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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Oct 20 - Board Meeting 8:45 am
Church of St. Charles (Doran Hall)

Nov 1-7 - Nat'l Voc. Awareness Week
Promoted by the USCCB & Serra

Nov 10 - Mass 11:30 am, St. William
Membership Meeting 12:15 pm
Church of St. William (Downstairs)
Speaker: **Jane Bona**

Nov 17 - Board Meeting 8:45 am
Church of St. Charles (Doran Hall)

Nov 20 - Serra Conference 9:30 am
Kings House Retreat Center

Nov 20-22 - Serra Retreat 8:00 pm
Thru Sunday at 12:00 Noon
King's House Retreat Center

Dec 15 - Permanent Deacon Ordination

Dec 23- Advent/Christmas party
Jax Cafe



Jubilee Year of Saint Francis October 4, 1226

800th Anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi

As we anticipate celebration of National Vocations Awareness Week in early November, we step back and look at the influence -the mark - that Franciscans have made in our community. Franciscan inspiration on the Catholic Church in our archdiocese includes at least three congregations of Franciscans: Franciscan Brothers of Peace, at Queen of Peace Friary in St. Paul, Franciscan Brothers of Hope at St. Lawrence Newman Center, and for many years NE Minneapolis and Columbia Heights were blessed by Sisters of St. Francis, Congregation of Our Lady of Lourdes, Sylvania, OH, who taught in our schools and ministered in parishes. We also recently celebrated the final profession of vows by a member of our community to the Franciscan Brothers of the Renewal. And lest we forget, Fr. Junipero Serra was a Franciscan as well.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



MaryAnne Frank

Crisp autumn air energizes giving new life and impetus to our Serran work. My awareness has come a bit late in the game, but after hearing about a rather 'new' Magazine, [THE MINNESOTA CATHOLIC](https://www.theminnesotacatholic.com), (issue 39) I'm more than intrigued! Their byline: "By Catholics, For Catholics" says it all! I encourage you to sign up for free issues that advertise events, programs, local businesses, and more, while introducing readers to uplifting stories and articles.

<https://www.theminnesotacatholic.com/subscribe>

This magazine may give Serra a meaningful tool to literally spread the Word of our work for vocations!

The second crop of raspberries is coming to a fruitful end. Picking these small, tasty jewels gives quiet moments to revel in the bounty of summer's growth while sending quick messages of appreciation to our Creator! It also gave me the opportunity to ponder how our Serra members might be more involved in the activities of our apostolate.

I'm looking forward to each Serra member taking a more proactive role within our Serra work. Stepping outside our comfort zone and introducing ourselves to a new face at Church is an easy and rewarding effort to evangelize. Actually taking a moment to pray with someone who has asked for prayers, rather than, or in addition to a promise for prayer, can both challenge us and sharpen our skills to impromptu prayer. On occasion, I am startled at the prayerful words that I have uttered and realize that the Holy Spirit had given me words of plea that I am quite certain didn't come from me!

Our membership VP's continually remind us that each member is responsible to introduce Serra and invite new members. After all, it's only natural to share good things with those we love!

Our Shepherd, Archbishop Hebda, has written a letter to each of us, sheep of his flock. His vision and guidance are meant to steer us on our path to holiness! I am hopeful that we can respond by reading **Only One Thing is Necessary** and studying his words in our walk to holiness.

Our *Walk With Me* seminarian, Mathias Lundgren, wowed us when he served as speaker for our Members Meeting. Please keep him in your prayers as he continues to discern his vocation.

I have found that prayer and pain are a potent combination to offer up for special intentions! Recently, a recluse brown spider bit me (No, no special "spidey" powers" were bestowed on me), but as I have been slowed from my usual pace to a painful plod, I am reminded with each step that my pain must be used for good!

With St. Junipero's urging, "always forward!"

