



ARCHDIOCESAN 'Jubilee of Deacons'

by MaryAnne Frank

On Sunday, February 23, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis celebrated the institution of Deacons in formation to the Order of Lector at St. Charles Borromeo Parish. Archbishop Bernard Hebda celebrated the Mass and called up the men who are in their 3rd of 5 years of preparation for the Diaconate. Twelve men were seated with their families through out the Church and came forward with a firm "Present!" as their names were called. Initially, I thought it odd that they were not seated in the front pews, then, it dawned on me that they were truly coming from the people of the Church. ~ They were in essence, called from the people!

Archbishop Hebda invited each man to come individually into the Sanctuary where they laid their hand on the Book of Scripture as the Archbishop held it. He reminded them that they are no longer 'readers' of the Gospel, but, Lectors, bearers of God's Word and as a member of the Order of Lectors, "to proclaim the Word to the assembly."

Our archdiocesan celebration became a local part of the designated, "Jubilee of Deacons" celebrated in Rome from February 21-23 where Deacons were actually ordained. Although, Pope Francis was unable to attend the midday prayer from the window overlooking St. Peter's Basilica due to his serious illness, the text of his Sunday Angelus prayer was shared:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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. 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 4

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

LENT: GO OUT INTO THE DESERT

Jesus showed us the Way: at the beginning of His long journey to Holy Week, He was led by the Holy Spirit out into the desert. There He fasted and prayed for forty days. There He was severely tempted by the Devil, but He overcame evil. He told Satan, almost literally, to go to Hell.

In the scriptures, there is no more powerful theme of God's encounter with His people, no more evocative metaphor of Israel's repentance and turning back to God, than the desert.

God met Abram in the desert – an occasion so momentous that God changed his name to Abraham. God told Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation, that his descendants would be as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore. Moses fled to the desert after he was wrongfully accused of murder; there God encountered Moses and told him that he must go against the Pharaoh of Egypt, the most powerful man on earth, and save his people from slavery.

The desert is hot, parched, and uncomfortable. But in the scriptures it is presented almost as a place for nourishment – a place of preparation for a mission. After God saved the people of Israel from death by drowning in the Red Sea, He led them out into the desert. There He fed them, and He gave them their covenant, the Law of Moses, which would be the lifeblood of their existence.

Pope St. John Paul II, our modern hero in the faith, said something very interesting and important for the likes of us. He said that we who suffer infirmity in old age must bear the weight of our suffering in exactly the same way that Jesus bore His cross on the way to His death. That is powerful advice, especially for us Serrans. We have this precious mission: to help the Church sustain herself through new vocations.

We can't let up in our desert journey. We can't quit.

- The desert is a metaphor for the spiritual journey, representing times of trial and testing.
- The desert experience is a preparation for entering into God's promises.
- The desert is a place where believers are called to rely on God's guidance and provision.

Examples of desert experiences in the Bible:

- God spoke to Abraham while he was in the wilderness.
- God brought the Israelites into the wilderness to speak to them at Mount Sinai.
- God met with Elijah in the wilderness.
- God spoke to John the Baptist in the desert.

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SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

WALK WITH ONE



Judy Cozzens

by Jo Lohnes
Former President of the U.S. Council of Serra International, Judy Cozzens, came and spoke to our Serra Club members regarding the National Eucharistic Revival "Walk with One" initiative.

This information was shared and is copied in part from the website:

<https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one>

We are all called to evangelize, and thanks to the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are well-equipped for this mission. It may not mean spreading the Gospel in a foreign land or going door-to-door with the Good News—and it may require overcoming some fears—but the Lord is asking each of us to step out of our comfort zone and evangelize one-on-one.

There is someone in your life right now whom Jesus longs to call to Himself. He wants to spark a relationship with them and bless them with His sacraments. In this Year of Mission, Catholics across the U.S. are saying "yes" to a special form of heart-to-heart accompaniment called the Walk With One initiative. This is your opportunity to be God's instrument in the life of another person. Imagine how our families, neighborhoods, and country will be transformed if every active Catholic answers this call!

