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# Serving THE MIRIAM DINNER

by Judy Makowske and MaryAnne Frank

Serrans from North-Minneapolis were honored once again to serve the Miriam Dinner to young women discerning a religious vocation. Archbishop Hebda, Bishop Izen, Bishop Kenney, priests, women religious from a number of local orders, and consecrated women welcomed the group. Open to women ages 16 to 35, over 50 young women signed up to attend the evening. The gathering began with the Liturgy of the Hours, was followed by a spaghetti dinner, and ended with an opportunity to hear individual vocation stories and ask questions. Archdiocesan Vocation Director, Father Mark Pavlak, on the Feast Day of St. Agnes, January 21, introduced speakers from religious orders to share their discernment journey and tips for opening their hearts to the will of God. Sisters described their personal experiences as they discerned their call to religious life and gave encouragement to those in attendance who were uncertain. A Consecrated Virgin also shared her vocation story.

continued on page 4...

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feb 11 - Lunch Meeting** 12:15 pm  
Church of St. William  
Speaker: Tom Cramer  
*Our Spiritual Walk (Part 1)*

**Feb 18 - Board Meeting** 8:45 am  
St. Charles Borromeo, Doran Hall

**Feb 25 - Lunch Meeting** 12:15 pm  
Church of St. William  
Speaker: Tom Cramer  
*Our Spiritual Walk (Part 2)*

**Mar 11 - Lunch Meeting** 12:15 pm  
Church of St. William  
Speaker: Kelly Scott  
*Inspirations from the Bench*

**Mar 18 - Board Meeting** 8:45 am  
St. Charles Borromeo, Doran Hall

**Mar 20 - Serra & KOC Awards Dinner**  
Church of St. Charles Borromeo, 6 pm  
Featuring SPS Seminarians

**Apr 12 - Spring Leadership**  
Our Lady of Grace, Edina  
8:30 am Mass - 2:30 pm

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CYRIL  
METHODIUS  
& MIAMI

On February 14, we celebrate the feasts of Saint Cyril and Methodius, missionary apostles to the Slavic peoples.

They were Greek-speaking monks, these two Saints, and blood Brothers. They were called to be missionaries first to the Khazars (just north of the Black Sea), then to Moravia (on the eastern borders of ancient Bohemia), and finally to Poland.



Tim Regan

Cyril and Methodius quickly learned the Slavonic languages of the peoples they preached to. Together they invented a new alphabet, now called Cyrillic, which is still in use in Greece, Russia, and dozens of other countries. They translated the New Testament and the liturgical books into Slavonic.

These innovations drew the ire of the clergy in Germany, who insisted that the Gospel must be preached in Latin. In one of the wisest and most momentous decisions in world history, Pope Adrian II commended Cyril and Methodius for their missionary work, sanctioned their use of the Slavonic language, and ordained both of them bishops.

I recently attended the National Serra Rally in Miami, and it was an experience I'll never forget.

The highlight of the Rally was the appearance of Sister Adela Galindo, who gave the Keynote Address. She is the foundress of the "Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary," a new Catholic order based in Miami. It consists of sisters, brothers, and young men discerning for the priesthood. The order is only two decades old, but it has many convents on three continents.

Sister Adela is an exciting and charismatic speaker, almost a "stemwinder." She called us Serrans "Missionaries of Vocations."

You see? We are Missionaries, just like Cyril and Methodius.



Sister Adela

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## SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS


 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE


Annemarie Vega

by Jo Lohnes

The Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) was not a familiar organization to any of us Serrans but we were eager to learn about it. Annemarie Vega, Chief Operating Officer from CSCOE, along with her colleague, Lisa Staudohar, joined us for “lunch and learn.”

In 2015, through the vision and generosity of the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence was established with a simple, two-part mission: enhance excellence and increase enrollment in preschool-8th grade Catholic schools. The partnership with schools has helped change the narrative to one of hope, possibility, growth, and thinking big.

This is done by sharing innovative ideas, sound business practices, proven strategies and financial resources to help meet each school's individual goals and needs. The approach is bottom-up. They listen to principals and teachers and implement the best ideas that will have the greatest impact. They are 100% opt-in and are proud that every preschool-8th grade Catholic school in Minnesota has chosen to join them.

