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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

July 28 – Mass 11:30 am, St. William
Membership Meeting 12:15 pm
Church of St. William (Downstairs)
Speaker: **Amanda Zurfice**
(Diocesan postulator for Sister Annella, Part 2)

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 Picnic for Archdiocese
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

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE GRAVE of SR. ANNELLA ZERVAS

by Judy Makowske

On a Sunday excursion with family members, Serrans Ken and Sue Cobian visited the cemetery and grave site of Sr. Annella Zervas, in St. Joseph, MN, after hearing about her at a recent Serra Meeting. (See speaker copy on page 3.) Ken commented that it was beautiful to observe, and that the cemetery is very well kept. Ken and Sue are pictured seated at the grotto and they also took a picture of Sr. Annella's grave site. The speaker at our Serra Club Meeting on July 28 will have additional information on Sr. Annella, who may very well be the first saint from Minnesota.

Continued on page 4 . . .



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

EMBRACE
CHANGE

MaryAnne Frank

Change is often challenging and this year, our Club is undergoing a fair amount of transformation. Most notably, our Board has pared down our meeting times to once monthly after realizing that our extra activities (Vocation Bus Trips, serving Miriam Dinner, hosting the Seminarian Awards Dinner, reaching out to individual parishes for vocations activities, to name just a few) are filling our calendars to the detriment of family and perhaps, even prayer time.

With new officers elected and installed at our June meeting, we will experience additional change. Under the amiable and capable leadership of Tim Regan, our Serra Club has continued to grow.

With his Irish humor and penchant for stories, Tim has faithfully led our meetings for the last two years, and we are grateful!

We've experienced the milestone of our Club's 50th Anniversary and watched our membership increase. Judie Collodora and Carrie Pomeroy are now carrying the torch as Membership VP's (Maureen Collins has moved to the Vocations Committee). We are witnessing a growing number of new members reflecting a younger and more diverse group. And, we are grateful!

Through Jo Lohnes' education mission as Program VP and her outreach to a wide variety of speakers (early on, fueled by her predecessor and mentor, Marilyn Zappia) members have been treated to stimulating and thought-provoking speakers. Jo, now carrying on the tradition, has an 'understudy' in Carrie Pomeroy. And, we are grateful!

Four VP's will lead the Vocation Committee, always active, this year: Judy Makowske and Maureen Collins, Mark Eastham and Jim McGuire. Early on, I learned from Donna Engelmeyer that part of the skill set required is the ability to reach out to each parish in our charter and determine their individual needs and respond with resources. She set the course, shared her thumb drive, and I am grateful!

For Mark and Jim, changing of the guard proved seamless as Mark Eastham and Jim McGuire maintained the successful Vocation Bus Trips, adding new visit sites, while developing rapport with school representatives, many of whom are making these Vocation excursions part of their Religion curricula. Our work is always on the shoulders of those who have come before us! And, we are grateful!

Judy Makowske has made our monthly Newsletters more readable and useful, tapping Michelle Eastham's expertise, which took our writings to a new level of technology ~ a mouse's 'hover' over a logo and some images brings the reader to main story and information sources. Reaching out with the personal touch of a written note or card, Loretta Thielen will take on more duties within the realm of Communications. Additionally, through the knowledge and skill of Mary Krawczynski, we now have a website! And, we are grateful!

Maintaining records of the actions of the Board is a daunting work ~ especially when the enthusiasm of Board Members overtake Robert's Rules, but Rosemary Franzese is up to the task! And we are grateful!

After the untimely death of David Loomis, Ted McCrossan, who put in a yeoman's effort as treasurer is turning over the books to Tom Pomeroy all the while keeping us solvent . . . and, we are grateful!

Continued on page 4 . . .

