV. JAMES CHARLES JOHN NOTEBAART ORD 1971
20 REV. BRUNO CHIZOBA NWACHUKWU ORD 2015	21 REV. ROBERT CHRISTIAN NYGAARD ORD 1964	22 REV. WILLIAM PATRICK O'BRIEN SJ ORD 2002	23 REV. KENNETH LEO O'HOTTO ORD 1980	24 REV. MARCEL EMEKA OKWARA C.S.S.R. ORD 2007	25 REV. JAMES ROBERT (JIM) OLOFSON ORD 2018	26 REV. ANTHONY JOSEPH (TONY) O'NEILL ORD 2011
27 REV. FERNANDO ORTEGA ORD 2008	28 REV. ROGER BENJAMIN (R. BENJAMIN) OSBORNE SJ ORD 2009	29 REV. DAVID T OSTROWSKI ORD 1989	30 ARCHBISHOP BERNARD HEBDA AUXBP. MICHAEL IZEN AUXBP. KEVIN KENNEY	1	2	3

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

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name of priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think Your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him Your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead, and guide him always. Correct, enlighten, and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life. Replace him with Yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in You and keep him in this intimate union always.

O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (name of priest). Amen.

To be added to the email recipients,
send an email to Marie Ziesmer at:
ziesmers@usfamily.net

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

- Mass, rosary, fasting
- Day of offering
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Offering of sufferings or prayer
- What the Lord inspires you to offer Him



FOR VOCATIONS

Father, we trust You to call others to the priesthood to continue Your work in our Archdiocese.

Board Members Present: Ken Cobian, Maureen Collins, Mark Eastham, Rosemary Franzese, Jo Lohnes, Judy Makowske, Ted McCrossan, Tim Regan, Norma Swanson. Other Serran present via phone: Marilyn Zappia.

Meeting Opened with prayer led by **President T Regan** at 9:00am. Minutes from the previous meeting on 2/25/25 were moved, seconded, and approved.

Vocation Bus Trips: J McGuire and **M Eastham: M Eastham** discussed the 1st spring bus trip planned on Apr 11 for students from St John Paul II, Immaculate Conception, and Way of the Shepherd Montessori Catholic in Blaine (providing own transportation.) The girls will be going to Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus (St. Paul), and the boys are going to Franciscan Brothers of Peace. All will meet at the St Paul Seminary for Mass because the Handmaids Chapel is too small to accommodate the girls and SPS agreed to accept them in St Mary's Chapel with the boys. A tour will follow, time permitting. M Eastham passed around a 2-page finalized detailed agenda. **M Eastham, J McGuire, K Cobian,** and **Mary Krawczynski** will be chaperones. Excited about the planning which includes our 1st student bus trip to the Handmaids. The 2nd spring bus trip is planned for Apr 24 to St Peter Claver for the girls, and SJV/SPS for the boys. Discussion ensued about integrating other orders of religious in the metro area as possible locations for future bus trips.

Membership: M Collins and **J Collodora: M Collins** talked about her exploration for 'group housing' in Kansas City, June 26-29, for the Serran International Convention. She provided some options for 'vacation rentals' - rooms with a communal group space. At least half a dozen Serrans are interested. Reservations can be made online/\$450. She was also invited and attended a Twin Cities SW Metro Serra Club meeting last week with **N Swanson**. She reported that **MA Frank** is in process of scheduling a meeting with **Fr. Howe** at Holy Cross and future efforts to bring Serra to a parish will be directed at St. Stephen's in Anoka.

Vocations: MA Frank and **M Szydluk:** In their absence, **J Makowske** reported on an activity performed by **MA Frank:** She called St Paul in Ham Lake, St Patrick in Oak Grove, and Epiphany, which are the home parishes for three of the seminarians who will be ordained and will be receiving awards at the upcoming annual Serra/KC Seminarian Awards Dinner, to obtain information on their newly renovated sanctuaries. The contact people happily sent photos of their sanctuaries and were open to receiving more info about Serra for their church bulletins. **MA Frank** and **J Lohnes** will put the photos in acrylic frames (from our 50th anniversary celebration) along with a photo of the seminarian from the respective parish on the tables for the Serra/KC Awards Dinner.

Communications: J Makowske and **N Swanson: J Makowske** shared information to go to all charter area parishes, inviting people to attend our Apr 22 membership meeting at St Williams when **Bishop Michael Izen** will offer Mass and be our luncheon speaker. **Michelle Eastham** has designed a flyer advertising the event. **J Makowske** has provided copy to which **Judie Collodora** and **M Collins** may add Serra membership info. There is hope new members will be attracted to joining Serra via this event. Discussion ensued about how to handle box lunches for guests at this event. Later, **J Makowske** reminded us that there is no 2nd lunch meeting on the 4th Tues of this month due to the Serra/KC Seminarian Award Dinner. Also, **J Makowske** met with **M Krawczynski** who has generated a web page and is ready to show what she has produced, using a large screen PC at Hayden Grove where her mother lives. She'll be available on Mon or Thur after Mass. Contact **J Makowske**. Reminder that Spring Leadership at OLOG is Sat. April 12.

Programs: J Lohnes: Requests that a few board members remain after the mtg to fill out anticipatory forms in preparation for a Bishop visiting a parish. There are many details relevant to the liturgy when Bishop Izen offers Mass at St Williams.

Treasurer: Ted McCrossan: Provided a status on big items impacting the budget. Still receiving payments for the Serra/KC Seminarian Dinner on Thurs night. The tab exceeds current payments received. A tip will be added for the caterer. Thanks to **M Eastham** and **J McGuire** for submitting a pro forma on what is estimated to be spent on school bus trips for the coming school year. Need to issue a reminder to members to pay dues. Mindful of all the expenditures, suggests starting to talk about the Phantom Garage Sale, our largest fundraiser, to keep our bank balance healthy. Thanked **M Zappia** for the template she gave him to help build an updated budget for the year. After discussion about the amounts, annual payments to St William's and St Charles were moved, seconded and approved and added as a budget item. Payments to both parishes are made for use of facilities and St Charles is reimbursed for printing costs. **M Zappia** reminded **T McCrossan** of a minor adjustment for the Seminarian Dinner, transferring lunch fees from Serra Budget to the Dinner.

President's Discussion: President T Regan led discussion of details needing to be managed for the Seminarian Dinner to ensure nothing is missed. **K Cobian** is excited by the notables who will be attending: **Frs. Pavlak, Taphorn, Livingston** and **Dcn. Najarian**. Total of 74 registrants, compared to 54 last year. Banners for Serra and KC will be displayed. M Zappia has been in charge of reservations, seating arrangements, name tags and interfacing with the caterer. Set up and accessibility were covered. Tremendous amount of details! Kudos to Chair **K Cobian, J Lohnes,** and many others!

Next Membership Events/Meetings:

Mar 20 - Serra / KofC Awards Dinner - 6pm prayer service at St. Charles Borromeo followed by dinner and award ceremony
 Apr 8 - Membership Lunch Meeting 12:15 am at St. William's Church (Annex downstairs.) Speaker: David Switala (SPO)
 Apr 12 - Spring Leadership at Our Lady of Grace, Edina. 8:30am Mass; Adjourn 2:30pm
 Apr 15 - Next Board Meeting 8:45 am at St. Charles Borromeo Church (Doran Hall)
 Apr 22- Membership Meeting at St. William's Church 11:30 Mass with Bishop Izen
 May13 - Membership Meeting 12:15 am at St. William's Church Speaker: Fr James Bernard

Meeting Adjourned with prayer led by **President T Regan** at 10:20 am.