



MaryAnne Frank and Roscella Connelly deliver Serra gifts to Patty McQuillan for St. Paul Seminarians.

Christmas SEMINARY GIFTING 2024

by MaryAnne Frank

I brought Roscella to a spiritual and holy wonderland!

She had never before had occasion to visit our seminaries.

Collecting the largest 'largesse' ever, for gifting the Seminarians of both St. Paul Seminary (SPS) and St. John Vianney Seminary (SJV), Roscella Connelly and I were chauffeured to first the major seminary, then to the minor seminary by Stephen Frank. This was the first trip to both seminaries for new member, Roscella.

Patty McQuillan, Assistant to the Archdiocesan Vocation Director, Father Pavlak, met us at the door and ushered us into the warmth of the foyer where we visited. She claimed some stocking caps from our gift box for a few seminarians who were not totally prepared for winter's cold. We gave her a gift bag bearing multiple fuel cards that will help seminarians reach their teaching parishes within the archdiocese and perhaps even afford a trip home for the Holy Days of Christmas.

Before leaving SPS, we were able to greet Jesus in the Tabernacle of St. Mary's Chapel. We entrusted the Seminarians to Our Lady's care and then toured the magnificent Chapel before we left.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 14 - Lunch Meeting 12:15 pm
Church of St. William
Speaker: Jane Flanders
Catholic Schools Center of Excellence

Jan 21 - Board Meeting 8:45 am
St. Charles Borromeo, Doran Hall

Jan. 23-26 - Serra Rally, Miami

Jan. 28 - Lunch Meeting 12:15 pm
Church of St. William
Speaker: Judy Cozzens
Walk with One

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE GLORY OF THE LORD HAS DAWNED UPON YOU!



Tim Regan

Serrans,

The Feast of the Epiphany on January 6 is a good time to re-focus on our apostolate.

When St. Junipero Serra and all faithful missionaries came to the New World, they must have compared their journey to that of the Magi, who also traveled from East to West. A new truth, foretold in ancient writings but originally not clearly understood, was now being revealed to all peoples. As Isaiah says: "Arise, Shine, for your light has come, the Glory of the Lord has dawned upon you!" (60:1)

The Spanish missionaries may also have been inspired by the Gospel episode when Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs, Mark 6 and Luke 10. Imagine that you are Matthew, Andrew, Philip or one of the young disciples. Jesus is sending you out, untested, on a potentially dangerous missionary journey. The religious and political landscape of Palestine is fraught: the Romans are oppressive, and their military legions are brutal. The Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, Maccabeans and Temple priests are constantly at odds, vying for ascendancy.

But Heck, you say, we just joined up! Only recently have we experienced Jesus' stunning miracles, His new ways of teaching, and His audacity in standing up to religious authorities. Suddenly he is asking us, ignorant men that we are, to go far out to the frontier to spread the Good News and forgive sins! Daunting to say the least, right? So it must have been for the Franciscans coming to New Spain and California.

The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council issued the apostolic decree *Ad Gentes*, which was devoted to the Church as Mission. In that Decree, the Council said that the Church is missionary in her very nature. That is because the Church draws her origin from the "missions" of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Our Catechism teaches that the mission of the Son is to redeem the world by His sacrifice. Similarly, the mission of the Holy Spirit is to prepare for Christ's coming on earth by engendering the God-Man in the womb of the Blessed Mother. We the Church, the people of God, are "missionary" in nature because we reflect God in the missions of the Son and Spirit.

So, Serrans, we have a lot of work to do! Like the Magi, we have seen the star at its rising, and we must follow. We are the lay vanguard of the Church's missionary apostolate. We pray without ceasing that God will plant the seed of vocation dreams in our young people. In the coming year and beyond, let us do our vocation work without stinting.

Don't worry about Herod – the angel will take care of him.

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CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

From our District Governor, Debbie Koop



SERRA INTERNATIONAL

1. Reflection on November Conference and Retreat

I'm still enjoying the fruits of our Regional Conference and Serra Retreat at King's House in Buffalo. We had good attendance, but I hope that more of you will make the effort to attend these days of education, sharing, prayer and spiritual growth next year. The dates for next year will be November 22 for the Regional Conference and the Retreat November 21-23, 2025.

