

*Congratulations!*

**FR. GEORGE  
YOUNES**



*Photo by the Catholic Spirit.*

**Message from the Pastor of St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church:**

Beloved Parishioners and Friends of Saint Maron,  
May God's divine light shine upon you and grant you wisdom, peace, and happiness. How blessed was our community to witness the priestly Ordination of Fr. George Younes, first member of our parish family to be ordained on our altar in 122 years.

Heaven's gates were opened as we witnessed this sacred Mystery of the Holy Priesthood. People attending the ordination were awestruck with the richness and beauty of this sacred Imposition of Hands. To many, this was the first time they witnessed a Maronite ordination. This is a Jubilee Year of Hope and it gives us hope that the Lord Jesus still calls ministers to His altar and someone from among us to serve Him as a priest. Let us continue praying for more vocations for the Church.

Let us pray and hope that this ceremony would have touched the hearts and souls of the young people who were present so that they may consider the call to the holy Priesthood as well as to encourage all of us to pray and work for more vocations.

We rejoice with Father George, his family, and the whole church asking God to bless him in his ministry.

Chorbishop Sharbel Maroun

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sept 09 – Membership Meeting** 12:15 pm  
Church of St. William  
Speaker: Michael Bird  
*St. Michael Broadcasting*

**Sept 16 – Board Meeting** 8:45 am  
St. Charles Borromeo, Doran Hall

**Sept 23 – Membership Meeting** 12:15 pm  
Church of St. William  
Speaker: Sister Kathleen Mary  
*School Sisters of Notre Dame*

**Sept 28 – Priesthood Sunday, All Masses**  
Parishes in Serra Charter Area  
Bookmarks – Spiritual Bouquets – Prayers

**Oct 14 – Membership Meeting** 12:15 pm  
Church of St. William  
Speaker: Sisters Carolyn and Jill,  
*Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet*

**Oct 21 – Board Meeting** 8:45 am  
St. Charles Borromeo, Doran Hall

**Oct 28 – Membership Meeting** 12:15 pm  
Church of St. William  
Speaker: Tony Kuplic, *Laboure Society*

**Nov 11 – Membership Meeting and Memorial Service** 12:15 pm  
Church of St. William  
Speaker: Tom Pomeroy, *Pacem in Terris*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Tim Regan

## SET OUT ON THIS ADVENTURE WITH HIM

Dear Serrans:

It's almost harvest time. Did you put up jam this year, strawberry or raspberry? In my case it was kosher half-dill pickles, like I usually do, although "putting up" isn't quite right – they go in the refrigerator, not the pantry. They are very garlicky and delicious, and if you would like the recipe, no problem.

I was thinking about the harvest when I read Pope Leo's homily to the young pilgrims at the recent "Youth Jubilee" in Rome. The reports said there were over one million young people (!! *Did I read that right?!*)... camped in a field southeast of Rome. The organizers flew the pope in by helicopter to say Mass.

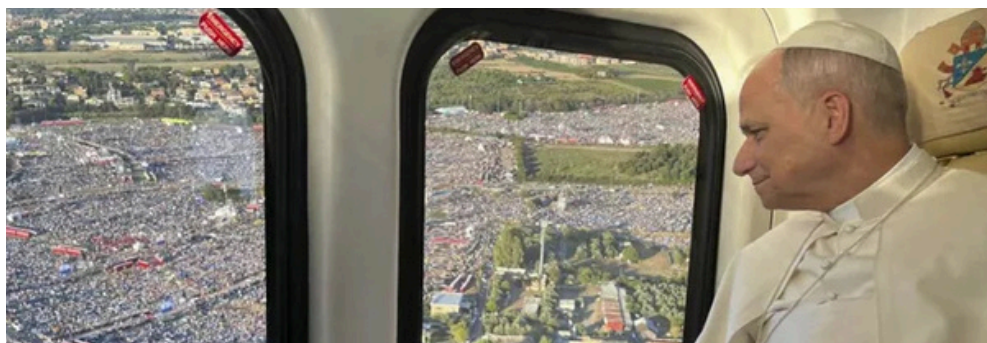
It was the weekend of the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Recall the Gospel reading for that day, about the rich farmer who built new barns for himself, and filled them with the produce of the land, until they groaned with abundance. But then God said, "*You fool, your life will be required of you this day!*"