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

May 26, 2026



A LIFE JOURNEY AND AN APPARITION STORY

Patrick Norton

by Jo Lohnes

Our Serra Club invited Patrick Norton to tell his life's journey and more importantly his apparition story. His life began in 1962. He was born in India. His parents left him as a baby on the streets of Bombay. Mother Teresa's sisters picked him up from the side of the road and took him to Saint Joseph's nursery where all babies are cared for. He stayed there until the age of 7. He then was put into a Catholic orphanage where he took part in daily Mass and the rosary. Two priests and nuns took care of the children. There they slept on the floor. They had very little to eat and would wander over to apartments next door looking for broken toys to play with and something to eat. One day Patrick found a little piece of paper ripped out of a magazine and it said "USA" on it. When he showed the priest, he said, "You will never go there." But Patrick prayed that someday God would give him a family that he could share his life.

In 1964, Pope Paul VI visited the orphanage. It made world news, and people from all over the world began to hear about the orphanage. Patrick continued to pray for his adoption into a new family. The next year a war broke out between India and Pakistan. It was loud and frightening with jets zooming across the night sky. Patrick looked at the night sky and said to God, "Forget about the War. Look at how beautiful your world is." God said to him, "I am going to bring you to one of the greatest nations on the face of the earth."

One day when Patrick was 11, the priest said to him, "You are going to the United States of America." His prayers were answered. He was so happy but also sad to leave the others behind. Patrick and his brother, Martin, were picked up at JFK airport by his new Dad and Mom and the rest of the family. The house was a 24-room mansion. His first meal was spaghetti, and to this day it is one of his favorite meals.

Patrick's Dad was the youngest judge in Connecticut. His Dad adopted five orphans and had nine of his own children. All was well growing up with his new siblings.

Patrick fast forwarded sharing that while on pilgrimage to Medjugorje, he met his future wife, Sandy. He relocated to St. Joseph MN, and his trade was interior and exterior painting. Eventually he started his own business and, in the fall of 2010, when work was becoming slower, he took a temporary job working at Saint Ben's College. One of the jobs was to paint 7 exterior light posts near the Grotto of Our Lady. It was a lengthy process to repaint all of them. As he was on a ladder painting the last light post directly in front of the grotto, he said to the Blessed Mother, "I have never painted in front of Our Lady before." He wanted to respect her, so he said, "What an honor for me to paint in front of you." He said it twice then he said to her, "I hope I am doing a good job." Looking down, a nun suddenly appeared to him. She wore the old habit and she said to him, "You are doing a wonderful job." She talked to him for a few minutes and after he said goodbye to her, she disappeared in front of him. Patrick did not share this experience for about a year.

The next year his boss called him back to paint again at Saint Ben's College. It was then his boss shared that phenomenal things were happening at the College. People were sharing stories about seeing things at the cemetery. He asked to go for a walk with him in the cemetery and while they walked, they felt a tap on their shoulders. Looking back, they saw no one and his boss confirmed that this was what he was talking about. They kept it quiet and a year passed, and both still kept that experience a secret.

One day Patrick ran into a young writer at Saint Anthony's Church. This writer asked Patrick where he worked and Patrick shared that he worked at Saint Ben's College. As soon as he said this, the young writer said, "There is a holy nun buried in Saint Benedict's Cemetery and her name is Sister Annella



Continued on page 8...

Sister Annella Zervas

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

President's Message continued . . .

Trustees bring their love and witness to the Club. Larry Gillespie and Ken Cobian are prime examples as they mentor new Trustees, Stella Roman and Matt Bona. Additionally, Ken keeps us in touch with the SI Foundation. Throughout the years, Norma Swanson has served in multiple roles as well as the first woman member of Serra, President, Governor, oral historian, and now, host at St. William Church. And, we are grateful!

As we begin this coming year, the one thing that has NOT changed is our mission! I am grateful to those who have stepped up to take leadership positions and to those members who hold our mission in fervent prayer! Let us continue to pray: Holy Spirit, guide us in our work to promote maintain and sustain vocations and in our efforts, let our response be a path to holiness! St. Junipero Serra, pray for us!

Sister Annella Zervas continued . . .