Identify

Don't just pick someone. Ask God whom He wants you to accompany on their journey home to the Church. He will point you to the person He has in mind and open doors for the conversations that need to happen.

Intercede

As soon as the Lord lays someone on your heart, begin to pray for them! Ask God to remove whatever obstacles are making it difficult for this person to draw closer to Christ and His Church. Pray for the grace to be able to accompany them well.

Connect

Look for ways to build a deeper relationship with this person. Get together with them for coffee or lunch. Listen deeply for promptings from the Holy Spirit as you get to know your friend's joys and struggles. Share with them some of your own.

Invite

Follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit. When the time is right, invite your friend to take a concrete next step in fostering a personal relationship with Jesus and the Church. This might mean joining you for a small group or Mass on Sunday.

****By virtue of our Baptismal calling, the Lord is sending each of us to give witness to his saving love.**

'Jubilee of Deacons' continued from page 1 . . .

"Dear brothers in the diaconate," the Pope observed, **"you dedicate yourselves to the proclamation of the Word and to the service of charity."** The Holy Father likewise praised their dedication to **"carrying out your ministry in the Church with words and deeds, bringing God's love and mercy to all."**



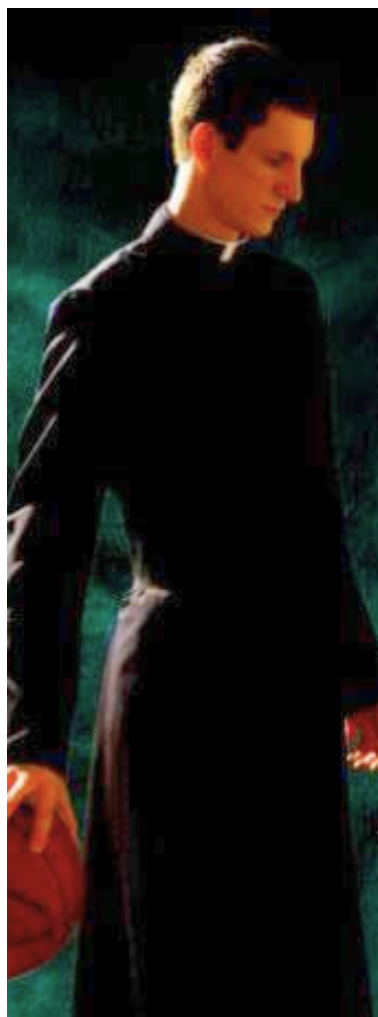
We were doubly blessed at St. Charles to not only host this beautiful occasion, but to celebrate a fellow parishioner, Anthony Floeder, who was among the 12 instituted as Lectors. Our prayers extend especially to Tony and his wife, Marsha, as they continue the path of preparation toward his ordination to the Diaconate.



Deacon candidates and their wives posed with Archbishop Hebda following Mass and the ceremony installing them as Lectors.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

THE ANNUAL PRIEST AND SEMINARIAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



All ages welcome!

- Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Concessions available.
- At 6 p.m., the seminarians from the Saint Paul Seminary compete against the seminarians from St. John Vianney College Seminary.
- At 7:15 p.m., the priests will play the winner of the seminarian competition.
- This event promoting the vocation of the priesthood is free, fun for all ages, and open to the public.



Each spring Serrans gather together for the Spring Leadership meeting. This year it will be held at **Our Lady of Grace in Edina on April 12, 2025** beginning with mass at 8:30AM. It will include breakfast and lunch. We will end by 2:15 PM. The cost is \$30. This can be paid on the day of the event, but please register so that we can have a count for the food. Register with Charlene Zachman at her email by April 1, 2025.

charzach2015@gmail.com OR Call (763) 443-8045

This meeting, to which **all Serrans are invited**, is packed with information and ideas especially for the purpose of:

1) training for new officers and connecting with others who serve in the same office such as Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, VP's of Vocations, Communications, Membership and Programs. All officers should be ready to share what has worked and what doesn't work.