We had some marvelous speakers. All of them were recorded. The Serra US office is uploading them slowly for you who missed the meeting. Please visit the Serra YouTube channel at this link to hear Fr. Mark Pavlak, Arch SPM Vocation director and Fr. Nels Gjengdahl, Formator and Dean of Men at the Saint Paul Seminary tell their vocation stories and share their experience accompanying men in their discernment for diocesan priesthood.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPIA8SaAjazR6HE6ldjx4sMX5kOwaHyNI>

More speakers will be uploaded soon. Norma will send links when they are available.

2. Spring Leadership Meeting for District 7 is April 12, 2025

April 12 has been set aside as the date for our Spring Leadership Meeting at Our Lady of Grace, beginning with Mass at 8:30AM. This meeting is for all Serra members and officers, but especially for officers taking a new role as of July, 2025. **Now is the time, January 2025**, to specifically ask individuals to consider how they will serve in the coming year as officers. The leadership meeting is a great way to cultivate and encourage new members to get more involved. At this meeting, we allow time for experienced officers to help new officers learn their position and for committee members of Membership and Vocations (**we are all on these committees**) to know our role in our parishes as Serra members promoting vocations and membership in Serra.

3. US Serra Rally in Miami, FL January 23-26

I encourage all Serrans to consider attending the US Council Serra Rally in Miami, FL January 23-26, 2025. The registration cost is \$700. The hotel is about \$209 per night (a great discount), but that deal ends January 2.

Do not wait – register for the Rally now at this link: [US Serra RALLY](#)

Always Forward. Never back.

Debbie Koop, District 7 Governor



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE 2025

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. John Paul 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. This 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. Thank and encourage them, so they may continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ. Or, send cards of support ~ there's nothing like a handwritten note of appreciation to a religious who has made an impact on your life! (Our apostolate will be sending a note and a small gift to the religious orders serving in our charter area).

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

Seminary Gifting continued from page 1 . . .

Our next stop, courtesy of our chauffeur, was Saint John Vianney College Seminary. Mary Frame who works with Student Services, greeted Roscella and me at the door. We also met a number of seminarians who kindly stopped and greeted us before taking off for Planned Parenthood where they pray and witness to life. We were delighted to see a local seminarian, Patrick Storms within that group ~ they kindly agreed to pause for a photo with us.



Serran Roscella Connelly delivers North-Minneapolis Christmas gifts to Mary Frame (Student Services) at St. John Vianney Seminary and meets Seminarians (dressed for the cold) on their way to pray at Planned Parenthood.

We promise prayers for our seminarians and our Christmas remembrances are a generous token of that promise delivered by three members. Let us continue to support their time of discernment with an ongoing outpouring of prayer!



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.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

by Judy Makowske

Words fail to convey the spirit of blessed comraderie that permeated the party as our Serra Club of North-Minneapolis gathered at the Grateful Table on



December 10. Programs VP, Jo Lohnes and her elves (including Marilyn Zappia), dazzled us with amazing table displays setting off tasty hors d'oeuvres, live performance of seasonal music from Catherine Lewans and John Madison, gift certificates for lucky number holders, and sumptuous and delicate repast! Beautiful and bountiful! Merry indeed!



CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

Catholic School
ESSAY WINNERS**Girls Trip to Little Sisters of the Poor
Holy Family Residence**

**Charlotte - Epiphany Catholic School Vocations Essay
Girl's First Place Essay Award**

The Little Sisters of the Poor

Having the opportunity to go on a vocations visit to the Little Sisters of the Poor is very special. Because of the Serra Club, my classmates and I were able to have this opportunity, along with the students from St. Charles Borromeo. During our field trip, we learned a lot about the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor, and had the chance to get to know some of the elderly in their community.

Upon arriving, we quickly realized that the home of the Little Sisters of the Poor functioned much like an assisted living. Things like providing food for, caring for, and entertaining the elderly are all part of what they do. The job of the sisters is to make sure all of these needs of the elderly are met, but they also go the extra mile to do it with a smile on their face and Christ in their hearts. Their ultimate goal is to make sure that no one dies alone. Even in the late hours of the night, one of the sisters will always keep watch over the dying, and at the time of death, all the sisters will gather to pray for the soul of the dying person. Jesus said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." The Little Sisters of the Poor truly embrace these words, and treat each elderly person as if they were Christ himself.

