



Closing Mass at St. John the Evangelist, the same church where the 4 routes of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage converged in 2024.

2026 SERRA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION RECAP

by Tom & Carrie Pomeroy

It was a special privilege for Carrie and I to represent our club at the 2026 Serra International Convention, this past July 9 - 11. On your behalf we received the Carmel Award for the generosity of our club this past year, and we were counted amongst the delegates supporting the amendment to add our beloved Deacons as part of the vocations whom we pray for and joyfully support -- understandingly, there were some good arguments against the amendment, however, the amendment did pass with a large majority of support!

We especially enjoyed meeting so many wonderful, faith-filled Catholics from all around the world who give generously of their time, talent and treasures. The speakers were very informative and easily held our attention. Each day we were provided a delicious, multi-course meal and had plenty of dining choices available to us when on our own. Also, there were several optional excursions to partake in -- we really enjoyed the AAA baseball game under the lights just a short walk from our hotel, and many guests commented very favorably on the Indy Speedway tour and the architecture / sacred art tour at area Catholic churches. Check the club website in late August as we hope to share some pictures and more about our pilgrimage journey.

The 2027 international conference will be held in Rome, and word is that an audience with Pope Leo XIV has been requested! We highly encourage you to consider taking it to prayer and listening for a still, small voice calling you to be a pilgrim in Italy next June -- Ciao, Ciao!

Tom & Carrie Pomeroy

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UPCOMING EVENTS

All Summer -- Praying for Totus Tuus and parish faith camp programs

ALL AUGUST - PHANTOM GARAGE SALE

Aug 11- Mass 11:30 am St. William
Membership Meeting 12:15 pm
Church of St. William (Downstairs)
Speaker: **Mathias Lundgren**, Seminarian

Aug 11- Seminarian Family Picnic for Archdiocese 4:30 pm
Serving Seminarian Families
Highland Park Pavilion
1227 Montreal Ave, St Paul, MN 55116

Aug 18 - Board Meeting 8:45 am
Church of St. Charles (Doran Hall)

Sept 08 - Mass 11:30 am St. William
Membership Meeting 12:15 pm
Church of St. William (Downstairs)
Speaker: **Judy Cozzens**, Serra USA

Sept 15 - Board Meeting 8:45 am
Church of St. Charles (Doran Hall)

Sept 27 - Priesthood Sunday

Oct 13 - Mass 11:30 am, St. William
Membership Meeting 12:15 pm
Church of St. William (Downstairs)
Speaker: **TBD**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



MaryAnne Frank

Prayer & Action



Summer time recharging gives us new impetus to look at our vocation programs for the year. So many really GOOD programs/events to ponder and support! But always, every effort we make to encourage ordained and religious vocations must be based in prayer. Good causes abound, and for my part, I am always tempted to actively respond! But, I and we best not forget that PRAYER is our most effective first response!

"Thy will be done . . ." can be a fervent prayer of hope and a plea for God's intervention.

Serra gives us the opportunity for both prayer and action. After Mass, we are instructed, no, commanded to ". . . go and serve the Lord." There are myriad ways in which to follow through, but we do need to think about how we can intentionally obey this directive. At a recent Mass at St. Charles Borromeo, Deacon suggested that these were not just idle words, but a call to action!

As Serrans, we can and should respond by sharing our mission with others. We've all heard it said: "without a priest, there is no Mass and without Mass, there is no Eucharist." It is vital that we invite fellow Catholic men and women to join us in prayer for vocations to serve the Church and be witnesses to God's amazing love for each person.

Invite others who are Catholic and special to you, to grow in faith, love and action by joining the Serra apostolate! Our meetings are always open to guests ~ no better way to showcase Serra in action than by participating in a member meeting!

CLUB OFFICERS 2026 - 2027

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NEWSLETTER
Michelle Eastham
SerraClub418@gmail.com

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS



Sister Teresa Rose and Sister Angelica of the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus

May 12, 2026

by Jo Lohnes

Our Serra Club invited Sister Teresa Rose and Sister Angelica to share the charism and work of the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus this Spring on May 12. Here is what the Sisters' shared as written by Sister Angelica:

As Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus (Ancilla Cordis Jesu), we live in imitation of Mary in serving as spiritual mothers in the Diocesan Church.