2) for member Serrans to share and learn about how committees work and best practices from other Serra Clubs throughout the Districts of MN. These include clubs from Crookston, Duluth, St. Cloud, St. Paul, SW Metro, Airport, NW Hennepin, North Minneapolis, and Wright County as well as Serrans from District 7S including Owatonna, Rochester, Mankato, Wabasha, and Winona. All Serrans can learn about ways to increase membership and how to promote vocations through your clubs.

3) fellowship with other Serrans throughout the region.

Our guest speaker has not been nailed down yet. We will let you know as soon as we know. Please register early. Talk this up at your March meetings and get the count for your club nailed down so that the presidents can email Charlene with the count from their clubs by April 1. It would be helpful to acknowledge who the new officers are as well.

Thanks and God bless you.
Debbie Koop, District 7 Governor
"Always forward, never back."
St. Junipero Serra

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS



ESSAY WINNERS



St. Raphael's Essay Winners following the Vocation Bus Trips to St. Paul Seminary and St. John Vianney Seminary for the boys and the Little Sisters of the Poor Holy Family Residence for the girls.

Left to right: Tricia Lyngen, Mary Szydlak, Sitlalit, Jim McGuire, Charles, Gerodi, Isabella, Joseph Turner

Sitlalit - St. Raphael's Catholic School Vocations Essay Girls' First Place Essay Award

God's Calling

The Holy Spirit brought more understanding into my heart. At the beginning, I had no idea what I should expect. I understood that it would have been a convent, except the only thing I knew was that it had something to do with nuns. I learned that I had to be open to new things, new people, and that I had to be willing to accept everything that came my way.

The first thing I learned was that vocation means a strong calling to do something, in this case, and should be in every case, God calls us. God had called those Sisters to become Sisters. They had open hearts and accepted God's calling. I want to be just like them. I want to be ready to accept God's calling. I learned that God calls people to different things. The things that God calls you to be make you a saint if you accept His calling. It can be hard to accept His calling at first, but once you do, your life will change for the better. God knows what is best for us. Because of this, we need to trust that God's plans are going to work.

I found out that being more open hearted makes it easier for the Holy Spirit to work through us. He is love. If I start loving just like Him, He will work through me. I accept that fact. I will work hard to love my neighbors as He loved us. It will be impossible for me to love the same way because His love is infinite, but I will do my best. His love is so beyond our understanding. This vocation trip helped me discover this. The sisters said that if I was the only person in the world, Jesus would have still been crucified to save me. That left me in awe. The sisters also said God loves me as if I was the only one. I will start loving more in order to be an instrument of peace to Him.

While on the trip, I became more open to other people. I am normally a shy person but this time, I was willing to talk to new people. I became friends with two girls from St. Stephens. Their names were Emma and Angelica. They helped me realize that trying new things and being open to them is actually a good thing. Because of that, I am more willing to be open, not just to new people, but to new experiences as well.

By understanding a small amount of God's eternal love, being open to new people, and new experiences I, too, can be ready for what God will call me to be. I will do my best to accept what God has planned for me. I will accept it with love.

Charles- St. Raphael's Catholic School Vocations Essay Boys' First Place Essay Award

Vocation Essay

Hello my name is Charles. I was very happy going on this trip. I have learned more about vocations. Something new and interesting as a result of this trip for me is finding out how God can call people to be a priest and how the priest could have had different ideas for their future. I find that interesting because most people become fathers or mothers. This reminds me of Matthew 22:14, "many are called but few are chosen," because God could be calling people to be priests but lots of them could ignore that calling. I was also very happy with the architecture which was beautiful and large with the incredible mosaics.

Walking around the campus was very interesting but the best part was the church. In the church were beautiful paintings and a Mary and Joseph statue. They were old but still looked beautiful. The mass was absolutely amazing. The piano sounded amazing. The whole mass was absolutely amazing. Listening to the priests tell their life stories and how they became priests was interesting. I found it cool because becoming a priest was not their original goal. God led them in the direction of priesthood and I find it interesting that most of their other ideas of their future failed.