After learning about what the Little Sisters of the Poor do, we were able to experience some of it ourselves. We attended Mass with some of the sisters, and were given a tour of the different rooms in the building. Along the way, it was super sweet to see all the elderly going about their everyday lives with the help of the sisters. They were all clearly very happy, and some were even singing through the hallways! It was clear that the Little Sisters of the Poor were really making a difference in their lives.

In short, our visit to the Little Sisters of the Poor was very beneficial, and helped me to better understand the mission of the sisters. Though I don't yet know what my vocation is, I hope that I will be able to touch as many people's lives as the sisters do. Taking care of our elderly is very important, and the sisters do a wonderful job of making sure all their needs are met. I definitely recommend visiting the Little Sisters of the Poor!

**Boys trip to St. John Vianney Seminary
and St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity**

Avery G. (Epiphany Girl's Essay 2nd Place), Mary Szydluk, Simon J. (Boy's First Place Essay), Jim McGuire and Deacon Eric Gunderson

**Simon - Epiphany Catholic School Vocations Essay
Boy's First Place Essay Award***A great field trip*

The boys had the great privilege of going to meet the next line of priests in our diocese at the St Thomas campus in St Paul. We also met with another school called St Charles Borromeo. The Serra Club put this field trip together so young men can see what a priest in the making looks like.

When we got off the bus, we met Father Kelly who showed us the new Chapel at the minor Seminary. We also met with two seminarians who talked about their vocations to the priesthood. After they were done talking, they gave us a tour of the campus while we were on our way to the major Seminary. On our way, we stopped at where the college students workout, and the Student Center. After the Student Center we finally got to the major Seminary, where we had lunch before we had Mass. When we got in the chapel for Mass, I was just surprised to see how Seminarians went to Mass. During Mass there was a young man who had a voice of an angel who sang for us all to hear. After Mass Father Pavlak talked to us for a little bit. He also had two seminarians come talk to us. When they were done talking about their vocation, they gave us a tour of the chapel. In the chapel there were cool relics that we got to see. In the back of the chapel on the ceiling was a gorgeous artwork that I could never stop looking at. After the tour it was time to go home.

The most inspiring thing to me would have to be how many seminarians there were on campus. I feel like God's mission for me is to help people and to spread his faith among the world. I had such a great time at St Thomas campus with the young men from St. Charles Borromeo. I would like to thank the Serra Club for planning this field trip together and giving young men a chance to see what the priesthood and religious life is like.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS



NET Ministries Missionary, Emily Freas, from St. Charles Borromeo Parish, took time to tell about her apostolate, traveling to parishes and working with young people during the fall semester in the NET Cincinnati Province. Her evangelization work took her to 5 states, for 59 retreats and 2,593 youth served. NET Ministries challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. NET stands for National Evangelization Team.

SERRA RALLY MIAMI REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

SERRA RALLY MIAMI
JANUARY 23-26, 2025

One of our many speakers will be Mother Adela Galindo, who gave the amazing final keynote address at the National Eucharistic Congress. Come be inspired!!!

LEARN MORE

PRAYER INTENTIONS



Please keep in your prayers:

Jean Buchmann
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:

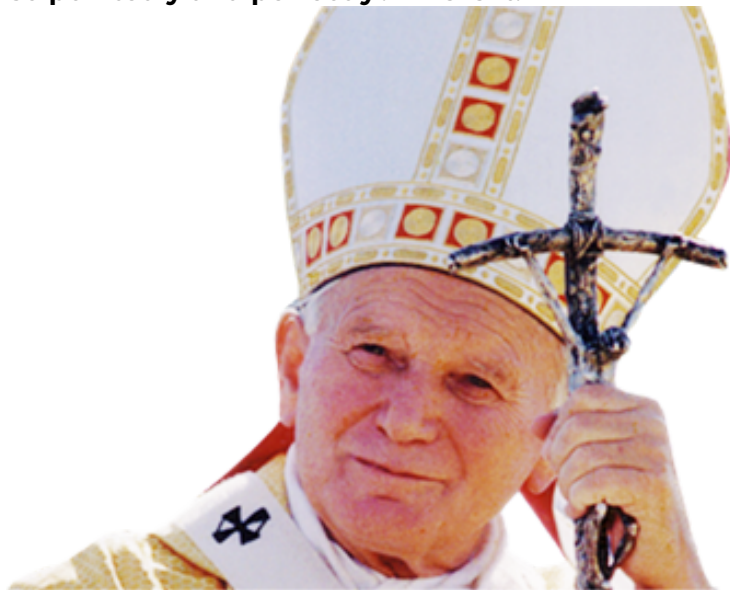
- Miriam Dinner - January 21
- and, for all those we hold in
our hearts.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