Between 2014 and 2024, Catholic school enrollment in Minnesota surged by 15%, while national enrollment dropped by 14%. This success is fueled by CSCOE's hands-on partnership with schools, offering everything from marketing and admissions support to tailored resources and an expansive peer network.

Preschools are the heart of growth for Catholic schools, paving the way for enrollment through eighth grade while boosting revenue. Preschool programs are energized with expert business strategies, creative marketing support, and top-notch professional development.

Literacy and reading is the foundation of every student's success, and CSCOE's Believe and Read initiative is delivering life-changing results. The statistics prove it.

Access to innovative science, technology, engineering, and math education is essential for preparing students for future careers---but often beyond the budgets of Catholic schools. In partnership with the University of St. Thomas School of Engineering, CSCOE's C-STEM Lending Library provides state-of-the-art STEM equipment and lesson plans to schools across Minnesota—free of charge.

Catholic Schools in CSCOE's Advancement Certificate Program are transforming their fundraising success! From 2022-2024, participating schools saw a remarkable 130% increase in giving. With 18 schools already completing the program and 10 more set to join in 2025, the excitement and impact continue to grow!

CSCOE was formed as an independent nonprofit composed of lay people who love Catholic schools and work tirelessly to see them thrive. The vision and generosity of their key funder, Dick Schulze and the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation launched them, and today, a whole community of Catholic school supporters make the mission possible.





## CLUB EVENTS &amp; NEWS



by MaryAnne Frank

The World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is celebrated on Sunday, February 2, 2025. This day is commemorated on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord ~ Jesus' first visit to the Temple in Jerusalem and 40 days after Christmas.

St. Pope John Paul II instituted a day to recognize men and women in consecrated life in 1997. This day of prayer is celebrated on Sunday, February 2, to allow parishes to highlight the gift of religious life. The Feast is also known as Candlemas Day — a day in which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the Light of the World. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all people.

Please pray for all those who have so generously responded to God's call and made commitments to the consecrated life. A note to thank and encourage them, so they may continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ, would be a true gift. There's nothing like a handwritten note of appreciation to a religious who has made an impact on your life! Our North-Minneapolis Serra Apostolate will be sending a note and a small gift to the religious orders serving in our charter area, but your personalized words and indication of prayers offered will have the larger impact!

### Suggested Prayers for Consecrated Life

For those consecrated to God by the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience that they may seek to live their baptismal promises more intensely and have the grace to persevere in their commitment to the Lord and serve with open hearts and willing spirits. For those who have responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to be a consecrated person that they may experience the support of the Church as they continue their growth in holiness.

### Miriam Dinner continued from page 1...



Archbishop Bernard Hebda posed with North-Minneapolis Serrans, Judy Makowske, Mark and Michelle Eastham, Ken Cobian, MaryAnne Frank, Judie Collodora, and Jo Lohnes after the Miriam Dinner.



In the background, Serra presence, from praying the Rosary in the kitchen, to plating salads, and serving spaghetti, was one of thanksgiving for how the Holy Spirit is working in our archdiocese and allowing our apostolate to be an active part of His plan.

## CLUB EVENTS &amp; NEWS


**ST. STEPHEN'S**  
 CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
**ESSAY WINNERS**

Serrans Mark Eastham and Jim McGuire pose with St. Stephen's Essay Winners following the Vocation Bus Trips to St. Paul Seminary and St. John Vianney Seminary for boys and the Little Sisters of the Poor Holy Family Residence for the girls. Winners were Mitchell H., Thomas B., Josephine M., and Sage S.

**Sage - St. Stephen's Catholic School Vocations Essay  
 Girl's First Place Essay Award**
*Vocations Awareness Essay*

I went to the Little Sisters of the Poor charity home. It was an amazing experience and I would gladly do it again. I learned so much and learned all about the people who work there and so much about what they did and why it meant so much to them. In this essay, I will explain how the home came to be, and why it meant so much to me going there. Their vocation is One heart and one Soul and one with Jesus. This vocation is what they are called to do every day and this is why they are doing what they do.

St. Jeanne Jugan is the Founder of the home. She is known for her love and care for the elderly. She was always praised for loving and taking care of the elderly. St. Jeanne Jugan saw Christ in what St. Teresa of Calcutta would describe as his "distressing disguises." By 1849, she had about six houses opened and 500 people living in them. Her love and care for the elderly are why this tradition is passed down to this day.