I am happy I was able to go on that trip because I was able to find out about vocations and view beautiful mosaics. The mosaics looked amazing and I was happy to go into the church which was beautiful. Walking around the campus was awesome and inside one of the buildings kind of looked like a mall. The priesthood seemed interesting because you have to go to a seminary for 8 years. In conclusion, I hope I can come back with my class again.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

**An excerpt from the Archbishop's Weekly Word ...**

Given that priests are essential for the Eucharist, it is not surprising that one of the most important challenges in every diocese is to encourage young people to consider their calling. Prayer is, of course, an important first step in that work. Didn't Jesus himself tell us that we should be asking the Master of the Harvest to send laborers into the vineyard? ...

I am mindful as well of the dedicated prayers and activities of our local Serra Clubs. The members commit to praying for vocations and have long been an important part of this archdiocese. They are always so generous in collaborating with our Archdiocesan vocations director, Father Mark Pavlak.

SEMINARIAN AWARDS DINNER



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 seminarians, 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.

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
Bonnie Conroy
Kay Cooley
Tom Fahrenholz
Dorothy Pearson
Esther Guzik
Jack Quesnell
Jackie Pavlak
Joe Spano
Chris Struble*
Johnny Swanson
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:

- The physical and spiritual
benefit of Our Holy Father
Pope Francis
- and, for all those we hold in
our hearts.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

CALL TO HOLINESS



by MaryAnne Frank

I found the following meditation from Venerable Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan in my January *Magnificat*. Years ago, Bishop Nguyen was invited by Father Kittock to St. Charles to preach the weekend homilies and be a witness to holiness:

"To be successful by the usual standards of the world means acquiring:

- *power, while the saints relied on God's omnipotence;*
- *riches, while the saints enjoyed the Creator's abundant gifts;*
- *university degrees, while the saints shared divine wisdom;*
- *admiration, while the saints rejoiced to be the objects of God's love.*

Holiness is not the passive presence of God in a person, but God's life and action in that person. Holiness is a human life filled with God ~ the most beautiful life possible.

Holiness comes down through the centuries without being degraded or corrupted. Holiness renders a person blessed. Holiness truly transforms a person and raises him or her to the highest level: God. Holiness fills a person with love and the Holy Spirit moves him or her. Holiness is the most beautiful thing in the world. If we gathered all the light of the sun into a person, he or she would shine with splendor. Yet, as unimaginable as this splendor is who can begin to speak of the beauty of a soul in which God dwells? The saint is "made" by the happy collaboration of an individual with God, the Author of all beauty. Holiness allows a person to show forth, like a vase of pure crystal, not merely a portrait of God, but God's true image.

Lord, I have only one lifetime to become holy! I know this requires openness and effort, because it is the highest of values."

It is no wonder that one of Serra's stated missions is to achieve holiness. An unchangeable standard, holiness is a reflection of God's love in us.

APPRECIATING CONSECRATED LIFE



by MaryAnne Frank

On World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life in early February, our Serra Club sent reminder notes of our prayerful appreciation along with a Cub gift card to local orders of professed religious. We 'dressed up' our gifts with Valentine remembrance cards kindly given to us by fellow Serran, Susan Lein, from Twin Cities Southwest Metro Serra Club.

Dear Serrans,

It was a great joy to receive your kind note with the best wishes on the Feast Days of Consecrated Life and Day of the Sick. Thank you for thinking of us and for the generous gift card. Surely it is a good and practical gift that we are glad to use. May the good Lord continue to bless you with good health, peace, joy, and happiness with grace for the Holy Year of HOPE. We are looking forward to seeing the 8th grade girls.

Sr. Anna, Peter Claver Missionary Sisters

Dear Serrans,

Grace and peace to you! We hope this note finds you well and with the Lord in all things. It was a great gift to see you at the Miriam Dinner and receive your overwhelming support in the wake of it. Thank you for the Cub card - we will put it to good use! As we rely off Divine Providence, we continue to marvel at the many ways the Lord takes care of our temporal and spiritual needs. We pray He may be abundantly generous with you and reward you richly for your labor of love in the Church. Thank you for giving yourselves generously to inspire others to "waste it all" in the Lord. Your witness and care for vocations is precious and beautiful. Know of our prayers!