There are four primary aspects of our Charism:

Marian

As brides of Christ, we imitate Mary, who at the foot of the Cross received the love of the Bridegroom poured out for His Bride, the Church.

Eucharistic

Since we have experienced the liturgy as a place of intimacy with the Lord, we desire to bring others to encounter this same love in the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus.

Diocesan

Our sisters provide a stable presence of spiritual motherhood in the local Church in which our feminine consecrated life complements the diocesan priesthood.

Evangelistic

Having experienced the fullness of life in God through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we desire to bring everyone we meet into a deep and personal relationship with God, in Whom all find their true home.

History:

Mother Mary Clare started the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus after receiving the founding grace in December of 2006. Through this grace, she was inspired to help answer the need for a feminine consecrated presence in the diocesan life of the Church.

The Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus were formally established on March 24th, 2010, in the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota, by Bishop John LeVoor.



Sister Angelica and Sister Teresa Rose



Sister Angelica

In the 16 years since their founding, they have grown to over 40 women spread in four dioceses . . .

New Ulm, MN
St. Paul/Minneapolis, MN
Duluth, MN
Dickinson, ND

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

VOCATION BUS TRIP ESSAY AWARD WINNERS

April 16, 2026



by Ken Cobian and Carrie Pomeroy

On April 16, twenty-five 8th grade girls from St. John the Baptist Catholic School in New Brighton, MN were bused to the Little Sisters of the Poor in St. Paul, along with chaperones, Carrie Pomeroy and Ken Cobian, from the Serra Club of North Minneapolis. Also, two school staff members, Middle School Teacher, Jennifer Carroll, and Youth Director, Ellie Shaw, accompanied the girls on this bus trip.

The bus arrived at the Little Sisters of the Poor at about 9:20 am and we were greeted by Sister Joseph Marie who escorted us to a large living room area in the middle of the complex. Sister talked about the philosophy of the Little Sisters of the Poor, countries where they serve and the discernment process, and the time it took for her to achieve her final vows. She emphasized that their goal is to never leave a dying person alone. We always have to be ready because we don't know when God will call us. Sister showed us a video which presented the history of the Little Sisters of the Poor, going back to 1839 when it was founded in France by Saint Jeanne Jugan. Today, the Little Sisters of the Poor are in over 30 countries.

The girls were then escorted outside to enjoy the sunshine in their beautiful back yard which has a very nice view of the Mississippi River. After which we were all escorted to the Chapel for Mass. Mass was attended by several elderly residents and three elderly retired priests. After Mass, we went back to the large living room area, where we were initially welcomed. The girls were divided into three smaller groups where they played a game called Charades with a number of elderly residents. The girls really got into this game, enjoying their time along with the elderly participants.



It was fun for us chaperones to watch, because the girls were very animated and enjoying themselves. After the game, Sister Joseph Marie passed out prayer cards, and two paper back books to the girls and the chaperones. The books were entitled The Desert and the Rose, which describes the spirituality of Venerable Mother Jeanne Jugan, and What Would Jeanne Jugan Do? The Little Sisters of the Poor were personable and very hospitable to us. It was truly a pleasurable time for all of us.



Continued on next page . . .

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

St. John the Baptist Vocation Bus Trip continued . . .

Fr. Pavlak explaining the Chapel to boys.

First Place Boys - Wyatt

My name is Wyatt, and my class and I attended the St. John Vianney Seminary and the St. Paul seminaries in St. Paul, Minnesota. We first toured a chapel area where there were a lot of beautiful paintings and mosaics. We then went into the chapel and sat and listened to 2 seminarians give us their background stories on how they were drawn to become a seminarian. Joseph was born in Michigan and was 1 of 8 children. He is really into learning about people's bodies, and if he doesn't become a priest or deacon, he would be a doctor. Dawson wanted to become a seminarian because he told God to give him signs through his government name, and God gave him his signs through a Mr. Beast video. We then went to another chapel across the campus, and we learned about some saint statues that were there. We also went to a small chapel where we got to ask the priest questions. One of the questions that stood out to me was that when he was our age, he didn't want to be a priest, but he felt that was what God called him to do, and now he has been a priest for almost 10 years. We then were going to have mass, but sadly it was canceled due to not being able to get a priest, but we were still able to have 15 minutes of adoration.