My absolute favorite part of the entire trip was when the sisters were telling us their stories. It was mentioned that they never let an elderly person die alone. They all sit by their beds and take turns sitting with them so they don't die alone, and that makes me so happy to hear that they will be happy on their deathbed. They will not be scared of where they're going or scared of what may happen to them, but they will feel happy and loved.

I loved walking down the hallways and seeing all the elderly people smile and happy to see us.

**Mitchell - St. Stephen's Catholic School Vocations Essay  
 Boy's First Place Essay Award**
*My Call*

I have never experienced a field trip close to what I experienced on October 20th. I learned so much and it brought up questions for myself I have never asked, thoughts I have never thought of, and possibilities I have never imagined. I could relate most to one of the last people who talked to the boy's group. He told us that when he was little he played mass at his house and always dreamed of becoming a priest. But as he got older he became less interested in it and it was just a small part of him. He didn't want to become a priest at all at one point but eventually, he felt God calling him to it.

In a sense, his story seems similar to my story. I too used to play mass but only the part where everyone receives the Eucharist so that I could practice for First Communion. And now at this point in my life, I have no intention of feeling or wanting to become a priest. But ever since that trip, I have been starting to pray and ask questions like, "Is this truly what God is calling me to do?" Or, "Am I making my plan or does God have something else in stock for me?"

These questions have changed me. I have started to pray more, asking God what my vocation is but I feel right now as if I am in a spiritual darkness. I can't seem to hear God or truly feel him with me throughout the day and it has even led me to question my faith. But whenever I question my faith, I remember this beatitude from the gospel of John. "Blessed are those who have not seen but who have believed." This keeps me going even when I feel far from God. I don't know where God wants me or what I will do with my life. I certainly could be called to holy orders or raise a family. The trip to the seminary has caused me to change. Even in my unsure state I know God has a plan for me and that whether I do end up becoming a priest or raising a family I will focus on holiness. Only God knows what will happen.

## CLUB EVENTS &amp; NEWS



## 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](#)

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

## PRAYER INTENTIONS



Please keep in your prayers:

Jean Buchmann  
Roscella Connelly  
Kay Cooley  
Tom Fahrenholz  
Dorothy Pearson  
Esther Guzik  
Jack Quesnell  
Joe Spano  
Chris Struble\*  
Norma Swanson  
Marlene Tacheny  
Marilyn Zappia

*\*Son-in-Law of MaryAnne & Steve*

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:

- Fr. Mark Pavlak  
Archdiocesan Vocations Director
- Fr. Brian Fischer and the  
Archdiocesan Hermitage
- Deacon Alex Hall -  
"Walk With Me Seminarian"
- Sisters in Jesus the Lord in  
Russia
- Cascading success from the  
National Eucharistic Congress

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- Vianney Visit at SJV, Feb 13-15
- Andrew Dinner, Feb 25
- and, for all those we hold in  
our hearts.



## CLUB EVENTS &amp; NEWS

## CALL TO HOLINESS



by MaryAnne Frank

**Isaiah 6:** Isaiah in his litany of “woes” to name but a few: “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil . . . woe to those who are wise in their own sight . . . to those who acquit the guilty for bribes and deprive the just man of his rights.” Followed by **Jeremiah 6:** “ But this people’s heart is stubborn and rebellious . . .” And, **Ezekiel 12:2:** “Son of man. You live in the midst of a rebellious house; they have eyes to see but do not see, and ears to hear but do not hear; for they are a rebellious house . . .”

As we are called to holiness, through our baptism, and our belief in Jesus Christ Who endured the humility to become one with us in order to secure our salvation, we need to heed the words of scripture in **Matthew 13: 16:** “Blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear . . .”

We are living in challenging times when indeed, Truth is challenged by emotion, where even, so-called Churches advertise: “New Year, Same Emotions? Come to (name) Church.” In this instance, it seems faith in God has been replaced by ‘feel good’ sentiments. If we allow ourselves to be ruled by emotion, as too often is the way of the world we’re living in, we deny reality ~ the reality that God created us, He loves us, and wants us to “be perfect” as He is perfect.

We need to be very clear in our beliefs when our culture confuses evil for good, when the very definition of life is redefined by abortion, euthanasia, and a misdirected sense of morality suggesting that if a person wills assisted suicide, then why not harvest their organs before they die? Morality is not an elusive virtue subject to the vagaries of interpretation, no; it is our Father’s gift that stems from Natural Law.