CALL TO HOLINESS

FAITHFUL AND VIGILANT STEWARDS

Do you know how it is when you recognize what you want to say, and find one (a Saint no less) that says it so pointedly and perfectly? This is it!



The universal call to holiness is closely linked to the universal call to mission. Every member of the faithful is called to holiness and to mission. This was the earnest desire of the Second Vatican Council, which hoped to be able "to enlighten all people with the brightness of Christ, which gleams over the face of the Church, by preaching the Gospel to every creature." The Church's missionary spirituality is a journey toward holiness....

What is needed is the encouragement of a new ardor for holiness.... Dear brothers and sisters: let us remember the missionary enthusiasm of the first Christian communities. Despite the limited means of travel and communication in those times, the proclamation of the Gospel quickly reaches the ends of

the earth. And this was the religion of a man who had died on a cross...! Underlying this missionary dynamism was the holiness of the first Christians and the first communities.... You must be like the first Christians and radiate enthusiasm and courage, in generous devotion to God and neighbor. In a word, you must set yourselves on the path of holiness. Only thus can you be a sign of God in the world.... Today, as never before, the Church has the opportunity of bringing the Gospel, by witness and word, to all people and nations. I see the dawning of a new missionary age, which will become a radiant day bearing an abundant harvest, if all Christians... respond with generosity and holiness to the calls and challenges of our time.

Like the apostles after Christ's Ascension, the Church must gather in the Upper Room together with Mary, the Mother of Jesus (Acts 1:14), in order to pray for the Spirit and to gain strength and courage to carry out the missionary mandate. We too, like the apostles, need to be transformed and guided by the Spirit.... Mary is the model of that maternal love that should inspire all who cooperate in the Church's apostolic mission for the rebirth of humanity.

Therefore, strengthened by the presence of Christ, the Church journeys through time toward the consummation of the ages and goes to meet the Lord who comes.

Saint John Paul II

Saint John Paul II († 2005) reigned as pope from 1978 until 2005. / From Redemptoris missio # 90, 91, 92, on the permanent validity of the Church's missionary mandate. Used with permission of the Libreria Editrice Vaticana. www.vatican.va.

ANNIVERSARIES

by Michaeline Loomis

Our Serra Apostolate of North-Minneapolis sends a greeting for the anniversary of ordination or profession to each of the religious who are associated with parishes in our area. Your personal notes and prayers are a beautiful gift to them.

Recent and upcoming anniversaries are:

Fr. Tan Phon Le
Corebishop Sharbel Maroun
Father Quy Duong

St Gerard, Brooklyn Park
St. Maron, Minneapolis
St. Alphonsus, Brooklyn Center

12/18/01
01/06/89
01/28/17



NOTABLE NEWS

SEMINARIAN THANK YOU NOTES!

Grateful for your generosity this Christmas Season in sending me a gas card as a gift. Know of my thoughts and prayers for your apostolate this season. May the Lord bless and keep your families during this season of hope.

God bless,

Sam Mishler, Pre-Theology I

Thank you for the generous gift of the gas card! Thank you also for your prayers! It is consoling to know that so many are praying. It has been a joy to be in seminary. Please keep praying for me. I will be praying for you all.

Merry Christmas!

Peter Flynn, Pre-Theology II

Thank you so much for the kindness of a gas card for Christmas. I really appreciate the gift and all you do to support vocations. May the Lord bless you all with a Merry Christmas!