Servant of God, Sister Annella Zervas, OSB. 1900 – 1926

100th Anniversary of her death

**Grotto Dates for 2026 with
Prayer and Fellowship @ 1:00 PM**

On the following dates:

July 26

August 23

September 20

October 11



Mass

BEFORE MEETINGS

A Return to 11:30 am Serra Mass before Member Meetings

One of the beautiful gifts of having a Serra Chaplain is the availability of a member shared Mass prior to our monthly meetings. As prayer is the foundation for a successful Vocation Apostolate, to be able to consecrate our Serra gatherings and offer our work and ourselves – entrusting our activities to His Plan – is a critical element in keeping us open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and ensuring our growth in holiness.

Beginning with our July 28 meeting, it is anticipated that all of our Tuesday member meetings at St. William will now be preceded by an 11:30 am Mass. You are encouraged to add this Mass to your calendar and make every effort to attend.

In the 50 years since the formation of the Serra Club of North-Minneapolis, Mass has been an integral part of our planned gatherings and we are now blessed to be able to gather for the Eucharist as one body, again!

With thanks to Fr. Michael for making the Holy Mass available to our Serra members, we ask God's blessings on him and his priestly vocation!

**Prayer to obtain the canonization of
The Servant of God Sister Annella Zervas, O.S.B.**

*O heavenly Father, who art the Author of all virtue
and Source of all holiness, and who, through
Thy faithful servant, Sister Annella Zervas, OSB,
Hast been pleased to give the world an example
Of patience and obedient resignation under suffering,
We pray Thee to grant us the grace which we ask
Through her mediation, and thus to manifest
Her sanctity, that Thy Holy Church may soon be able
To proclaim it for Thy greater glory, O God, and for
The glorification of the Immaculate Virgin Mary,
Whom Sister Annella loved so fervently.
Amen.*

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS



VOCATIONS BUS TRIP ESSAY AWARD WINNERS

First Place Boys - Tony

After the vocation trip my mind was definitely more opened to the thought of going to seminary school. I'm not sure if it's my calling yet but I would be open to it. The seminary students' story really spoke to me and showed that though I'm young God can call to me. Also while talking about their day to day, their days were very busy. However, they always make time for God and that shows me that it's always possible and easy to speak to God even at the busiest times.

One thing about the church that really struck me and I still think about, is this detail. There was a crucifix but Jesus didn't have his crown of thorns. The reason for it was because it's showing that he's inviting us to wear it. Something new that has happened is I have more passion now to spread the faith and pray more often. I used to not pray as much because of my schedule; but after hearing how busy the seminarian's schedules were, it gave me motivation to pray more often and to not make excuses for myself. I've also gotten my family to go to church more often, not all the time but we're getting somewhere and it makes me genuinely feel so happy. The last thing I'm going to add is how beautiful the churches were. There was so much detail and the stained glass windows were amazing.



Sacred Heart School Left to Right:
Mark Eastham, Tony (1), Blesses (1), John (2), Charlotte (2) Mrs. Leisgang

First Place Girls - Blesses

What stood out to me when I was on the retreat was I saw how compassionate the nuns were with the elderly people. I have been on many retreats before but this one wasn't like any other retreat I have ever been on. These nuns were actually taking care of the elderly people and not just saying they were but you could really tell that they were loving and taking care of them. At first I wasn't sure what to expect, but it really grabbed my attention when you could see how much dedication the nuns were showing to these people every day. You could tell that it wasn't just a job for the nuns but it was a calling like they were called by Christ to do this. We even got to join in on the fun activities like bowling. While we were bowling you could see the love and compassion while they were helping the older people. When they took care of the older people it seemed like faith really helped them and guided them in their work. One of the most powerful things I witnessed was when I saw the nuns doing one of the Corporal Works of Mercy: Visit The Sick. I found this very powerful because it had a deeper meaning than just talking to the older people and making sure they ate. The nuns had a more meaningful engagement when they showed us the video about what they do for the elderly. I realized that they are really present for the elderly. The nuns would sit hours and hours at bedsides of those who felt unwell or even the ones that Jesus was calling home. They would not only focus on their physical needs but they were also giving comfort and sharing moments of prayer with them. That's when I realized they weren't just helping their bodies but they were helping their souls. The result of the trip definitely made me reflect a lot on the meaning of compassion and giving to others. Looking at the nuns giving so much of themselves to take care of others, especially the ones that are most vulnerable, gave me a reminder that helping others is very important spiritually and physically as God requests us to do.