We are His witnesses! We must bring clarity to replace blurred values. We must stand up to the tyranny of those who use their power to distract, diverting our attention from things of God to things of the world. We must prepare those around us to seek Truth! Each of us as children of God must be a reflection of His love ~ this is our call to holiness!

## Archdiocesan Seminarians from North-Minneapolis Serra Charter Area

### Here is a handy Prayer List

#### ST JOHN VIANNEY:

Freshmen:

**Zane Christianson**

Epiphany

**Nathan Kavanaugh**

Epiphany

**Ezra Kuznia**

St. Charles Borromeo

Sophomore:

**Alexander Lara Becerra**

Epiphany

**Gregory Maloney**

St. Charles Borromeo

**Patrick Storms**

St. Charles Borromeo

Senior:

**Joseph Etnier**

Epiphany

#### ST. PAUL SEMINARY:

**Matthew Fitzsimmons**

St. Raphael

Pre Theology I

**Samuel Mishler**

St. Lawrence

Pre Theology I

**Joshua Gerads**

St. Vincent de Paul

Theology I

**Jacob O'Meara**

St. Paul, Ham Lake

Theology I

**Peter Romens**

St. Paul, Ham Lake

Theology III

**Sebastian Spencer**

St. Charles Borromeo

Theology III

**Deacon Randy Skeate**

St. Patrick, Oak Grove

Theology IV

**Dcn Alexander Marquette**Immaculate Conception  
(Teaching Parish)

Theology IV

**Deacon Benjamin Eichten**St. William  
(Teaching Parish)

Theology IV

### ADOPT A SEMINARIAN

Keeping seminarians in our prayers ~ for the remainder of the year, the following Serrans have adopted 4 seminarians; two from St. Paul Seminary and two from St. John Vianney Seminary.

Stephanie Percic: **Daniel Dosch**, Pre Theology I, SPS, St. Helena, MPLS

Loretta Thielen: **Joseph Seidel**, Propaedeutic Year, Divine Mercy, Faribault

Terri Glaeser: **Jonas Reed**, Sophomore, SJV, Holy Family, St. Louis Park

MaryAnne Frank: **Michael Perrault**, Sophomore, SJV, St. Albert Church, Albertville

## NOTABLE NEWS

## MAILBAG

# Thank You

Serrans,  
Thank you so much for your prayers! We hope that you have had a most blessed and grace-filled Christmas and that the Christ Child will continue to fill your hearts with His peace and light during the New Year! God has certainly been using your prayers! . . . Please pray for the young women that God is calling to join our community, particularly for a young woman who has applied to join us.

Mother Stella, CJD

## GAS CARD THANKS

Dear Members of North-Minneapolis Serra Apostolate,  
Thank you for the gas card that you donated and the continued prayers! I have only grown in excitement for the priesthood since I started my theology studies, and I appreciate your support in helping me follow God's call. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

**Elias Budke**, Theology I

Dear Serra Club,

Thank you for the two Holiday gas gift cards. I am happy to see the ways in which you support the Seminary and I have heard stories about all the praying you do for us and all the work that is done to support vocations. I am so grateful that there are people who care for the formation of priests in this archdiocese. I'm looking forward for the cookies you drop off during finals week. I love them and eat my fair share.

God bless,

**Joseph Etnier**, College Seminary IV

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**Please Mark Your Calendars:** The 28th Annual Serra / Knights of Columbus Seminarian Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday March 20, 2025 at St. Charles Borromeo Church. The evening starts with a Mass or Prayer Session (Rosary) in the Church at 6 pm; followed by a social at 6:30 pm and dinner in Doran Hall starting about 7 pm. The St. Charles Knights are sponsoring one Seminarian, and our Serra Club is sponsoring three, all from the major seminary in St. Paul. Each seminarian will receive a \$500 cash award and will be asked to give a short presentation on their discernment experience. This is a great opportunity to invite guests to introduce them to Serra and our Mission.

**SUBMIT NEWSLETTER CONTENT HERE:** [SerraClub418@gmail.com](mailto: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)



### Serra MEETS

SERRA, NOW MORE THAN EVER!

An online speaker series  
with vocations in mind

Serra Meets are on the **THIRD MONDAY** of each month from **7-8 PM CST**.



