



CONTENTS

Top News of the Month	01
North-Minneapolis Serra Ceremonies	01
President's Message	02
An Incarnational, Eucharistic People	02
Speaker Highlights	03
Bishop Kenney - His Vocation Story & Work	03
Club Events & News	04
Pro Ecclesia Sancta Diaconal Ordination	04
Ordinandi Archdiocese of St. Paul/Mpls	05
Immaculate Conception Essay Awards	06
Call to Holiness	07
Spring Leadership Links	07
Notable News	08
St. Junipero Serra Feast Celebration	08
District Conference and Retreat	08
Board Briefs	08

NORTH-MINNEAPOLIS SERRAN CEREMONIES

by Judy Makowske

As elected officers of the Serra Club of North-Minneapolis, will you fulfill to the best of your ability the call to be the "Vocation Arm of the Church?"

Following Mass at St. William, on May 26, North-Minneapolis Serrans participated in the two-fold ceremonies of inducting new members and installing officers for 2026 - 2027.



With great joy, Stella Roman and Tom Harrington were presented by their sponsors and received the "Call to Serve" from Fr. Michael Panka. Membership Co-VP, Judie Collodora provided Serra pins and certificates.

North-Minneapolis District 7 Club #418

Chartered on February 22, 1974

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 9 - Membership Meeting 12:15 pm
Church of St. William (Downstairs)
Speaker: **Debbie Koop**
Serra Dist. 7 Governor

June 16 - Board Meeting 8:45 am
Church of St. Charles (Doran Hall)

June 30
FEAST OF JUNIPERO SERRA 9:00 am
Mass at St. John Vianney Seminary Chapel
Celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Hebda

July 21 - Board Meeting 8:45 am
Church of St. Charles (Doran Hall)

July 28 - Membership Meeting 12:15 pm
Church of St. William (Downstairs)
Speaker: **Amanda Zurface**
(Diocesan postulator for Sister Annella, Part 2)

Aug 11- Membership Meeting 12:15p pm
Speaker: **Mathias Lundgren**, Seminarian

Aug 11- Seminarian Picnic for Archdiocese
Serving Seminarian Families
Highland Park Pavilion
1227 Montreal Ave, St Paul, MN 55116

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Tim Regan

AN INCARNATIONAL, EUCHARISTIC PEOPLE

This year we celebrate the Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus (in former days, Corpus Christi) on Sunday, June 7. Then follows the Feast of the Sacred Heart on Friday June 12 - by Church decree it is always 19 days after Pentecost. The juxtaposition in time of these three feasts seems significant, as if the Church is reminding us that yes, we have received the *Spirit* at Pentecost, yet we are the *Body*, the one *Body of Christ*.

The United States Council of Catholic Bishops has announced that, as America commemorates the 250th year after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, on June 11 of this year the Bishops will consecrate our country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The bishops invite all parishes throughout the nation to join in the consecration.

In Florida, there is a Catholic mother who has launched a campaign to erect billboards depicting the Sacred Heart of Jesus in vivid red coloration. I saw a story about this on the internet, to which a nasty person reacted with a snarky comment about Catholics "worshipping body parts."

But such sarcasm has no sting for Catholics. We admit that we are a "bodily" people, that is, we are the Body of Christ. The Sacred Heart of Jesus comes very naturally for us, because we are "Incarnational," the root meaning of which is "fleshy." We are a fleshy, bodily people because we believe in the resurrected Jesus. When Jesus appeared to His disciples in the upper room after His resurrection, the first thing He said was **"Do you have anything to eat?"** He was not "spiritual," He was "physical." That is, He rose from the dead in His actual human body, and days later, He was hungry.

We are an Incarnational people, but we should add that we are a "Eucharistic" people. The Eucharist, the Body of Christ, is the source and summit of our whole lives. Jesus gives us Himself, which is to say that He gives us His body. We are His body, and in the Eucharist, we eat His body. St. Augustine illustrated this better than anyone else. He said of the Eucharist: *"There you are, your very selves, spread out on the table before you. Eat."*

Dear Serrans, this is my swan song as President of North-Minneapolis Serra. I have enjoyed writing these reflections for you. I hope that you get my drift in this one. I offer it precisely because the Eucharist is our very being. Our Serra apostolate to support the Sacred Ministry of the Catholic priesthood is a vital part of the Eucharistic life of this "bodily" Church.