Some interesting things at St. Thomas were that the community was great, and we, most importantly, got to grow closer to God. I thought the community was very kind, and I got a lot of fist bumps and high fives from some of the students on campus. It was also very peaceful, and I didn't see any mischief going on. On the campus, people were studying in their dorms or out in the sun, and people were tanning. I learned a lot of new things about the Catholic Church that I originally didn't know. One of the things I learned about was the saints when we went around the adoration chapel with the priest. Another was that priests are just like everyone else. They are chill, cool, and awesome people to be around and get you to grow closer to your faith while still mixing it in with some fun like board games, sports, etc. I then got to grow closer to God in adoration when we prayed a decade of the rosary for our classmates and leaders who know relatives who are sick. I was also happy to see so many people in the seminarian picture wanting to become priests or brothers. I sometimes have doubted my faith, but by hearing the seminarians' stories, I don't know how I doubted my faith; God is real.



Girls playing Charades with residents.

First Place Girls - Addison

My name is Addison. I went to Little Sisters of the Poor, which was an inspiring experience for me because I got to learn so much about their way of life and their mission to help others. I was inspired by their stories of becoming a nun and their strong sense of calling, which showed how dedicated they are to serving God and caring for people in need. We listened to two nuns tell their personal stories about becoming a nun, and one of them shared amazing miracles that have happened to them over the years. For example, they needed olive oil, butter, and bread, and even though they didn't ask anyone for help, someone unexpectedly came and knocked on their door and gave them exactly what they needed. They didn't even ask for it; they just prayed with faith and trusted God. They also told us that when someone is dying, a nun goes to their room to pray for them and stay by their side, and every three hours a different nun replaces her so that the person is never alone and is always being cared for with love and prayer. There are sixteen different places in the United States where the Little Sisters of the Poor serve others, and their work continues to grow as they help more people in need. It originally started in France, and then they expanded to other places so they could help people across the U.S. and around the world. They are sent to different places every year to continue their mission, and one of them shared that she went to places like Peru, Spain, and Colombia, which showed how dedicated they are to helping people in need.

The people there were joyful and welcoming; they always had smiles on their faces, which made the people feel joyful. The elderly people looked truly happy, and they were treated with so much kindness and respect by the nuns, which made it clear that they were being cared for lovingly. They all looked like they loved being there, and I could tell that their faith in God was very strong and important in their lives. We got to play charades with the elderly and the nuns, and it was really fun because everyone was laughing and enjoying the moment together. We also got to go to mass, and it was a great and peaceful experience. The nuns helped the elderly people as they moved around and made sure they were comfortable, and we helped them give them bread, and helped with small tasks. We also got to go outside and see their beautiful garden and spend time together, which made visiting feel relaxing and enjoyable while also teaching me important lessons about kindness, faith, and helping others.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

**ARCHDIOCESAN
SEMINARIAN FAMILY PICNIC***Tuesday, August 11th*

This is a favorite event that brings seminarians from the St. Paul Seminary and St. John Vianney College Seminary along with their families together for a picnic and back to campus gathering. It is a blessing for Serrans from around the archdiocese to assist the Vocations Office in welcoming and serving seminarians and their families.

Each Serra Club in the Archdiocese brings specific items for the picnic. North-Minneapolis Serrans bring the beverages (water, soft drinks and ice in coolers) and help serve.

If you would like to help, please contact: **MaryAnne Frank** at mafrank09@gmail.com

Location:

Highland Park Pavilion
1200 Montreal Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55116



Serran Volunteers arrive at 4:30pm.

Food is served at 6:00pm.

Wear your nametags!

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR THE
MEMORIAL OF ST. JOHN VIANNEY**

Adoration will be available on **Tuesday, August 4, 2026**, from **8:00 AM to 5:00 PM** at the **Cathedral of St. Paul** in St. Paul. St. John Vianney is the patron saint of parish priests and is known for his dedication to the sacrament of confession, often counseling penitents, hearing confessions, and absolving sins up to 16 – 18 hours a day. Our archdiocesan college seminary in St. Paul carries his name. Pray for seminarians and parish priests!



by Judy Makowske

Back in the late 1990's our Serra Club of North-Minneapolis in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women and the Archdiocesan Vocations Office began participation in the "Walk With Me" program. The idea is to put a name and a face on someone who is choosing ordained or religious life and support their decision financially and prayerfully.