Interestingly, Pope Leo's homily focused not on this famous Gospel passage but on the Psalm reading for the day, the one about the grass which ". . . *in the morning flourishes and is renewed, and in the evening fades and withers.*" The thousands of pilgrims camping in the field are like the grass: young, delicate, renewing the earth. He said, "*We are not made for a life where everything is taken for granted and static, but for an existence that is constantly renewed through the gift of self in love.*"

Then Pope Leo, a true Augustinian, gave the kids a real zinger. He quoted from his patron St. Augustine who, reflecting on his own search for God, asked himself, "What then, is the object of our hope? Is it the earth? No. Is it something that comes from the earth, like gold, silver, or crops? No. . . . You, Lord, were within me. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance; I drew in breath, and I tasted you. I burn for your peace."

So, Pope Leo said to the young people, "Aspire to great things. Aspire to holiness, like young Carlo Acutis, who soon will be declared a Saint. Do not settle for less!"

"It is very beautiful," Pope Leo said, "especially at your young age, to open wide your hearts and let the Lord enter, and set out on this adventure with Him toward eternity."



## CLUB OFFICERS 2025-2026

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## SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

## GET INVOLVED: WHY IT MATTERS TO VOCATIONS

**Debbie Koop June 10, 2025**

Debbie Koop, District Governor for Serra District 7, joined our Serra Club to share why getting involved matters to vocations. Below are some statistics that make it clear.

In 1965, there were an estimated 60,000 Catholic priests serving a Catholic population of 45.6 million Catholics. By 2022, 57 years later, the number of priests had dropped 40% to around 35,000 serving a Catholic population of roughly 72 million, an increase of 56%.

### Check out these numbers:

- In 1950, there was 1 priest to 652 Catholics in the United States.
- In 2010, (60 years later) there was 1 priest to every 1,653 Catholics in the USA.
- In 2016, there was 1 priest to every 1,843 Catholics in the United States. A numeric study shows that the tipping point in the USA happened around the year 1983. This is when our priest/Catholic ratio began to tank.

### Some big cities are even worse. Here are the stats:

- Diocese of Dallas: 1 priest to every 6,229 Catholics.
- Diocese of Los Angeles: 1 priest to almost 4,000 (3,931) Catholics.
- Diocese of New York: 1 priest to over 2,000 (2,055) Catholics.

Debbie shared 5 things that the USCCB says will promote vocations. This is for all Catholics.

They are:

- **Pray** for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. An increase in vocations will only happen with a strong foundation of prayer. If we want more priests, sisters, and brothers, we all need to beg!
- **Teach** young people how to pray. Pope Benedict XVI said that unless we teach our youth how to pray, they will never hear God calling them into a deeper relationship with Him and into the discipleship of the Church. Support your youth minister. Ask how you can help. Support families in educating their children. Give them vocations material found on the Serra SPARK website.
- **Invite** active young adults and teens to consider a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life. A simple, sincere comment encouraging a young person to consider the priesthood, should not be

underestimated. The “*Called by Name*” program developed and promoted by Serra International, is recommended by the U.S. Bishops’ Committee for Vocations. This successful program invites men and women, 18 years of age or older, to consider a vocation as a priest, sister, or brother by asking parishioners to suggest names of those who would be good candidates and following up with them. Archbishop Hebda is considering this and will be consulting with Father Pavlak, the Vocations Director. If we go forward with this, we will need all Serrans to help with this effort if it is to be successful.



- **Make it attractive.** Show the priesthood for what it truly is – a call to be a spiritual father to the whole family of faith. Similarly, the consecrated life for a young woman is a call to be united to Christ in a unique way, and to be a spiritual mother to those she encounters in her life and service. The challenge for priests and religious is to be joyful models of their vocations. Debbie’s granddaughter, Clara, who is entering the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus this August, said when she understood that she was called to spiritual motherhood, the Lord said to her, “You may not have any children that look like you, but they will look like me.” Invite priests and religious to family gatherings. Clara grew up with the Handmaids coming to family dinners.
- **Share your passion!** Vocations must be talked about regularly if a “vocation culture” is to take root in parishes and homes. This means, first and foremost, the people need to hear about vocations from priests through homilies, prayers of the faithful, and discussions in the classroom. Vocations kept out of sight are out of mind. Give material from Serra to your pastor about vocations celebrations such as World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Consecrated Religious Life, and Priesthood Sunday. Write articles for the bulletin and forward information for the Newman Connection to your youth leader to distribute to seniors graduating.