CLUB OFFICERS 2026 - 2027

- **Chaplain** - Fr. Michael Panka
- **President**
MaryAnne Frank 612-669-4221
- **Secretary**
Rosemary Franzese 612-990-2363
- **Treasurer**
Tom Pomeroy 612-418-4986
- **Communications**
Judy Makowske 612-916-9912
Loretta Thielen 763-477-1737
- **Vocations**
Judy Makowske 612-916-9912
Maureen Collins 612-850-3003
Jim McGuire 612-804-0482
Mark Eastham 651-788-3396
- **Programs**
Jo Lohnes 763-757-2990
Carrie Pomeroy 763-438-0487
- **Membership**
Judie Collodora 763-784-2886
Carrie Pomeroy 763-438-0487
- **Trustees**
Matt Bona 651-206-9676
Ken Cobian 763-232-5981
Ted McCrossan 612-490-4099
Stella Roman 612-790-0397
- **Serra Foundation Rep**
Ken Cobian 763-232-5981

NEWSLETTER
Michelle Eastham
SerraClub418@gmail.com

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS



Bishop Kevin Kenney

HIS VOCATION STORY AND HIS WORK

by Jo Lohnes

Bishop Kevin Kenney visited our Serra Club, celebrated Mass, and joined us for lunch on April 28. He shared his bio as written on the Archdiocesan website:

Bishop Kenney was born in Minneapolis on December 29, 1959 to William and Dorothy Kenney. He is the fifth of eight children. He grew up in Minneapolis, attending Annunciation Grade School in 1974, then graduating from De La Salle High School in 1978. Bishop Kenney earned degrees in business administration and Spanish from the College of St. Thomas (now the University of St. Thomas) and upon graduation moved to Chicago to work as a lay volunteer with the Claretian Missionaries, a religious community of priests and brothers founded by St. Anthony Marie Claret. In that capacity, he worked for two years with inner-city youth and taught English as a second language (ESL). The Claretians then hired him as the director of the Claretian Lay Volunteers.

After leading that program for two years, he entered formation to become a Claretian and was sent to Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago to complete his studies for priestly ordination. After five years of formation with the Claretian Missionaries, he discerned that he was being called to the diocesan priesthood and was accepted as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. While in formation at The Saint Paul Seminary, he completed his last credits towards his Master of Divinity with a world mission concentration from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago in 1993. On May 28, 1994, Archbishop John Roach ordained Father Kenney to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Following ordination, Father Kenney was assigned as parochial vicar at St. Olaf in Minneapolis, serving the business community and the homeless from 1994-1998. In 1998, he was sent by Archbishop Harry Flynn to pastor the parish of Our Lady of Peace in South Minneapolis. After serving one six-year term at that parish, Father Kenney was transferred to lead the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in St. Paul, where he served from 2004 to 2015, providing pastoral care to the vibrant and growing Latino community in the area. From 2010 to 2018, he served as Vicar for Latino Ministry, and in 2013, he was instrumental in reopening the Office of Latino Ministry for the Archdiocese. In 2015, Father Kenney was named pastor of Divine Mercy parish in Fairbault and the Church of St. Michael in Kenyon. In 2019, Archbishop Hebda asked Father Kenney to return to Minneapolis to serve as pastor of St. Olaf and administrator at Saints Cyril and Methodius, a parish that originally served Slovak Catholics but that now serves as a hub for the Equadorean community in the Twin Cities. In addition to these assignments, he has served as a chaplain at De LaSalle High School in Minneapolis and as an adjunct professor at the University of St. Thomas teaching Intro to New Testament in the three-year Latino Lay Ministry Certificate Program.

The morning of July 25, 2024, Pope Francis named Father Kevin Thomas Kenney as an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, assigning him the titular see of Cunavia. His episcopal ordination took place just two years ago on Monday, October 28, 2024, at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. After sharing his story, Bishop Kenney noted that it is the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe and reminded us of the beautiful story of her appearance.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

Br. Jose Ignacio Rodriguez, PES and Br. Evan LeRoy Steeves, PES

by MaryAnne Frank



Upholding a Serran tradition of presenting corsages and boutonnieres to the parents of candidates for Ordination to the Diaconate, Judy Makowske, Maureen Collins, Judie Collodora, and Carrie Pomeroy, members of our Serra Club of North-Minneapolis, gathered after a previous meeting to work wonders with ivory roses and baby's breath, tying them together beautifully with tiny ribbons.