Our Serra Club has quietly continued this program of prayer and accompaniment for nearly thirty years up to the present time. Over the years, we have "walked" with Fr. Anthony Baker, OSB as he was received into the Benedictine Order and then later ordained a priest. We walked for a year or so with Tom Margevicius (now an archdiocesan priest), who we received as a fourth-year seminarian, and then for a few years with Seminarian (now Father) Paul Jarvis.

In the 2000's, we opted to take as our "Walk With Me" a young woman, Kelly Whittier, who was just starting a new order, Sisters in Jesus the Lord. Our prayers followed her as she brought in others who were ready to live their vows ministering in Russia. Following her profession, Brian Fischer became our "Walk With Me" seminarian as he discerned his vocation to be a hermit priest.

For the past many years, we have 'walked with' Alex Hall through his years of seminary and time outs on his way to being ordained a priest this spring. Our North-Minneapolis Serrans first met Alex when we hosted the Annual Serran/KofC Seminarians Dinner where Archdiocesan Vocations Director, Father David Blume, suggested Alex's name to us as a seminarian in need of financial assistance as well as a prayerful boost. This spring Alex was ordained a priest for the archdiocese.

All of this interesting background/history brings us to the present where our Serra Club is ready to "walk with" a new person discerning priesthood or religious life. Suggestions are in order as we pray to the Holy Spirit to guide us in taking on the financial and prayerful obligation of a new "Walk With Me" Seminarian or Novice. Please consider who you might recommend!

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

FEED OUR PHANTOM!

NOW IS THE TIME

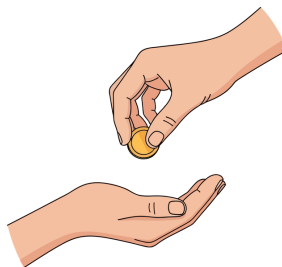
by Norma Swanson

The bus trips of parochial school students — boys to both Seminaries and girls to Religious Women's Convents and places of service — are funded through this once-a-year North-Minneapolis Serra fundraiser. All our vocation efforts, (the Bus Trips, the seminarian Awards, the Traveling Crucifix, and other vocation awareness programs that fulfill our Serra efforts to promote and affirm vocations) depend on the success of this Phantom Garage Sale.

Notice the "Phantom" in the title. The original Garage Sale was fun, but a great deal of work. However, it was our only fundraiser. As we began to 'age out,' one brilliant member said, "I'd give \$100 if I didn't have to work the weekend Garage Sale"... and the Phantom Garage Sale was born!

Now, instead of asking friends and relatives for physical garage sale items, we ask them for "old pictures of presidents"... (tax deductible cash or check)... to carry on our work. All we need now is for each of us to put our best efforts into letting others know about our apostolate so they can have the opportunity to contribute to our Serra vocation awareness work.

The time-honored phrase "Ask and you shall receive" is true when it is doing God's work. Give your family, friends, and relatives an opportunity to join us in our Serra Vocations work.



PRAYER INTENTIONS



Please keep in your prayers:

Jean Buchmann
Bonnie Conroy
Larry Gillespie
Esther Guzik
*Virginia Krawczynski
**Katherine Lager
Michaeline Loomis
Denis Madden
Lorrie Morse
Jackie Pavlak
Jack Quesnell
Tim & Jenni Regan
Tom Silver
Joe Spano
Norma Swanson
Mary Szydluk
Marlene Tacheny

*Mother of Mary Krawczynski

**Daughter of Loretta Thielen

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- Seminarians and their families as they prepare for the new school year.
- For men who are discerning a call to the diaconate.
- For the health of Bishop Kevin Kenney.

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:

- Fr. Mark Pavlak, Archdiocesan Vocations Director
- Angie Koenig, Vocations Office Coordinator
- Sisters in Jesus the Lord, Russia
- The recent Ordinandi to the Diaconate and Priesthood including Religious Order Ordinations
- For Lucy Maloney, entering the Carmel of Jesus Crucified

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



BECOMING SAINTS

by Fr. Michael Panka

How does one become a saint?

Someone once asked Saint Thomas Aquinas this question. His response was "Velle!" which in Latin means "Will it!"

Becoming a saint begins with desiring to become one. But it cannot be just one desire among many. It must be the greatest desire of our hearts. There are no half-hearted saints. The saints are those who go all in. They are the ones who heed Our Lord's command to the apostles, **"Duc in altum!" – "Put out into the deep!"**

Put out into what deep? The deep of divine charity. The only way to become a saint is to fall completely in love with God—to fall into the deep, into the depths of His immense love.