MaryAnne Frank

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SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

MATHIAS LUNDGREN

“Walk with Me Seminarian” August 11, 2026

by Jo Lohnes



Mathias Lundgren is a Seminarian for the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis. He is entering his 2nd year at St. John Vianney College Seminary (SJV) this fall. Over the summer he worked as a Totus Tuus Missionary in the Archdiocese. He is a parishioner at Holy Cross Catholic Church in NE Minneapolis and was a part of the St. Charles Borromeo Youth Group as a student and as an adult volunteer. He is a graduate of St. Anthony Village High School, and he studied Global Business Leadership and Hispanic Studies at St. John's University in Collegeville for 2 years before discerning a call to the priesthood and transferring to SJV in 2025.

Here is his vocation story:

Vocation is always a call to deep unity with God. Our vocation is our way to live out heaven on earth. While in high school, Mathias had thoughts of a priestly vocation but also was open to marriage. At St. John's University he played football and with that came a grueling schedule. It was at the end of college football that there came a few seeds towards a priestly vocation. There was also the witness of the Monks and Sisters at St. John's.

After his first year, he attended a retreat with UW, La Crosse Newman Center and found himself praying a holy hour before Mass. It was there that he heard in his mind's ear, “The halo you can wear is the collar of a priest.”

Further discerning, he attended a “Come and See” event with the Dominicans in St. Louis but did not feel drawn there. Two weeks later he attended the Archbishop's Discernment Retreat and subsequently submitted an application to SJV and was accepted.

Mathias explained what takes place in the first year at SJV:

1st year of SJV Propaedeutic Year - Preparation for discernment; set apart time silence, prayer, and reading to grow in the Human and Spiritual pillars of formation before moving onto the Intellectual and Pastoral; emphasis on deepening relationships with Christ, self, and peers; Consists of: lighter class load, opportunities for charitable service, helping at St. Peter Claver School as a teaching assistant; Spiritual direction, human formation meetings, and group meetings with counselors learning how to process conflicts and the external world in a healthy way.

Mathias shared two images of formation in Scripture:

1.) Psalm 131 – Formed as by a mother → Surrender/Nourishment

O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes. I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me. Truly, I have set my soul in silence and peace. As a child has rest in its mother's arms, even so my soul.

- Mathias shared the surrender that a seminarian must go through is formed by your parents.

2.) Jeremiah 18 – Formed as by a Potter → Repentance/Cooperation

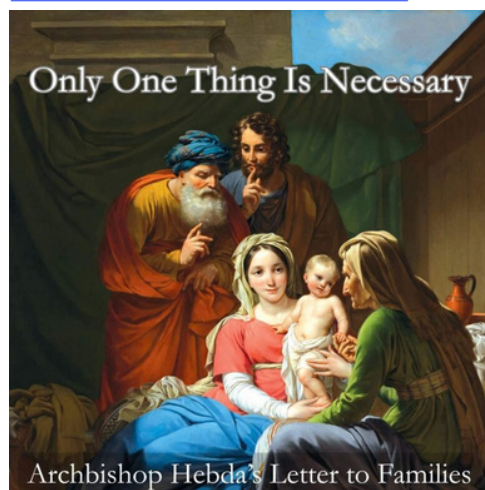
This word came to Jeremiah from the LORD: Arise and go down to the potter's house; there you will hear my word. I went down to the potter's house and there he was, working at the wheel. Whenever the vessel of clay he was making turned out badly in his hand, he tried again, making another vessel of whatever sort he pleased. Then the word of the LORD came to me: Can I not do to you, house of Israel, as this potter has done? —oracle of the LORD. Indeed, like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, house of Israel.

- God is forming me and I am resistant and turn away. Be docile to the Holy Spirit. If I repent, He will make a new vessel out of me.



