Everything we have is a gift from God. We are called to be good stewards of all that God has given us. God cannot be outdone in generosity.”

Michael Bragg, President, Serra International Foundation

**The Serran Calendar**

December 29, 2018
Serra Global Rosary for Vocations

January 17-20, 2019
Serra Rally, Ventura, California

January 20-24, 2019
California Mission Trail Pilgrimage

January 26, 2019
Serra Global Rosary for Vocations

February 2, 2019
World Day for Consecrated Life

February 23, 2019
Serra Global Rosary for Vocations

May 12, 2019
World Day of Prayer for Vocations

June 20-23, 2019
Serra’s 77th International Convention, Mexico City

**In This Issue:**

3  A Note of Thanks
Michael Bragg, Serra International Foundation President

4  Grants Awarded by the Serra International Foundation in 2018

5  Top Club Donors 2017

6  A Summer of Communion with Christ
Kevin Armshaw, Mission Advancement Director for the Institute of Priestly Formation

8  “To attain an authentic state as true religious”
Sr. Margret Dzelambong, Tertiary Sisters of Saint Francis

11  Continuing Education for Seminary Formators
Fr. John Horn, S.J., Secretary, Seminary Formation Council

12  Radio, Video, Print: Grants to Promote Vocations through Media

14  Planned Giving to the Serra International Foundation
Michael Moloney, MSF, CFP

16  The Serra Rally in Ventura, California: Jan. 17-20, 2019

17  California Mission Trail Pilgrimage: Jan. 20-24, 2019

18  Featured Club Program: Christmas Season
Aileen Fields, Serra USA Programs Vice President

20  Celebrate World Day of Consecrated Life, Feb. 2-3, 2019
Homer Radford, Serra USA Council Vocations Vice President

21  In Brazil, Serra’s Not Just a Club; It’s a National Movement
Dr. Ruben Gallegos, PhD, Serra International President-Elect

22  Vocations Begin with a SPARK
Judy Cozzens, Serra USA President

23  Serra is More than Just a Social Club
Col. John Halloran, Serra USA Membership Vice President

24  2019 Serra Merchandise Catalogue

28  Why We Are Serrans: Homer and Katie Radford

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**ON OUR COVER**

There were so many seminarians on the steps of St. John’s Church in Omaha, Nebraska, USA that we couldn’t fit them all on the cover! These nearly 200 seminarians from 61 dioceses participated in IPF’s 2018 Summer Program of Spiritual Formation for Diocesan Seminarians. The numbers have grown consistently since the program began in 1995 with six participants. Read about the program on p. 6.

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The Serran magazine is the official publication of Serra International. It is published quarterly. Views expressed in this publication may not reflect the views of the Board. Send letters or manuscripts to amccormack@serrainternational.org. The Serran does not accept advertising.

The Serran Editor: Anne McCormack
Serra International Executive Director: John Liston
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www.serrainternational.org
A Note of Thanks from Serra International Foundation President Michael Bragg

Thanks to the generosity of over 250 Serrans and clubs, the Serra International Foundation was able to distribute over $120,000 in grants to 26 worthy organizations helping to foster and support vocations to the Catholic Church around the world this past year. Throughout this issue of *The Serran* you will see some of the tangible results from Serra International Foundation grants awarded last year. None of these grants would have been possible without the support of numerous Serrans across the United States and around the world. On behalf of the Serra International Foundation Board and numerous grant recipients: thank you.

Also in this issue of *The Serran* is a complete list of the grants approved by the Foundation last year and approved by the Serra International Board and distributed this year. This year we received 65 grant requests totaling $1,788,113.39 in requested funding. While the total amount of grants awarded is less than I would like, I am particularly pleased with the $7,500 grant awarded to the United States Council for continued work on the Serra SPARK online resource. I am also pleased that we were able to continue our support of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, the Institute for Priestly Formation, and the Pontifical North American College in Rome. These continued collaborations enhance Serra’s presence in the vocations arena and help provide Serra a seat at the table with the highest levels of Church hierarchy.

If you have not made a contribution to the Foundation in the past or have not made one recently, I ask that you prayerfully consider doing so this year. In these challenging times for our Holy Mother Church, I am reminded of the time-honored remedy for times of crisis: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. I know that all Serrans are prayer warriors – that’s what we do. I also know that many of us are fasting for vocations, for our priests, our bishops, and Holy Mother Church. I humbly ask that you consider including the Serra International Foundation in your almsgiving. If each Serran in the United States gave a gift of $50 to the Foundation, we could raise over $350,000 (which is a little less than my personal goal of $500,000 – but a good start).

Everything we have is a gift from God. We are called to be good stewards of all that God has given us. God cannot be outdone in generosity. Therefore I ask you not to give until it hurts, but rather to give until it feels good.