Yours in Christ,

The Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus

NOTABLE NEWS



MAILBAG

Dear Serrans,
 What a team! Thanks for your continued generosity! Your commitment in serving at the annual Miriam Dinners is very appreciated. We look forward to working again with you! Many thanks and blessings!
Fr. Mark Pavlak and Patty McQuillan

CHRISTMAS GAS CARD THANKS

Dear Serrans,
 Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift. It is deeply appreciated. I am very grateful for your love and care for me and all of us seminarians! You are a beautiful witness of devotion to the church and care for its future. Thank you for your work!
 In Christ,
Noah Orham, Pre-Theology I

Dear Serra Club of North-Minneapolis,
 Thank you for your very generous Christmas gift. It is deeply appreciated. With it, I have been able to travel to visit other seminarians and grow in fraternity. Again, thank you for your tremendous generosity.
 Sincerely,
Joseph Seidel, Propaedeutic Year

Dear North-Minneapolis Serra Apostolate,
 "Thy all-powerful word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne!" Thank you for the generous gas card gift and thank you for your faithful and generous prayers. Blessings to you all.
 With the love of Jesus,
Joshua French, Theology I

Dear members of the Serra Club of North-Minneapolis,
 Thank you so much for your generous gift in support of myself and all of the seminarians of the archdiocese. Thank you also for your constant prayers which make our discernment possible. Please know of my prayers for you all.
 God bless,
Peter Romens, Theology III

Dear Serra Club,
 Thank you for your very kind gift! I am so grateful to have received such generosity over the past many years! For myself, I only have a few months remaining before my priestly ordination. My time in seminary has been very blessed, but a new chapter in my life will be starting soon. Nevertheless, please pray for me during this time, and know of my prayers for you all.
 Sincerely,
Deacon Benjamin Eichten, Theology IV

Dear Serra Club of North-Minneapolis,
 Thank you so much for the gift card. Now I can move some extra miles to do my ministry. So far, my first year of formation is going well. I am learning many things about human development, especially knowing myself better. I am on media fast which I only use my phone for calls on Saturday. This permits to concentrate more on my discernment and be more focused on my spirituality. Please keep me in your prayers!
 Dios las llene de bendiciones siempre. Mis oraciones por Uds.
 [May God fill you with blessings always. My prayers for you.]
Juan Cuzco, Propaedeutic Year

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**.



Cardinal Collins

Serra International
 Episcopal Advisor

Lenten Reflections for Serrans

Date: Mon, Mar 17th, 7 pm CST

Webinar Link:

[pwd=RFdZcjgybDk0VVIKVlhyYXNlbnkpkUT09#success](https://www.zoom.us/j/912451924?pwd=RFdZcjgybDk0VVIKVlhyYXNlbnkpkUT09#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

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23  ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS	24	25	26	27	28	1 POPE FRANCIS
2 YOUR PASTOR	3 REV. JOHN MARTIN MALONE ORD 1967	4 REV. MICHAEL THOMAS MALONEY ORD 2024	5 REV. KEVIN MICHAEL MANTHEY ORD 2014	6 REV. THOMAS STEVEN (TOM) MARGEVICIUS ORD 1999	7 CHORBISHOP SHARBEL GHATTAS MAROUN ORD 1989	8 REV. LUKE CHARLES MARQUARD ORD 2013
9 REV. BIJU MATHEW ORD 1998	10 REV. THOMAS EDWARD JOSEPH MCCABE ORD 1992	11 REV. JAMES MICHAEL (J. MICHAEL) MCCLELLAN ORD 2016	12 REV. JAMES PATRICK MC CONVILLE ORD 1990	13 REV. PATRICK M MCCORKELL SJ ORD 1974	14 REV. KEVIN MICHAEL MCDONOUGH ORD 1980	15 REV. THOMAS RICHARD JAMES MCDONOUGH ORD 1989
16 REV. CONNOR THOMAS Z MCGINNISORD 2022	17 REV. THOMAS MICHAEL (TJ) MCKENZIE JR ORD 2015	18 REV. STEVEN JOHN MCMICHAEL OFM CONV. ORD 2002	19 REV. JOHN DAVID MEYER ORD 2008	20 REV. NATHANIEL RENE FRANCIS MEYERS ORD 2010	21 REV. MICHAEL JOSEPH MILLER ORD 1996	22 REV. MARCUS FRANCIS MILLESS ORD 2014
23 REV. JOHN JOSEPH MITCHELL ORD 1996	24 REV. MICHAEL G MONOGUE ORD 1985	25 REV. JOSEPH ROBERT (MICHAEL) MONSHAU OP ORD 1988	26 REV. HUGO LAUTARO MONTERO PAZMINO ORD 1992	27 REV. MARK DANIEL MORIARTY ORD 1999	28 REV. DANIEL LEE MORIS ORD 2010	29 REV. STEFANO LUCA MOTTA FSCB ORD 2016
30 REV. PAUL GREGORY MOUDRY ORD 1987	31 ARCHBISHOP BERNARD HEBDA AUXBP. MICHAEL IZEN AUXBP. KEVIN KENNEY	1	2	3	4	5