Our responsibility as Serrans is to be the face of Serra in our own parishes.



## SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

**JOHN IRELAND (1838-1918)**

Tim Regan July 22, 2025

John Ireland was born in 1838 in County Kilkenny, Ireland, the second of seven children. His father was a wood worker. The family emigrated to the United States when young John was 10 years old, eventually settling in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In his teens he, along with a friend named Thomas O'Gorman, were invited to live in the local rectory. He later attended Seminaire de Meximie in Province of Argonne - Alpes, France. On December 22, 1862, Fathers Ireland and O'Gorman were ordained in St. Paul by Bishop Thomas Grace. They were our first home-grown Minnesota priests.

Newly ordained Fr. Ireland volunteered for service as chaplain in the Civil War. He was assigned to the Fifth Minnesota Volunteers. In 1864, during the Civil War, Ireland found that he had enough, got bored, and was sent back to Saint Paul.

On December 21, 1875, John Ireland was ordained auxiliary bishop of St. Paul. Then in 1888, John Ireland became the first Roman Catholic Archbishop of Saint Paul when the diocese was raised to a metropolitan see. Ireland founded the College of St. Thomas and St. Thomas Academy.

In 1904 Ireland lured the world's greatest liturgical architect, Emmanuel Masqueray, from France to frigid Minnesota to come and design the new Cathedral of Saint Paul. Masqueray would go on to design not only the Cathedral of Saint Paul but also the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, among other structures in the region.

Ireland was called the "Consecrated Blizzard of the Northwest" because of his fiery commitment to his views and his strong personality. He was profoundly committed to seeing Catholics become full partners in the building up of the American nation.

The Faribault-Stillwater Plan was also spearheaded by Ireland. It was a school arrangement in the early 1890's where Catholic parish schools were leased to the local public school districts for use as public schools. The plan emerged from a desire to find a solution to the ongoing tension between Catholic and public school systems regarding education.

The Phantom heresy of "Americanism" was also a term used in the late 1800's referring to a set of perceived errors within the Catholic Church in the United States. The controversy largely stemmed from a misunderstanding or misrepresentation of American Catholic thought by European observers. Archbishop Ireland was in the thick of it and perceived to be dangerous.

John Ireland loved his native country and the Irish. Below is a speech he gave on Saint Patrick's Day and some of his thoughts on Church/State and race relations.

**Saint Patrick's Day speech:**

*Dear Ireland, you have never for a moment deviated from your allegiance; your faith is pure, unspotted, virginal – and an indictment of British malevolence.....*

*It is not thy fault that thy children are compelled to flee to foreign shores. The hills and the plains teem with plenteousness, but the oppressor is ever gnawing at thy substance and consuming thy life!*

*.....But*

*There is one fault – I am not comparing us with other nations – it exists with us. It has done fearful harm. Intemperance. The foe to our race today (as the British were in olden times) is the saloon keeper. There are hundreds of saloons in our city. The remedy is....*

*Total abstinence!*

**This is what Ireland really thought about Church-State relations:**

*I love the Catholic Church and the American republic too deeply not to be ever ready to labor that the relations of the one with the other not be misunderstood...*

*.... The Catholic Church, guarantor of divine revelation, refuted in her teachings the absurdities of Protestantism...*

*.... The Church alone effectively guards against the forgetfulness of society for its origins, which leaves no space for defense against despotism!*

**A prophet on Summit Avenue (John Ireland on race relations)**

*There is but one solution to the problem, and it is to obliterate all color line...*

*In many states the law forbids marriage between black and white – in this manner fomenting immorality....*

*Let the Negro be our equal in the enjoyment of all political rights of the citizen. The Constitution grants him those rights; let us be loyal to the constitution.*

**\*\*\*John Ireland, a man for his time, and ours.**



## CLUB EVENTS &amp; NEWS



## SERRA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

by Ken Cobian

Through the Serra International Foundation, our vocation support is worldwide! As our Club representative to the Foundation, I see how this particular "piece" within the Serra family fosters vocations in a wide range of projects including some close to home.