Our new “Walk With Me” seminarian, Mathias Lundgren posed this summer with Fr. Anthony Baker who was our first “Walk With Me” 27 years ago.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS



Part One

by Chris Shannon

Archbishop Bernard Hebda has written a beautiful letter for all the people of his Archdiocese in response to the needs of the local Church community expressed during the Synod. Parents as the primary educators of their children is the underlying theme of the letter. Instruction for implementation of the study of this letter throughout the Archdiocese can be found at the beginning of the art filled book available online and in parishes. Number 8 of the implementation plan states: **“For those leading Catholic-inspired ministries and apostolates based in the Archdiocese.”** The North-Minneapolis Serra Club clearly belongs to this category. It is the Archbishop’s encouragement that we study this letter “to enhance understanding of the challenges being faced by those they serve.”

The assignment for October includes the Preface and Sections 1 and 2. The Archbishop shares how the parents of Therese of Lisieux, Zelig and Louis Martin, became saints through the ordinariness of life, offering encouragement for us all in striving for holiness. The challenges faced by today’s families particular to our time include a general disregard for the Sacrament of Marriage. Screen time has taken the place of quality human interaction, resulting in an “epidemic of loneliness and isolation,” declared by the U S Surgeon General in 2023. The day to day life of the family can be challenging and sacrificial, the narrow path recognized by Jesus as the true gate to daily growth and renewal. In addition to the Martins, Pope Leo holds up two additional families as inspiration for imitation, Blesseds Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi and Jozef and Wiktorina Ulma and children. These families are refreshingly ordinary – “the saints next door.” All of us come from families, and can find in these families relatable attributes to mirror.

SERRANS, PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:



October 16 - 18, 2026

Archbishop's Discernment Retreat

for Catholic men, 17 - 24, without a college degree

- Join Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Fr. Mark Pavlak and archdiocesan seminarians for a weekend of prayer and discernment at Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo MN

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at 6pm

Andrew Dinner – 777 Forest Street, St. Paul, MN 55106

- Archbishop Bernard Hebda & Director of Vocations, Father Mark Pavlak, invite men 16 and older to join them for dinner and conversation about priesthood and religious life. It is typical for your pastor, youth minister, or high school chaplain to attend with you.

November 19-21, 2026

Vianney Visit - St. John Vianney College Seminary

- For men from the Archdiocese of St Paul and Minneapolis!

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

Fr. Brian Lynch receives the compiled prayers of St. Charles parishioners in a spiritual bouquet presented for Priesthood Sunday by Serran Judy Makowske.



Priesthood Sunday was celebrated at area churches on September 27, 2026. Many parishes took the opportunity to honor their pastors by gathering prayer promises for Masses, Rosaries, Novenas, Chaplets, and Holy Hours . . . a beautiful offering!

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

OUR SERRAN MEMORIAL BOOK

by Judy Makowske



At each Mass before our Serra Meetings, we display the Serra Memorial Book which lists the intentions of people who have made a donation to our Serra Club for a remembrance.

There are intentions in thanksgiving, for anniversaries, for deceased members, and for honoring special people in prayer. The Memorial Book dates back to 2002 when members of our Serra apostolate were looking for a way to acknowledge people and events, and at the same time bring in additional cash for Serran projects.

The largest number of entries in our Memorial Book are honorariums for deceased relatives and friends. Memorial Cards to acknowledge individuals and special occasions are available at each Serra Meeting. When a donation is received, the name of the honoree or celebratory event is inscribed in the Memorial Book, to be remembered at each monthly Serra Mass from that time forward.

To maintain our commitment to monthly Masses for the donations received, when we did not have a chaplain to celebrate Mass, our Serra Club sent donations to Hope for Uganda where Masses were offered by priests at Sacred Heart Seminary in the Archdiocese of Gulu, Uganda. Happily, our North-Minneapolis Serra Club donations may have been a small part of providing for the seminary costs of the six priests and one deacon who were ordained in Gulu this year. (See photo below.) Our Church and Serra are Universal - We rejoice in holy vocations where ever they are formed!

Prayer Intention Cards are available and notations in the Memorial Book can be made by contacting Serra Stella Roman who will be happy to help you.