In Christ through Mary,

Thomas Cain, Pre-Theology II

Thank you so much for the kind gift of the gas card! I've already used it to fill up my tank! May God bless you and all your loved ones this Christmas. Know of my prayers for you, and please continue to pray for me.

In Christ,

Jake Robbins, Theology I

Thank you so much for all your prayers & support for us seminarians and for all Holy Vocations from our local church! Thank you especially for your gift of a gas card – it's very helpful during this time of year! God's blessings during this Holy Season.

In Christ, through Mary,

Deacon Randy Skeate, Theology IV

MAILBAG

*Dear Judy and Serrans,
Thank you for sending the North-Minneapolis Memorial Service Worship Aid (Program) from your November Meeting. It is good to know that my mom, Jovita Baker is remembered. I read through the list of deceased members and there are a lot of names listed that I remember. I will keep them and all in my prayers.*
Fr. Anthony Baker, OSB
(Our Former "Walk With Me Seminarian")

*Dear Serra Club Members,
May the true spirit of Christmas bring you peace and happiness the whole year through! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year Celebration...be assured of our prayers.*

The Immaculate Heart Sisters
Champlin Community

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)



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**.



Rosemary Sullivan

NCDVD

Executive Director

**The Impact of Serra's Sponsorship
of the National Eucharistic
Congress**

Date: Mon, Jan 19, 7 pm CST

Webinar Link:

[pwd=RFdzZjgybDk0VVlKVlhyXNlNkpkUT09#success](https://www.zoom.us/j/95992451924?pwd=RFdzZjgybDk0VVlKVlhyXNlNkpkUT09#success)

Phone Access:

+1 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: 959 9245 1924

Passcode: 853558



NOTABLE NEWS

Christmas Thank You

FROM ST. JOHN VIANNEY SEMINARIANS



**Thank you North Minneapolis
Serra Club for all your amazingly
generous donations!**

**Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas
and a New Year filled with peace and
happiness!**

MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31  ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS	1 POPE FRANCIS	2 YOUR PASTOR	3 REV. RICHARD KALEY OFM CONV. ORD 1975	4 REV. MICHAEL CHARLES KALUZA ORD 2007
5 REV. PAUL ANTHONY KAMMEN ORD 2007	6 REV. RANDAL JOHN KASEL ORD 2005	7 REV. SCOTT RICHARDS KATZENBERGER C.Ss.R. ORD 1997	8 REV. JEROME FREDERICK KEISER ORD 1971	9 VERY REV. JONATHAN JOSEPH KELLY ORD 2011	10 REV. PATRICK ALLEN KENNEDY ORD 1977	11 MOST REV. KEVIN THOMAS KENNEY ORD 1994
12 REV. JAMES DOUGLAS (JIM) KENT OFM CONV. ORD 1991	13 REV. JAEHYUN (DOMINICUS) KIM ORD 2017	14 REV. GEORGE RAYMOND KINNEY ORD 1963	15 REV. JOHN ALEXANDER KLOCKEMAN ORD 2000	16 REV. THANKACHAN GEORGE (ABRAHAM) KOCHUPURACKAL CMI ORD 1991	17 REV. DAVID WILLIAM KOHNER ORD 1990	18 REV. THOMAS MICHAEL KOMMERS ORD 1980
19 REV. EVAN STEVEN KOOP ORD 2012	20 REV. DALE JOHN KOROGI ORD 1983	21 REV. KYLE PATRICK KOWALCZYK ORD 2016	22 REV. COLE THOMAS KRACKE ORD 2011	23 REV. WILLIAM FRANCIS KRATT ORD 2023	24 REV. MICHAEL JOHN KRENLIK ORD 1984	25 REV. THOMAS WILLIAM (TOM) KRENLIK ORD 197
26 REV. PAUL BASIL KUBISTA ORD 2010	27 REV. JOSEPH HAROLD (JOE) KUCHARSKI ORD 2014	28 REV. JOHN KUNZ ORD unknown	29 REV. ALLEN R. KUSS ORD 1984	30 REV. STEPHEN JOHN LACANNE ORD 1976	31 ARCHBISHOP BERNARD HEBDA ORD 1989 AUXBP. MICHAEL IZEN ORD 2005 AUXBP. KEVIN KENNEY ORD 1994	1 

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

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.