Over the years, the Foundation has given a substantial amount of money to the North American College in Rome where our Archdiocese sends seminarians to study. The Foundation has also assisted the Sisters in Jesus the Lord serving in Vladivostok, Russia - a particularly challenging mission, requiring the sisters to learn and speak the language. Each year, The Serran Magazine lists the recipients so that we see how the money is spent to support programs worldwide. We can refer people to the Foundation for financial requests that cover a broader need to serve the Church. Grant applications are due each year by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Internationally, the Serra Foundation supports seminaries, religious orders, diocese, houses of religious formation and vocations programs, and more throughout the world. This ensures that future generations will be able to receive the sacraments and understand what it means to be authentically Catholic. Last year, over 15 grants were awarded across the world.

As individuals, we can make a gift to the Foundation by cash, credit card, stocks, mutual funds ~ well, you get the idea. The Serra International Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization. Their address is:

The Serra International Foundation  
134 N. LaSalle Suite 1900  
Chicago, IL 60602

## FALL CONFERENCE AND RETREAT



*Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo, MN*

### Plan now to attend!

#### SERRA NORTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 9:30am – 4:30pm**

Serrans from clubs in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas will bring the best offerings of their vocation projects, programs and prayers to share. Speakers include Dr. Anne Roat, President of the Serra US Council and Dr. Paul Ruff, St. Paul Seminary, Director of Human Formation and Counseling. Reservations to Charlene Zachman at 763-497-3305 or: [charzach2015@gmail.com](mailto:charzach2015@gmail.com)

#### SERRA NORTH CENTRAL RETREAT

**FRI, NOV 21. 8:00pm – SUN, NOV 23 - Noon**

The Annual Serra Retreat follows the Conference. Fr. Eric Hollas, OSB a Benedictine monk and priest of Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN, will be our retreat director. He has taught in the Department and School of Theology at Saint John's University and from 1993 through 2002 served as Executive Director of the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library. He was instrumental in the start of The Saint John's Bible project. Then, beginning in 2003 through the present, has served in the Department of Institutional Advancement at Saint John's University. Fr. Eric is also currently the Prior of Saint John's Abbey. Retreat registration forms will be available at Membership Meetings at St. Williams.

**\$50 deposit at registration.**

**Suggested donation: \$275 per person.**

**(Total donation: \$325)**

**CALL** 763-682-1394 to REGISTER or **CLICK** on this Link:

<https://kingshouse.com/event/serra-international-retreat-for-serra-members-only/>

Registrations must be received by **November 4, 2025.**



## CLUB EVENTS &amp; NEWS

# BACK TO THE CLASSROOMS



MaryAnne Frank briefed teachers on use of the Serran School Traveling Crucifix.

**The Traveling Crucifix** is traveling once again! Returned and refurbished over the summer, the Crucifix Kits are ready to travel. The principal of St. Charles Borromeo School, Danny Kieffer, invited us to their second day of teacher orientation to introduce the Kit and accompanying updated binder replete with teaching aids and materials for classes spanning preschool through eighth grade. The teachers were reminded that although vocations grow from homes and loving families, teachers in the classroom have a charism to foster an awareness that each person is uniquely created for a special purpose. Our prayers are for them and their students as they begin a new year of learning and growing in God's love!

## ARCHDIOCESAN SEMINARIAN FAMILY PICNIC

by Ken Cobian

Tim Regan and Ken Cobian represented our Serra Club of North-Minneapolis in serving at the Annual Seminarian Family Picnic on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at the Highland Park Shelter in St. Paul. As in past years, our Serra Club was responsible for providing refreshments for this event. Lorri Kaas, a former member of our Serra Club and her husband, Francis, graciously picked up and transported the refreshments to the picnic on our behalf. Many thanks for their gracious help!



Seminarians and youth playing frisbee after dinner.



Serran workers in the kitchen before the picnic.