On the left is Msgr. Matthew Odong with the newly ordained.



CLUB EVENTS & NEWS

LETTER FROM LUCY

*Dear Serra Club of North-Minneapolis,
Praised be Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary His mother!
God reward you for your prayers and for your donation.
Your work is so important for the Church,
and your prayers certainly bear much fruit with the
recent increase in vocations across the nation.*

*I am so humbled and grateful to be a part of God's plan as
He begins our Carmel in Texas. The Diocese has been so
welcoming and the generosity of the people here is
overwhelming. The people here in Muenster are ready to
share their time, talent, and treasure at a moment's notice -
whatever we need.*

*We ask your prayers that we may be docile to God's will
in every way as our foundation gets started and that all
our prayers and works may be for His glory.*

You will be in my prayers and those of all of the sisters.

*In Jesus Crucified, Lucy
Carmel of Jesus Crucified
Muenster, Texas*

PHANTOM

GARAGE SALE

by Tom Pomeroy

Thanks to all who have solicited gifts to the Phantom Garage Sale which is doing very well. We already have received more than half the total amount donated last year. But just like all the great saints, don't stop praying and asking for even more charity to go towards God's works.

VOCATION BUS TRIPS SCHEDULED



by Jim McGuire and Mark Eastham

The Wheels on the Bus are rolling again for four of the Catholic Schools in our Charter area. With this commitment to the students and schools, we request your Serran participation through prayer and active involvement as chaperones. It's an honor to be able to accompany the kids as they explore religious communities and what 'vocation' might mean in their life. All of the trips will include Mass along with a parish priest to accompany the boys.

Tuesday, October 27:

- The boys will visit the Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Elmo.
- The girls will visit The Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver in Woodbury.
- Sacred Heart & St. Charles Borromeo students will participate.

Tuesday, November 10:

- The girls will visit The Little Sisters of the Poor in St. Paul
- The boys will visit St. John Vianney Seminary & Franciscan Brothers of Peace both in St. Paul.
- St. Stephen's & St. Raphael's students will participate.

CLUB EVENTS & NEWS



At the GroJo, Judie Collodora, Rosemary Franzese and Jo Lohnes posed with Patrick and Sandy Norton and the photo of Sister Annella.

VISIT TO THE GRAVESITE OF SR. ANNELLA

by Judie Collodora

On a brisk Sunday afternoon in September, three Serrans took a drive to St. Joseph, MN to pray for the cause of Sr. Annella Zervas at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes located on the campus of St. Benedict's College.

When Patrick Norton spoke about Sister Annella to our Serra Club last spring, he invited members to come to the monthly rosary prayed at the Grotto and the Divine Mercy Chaplet said at Sr. Annella's gravesite. A group of about 25 dedicated people along with guests, come to pray each month from May through October. On October 11, there will be a Mass offered at the Norton home as a closing for the current year.

After the rosary, the Norton's generously hosted those attending to fellowship and a meal at their home. Patrick shared how God continues to use his life story and involvement to further the cause of Sr. Annella's pathway to sainthood. He shared the schedule for 2027, the 16th year that the rosary will be said at the Grotto and gravesite, and invited all to attend.



PRAYER INTENTIONS



Please keep in your prayers:

Jean Buchmann
Bonnie Conroy
Larry Gillespie
Esther Guzik
*Virginia Krawczynski
Michaeline Loomis
Denis Madden
**Donald Marah
Jackie Pavlak
Jack Quesnell
Tim & Jenni Regan
Joellyn Soler
Joe Spano
***Jerry Swanson
***Johnnie Swanson
Mary Szydluk
Marlene Tacheny
*Mother of Mary Krawczynski
**Father of Michelle Eastham
***Sons of Norma Swanson

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- Archbishop's Discernment Retreat - Oct 16-18
- Vocation Bus Trip - Oct 27
- A successful Andrew Dinner - Nov 3
- The men to be ordained permanent Deacons this fall.