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

SERRA CLUB OF NORTH-MINNEAPOLIS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

12/17/24

Board Members Present: Ken Cobian, Judie Collodora, MaryAnne Frank, Rosemary Franzese, Jo Lohnes, Judy Makowske, Jim McGuire, Tim Regan, Norma Swanson, Mary Szydluk. Other Serrans present: Foundation Rep Bonnie Conroy, Membership Mentor: Denis Madden.

Meeting Opened with prayer led by **President T. Regan** at 8:50 am. Minutes from the previous meeting on 11/19/24 were moved and approved.

Communications: J. Makowske and N. Swanson: **J. Makowske** had a short conversation about the possibility of an online website with **Michelle Eastham** and **Mary Krawczynski** who are experienced and knowledgeable about websites and willing to work on one for Serra. She is setting up a mtg in Jan to include **M. Collins** and **J. Collodora** who have been exploring and promoting a website to increase membership. **M. Eastham** suggested a website may have an impact on our Newsletter by bringing information to Serrans on a more timely basis and thereby shortening the length of our newsletter. **N. Swanson** mentioned it's important to learn how many members will access a website and to thank our patron saint for bringing us new members willing to implement one. **T. Regan** mentioned services provided by the Serra International Office in Chicago. **K. Cobian** talked about watching a Serra Meets online mtg and hearing each of **John Liston's** staff of three talk about how they can help local Serra clubs and act as consultants with their backgrounds including website development. **T. Regan's** question about the difference between Serra International and Serra National led to a discussion about their difference in services, raising money and in how they think. **K. Cobian** mentioned watching an online mtg on Serra International Foundations. **J. McGuire** talked about his recent experience in contacting Serra International in Chicago to inquire about the status of a grant for **Sr. Joseph Marie/The Little Sisters of the Poor** and learned there are 70 applicants for grants being studied by a board with decisions being made this month/Dec. A list of 2024 Foundation Grant Recipients was published in The Serran Magazine, Nov 2024.

Treasurer: Ted McCrossan: **T. Regan** reported on a recent mtg with **T. McCrossan** and **D. Loomis** in response to **Marilyn Zappia's** voicing a need for a budget in order to look at requests and compare with past donations and to obtain a big picture of our finances with income and outgo defined. The need is recognized and is in the process of being implemented. **T. Regan** then talked about starting to work on our corporations 501C3 status after the holidays. Donations to our organization occasionally end up being processed by Serra International because we do not have our own tax number. Having a budget is necessary to obtain our own tax number.

Vocations: MA Frank and M. Szydluk: **MA Frank** provided a final accounting of incredibly generous gifts to the two seminaries. As agreed upon, 60% of the gift/fuel cards was given to St. Paul Seminary and 40% to St. John Vianney Seminary. Some wintry items were also donated, including warm stocking caps, cozy dress gloves and ice cleats. These gifts were delivered last week to the two seminaries by **MA Frank** and **Roscella Connelly**, driven by **Stephen Frank** who played an essential roll on the St. Paul Seminary campus due to the absence of parking with construction. When delivering the gifts at SJV, a group of seminarians were encountered, including **Patrick Storms** of St. Charles Borromeo. They were headed out to prayerfully protest at Planned Parenthood. **M. Szydluk** reported to the seminary admins of verbal assaults that seminarians have had to endure when protesting and which they combat with undistracted focus on prayer. **MA Frank** passed around a synopsis of Focused Annual Vocation Activities, a four-page detailed agenda calendar of what/when/how to promote vocation activities in the area of our Serra organization. There was brief discussion of other desirable activities which it's not now possible to add to the agenda. Posters are available for seminarians in both the major and minor seminaries and also one for those in the religious life. **B. Conroy** suggested that the general membership needs to be asked to participate in agenda activities. **K. Cobian** and **N. Swanson** suggested having sign-up sheets at each table, and asking for volunteers for specific activities at lunch meetings. Lastly, **MA Frank** reported that the Traveling Crucifix has been found at St. Stephen's in Anoka.