What a great experience I had accompanying the 8th grade girls from Sacred Heart Catholic School on their Vocations visit with The Little Sisters of the Poor. Their Youth Minister accompanied the girls who were polite, attentive, and had great fun bowling with the residents. The residents were all smiles as they rolled the adapted bowling balls towards the pins to cheers. We also had the opportunity to attend Mass in their Chapel.
Stella Roman, First time as Chaperone

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Why should I attend the North Central Regional Conference?

The best way to do our work for vocations, the best way to run our clubs, the best way to excite our members is to collaborate with other Serra clubs.

Here are just four reasons to gather with Serrans from other clubs:

- **The Regional Conference is important for the future growth and success of the local club.** Is your club struggling in some ways? Like finding officers, finding members, activities, connection to the vocations director, etc? Attending the NCR conference WILL help you succeed.
- **Hearing the best programs** and speakers that we cannot get to come to a small club. Speakers who inspire and inform us of our threefold mission. Regionally known priests, vocations directors, Serra International and Serra US Council leaders, and our beloved bishops aid all of us to be better Catholics and people who promote and affirm vocations and grow in holiness.
- **Sharing the best practices and ideas** with one another at breakout sessions and over meals and cocktail hours. Every club, every officer, every member can benefit from the knowledge and experience of others. The Serra Club on its own cannot be the powerful, spirit-filled organization for vocations that it is meant to be without the help of others such as Bishops, national leadership, and especially other Serrans who have years of experience. It is a gold mine for us to meet with one another.
- We need to gather together **to know our identity as Serrans**. Serra is not just our local identity, but a force throughout this nation and the world. And, we have fun together, too.



Debbie Koop

Serra District 7 Governor

Make the time. Make the effort. Plan to attend our North Central Regional Meetings:

- I ask you to support, help to plan, and attend our next Regional meeting and retreat on November 20th-22nd in Buffalo, MN at King's House retreat center. **It's important, in fact, it's vital that we gather together.** After this year, we will embark in a new direction for our Regional meeting starting in 2027: a conference to fulfill our mission. We have the date and place set for next year:

October 15-17, 2027 at Trinity Woods in Trego, WI

- Regional Director, Cathleen Ahern, Kathleen Randolph District 7 Governor-Elect, Past District Governors and I are leading the effort to put together a planning committee. We need your input so that we can make this meeting relevant to all Serrans. Some of you may be getting a call to help us in this endeavor. Prayerfully consider becoming involved. We need help from every club with a theme, marketing/publicity, budgeting, programs, speakers, transportation, liturgy planning, hospitality, technology, and so much more.

Trust me when I say, attending the next two Serra Regional Conventions will change how you see yourself and your club in the future. It will mean that someone will hear God's call more clearly, it will mean some priest or religious will feel affirmed in their chosen vocation, and it will mean that you will draw closer to your Lord and Savior.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your District Governor.

Always forward. Never back.

St. Junipero Serra, pray for us.

Debbie Koop



CLUB EVENTS & NEWS



JUNIPER

One of Miguel Serra's favorite books was the Little Flowers of St. Francis, and his favorite character was the playful monk, Brother Juniper. Of him Miguel exclaimed, "Would to God that I had a whole forest of such Junipers!" It was the brother's humor that Miguel admired, but more, it was his total selflessness and deep concern for the needs of his companions. On September 15, 1731, Miguel knelt before the provincial and made his vows as a Franciscan. His name? . . the jolly, holy jester of St. Francis, Juniper (in Spanish, *Junipero*).