**Fr. Jack Wall**

PRESIDENT

Catholic Extension Society

Promoting Vocations in Mission  
Dioceses

**Date: Mon, Feb 17th, 7 pm CST**

**Webinar Link:**

[pwd=RFdzZjgybDk0VVIKVIhyYXNlbnkpkUT09#success](https://www.zoom.us/j/92451924?pwd=RFdzZjgybDk0VVIKVIhyYXNlbnkpkUT09#success)

**Phone Access:**

+1 312 626 6799

**Webinar ID:** 959 9245 1924

**Passcode:** 853558





## MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

## FEBRUARY

| SUNDAY                                                    | MONDAY                                                           | TUESDAY                                                          | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                   | THURSDAY                                                      | FRIDAY                                                                                                                            | SATURDAY                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 26                                                        | 27                                                               | 28                                                               | 29<br><br>ARCHDIOCESE<br>OF<br>SAINT PAUL &<br>MINNEAPOLIS | 30                                                            | 31                                                                                                                                | 1<br><br><b>POPE FRANCIS</b>                                                               |
| 2<br><br><b>YOUR PASTOR</b>                               | 3<br><br>VERY REV.<br>CHARLES VINCENT<br>LACHOWITZER<br>ORD 1990 | 4<br><br>REV. ROLAND A.<br>LAJOIE<br>SM<br>ORD 1974              | 5<br><br>REV. NATHAN<br>WILLIAM LALIBERTE<br>ORD 2011                                                                                       | 6<br><br>REV. JOHN<br>GREGORY<br>LAPENSKY<br>ORD 1977         | 7<br><br>REV. GARY ELMER<br>LAUENSTEIN<br>C.S.S.R.<br>ORD 1971                                                                    | 8<br><br>REV. THOMAS A<br>LAWLER<br>SJ<br>ORD 1999                                         |
| 9<br><br>REV. TAN PHONG<br>LE<br>ORD 2001                 | 10<br><br>REV. HENRY (HANK)<br>LEMONOCELLI<br>OMI<br>ORD 1979    | 11<br><br>REV. ROY CONRAD<br>LEPAK<br>ORD 1962                   | 12<br><br>REV. JAMES<br>CHRISTOPHER<br>LIEKHUS<br>ORD 2005                                                                                  | 13<br><br>REV. MATTHEW<br>LEE LINN<br>SJ<br>ORD 1973          | 14<br><br>REV. JARED<br>MATTHEW (AUSTIN)<br>LITKE<br>OP<br>ORD 2011                                                               | 15<br><br>REV. BENJAMIN<br>ROBERT LITTLE<br>ORD 2012                                       |
| 16<br><br>REV. JAMES<br>TIMOTHY<br>LIVINGSTON<br>ORD 1990 | 17<br><br>REV. JOHN MICHAEL<br>(JACK) LONG<br>ORD 1978           | 18<br><br>REV. KENNETH<br>FRANCIS (KEN)<br>LUDESCHER<br>ORD 1961 | 19<br><br>REV. ERIK CARL<br>MARTIN LUNDGREN<br>ORD 2010                                                                                     | 20<br><br>REV. TOULEE<br>(PETER) LY<br>ORD 2018               | 21<br><br>REV. CURTIS FAY<br>LYBARGER<br>ORD 1977                                                                                 | 22<br><br>REV. BRIAN<br>THOMAS LYNCH<br>ORD 2006                                           |
| 23<br><br>REV. STANLEY PAUL<br>(STAN) MADER<br>ORD 1992   | 24<br><br>REV. KEVIN PETER<br>MAGNER<br>ORD 2003                 | 25<br><br>REV. SEAN RANSOM<br>MAGNUSON<br>ORD 2006               | 26<br><br>REV. RICHARD<br>JOSEPH MAHONEY<br>ORD 1958                                                                                        | 27<br><br>REV. MATTHEW<br>JOHN MALEK<br>OFM CONV.<br>ORD 2013 | 28<br>ARCHBISHOP<br>BERNARD HEBDA<br>ORD 1989<br><br>AUXBP.<br>MICHAEL IZEN<br>ORD 2005<br><br>AUXBP.<br>KEVIN KENNEY<br>ORD 1994 | 1<br> |

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

To be added to the email recipients, send an email to Marie Ziesmer at:

ziesmers@usfamily.net

Lord Jesus Christ, You ordained the apostles priests at the Last Supper to continue the mission of mercy to the end of 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)

## 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.

## SERRA CLUB OF NORTH-MINNEAPOLIS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

01/21/24

**Board Members Present:** Ken Cobian, Judie Collodora, Mark Eastham, MaryAnne Frank, Rosemary Franzese, Jo Lohnes, Judy Makowske, Ted McCrossan, Jim McGuire. Other Serrans present via phone: Board President Tim Regan, Marilyn Zappia.