In an unplanned move, it fell to me to deliver the flowers at St. Mark's Church on the morning of Ordination. With the Sun shining down, awakening the beauty of springtime creation, the day was ready for a celebration. I was warmly greeted by members of the Knights of

Columbus 4th Degree on the steps of St. Mark's Church. Peals of organ and choir in practice, lifted me to the surround of vibrantly colored stained glass windows.

Families were gathering in excited, but hushed tones. In the Sanctuary, Elias Budke (a Theology II seminarian from St. Timothy in Maple Lake, and Emcee for the Ordination) was guiding the two Ordinandi (Br. Jose Rodriguez, PES and Br. Evan Steeves, PES) through each part of the Liturgy. Program in hand, he led them as they enacted their role and response; a preview of the Rite.

A Pro Ecclesia Santa Sister, Daniela, introduced me to family members, and Sister Emy helped pin corsages on the Moms. In dual roles, Serran and Knight, Ken Cobian, took pictures of the glowing parents receiving our humble, but loving gift of flowers.

Seeped within beauty that touched all senses, perhaps the Introit summed the day up best: *"Praise the Lord, all you nations, Extol Him all you peoples. For great is His steadfast love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever."*

We are grateful for the recognition given to Serrans by Archbishop Hebda at the end of the Mass, thanking Serra members for their work and prayer to promote vocations.



Father of Br. Evan Steeves.



Mother of Br. Jose Rodriguez.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS



Photo from website of 10,000 Vocations / Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

OUR HEARTS ARE FULL - GOD IS ANSWERING OUR PRAYERS!

Four of these men called to priesthood have special ties to the hearts and prayers of our North-Minneapolis Serra Club. Charles DeReuil served as a deacon at St. Charles last summer and will return now as a priest this summer before his last year of study in Rome. Alex Hall has been our special "Walk With Me" Seminarian for the past 5 years. Peter Romens is from St. Paul in Ham Lake and Sebastian Spencer is a son of St. Charles Borromeo (both parishes in our Serra charter area). All four have received awards at our annual Serra/KofC Seminarian Dinners.



*Fr. Sebastian
blessing his
parents.*



*MaryAnne
kisses the
hands
of Fr. Alex.*

In the image below: From Left, Father James Bernard lays hands on Sebastian Spencer and Father James Livingston, Pastor of St. Paul in Ham Lake, lays hands on Peter Romens, following their ordination. The laying on of hands is an ancient symbol of conferral of priestly office by the archbishop and the priests' imposition of hands signifies the incorporation into the presbyterate of the newly ordained.



CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

11/18/25

ESSAY AWARD WINNERS

**First Place Boys: Anthony***My Serra Field Trip Experience*

We went to the St. John Vianney College Seminary with Saint Charles Borromeo on a field trip to learn about how seminaries work and what it's like to live in one. Seminaries are colleges that teach their students how to become priests, rabbis, or ministers. During the visit, we spoke to the priests and students to see what their daily lives are like.

We took a bus to the seminary, and when we got there, we had three tour guides, and the first thing they showed us was the chapel. The flooring was fine marble, and the pillars and supports were constructed from wood. The cross was on top of a wooden support, and the wood had the Latin writing, "Tu es filius meus dilectus in te complacui," which in English meant, "You are my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." There were statues of Mary and Joseph on both sides of the chapel and a large tabernacle in the center. The tabernacle was under a domed wall niche, and all inside the wall niche it was covered with gold. Where the altar stood, the side walls had paintings in a Byzantine art style. One of the paintings was the Transfiguration of Jesus, and the other was the Baptism of Jesus.