The Catholic Source Book by Rev. Peter Klein, Copyright 2000.

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:

July 1	Feast of the Precious Blood
July 2	Feast of the Visitation
July 16	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
July 25	Apostle - James the Greater

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.



BLESSED IN MAY BY OUR NEW CHAPLAIN

Fr. Michael Panka blessed Serrans following Mass at St. William. For the Feast Day of St. Philip Neri, he chose a vestment with special significance..... Father was gracious to answer our request for more information. The vestment is called a Philip Neri chasuble because its shape matches the shape of the chasuble Saint Philip Neri is wearing in the painting hung above his tomb in Rome. The one he wore for our Serra Mass was designed in Poland based on motifs from the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain.



CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

PHANTOM GARAGE \$ALE

ANNUAL AUGUST FUNDRAISER

by Judy Makowske

Here's the "Real Deal" about the Phantom!

Once upon a time, when our Serra Club was young, our members found a way to support our vocation endeavors by sponsoring a garage sale every August. Each year beginning with Fran and Barb Feyereisen, a member would offer their lawn and garage to be filled with valuables from closets and attics and basements of Serra members and friends and neighbors. It was a lot of work! And hot!

A number of years ago after numerous garage sales at the home of Steve and MaryAnne Frank, the idea of outright asking for donations and allowing friends and neighbors to participate with us in vocation work, ie. "The Phantom Garage Sale" was born! Now, we share the opportunity to directly participate in Serra's vocation apostolate with a tax-deductible donation. Funds raised help support 8th Grade Vocation Bus Trips, Traveling Crucifix Programs, Seminarian Awards, Prayer Folders, and the Archdiocesan Vocation Office.

Marilyn Zappia, long-time Serran and amazing woman of hospitality, compassion, prayer, strength, and ideas was our number one promoter of the Phantom Garage Sale. Unafraid to ask for donations, Marilyn understood the importance of money, along with prayer, to bring vocations to fruition.

All North-Minneapolis Serra members are encouraged to participate in the "Phantom Garage Sale" fundraising effort during the month of August. Donations of all amounts are welcome and appreciated.

A Life Journey Continued . . .

Zervas. She is already a Servant of God." Patrick shared this with his boss and the next day they went to look for her grave but did not find it. Later, Patrick went back in search of Sister Annella's grave and saw a lily lying on a rock right in front of one of the graves. It turned out to be Sister Annella's. It was that same spot where they had felt that touch on their shoulders. It was Sister Annella Zervas that had appeared to Patrick. She lived from 1900 to 1926.

Patrick Norton has been a promoter of Sister Annella for sainthood ever since she appeared to him at the grotto in 2010. She may be the first Saint from Minnesota!

For more information on the life of Sister Annella go to:

[SISTER ANNELLA GUILD](http://SISTERANNELLA.GUILD),

SISTERANNELLA.ORG/CONTACT-US

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
Mary Szydluk
Marlene Tacheney

*Mother of Mary Krawczynski

**Daughter of Loretta Thielen

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- Special intention for priests who will start new assignments in July.
- For men who are discerning a call to the diaconate.
- Safety of all Serran travelers, especially those attending the Serra International Convention.

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:

- Archbishop Hebda
- Fr. Mark Pavlak and Angie Koenig
- Safety of the Sisters of Jesus the Lord in Russia

NOTABLE NEWS

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!



SAVE THE DATE

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



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.*

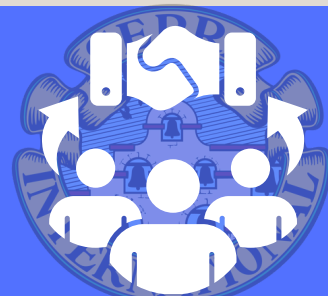
[Download Event Flyer Here](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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

There is only one member meeting in July which will be on the 28th.

Enjoy your summer!

Everything is up to date on our Serra Web Page. If you have questions, please check the club calendar or the newest Serran Newsletter on the web.

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

[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/>