May God richly bless you and your families. St. Junipero Serra, pray for us. Mary Mother of Vocations, pray for us.

Michael W. Bragg
President, Serra International Foundation

The Serra International Foundation awarded grants to vocations formators in the countries highlighted in yellow in 2018.
### Grants Awarded by the Serra International Foundation in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Grant Purpose</th>
<th>Amount awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Augustinians of The Assumption</td>
<td>TANZANIA</td>
<td>Academic fees</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>Vocation outreach program</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community of the Sisters of Poor Clare Monastery</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>Initial formation for eight sisters</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didde Catholic Campus Center</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>A community house for young women</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Word College</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>To fund programs of vocations</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Teen</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>Discernment resources</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lump Sum for grants from the Diocese of Kampala</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Diocese-wide applications</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Vocations Training Centre</td>
<td>UGANDA - E.A.</td>
<td>Priesthood formation project</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malindi Catholic Priests Vocation Centre</td>
<td>KENYA</td>
<td>Priesthood formation project</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mater Redemptoris House of Formation</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>Assist young women to discern their vocation</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>N.C.D.V.D.</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>2017 vocation booklet</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyombayirebaziga Priest Vocational Centre</td>
<td>RWANDA</td>
<td>Training programs</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathways to Children</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>Retreat for 13 seminarians and 1 priest</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salem Diocese Society</td>
<td>INDIA</td>
<td>Priesthood formation</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminario San Jose</td>
<td>MEXICO</td>
<td>Priesthood formation project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serra Club of Northwest Houston</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>Vocation program</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serra’s National Council for the United States, Inc.</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>Support and promote vocations</td>
<td>$7,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Servants of the Plan of God</td>
<td>PERU</td>
<td>To evangelize in a native language</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus of Buea</td>
<td>CAMEROON</td>
<td>Financial assistance for a sabbatical program</td>
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<td>Social Community of Faith</td>
<td>INDIA</td>
<td>Educational and general expenses</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Augustine Vocation Centre</td>
<td>SUDAN</td>
<td>Education materials and furniture</td>
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<td>St. Michael’s Abbey</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>Vocation recruitment</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Institute for Priestly Formation</td>
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<td>Summer program</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<td>The Pontifical North American College</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>Priestly formation</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thika Minor Seminary</td>
<td>KENYA</td>
<td>Youth vocation training</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Come Together Initiative</td>
<td>RWANDA</td>
<td>Youth vocation training</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Grants:** $123,000.00
The Serra International Executive Committee received a warm welcome from Fr. Peter C. Harmon, STD, Rector of the Pontifical North American College (PNAC), on Oct. 19, 2018. The PNAC received a grant from the Serra International Foundation and the check was presented to Fr. Harmon by Serra International President-Elect Dr. Ruben Gallegos and Serra International Foundation President Michael Bragg.

Top Club Donors 2017

Marjorca Club ($10,000+)
Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA

Carmel Clubs ($5,000-9,999)
- Wichita
- Vero Beach
- St. Louis

Padre Clubs ($3,000-4,999)
- Reading
- Lake Charles
- Omaha
- Houston

Mission Clubs ($2,000-2,999)
- North Houston
- Washington D.C.
- Allentown
- Philadelphia
- Baltimore
- Grand Rapids
- Toledo

Banner clubs ($1,000-1,999)
- Atlanta
- Dallas
- Des Moines
- DuPage County
- East Harris County
- Hartford
- Johnson County
- Kansas City, KS
- North Central Dallas
- St. Clair County
- St. Croix Valley
- Melbourne
- Southern Maryland
- Boulder County
- East Valley
- Indian River Area
- Twin Cities Airport
Based in Omaha, Nebraska, USA, the Institute for Priestly Formation was founded to assist bishops in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests in the Roman Catholic Church. The Institute responds to the need to foster spiritual formation as the integrating and governing principle of all aspects of priestly formation. Inspired by the biblical-evangelical spirituality of Ignatius Loyola, this spiritual formation has as its goal the cultivation of a deep interior communion with Christ; from such communion the priest shares in Christ’s own pastoral charity. In carrying out its mission, the Institute directly serves diocesan seminarians and priests as well as those who are responsible for diocesan priestly formation.

The Summer Program for Seminarians
Since 1995 the Institute has been sponsoring a summer program for diocesan seminarians, which takes place on the campus of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. An eight-day silent directed retreat and weekly spiritual direction provide the “golden thread” which weaves together all aspects of the summer experience. Intellectual formation complements and integrates with spiritual formation through a series of four different classes offered over the summer: Christian Prayer and Discernment; Human and Spiritual Foundations for Receiving Celibacy as a Generative Gift; Prayer and Priestly Identity; and The Mystery of the Liturgy: Receiving in Celebration and in Life. Seminarians also engage in apostolic service for five weeks, visiting various institutions in the area on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.
The essential goal of the program is to provide the time and place for seminarians to “fall more deeply in love with God,” and to learn how to stay in love so that love becomes the rock and foundation of everything in their future lives as priests.