How do we do that? By conforming our will, our desires, to the Divine Will. Love is in the will. Becoming a saint means learning to love what God loves which is the same as willing what He wills, wanting what He wants, desiring what He desires. This requires obedience.

The greatest virtue of the saint is love. But the first virtue of the saint is obedience. For thus says the Lord: **"If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23).**

The saints are living temples of God, places where God abides. We are called to be the same. We are called to become great saints. To do so, we must will it.

Therefore, let us pray: **Come, Lord Jesus. Behold all my desires. Create in me those desires which accord with Thine own, and let everything else fall away. Make me a saint. Amen.**

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:

August 5	Our Lady of the Snows
August 6	The Transfiguration
August 15	The Assumption of Mary
August 24	The Apostle Bartholomew

A partial indulgence of 100 days may be gained for each act of charity or of piety performed by the members to further the ends of the society.

A plenary indulgence is granted at the moment of death, when the person has confessed and received Holy Communion, or is at least contrite, and when he has devoutly invoked Our Lord's Holy Name, orally if he is able to do so, and in his heart if he is unable to speak, and shall have been resigned to death as the penalty of sin and as something that comes to him from the hand of the Lord.

All the Masses offered by any priest for the soul of a member who has died in the state of grace are to profit that soul just as if the Masses were offered at a privileged altar.

NOTABLE NEWS

For Catholic Men, Juniors & Seniors in High School, to Age 24
(without a college degree)



Wednesday
August 12, 2026

5 p.m. Mass | 5:45 p.m. Dinner & Program

Saint John Vianney College Seminary
2110 Selby Avenue, St. Paul

Registration is open!

For Junior and Senior High School men and their parents who would like to learn more about Saint John Vianney College Seminary.

We begin at 5 p.m. with Mass, followed by dinner, presentation, and a tour.

RSVP is required (see rsvp form below)
before Friday, August 7, 2026.

This event is sponsored by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Office of Vocations.

[Download Event Flyer Here](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



Serra North Central Region 8

Fall Conference & Retreat

King's House Retreat Center, Buffalo, MN

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20-22, 2026

This is the weekend we've been anticipating to reinvigorate our Serra work and refresh our souls!

THIS IS A TWO-PART EVENT

The Fall Conference is open to all Serrans in Region 8 whether or not they are able to attend the retreat. This is our Region in action. Come and see what Serra Clubs are doing and meet Serrans from around the state and surrounding region. The first day of the get-away on November 20 is dedicated to speakers, displays, club reports, and social time with Serrans from the Dakotas, Wisconsin, and all over Minnesota! Check-in time is 9:30 a.m. for the conference. Reservations are being accepted now by **Charlene Zachman, District Treasurer, 763- 497-3305, charzach2015@gmail.com**. The day-long event includes a break for lunch and a late afternoon gathering. Time to meet and visit with other Serrans continues over dinner at 6 p.m. for those who are staying for the retreat! The silent retreat portion of the weekend commences Friday night at 8:00 p.m. with a talk by our Retreat Master. Throughout the weekend, there will be opportunity for Mass on Saturday and Sunday, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, additional talks by the retreat leader, a service for deceased Serrans, private devotions, confession, quiet time, and meals and snacks.

[To make your reservation, contact Christ the King Retreat Center.](#)

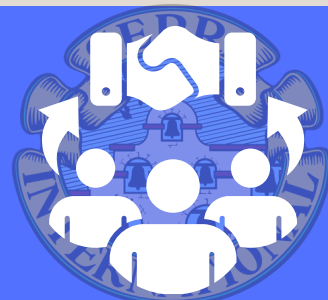
SUBMIT NEWSLETTER CONTENT HERE: SerraClub418@gmail.com

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

ATTENTION



**SERRA MEETINGS FOR
AUGUST, SEPTEMBER,
OCTOBER, AND
NOVEMBER WILL ALL BE
ON THE 2ND TUESDAY OF
THE MONTH...**

August 11

September 8

- the day after Labor Day

October 13

November 10

The Christmas Party is
planned for Wednesday,
December 23

[Visit our NEW Website:](#)

Our site is **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/>