## CLUB EVENTS &amp; NEWS

## CALL TO HOLINESS



by MaryAnne Frank

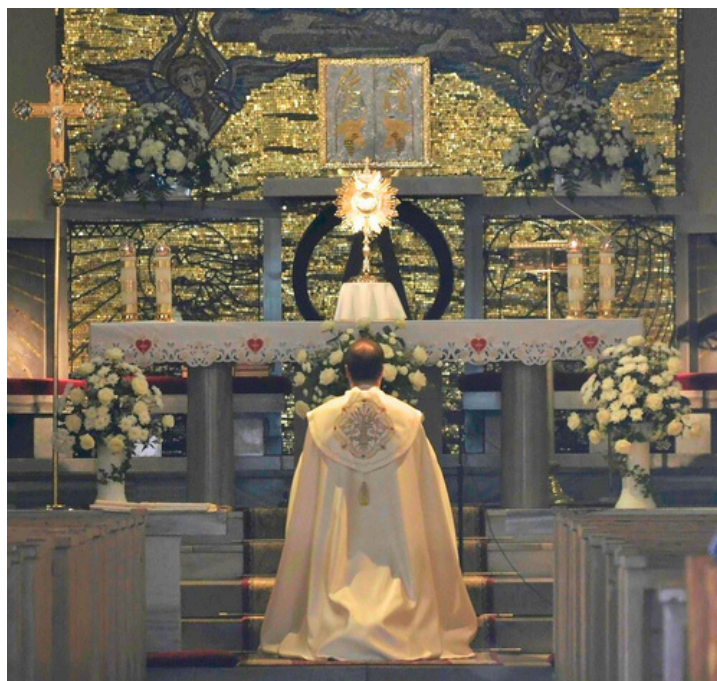
How faithful are we to our “Fiat?” Created and called, each by name to serve our Heavenly Father, we need to constantly evaluate our vocational response to the Catechism’s question, “Why did God make you?” As a child, I could easily rattle off, “God made me to know, love, and serve Him in this world and the next!” Those were the words pleasing to my teacher, but the substance of those words, I found as I grew, involved so much more. How could I know One Who I couldn’t see? How could I love One or serve One that I didn’t know? A conundrum for sure!

Gradually, through the careful teaching and example of parents and Godparents, teachers and friends, I learned to know God through His works, through the beauty of creation, through the kindness of those around me, through the vulnerable who who needed my care, through the unbidden love of others . . .

He is present to us in unseen ways and circumstances and in people we meet casually or hold close in our hearts. Repeated in Biblical verses from Jeremiah and Ezekiel are accurate descriptions of the world around us: “Son of man, you live in the midst of a rebellious house; they have eyes to see, but they do not see, and ears to hear, but they do not hear. . .” But, there are times we must ask ourselves: are we the ones who have eyes that do not see or ears that do not hear?

Our Father, through the Holy Spirit, can heal our spiritual blindness and deafness to help us develop a spiritual awareness and give us the capacity to respond to His grace to know and understand how God is calling each of us to know and love Him.

## HOW WILL YOU HONOR YOUR PARISH PRIEST?



by MaryAnne Frank

**Priesthood Sunday** is coming soon ~ but now is the time to reflect and plan how you will honor your priest! A special prayer? A Bookmark that reflects the priests who have shepherded your parish? A Spiritual Bouquet? A new idea?

The Vocation Committee is here to make it happen! While there is a bit of a summer lull, share your thoughts with me so that together we can ensure you show your appreciation and love for the priest(s) serving your parish ~ You can affirm their vocation and show your appreciation!

This year, Priesthood Sunday will be celebrated on September 28<sup>th</sup>, the last Sunday of September. This day is dedicated to remembering in a special way, the priests who make Christ present to us every day.

Pope Francis, declared, “With Mary, we are Pilgrims of Hope” and announced this year as the Jubilee Year of Hope.

As “Pilgrims of Hope,” we are on a spiritual journey, seeking and recognizing God’s presence in our daily lives. Often that presence comes to us through our parish priest. Let’s recognize them with very special thanks!

## NOTABLE NEWS

## PRAYER INTENTIONS



Please keep in your prayers:

Jean Buchmann  
 Stephen Frank  
 Larry Gillespie  
 Terri Glaeser  
 Esther Guzik  
 Michaeline Loomis  
 Don Makowske  
 Jack Quesnell  
 Joe Spano  
 Chris Struble\*  
 Marlene Tacheny  
 Marilyn Zappia