**2018 Seminarian Summer Program**

The 2018 Summer Program for Seminarians took place from May 28 through July 28. The program opened with 177 participants. The seminarians this year came from 61 United States dioceses and two Canadian dioceses.

We have collected and analyzed data every year for over 10 years. Each year we have reported outstanding results in spiritual growth using pre-post change scores over the summer program objectives as reported by the assessment committee.

**Testimonials from 2018 Summer Program Alumni**

“IPF helped me understand prayer not so much as work to be completed but as a relationship to be lived. Specifically, it directed me to live out of the poverty of my own humanity. I have nothing of my own to give, but only Christ—and that is everything.” —Ryan Quarnstrom, Archdiocese of St. Louis

“The program touches on everything essential in the course of a summer, but it does so with a lens that is focused on prayer and how this affects our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In a word, IPF showed me that one can and should strive after sainthood and that this is not just a nice ideal. IPF gave the tools for how to live that life and that is why I would highly recommend it.” —Sam Gilbertson, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

“IPF invites you to enter in to the mystery of the Father’s wounded heart; it is there that you find the answer to the deepest desires of your own heart.” —Zachary Muldrow, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

**Fulfilling The Gift of the Priesthood’s Vision**

In December 2016, the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome published a document entitled *The Gift of the Priesthood*. Its purpose is to establish guidelines for priestly formation in seminaries throughout the world. The document’s vision speaks directly to the heart of all of our programs, especially the seminarian program, as evinced in these words from the document:

The pastoral care of the faithful demands that the priest have a solid formation and interior maturity. He cannot limit himself simply to demonstrating a “veneer of virtuous habits…” Indeed, it is expected of him that, day after day, he will internalize the spirit of the Gospel, thanks to a constant and personal friendship with Christ, leading him to share His sentiments and His attitudes.

It is our constant desire and prayer that we can continue to help seminarians arrive at “a constant and personal friendship with Christ.”

We deeply appreciate the ongoing support of Serra International, as well as the service of our local Serra clubs. Thank you for helping us offer to seminarians this life-changing experience which deepens their friendship with Christ and sets them on a solid path toward helping others do the same once they become ordained priests.
The Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis (TSSF) in Cameroon contacted the Serra International Foundation for help with their training activities for temporarily professed sisters. The goals of the project were as follows:

• To enrich temporarily professed sisters with knowledge on the social teachings of the Church and to truly attain authentic state as true religious;

• To deepen the faith of temporarily professed sisters in their ongoing formation through conferences, spiritual exercises and study of Church documents.

Implementing the project and achieving results
The activities of the project were carried in two phases. The first phase was conducted through the theoretical teachings with the professed sisters. The second phase was community-oriented with practical experiences based on the social teachings of the Church, through small Christian communities (constituted of about 30-50 members) and in church groups.

The content of formation for 25 temporarily professed sisters was based mainly on the social teachings of the Church which forms an integral part of the course program organized annually. This is to deepen and impart to the professed sisters a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith. The Maryvale Institute (Bamenda, Cameroon) has been facilitating these courses alongside some priests and religious who are deeply rooted in the formation process.

Religious texts used as tools during the training included *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Vatican II documents, and *Code of the Canon Law*. The content of formation was drawn from these texts touching every basic aspect of the Catholic faith which are in line with the formation of the young sisters. The facilitators shared practical experiences to be encountered during religious formation and life, in relation to the Catholic doctrine. Community outreach activities were identified as an essential process in the life of every religious – reaching out to others through living the Gospel.

**Evaluating the project’s effect**
As a result of this training, 25 temporarily professed sisters now demonstrate a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and practice it during community outreach. Their faith is shared with all those they work with — the sick, disabled, adults, hospital workers, children, and amongst themselves in the small Christian communities.

**Additional effects**
The project experienced some additional effects based on the formation received. The young sisters fully participate in the life of every small Christian community. Through this weekly gathering, the sisters are able to enrich the Christians in Church doctrine. This has greatly strengthened the activities of the Christian communities with an increase in outreach experiences.

The sisters also make home visits to share the Gospel with the elderly who are unable to participate in daily Mass. This has become an integral aspect in the life of the postulants. With an understanding of what religious
life is all about (being at the service of others), the sisters also assist in community health centers and hospitals.

Success Stories
Through their outreach to many in the community and in the hospitals, the postulants have helped many understand Catholic doctrine. Recently, the sisters encountered a sick man in the hospital. Hearing the sisters sharing the Gospel, the man requested them to teach him the Catholic doctrine so as to help deepen his faith. He was baptized, and a few days later died. The sisters were happy they shared the faith with him. This was so inspiring to many.