The three guides, Greg, Jacob, and, I believe, Samuel, told us about how they live and what they do at the seminary on the way to the next destination. They have a morning prayer and 45 minutes of silence every morning, and in the middle of the day, they usually have study time and lunch. During the evening, they have more prayer and confession on more open days. On Saturdays, they often have more free time and can do sports or relax. On Sundays, the students attend Mass, do confession, have 45 minutes of pure silence, and also have rest time. We walked across the street to the Saint Paul Seminary, where we took a tour of the church and viewed the rooms. When you enter the chapel, there is a large ceiling dome above you which shows Christ appearing to disciples at Lake Tiberias. There were life-sized, colored statues of the saints with relics and a kneeler in front of the statues. The statues were on the sides, and inside the relics were pieces of bone and other objects the saints had owned. We walked back to the campus and saw the largest chapel, the Chapel of Saint Thomas Aquinas. There is beautiful, detailed stained glass on the high windows on the walls and a large crucifix with a halo above the altar. The statues are suspended by rope and gold spheres, keeping the gold in place. The halo was above the crucifix and was made of blue stained glass. I was surprised when I noticed two priests at the Mass because every other chapel I've ever seen has had one priest. The two priests were Father Quail, our priest, and the priest who usually held Mass at that chapel. Before we went to the main chapel, we ate lunch, and it was a pretty good time overall.

The priests were all great teachers who answered our questions. The St. Charles Borromeo kids were also nice and friendly, although our two groups were separated from each other the entire time. I was heavily impacted in faith, and I felt Jesus around me. The stories of the tour guides also impacted me heavily because they had God along with them the entire way, and it was a beautiful story. I saw God's greatness seeing the architecture and hearing the praiseful music. In conclusion, this field trip has impacted my faith life, my school life, and my entire life overall in terms of God and education.



The vocation bus trip essay award ceremony for Immaculate Conception took place during a school assembly. Pictured are: Ken Cobian, Carrie Pomeroy, 1st - Anthony, 2nd - Eyasu, 1st - Emily, 2nd - Oluebube, Jim McGuire, and Bridget Knisely - teacher.

First Place Girls: Emily

We went to the Little Sisters of the Poor. I didn't have a clue what it would be like. I thought it might be boring and there wouldn't be anything to talk about. So I was preparing myself for that. But it turned out to be a really nice experience. The field trip started when Sister Joseph Marie greeted us with a warm smile that made me feel comfortable. Sister Joseph Marie gave the impression that she was genuinely happy we came. Considering how much the sisters must be sacrificing themselves for work every day, that love really softens my heart. The location was nice and quiet. The residents and the sisters looked like one big loving family and had the kind of love that was beautiful and pure.

My favorite part was spending time with the residents. It reminded me of Crestview because we were with residents, but this time it felt even more meaningful. I could see the true joy on the residents' faces. Some shared stories or joked around, and it made me realize something important. Even the smallest actions, like listening, smiling, or playing a game, can brighten someone's whole day. I kept thinking about how much the sisters and staff do every single day, and how they still manage to give so much of themselves with so much warmth. If that were me, I'd be exhausted, but they seemed to find their strength in kindness.

Another moment that stayed with me was visiting the chapel. It was quiet and calm, and it felt like I was stepping into a different world. I could physically feel the peace. When Mother Margaret Patricia started singing, her voice echoed on the walls in this soft, powerful way that gave me chills. I realized how deeply faith can comfort people, even when life is difficult. The sisters and residents didn't seem stressed or rushed. They seemed happy and exactly where they were meant to be.

The thing that impacted me the most was when Mother Margaret Patricia shared her vocation story. She shared how she once imagined a completely different life, marriage, a "normal" future, and then realized God was calling her somewhere else. She spoke with so much honesty and love about her journey. It made me think about my path and how sometimes we think we have everything planned out, but God's plans for us might be totally different. It made me wonder if maybe one of us could be called to something surprising too. Her story made me look at my life in a deeper way.

Overall, visiting the Little Sisters of the Poor didn't just change the way I think about service, it changed how I think about life. I went expecting just another field trip, but left feeling something much more meaningful. I realized that helping others doesn't always require huge actions. Sometimes the greatest impact comes from simple kindness. The Sisters and residents showed me what real joy looks like, the kind that comes from love, faith, and giving. When I walked out, I felt thankful, peaceful, and honestly inspired in a way I didn't expect.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

CALL TO HOLINESS

by MaryAnne Frank



"Your ways, O God, are holy . . ." from Morning Prayer from Week II. Words to ponder. In springtime, we see the beauty of creation with new eyes. We marvel at the simple splendor of a wildflower establishing itself in unfriendly territory and taking its stand among weedy interlopers. So, too, we often find ourselves cast amid a culture that does not recognize truth, beauty and goodness, yet, as we seek holiness, our quiet witness can be God's way to convey His Truth, revealing a Love that reaches beyond our sphere.