**Meeting Opened** with prayer led by **Acting President K Cobian** at 8:45am. Minutes from the previous meeting on 12/17/24 were moved, seconded and approved.

**Membership: M Collins and J Collodora:** Judie reported about **M Collins** drafting a letter to **Fr Howe** of Holy Cross w/**MA Frank** requesting a meeting date to talk about Serra Vocations. She talked about the lack of clarity how Serra will work with Parish Vocation Committees that either are in existence or are being encouraged by Archbishop Hebda. A discussion by **K Cobian**, **M Eastham**, **MA Frank**, **J Lohnes**, and **J Makowske** clarified that Serra and a parish Vocations Comm will be two separate entities but working together, currently awaiting direction from the Synod and not proceeding until this summer, according to our Dist. 7 **Gov Debbie Koop**. **M Eastham** suggested we wait for **Gov D Koop's** direction but **J Collodora** said the letter will be mailed and emailed now to **Fr Howe** and await his response because of all the uncertainty with the direction coming 'from above.' **J Makowske** said there had been a Vocations Comm at St Stephens, Anoka apart from Serra and eventually fell apart, suggesting Serran help can be very beneficial in sustaining a Parish Committee.

**Vocations: MA Frank and M. Szydluk:** **MA Frank** shared that the Vocations Comm agenda is very overwhelming for one person and offered a plan to partition elements of the Comm. Each of the six partitions contains two or more activities which are balanced as to the amount of effort and the season of occurrence during a year. **M Szydluk** has offered to maintain/update the 31 Club and Seven Serrans members in one of the partitions, doing the telephoning from home. The lead person for each partition would be a Board member and this plan would be introduced to the general membership at the time new officers are inducted when members will be invited to sign up. **J McGuire** and **M Eastham** suggested including the School Bus Trips as one partition under the Vocations Comm. **J McGuire** made note that beginning this year St Raphael's, Sacred Heart and Good Shepherd parishes are combining a youth minister, youth ministries, and youth catechesis programs due to the falling numbers of youth, with most events being held at Good Shepherd. **J Collodora** mentioned Immaculate Conception has no youth minister. **MA Frank** would like feedback if this format is workable. It was moved and seconded by **J Makowske** and **K Cobian** to go forward assigning the partitioned activities as proposed with the addition of the School Bus Trips, to club members who volunteer. **MA Frank** referenced the list of all the young men in the seminary who are in our charter area and associating them with their parish that she passed out at the luncheon. The list will be put in our newsletter and will provide an extra opportunity on the School Bus Trips for students to identify and meet seminarians from their parish. **MA Frank** reviewed those volunteering to serve at the Miriam Dinner tonight: **K Cobian**, **J Collodora**, **Mark and Michelle Eastham**, **Jo Lohnes**, **J. Makowske** and herself. World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is Mon, Feb 2, also the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. We'll repeat sending a card and a monetary gift card to each of the five or six religious orders in our area. **MA Frank** mentioned there might be an error in the amount of a donation in the latest Serran Magazine. Lastly **MA Frank** inquired about updates to our Memorial Book.

**Treasurer: Ted McCrossan:** **T McCrossan** reported he is current on processing all the invoices he has received (including one from the caterer) with a few exceptions. The bank balance is healthy. Working on collecting dues for the 1st half of the year and considering getting out a mass mailing as a reminder but would prefer to save the postage. Met with **President T Regan**, **M Zappia** and **D Loomis** several weeks ago to lay the foundation for creating a budget. Requests budget submittals from comm chairs. The biggest outlays have been to the caterers, the school bus trips and the seminaries. **MA Frank** recommends sending a minimum monthly to Uganda for the Memorials after discussing the amount with members. Additional items to budget are postage, printing, prayer cards, facility fees, rosters, etc. Decision made to reprint the roster and **M Zappia** offered to verify information for members and our Serra Club.