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.

Eternal Father,
We lift up to You these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.



SERRA CLUB OF NORTH-MINNEAPOLIS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

02/25/25

Board Members Present: Ken Cobian, Maureen Collins, Judie Collodora, MaryAnne Frank, Rosemary Franzese, Jo Lohnes, Judy Makowske, Ted McCrossan, Jim McGuire, Tim Regan, Norma Swanson. Other Serran present via phone: Marilyn Zappia.

Meeting Opened with prayer led by **President T Regan** at 11:00am. Minutes from the previous meeting on 1/21/25 were moved, seconded and approved.

Communications: J Makowske and N Swanson: In preparation for printing an updated membership roster, **J Makowske** asked the board to check the accuracy of their listing and submit any additions, such as cell phone numbers, subtractions or corrections. Next, **J Makowske** talked about finalizing our Newsletter for March with a deadline of Feb 25/today and ensuring all committees have or are in process of submitting articles. The number of Newsletter pages is dependent upon the length of submissions. Sec **R Franzese** asked for comments about the length of Board Meeting Minutes which appear in the Newsletter in smaller print due to their length/amount of detail, with varied responses. The Newsletter is distributed online and approximately 30 copies are mailed. Mailed Newsletters which contain more than 10 pages require additional postage. Discussion ensued about ease of reading a printed copy of the Newsletter vs online, with a number preferring a hard copy. It was suggested emailing Board Meeting Minutes separately from the Newsletter or distributing them at a lunch mtg to the general membership. Also, a suggestion to mail everyone a Newsletter. No action to change Newsletter distribution was taken. There was no consensus. Next, **J Makowske** led discussion of the need to form a **Nominating Comm** and seek Nominations for the Board, which should be selected in time to attend the Spring Leadership Meeting at OLG on Apr 12. **Pres T Regan** said the most pressing open nomination is for President-Elect and suggested several board members give it prayerful consideration. He and **MA Frank** will continue search for a President-Elect candidate and check in with current Trustees for their availability to serve for another year.

Vocations: MA Frank and M Szydluk: **MA Frank** we now have a Letter of Invitation to new Serrans from **Archbishop Hebda** dated Feb 20, 2025 which will be included in our packets for invitation to prospective members. Next, she alerted us to a valuable Monthly Leadership Planning Calendar emailed from **John Halloran**, USA Council President-Elect containing the dates for Serra Meets, Officer Training, Conventions, Master Schedule for Vocations, etc. **MA Frank** is sending out 20 copies of our Favorite Prayers requested by someone who wanted to share with her friends, along with an invite to join us. **MA Frank** received permission from **Patti/Archdiocesan Office** to use a print of the Virgin Mary on the other side of a holy card containing our Archdiocesan Prayer for Vocations which will be available for handouts. Next, religious orders were remembered with a note of support and a Cub gift card for World Day for Consecrated Life on Feb 2, which coincides with Candlemas Day. **J Makowske** hand delivered a note/gift card to Brothers of Hope/**Br Austin** who is working with young people at St Lawrence/Newman Center. He appreciated our gift and prayers and will pray for us.