Vocation Bus Trips: J. McGuire and M. Eastham: **J. McGuire** reported the fall school trips are completed. The presentations went very well, with **M. Szydluk** showing classes the photo of her grandsons on the posters and asked them to listen to God. Spring bus trips are scheduled for April 11, a Friday during Lent, because The Handmaids of The Heart of Jesus are only available on Fridays. This date works for the boys only at SPS but not SJV. Thus, the boys will go to Franciscan Brothers of Peace in the morning and to SPS in the afternoon for mass and lunch. Possible dates for the 2nd bus trips are Thurs, Apr 24 or Tues, Apr 29 after Easter, but the dates need to be confirmed. Have been seeking to visit Pro Ecclesia Sancta with the girls, but again our request could not be accommodated this spring; perhaps next fall. Need to figure out where to visit with the girls. The schools to be contacted for the spring are: Sacred Heart, John Paul II, Immaculate Conception, John the Baptist and a home school in Blaine that will provide their own transportation for a small number of students. **J. McGuire** next reported on behalf of **M. Eastham** the past order history and costs for Favorite Prayers (1,000/\$200; 5,000/\$750) and his reorder recommendation. It was decided to delay action until next board mtg to gain a greater understanding on how many are needed.

Membership: M. Collins and J. Collodora: **J. Collodora** reported that there are two actions needed coming up in January: the website and a letter to the priests for a Holy Hour which needs to be scheduled. **T. Regan** stated how important he believes it is for our organization to make inroads at Holy Cross with its brimming population but suggests we wait until **M. Collins** is available to start this initiative this spring. **J. Makowske** discussed having a special date and special speaker at a luncheon at St. Williams on April 22 for which each member will be asked to bring someone as a candidate for membership in Serra who will have been sent a special printed invitation. **N. Swanson** brought up the subject of having associate memberships for people who do not attend mtgs.

Programs: J. Lohnes reported that the recent Advent Christmas Party on Dec 10 was a resounding success. The speaker at our next membership mtg on Jan 14 is Jane Flanders from the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence. A speaker is also scheduled in March. Many lunch mtgs remain unbooked and present a good opportunity to submit guest speaker referrals which will be greatly appreciated.

New Business:

KC/Serra Seminarian Awards Dinner in March: **K Cobian** suggested we host the grandparents of (Deacon Skeate), one of the seminary recipients. The grandparents belong/are active at St. Charles, which is also the location of the dinner. It was so moved and seconded.

Activity Calendars: **K Cobian** was contacted by **M. Zappia** who suggested sending a copy of the activity calendars to **Mike Downey**. Everyone agreed.

M. Zappia's Serra Reservoir: **T. Regan** said he has acquired much appreciation and respect for all the time, talent and efforts **M. Zappia** expends towards increasing vocations via the activities of our Serra organization. **M. Zappia** can never be replaced but as a testimony to her commendable contributions to Serra we should be trying to capture the what and how she operates. We need to identify someone willing to learn under **M. Zappia's** tutelage.

President Elect Opening: **T. Regan** expressed the need to fill an opening on the Board of Directors. In recognition of its importance to our Serra organization, the President Elect position needs to be filled. Discussion ensued.

Reporting/Recording of Payouts and Income: **R. Franzese** voiced concern about documenting gratuities given to individuals or organizations that are not specified in the board meeting minutes, in order to replicate in the future. **J. McGuire** said **M. Eastham** has designed a spreadsheet to cover all monies given as gratuities to host organizations, to individuals as rewards and to pay bills for the school bus trips. Our treasurer documents funds coming in and going out and creating a budget is in the works. Lastly, our Activity Calendars will be documenting monies associated with vocation activities.

Monthly Patron Saint: **T. Regan** wants to discuss this topic next month.

Next Membership Events/Meetings:

Jan 14 - Membership Lunch Meeting 12:15 am at St. William's Church (Annex downstairs.) Speaker: Jane Flanders from the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence
Jan 21- Next Board Meeting 8:45 am at St. Charles Borromeo Church (Doran Hall)
Jan 23-26 - Serra Rally, Miami
Jan 28 Membership Lunch Meeting 12:15 am at St. William's Church (Annex downstairs.) Speaker: TBD

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