**Vocation Bus Trips: J McGuire and M Eastham:** **J. McGuire** passed out copies of a spread sheet containing ALL the bus trip information, including the costs, the schools, the number of M/F students, the locations visited and priests, the chaperones, etc. for each visit. Future documents will include essay winners' identification as allowed. The first spring bus trip is scheduled on April 11 for JPII, Immaculate Conception and Catholic Shepherd of the Way Montessori School in Blaine (only seven students). The boys will be visiting the Franciscan Brothers of Peace and SPS; the girls The Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus. The second spring bus trip is scheduled on April 24 for St John the Baptist and Sacred Heart/pending confirmation from both schools. The boys will be going to SJV and SPS; the girls to St Peter Claver/awaiting a CB. Suggested contacting **Norma Swanson** for information in a Archdiocesan Directory for contact info for religious sisters, **J McGuire** is also pursuing possibility of visiting sisters at Sharing and Caring Hands (wear blue habits) where he volunteers regularly and where OLG sends student volunteers weekly.

**Communications: J Makowske and N Swanson:** **J Makowske** apologizes for needed corrections in our newsletter: the date of our upcoming annual KC Awards Dinner is March 20; info for the date and speaker on a Serra Meets scheduled for Mon Jan 20 was changed after being sent to us. There is a need to update our prayer list which will appear in our newsletter. An upcoming Vianney Visit weekend at SJV on Feb 13-15 for young men 16 and older needs to be promoted; it is a great introduction to seminary life. The Andrew Dinner for men, served by the St Paul Club is on Feb 25. Spring Leadership Training at OLG starting with Mass at 8:30 am and ending about 2:30 pm is on Sat April 12. Info about the Kansas City Convention June 26-29 will be in the newsletter.

**New Business:** Selection of officers for next year: **President T Regan** (in abstentia) alerted us of the need to elect a President-Elect or Vice President. The intention of our current president whose two-year term ends in June is unknown. This matter will be continued at a next mtg when **President T Regan** is present. **J Makowske** remarked it's important to get all positions filled soon to enable the nominees to attend the Leadership Day at OLG as good preparation. She proceeded to pass around a paper for those present to indicate their interest in continuing to serve.

**KofC Seminarian Awards Dinner - Acting President K Cobian** provided a brief update. Planning is in full swing with **Bonnie Conroy**, **J Lohnes**, **M Zappia** and **K Cobian**. Clergy invitations have been sent out to the pastors of the seminarian awardees. So far, **Fr Jim Livingston**, Pastor of St. Paul, Ham Lake has accepted as well as **Deacon Steve Najarian**. Flyers are being prepared by **J Lohnes** and **Michelle Eastham** and will be distributed aggressively to encourage more people to come, especially the Knights. **K Cobian** passed around a sign-up sheet to enable everyone present to indicate their planned attendance and possible guests. It will also be passed around at the next Serra Luncheon. Serrans are asked to prepay but KofC prefer to pay at the door.

**Programs:** **J Lohnes** reported she has new speaker leads. **Mary Szydluk** promoted a **Tom Cramer** of St Raphael's as having 'good information' and is scheduled for two meetings in Feb, as he requested. She will check for more information about the content for the two presentations. **K Cobian** highly recommended watching SERRA MEETS online and recently watched **John Liston** give the 90-year history of Serra which could be a future luncheon program.

#### Next Membership Events/Meetings:

Jan 23-26 - Serra Rally, Miami

Jan 28 - Membership Lunch Meeting 12:15 am at St. William's Church (Annex downstairs.) Speaker: **Judy Cozzens**

Feb 11 - Membership Lunch Meeting 12:15 am at St. William's Church (Annex downstairs.) Speaker: **Tom Cramer:** Our Spiritual Walk (Part 1)

Feb 18 - Next Board Meeting 8:45 am at St. Charles Borromeo Church (Doran Hall)

Feb 25 - Membership Lunch Meeting 12:15 am at St. William's Church (Annex downstairs.) Speaker: **Tom Cramer:** Our Spiritual Walk (Part 2)

Mar 11 - Membership Lunch Meeting 12:15 am at St. William's Church (Annex downstairs.) Speaker: **Kelly Scott:** Inspirations from the Bench

**Meeting Adjourned** with prayer led by **Acting President K Cobian** at 10:20 am.