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:

- Health of Bishop Kevin Kenney
- Sisters in Jesus the Lord, Russia
- "Walk With Me" Seminar, Mathias Lundgren
- Carmelite Lucy Maloney

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



BECOMING SAINTS

Saintly Friends

by Fr. Michael Panka

"It's dangerous to go alone!" This is a quotation from an old video game I once played. The original context was a world full of monsters which was much more easily traversed with the help of a friend. Nevertheless, the sentiment is true of the spiritual life as well.

In fact, we cannot hope to make any progress in the life of the spirit on our own. Trying would not only be dangerous but deadly. Only a proud man disdains help. And pride cometh before a fall.

There is no room for self-sufficiency when following in the footsteps of our Savior. Even He did not choose to save the world by Himself, though He could have.

And so, we should seek to gather many friends to ourselves.

Salvation comes through Christ alone. And yet, we know as Christians that we have been incorporated into the Body of Christ which is the Church, and the Church is the House of God, and in that house there are many chambers (cf. John 14:2). Thus, in heaven there is no isolation, for all who are there have been gathered into one by the Holy Spirit (cf. John 17:23 and Eucharistic Prayer II).

Christians must strive to live on earth as they hope to someday live in heaven or else their hope is in vain. This does not mean blind acceptance such that even the obstinate sinner is welcomed into what is at best a merely illusory communion, but it does mean a radical openness, so that all who desire to abide in Christ may find a warm welcome in each other's company.

If you make a habit of reading the lives of the saints, you will quickly discover that saints had many saintly friends. Our Lady had, of course, her Son, but also Saint Joseph, Saint Elizabeth, Saint John the Baptist, and many more. The Twelve Apostles had each other, a holy band of brothers. Saint Augustine had Saint Ambrose and Saint Jerome. Saint Peter Damian had Pope Saint Gregory VII. Saint Francis had Saint Clare. Saint Thomas Aquinas, Saint Bonaventure. St. Theresa of Avila, Saint

John of the Cross. Saint Francis de Sales, Saint Jane de Chantal. Saint Pope John Paul II, Saint Teresa of Calcutta. The list could go on.

Therefore, friends, we must all care for one another, so that as we hope to one day be gathered with our forebears into the bosom of our Heavenly Father, so should we strive daily on each other's behalf, buoying each other up by our prayers and support, lifting each other's burdens, counseling each other in the midst of temptation, drying each other's tears, and sharing in each other's laughter. For it is folly to go alone. And no saint is an island, and heaven indeed is the resting place of those whose lives are lived in peaceful harmony with many brethren.

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:

October 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary

October 11 - Maternity of our Lady

October 25 - Feast of Christ the King (*Last Sunday in Oct*)

October 28 - Sts. Simon & Jude

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

**The Serra US Council
invites new and seasoned
Serrans
for training, workshops, and
spiritual inspiration
to take your mission
to the next level.**

January 28-31, 2027

Franciscan Renewal Center
5802 E. Lincoln Dr.
Scottsdale, AZ 85253



Save The Date
January 28th - 31st, 2027
Leadership Rally



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.

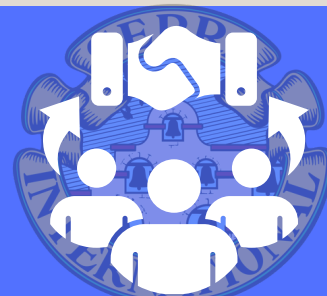
SUBMIT NEWSLETTER CONTENT HERE: SerraClub418@gmail.com

DEADLINE: Submission of all articles and event photos are due on or before the **25th** of the month.

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BOARD BRIEFS



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

IMPORTANT
UPDATES

The **Rosary Novena**

to obtain new
members can be
found on our website,
<https://www.serraclubnmpls.org/>
in the prayer section.

The Christmas Party is
planned for **Wednesday,
December 23**

Visit our NEW Website:

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/>