Vocation Bus Trips: J McGuire and M Eastham: **J McGuire** mentioned bus trips are scheduled for Apr 11 with Franciscan Brothers of Peace/SPS and St. Paul location of Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus and on Apr 24 with SJV/SPS and St Peter Claver Sisters. **N Swanson** spoke about the Visitation Order nuns who live at a North Mpls mission and a discussion followed about integrating that order into our bus trips and asking **Sr Katherine** to speak to our Serra Club. **J McGuire** spoke about adding the Jesuit Retreat House and Carmelite Sisters and Monks at Demontreville. **President T Regan** asked that **J McGuire** and **M Eastham** keep working creatively for future trips.

Membership: M Collins and J Collodora: **J Collodora** introduced new materials: books of the saints \$7.00, cut outs \$150 each, framed pictures and cards for sacristy/altar servers. **MA Frank** said she can be the point person for the saints books in her Vocations Comm. **MA Frank** will be calling **Fr Howe** at Holy Cross about the letter our club sent to him several weeks ago proposing what we Serrans could offer his parish working with his vocations efforts to which he has not responded. Our attempt to work with a parish to promote vocations will be applied to St Stephen's next if there is no invite at Holy Cross. **M Collins** talked about **J Collodora** putting blurbs in the Immaculate Conception Bulletins for the past several months recruiting for Serra, something we could all do. **J Makowske** has contacted the Archdiocesan Catholic Directory admin about including listings for Serra Clubs in the Archdiocese. **M Collins** said she's been trying to contact a bishop to come to our meeting as a lure for prospective members and learned that **J Lohnes** has **Bishop Izen** scheduled for Apr 22. **N Swanson** alerted us that Serra Clubs are the ONLY Catholic lay organization that has been aggregated to the Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations within the Sacred Congregation for Seminaries and Universities in Rome and we have the certificate to show it! **M Collins** suggested putting a copy of this certificate in our packets for invitation to prospective members. She called attention to **Archbishop Hebda** mentioning Serra in a recent letter.

Programs: J Lohnes repeated her good news of scheduling **Bishop Izen** for an April 22 membership mass and lunch! Bishop requested any preferred topics for the homily and luncheon address. **M Collins** suggested stories about the Bishop's own vocation and how he is a vocations magnet. **T Regan** suggested 'how do we Catholics reach out to the indifferent?' **J Lohnes** talked to **Stephanie Percic** about reaching out to her nephew to join us on three open dates. Looking ahead, we have one mtg in June, St Junipero Serra's Feast Day on July 1, and the regular sessions begin again starting with the fourth Tues in July. **J McGuire** will be emailing info about St Raphael's Street Evangelization group for a possible scheduling. He went on to ask about associate membership in Serra for someone he knows who would like to be a prayer warrior for vocations but not attend meetings.

Treasurer: T McCrossan has been collecting dues and fees for the upcoming Serra/KC Seminarian Dinner. **MA Frank** told us about our 'Walk With Me Seminarian' **Deacon Alex Hall** who earlier had a year of discernment, returned and will be ordained a priest this spring. She moved we provide him a monetary support to be available for him to buy vestments. The motion was seconded and approved. A discussion ensued about annual fees paid St William's and St Charles for use of facilities, with payment to St Charles to include printing costs. Action carried over to next meeting.

K Cobian announced there will be a prayer service but not a mass preceding the KC/Seminarian dinner, because there is no priest available. Deadline for making a reservation is March 6.

Next Membership Events/Meetings:

Mar 11 - Membership Lunch Meeting 12:15 am at St. William's Church (Annex downstairs.)

Speaker: Kelly Scott: Inspirations from the Bench

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

Mar 20 - Serra and KOC Awards Dinner - 6pm prayer service at St. Charles Borromeo followed by dinner and award ceremony

Meeting Adjourned with prayer led by **President T Regan** at 12:10pm.