SPIRITUAL BENEFITS FOR SERRANS

Spiritual Benefits are available to the members of all Serra Clubs because of Serra International's affiliation with the Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations.

A plenary indulgence is granted on the day a person joins the society if he or she receives the sacrament of Penance and of Holy Eucharist and prays for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Also on the following upcoming days:

June 7	Corpus Christi
June 11	St. Barnabas - Apostle
June 12	Sacred Heart of Jesus
June 21	St. Aloysius Gonzaga
June 29	Sts. Peter and Paul - Apostles

SPRING LEADERSHIP



Thank you to all who attended the Spring Leadership Meeting. For those who could not attend, it was a successful day of news, learning, and fellowship with Serrans throughout the region. The talks by Rector Fr. Joseph Taphorn of the St. Paul Seminary, Regional Director Cathleen Ahern, District 7 Governor Debbie Koop, and District 7 Governor-Elect Kathleen Randolph were all taped. Below are links from YouTube. These can also be accessed on the Serra Club of St. Paul Website or their YouTube channel. You may show these at your meetings when you want to learn more about District news or the St. Paul Seminary.

Fr. Taphorn video on Seminary Update:

<https://youtu.be/iY55fnyEcLE>

Talks by:

- **Cathy Ahern** - "North Central Regional Conference: Where do we go from here?"
- **Debbie Koop** - "Called By Name"
- **Kathleen Randolph** - "2026 and 2027 Serra Rallies"

You can view or play the parts you desire here:

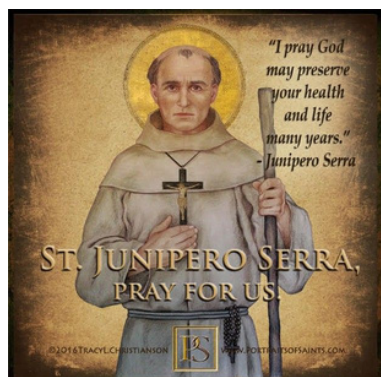
https://youtu.be/CBvmpz_7opM

NOTABLE NEWS

ST. JUNIPERO SERRA
FEAST CELEBRATION

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

9:00AM

ST. JOHN VIANNEY SEMINARY
on UST campusMASS CELEBRANT AND PRESENTER
Archbishop Bernard Hebda

Serrans are invited to attend to hear our wonderful Archbishop speak and answer questions about the state of vocations in our region, our seminaries, and his hopes for the future. Think about bringing a guest for member recruitment to this event.

Each club is responsible to bring an item for the continental breakfast. North-Minneapolis Serrans bring Donuts this year (3 – 4 Dozen total) to combine with offerings from other local Serra Clubs.



SAVE THE DATE

District Conference and Retreat
at King's House, **November 20, 21, 22**

THE CROSSROADS OF AMERICA
INDIANAPOLIS, IN, USA
JULY 9-12, 2026

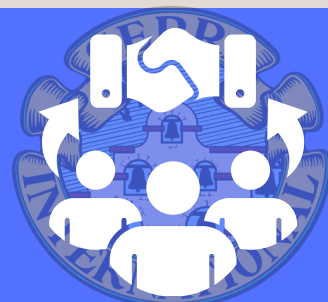
Serra's 83rd International Convention will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana, also known as "the crossroads of America!" Indianapolis Serrans are excited to welcome you to their unique yet all-American city.

As always, our Serra Convention is a profound opportunity for spiritual growth and learning. Engage with well-known speakers who will inspire with their deep wisdom and insights. From practical workshops to inspiring keynote addresses, you'll enhance your faith and be equipped with the tools to strengthen your efforts to foster and promote vocations!

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)

BOARD BRIEFS



<https://www.serraclubnmpls.org/>

IMPORTANT
UPDATES

The monthly **Prayers for Priests Calendar** can be accessed from our website in the **PRAYERS** section [here](#).

Board Meeting Minutes which were previously attached to the newsletter are now sent directly to Serra Board Members and to Serrans who request them.

[Visit our NEW Website:](#)

Our site is now **LIVE!** It serves as the central hub for all club news and events. Check back often and share the link with friends.

<https://www.serraclubnmpls.org/>