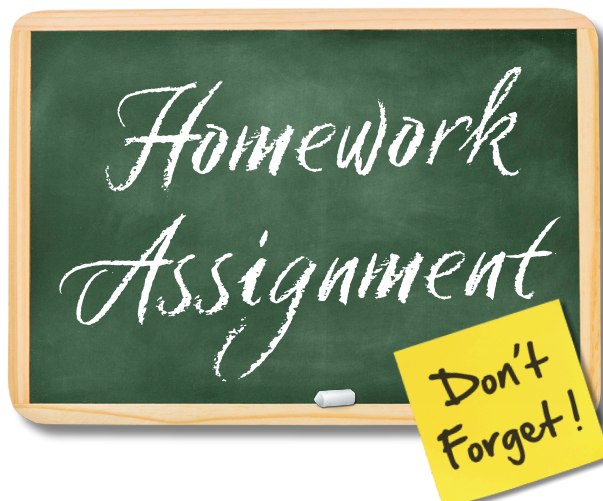
\*Son-in-Law of MaryAnne & Steve F.

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- Vocation Directors especially Fr. Mark Pavlak
- Successful Phantom Garage Sale (Funding for Vocation Bus Trips)
- Gratitude for Gift of New Life
- Patronal Feast of St. Peter Claver and 50th Anniversary of Blessed Mary Theresa Ledochowska

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:

- "Walk with Me Deacon," Alexander Hall
- Safety of the Sisters of Jesus the Lord in Russia



by Maureen Collins

This is a friendly reminder from the Membership Committee that our intrepid President, Tim Regan, gave each member an assignment at our August 12, 2025 meeting. He challenged each of us to bring a guest to an upcoming meeting.

We have excellent speakers scheduled for late summer/early fall, such as:

8/26 **Natasha Sager** – Caritas Christi

9/9 **Michael Bird** – St. Michael Broadcasting

9/23 **Sister Kathleen Mary** – School Sisters of Notre Dame

10/14 **Sisters Carolyn and Jill** – Sisters of St Joseph

10/28 **Tony Kuplic** – Laboure Society

11/11 **Tom Pomeroy** – Pacem in Terris

Don't forget, the Membership Committee is YOU - each member of our club!



## Serra MEETS

SERRA, NOW MORE THAN EVER!

An online speaker series  
with vocations in mind



**Erin Kinsella**  
Consecrated Virgin

**Date: Mon, Sep 15th, 7 pm CDT**  
**Webinar Link:**

[pwd=RFdzZjgybDk0VVIKVIhyYXNlbnRpbkpkUT09#success](https://www.zoom.us/j/92451924?pwd=RFdzZjgybDk0VVIKVIhyYXNlbnRpbkpkUT09#success)

**Phone Access:**

+1 312 626 6799

**Webinar ID:** 959 9245 1924

**Passcode:** 853558



**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)




## MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

SEPTEMBER

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31  ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS	1 <b>POPE LEO XIV</b>	2 <b>YOUR PASTOR</b>	3 REV. PHILIPPE VIGNERON ORD 2015	4 REV. MINH XUAN VU ORD 1994	5 REV. JOSEPH-QUOC THIEN VUONG ORD 2007	6 REV. THOMAS JOSEPH WALKER ORD 1990
7 REV. JOSEPH NATHANIEL (JOE) WAPPES ORD 2024	8 REV. MARK HOPKINS WEHMANN ORD 2003	9 REV. GREGORY THOMAS JOHN WELCH ORD 1967	10 REV. GEORGE ANTHONY WELZBACHER ORD 1951	11 REV. JOSEPH EDWARD (JOE) WHALEN ORD 1999	12 REV. ROBERT LICHTY (BOB) WHITE ORD. 1974	13 REV. WILLIAM OWEN (BILL) WHITTIER ORD 1961
14 REV. GREGORY ALAN WIEST CSSR ORD 1989	15 REV. PETER JOSEPH WILLIAMS ORD 2004	16 REV. THOMAS WILLIAM WILSON ORD 1996	17 REV. SERAPHIM WIRTH FBP ORD 2019	18 REV. BENJAMIN MICHAEL WITTNEBEL ORD 2017	19 REV. JAMES GREGORY WOLNIK ORD 1979	20 REV. TIMOTHY JOSEPH (TIM) WOZNIAK ORD 1974
21 REV. TIMOTHY JOHN (TIM) WRATKOWSKI ORD 2017	22 REV. CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH (CHRIS) YANTA ORD 2024	23 REV. TIMOTHY JOHN YANTA ORD 2005	24 REV. JOSEPH ARTHUR ZABINSKI ORD 2016	25 REV. DENNIS JEROME ZEHREN ORD 2004	26 REV. DAVID LEONARD ZIMMER ORD 1988	27 REV. ANDREW HERBERT ZIPP ORD 2019
28 REV. ARIC ETHEN AAMODT ORD 2018	29 REV. GREGORY EDWARD ABBOTT ORD 2007	30 ARCHBISHOP BERNARD HEBDA AUXBP. MICHAEL IZEN AUXBP. KEVIN KENNEY	1	2	3	4

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

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.

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

[ziesmers@usfamily.net](mailto: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.

08/19/25

**Board Members Present:** Maureen Collins, Judie Collodora, Bonnie Conroy, Mark Eastham, MaryAnne Frank, Jo Lohnes, Judy Makowske, Norma Swanson, Mary Szydlak (pro-temp)

**The meeting was called to order** with prayer by **MA Frank** at 9:00 am. Minutes of the meeting of July 15, 2025 were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report – T. McCrossan:** **T. McCrossan** welcomed any questions concerning the 2025-2026 budget presented. He pointed out the need to stay within budget.

**President's Items – MA Frank:** The annual Archdiocesan Seminarian Family Picnic is later today. North-Minneapolis Serra's contribution is the beverages and, as in past years, former Serran **Lorri Kaas** is helping with procurement and distribution at the picnic along with **K. Cobian** and **T. Regan**.

**Programs – J. Lohnes:** The following speakers are scheduled into November 2025: Aug. 26: **Natasha Sager** (Caritas Christi); Sept. 9: **Michael Bird** (St. Michael Broadcasting); Sept. 23: **Sister Kathleen Mary** (Sisters of Notre Dame); Oct. 14: **Sisters Carolyn and Jill** (Sisters of St. Joseph); Oct. 28: **Tony Kuplic** (The Labour Society); Nov 11: **Tom Pomeroy** (Pacem in Terris).

**Vocations – MA Frank:** The refreshed Traveling Crucifixes and accompanying workbooks are being returned to the schools in time for the beginning of classes.

**Vocation Bus Trips – M. Eastham:** An e-letter was received by **M. Eastham** and **J. McGuire** from **Fr. Mark Pavlak**, Archdiocesan Director of Vocations, regarding behavior of 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys during visits to St. Paul Seminary. The letter contained instructions concerning the need for a ratio of 5 boys to 1 male chaperone, accompanied also by pastor or associate pastor, all from the same school. Students should be prepared in advance with questions. Bus trips should be only one school at a time. The Board discussed each of these requirements, determining those which could be accomplished with compromise, those which were not affordable, those which could not meet school afternoon bus schedules and possibilities that would rearrange the schedule. Points considered by the Board were: Are the boys too young for SPS; Should schools be responsible for transportation; Should visits be shorter, with students back at school in time for lunch; How important is Mass as part of the visit; Can the "trips" be moved to the schools? A meeting will be scheduled between **M. Eastham**, **J. McGuire** and **Fr. M. Pavlak**. Many church vocations have come about in the Archdiocese sparked by a "bus trip" to the Seminaries and Convents.

**Membership – M. Collins and J. Collodora:** Since the pastor of one of the parishes in North-Minneapolis that our Membership Team approached has not responded, **MA Frank** agreed with **J. Collodora** that both Epiphany Catholic Church in Coon Rapids and St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Anoka would be good choices to proceed with their plan. Board Members were reminded and encouraged to bring a guest to Member Meetings. An informal meeting/gathering in a Serra Member's home was mentioned as helpful to new members to orient them with "all things Serra" and help them put names to faces.

**Communications – J. Makowske:** Progress is being made on the website. Articles for the September Serran Newsletter need to be in before August 25.

**New Business – J. Lohnes:** Christmas Party plans are gradually coming together with the help of **Marilyn Zappia**. A short discussion took place.

#### **Next Membership Events/Meetings:**

Aug. 26 – Membership Lunch Meeting, 12:15 pm at St. William's Church (downstairs) Speaker: **Natasha Sager**  
 Sept. 9 – Membership Lunch Meeting, 12:15 pm at St. William's Church (downstairs) Speaker: **Michael Bird**  
 Sept. 16 – Board Meeting, 8:45 am at St. Charles Borromeo (Doran Hall)

**The meeting was adjourned** with prayer at 10:25 am.