Method of work
The method of work adopted during the formation was communicated via PowerPoint presentation. It was further ensured through group workshops based on personal participation. These workshops were more practical for the participants to properly understand the subject under discussion. Assignments were also carried out. Drama constituted exercises used as a tool for effective outreach in the community. It is seen as a measure to pass across information to the community, most especially to youths.

Monitoring and evaluation
We monitored and evaluated the activities through assignments and exams. The development office conducted corresponding visits and direct talks with beneficiaries to monitor the outcome of the project.

From these evaluations, the project activities can be rated positive, as the beneficiaries now put into practice what was learned through the exercise of deeper understanding of the Catholic faith.

Sustainability
Subsequent to this training carried out with the young sisters on Catholic doctrine, a renewal course will be carried out to unfold doubts which may arise from the challenges encountered during their ministries. The sisters will gain more insight through a forum of experience sharing. This will sustain more fruitfully, a deeper understanding of the faith and thus uphold the project goal as envisaged.

Other notes
The participants were very enthusiastic and showed a wide sense of collaboration in the various workshops organized during the training. The level of involvement could be measured through the group work exercises carried out, the questions asked, and the energizers organized by the trainees to awaken the group.

Furthermore, the facilitators were quite experienced and showed a wide understanding in the area of discussion. The subject matter of the workshop was very enriching, grounded to the objectives of the training and encompassing a broad range of discussion topics. This greatly enhanced the project’s results.

The workshop location was convenient with all logistics adequately in place. The Maryvale Institute in Bamenda, Cameroon, has an outstanding history as a forum enabling religious growth and the spread of the Catholic doctrine through religious literature and seminars/workshops. Through this facility, an agreeable environment for learning was maintained.

Conclusions
We wish to thank you enormously for the support received for the formation of 25 young Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis. Your support has assisted us greatly to sustain in the sisters a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and now share the doctrine with others through their outreach in the communities. God bless you.
Mater Redemptoris Helps Vocations Bloom
Prayer, art and adventure for girls and young women

by Sister M. Consolata Crews, FSGM Director

Mater Redemptoris House of Formation is a residential and retreat house sponsored by the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, USA, and staffed by the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George (FSGM), where girls and young women can learn about religious life and discern God’s will for their lives. The house sought financial assistance from the Serra International Foundation to support their annual retreats, vocation visits, and vocation pilgrimage.

This past June, Mater Redemptoris hosted eight participants at their “Anointed” high school retreat week, during which participants lived the schedule of the House of Formation from Morning Prayer to Night Prayer. Participants had time for prayer, individual meetings with the Sisters, instruction in topics related to prayer, the religious life and service. Daily Mass, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confession were provided.

Also in June, 26 girls ages 9-13 attended Mater Redemptoris' “Come, Follow” days. This event is an opportunity for girls who like to spend time with the Sisters and enjoy spiritually oriented activities to spend the day at the convent. Activities include instruction in the various vocations open to women, games, prayer and crafts.

For the better part of July, sisters from Mater Redemptoris brought nine young women on their Pacific Northwest Vocation Pilgrimage. Starting in La Crosse, the group journeyed all the way to the Pacific Ocean, stopping at four different religious communities, various shrines, national parks, and other places of interest and spiritual renewal along the way.

Additionally, the Sisters hosted an overnight for a group of eleven 6th through 8th grade girls from Bishop Baraga School in Michigan in March 2018. The Sisters also visited the campus of the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse three times to promote religious life, joining students for lunch, at a women's dinner, and for one of their Thursday night Q&A sessions.

Seven women participating in the Aspirancy Program for the 2017-2018 year completed their course on May 5, 2018. One entered the Monastery of the Holy Name of Jesus in Wisconsin in August. Three returned for a second year of Aspirancy. One became a Brew City Catholic Missionary in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Two others returned to their home town to look for jobs.

Thank you for your support of our programs! It is through grants such as these that our programs can continue to help support women as they discern God’s Will. Thank you for supporting Mater Redemptoris House of Formation. It is greatly appreciated! May Our Lady hold you close and God bless you. ☪
Continuing education for seminary formators

by Fr. John Horn, S.J.
Secretary, Seminary Formation Council

The Seminary Formation Council (SFC) is an organization serving diocesan seminary formation by providing education, practical tools, spiritual enrichment and fraternal support to seminary formators. The SFC received financial support from the Serra International Foundation for its initiative, the "Certificate in Seminary Formation for Missionary Discipleship." The SFC is based at Saint Vincent DePaul Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida, USA.

This first-of-a-kind continuing education certificate for seminary formators is designed to fulfill a need to offer a comprehensive training program for those serving in diocesan seminary formation: formation advisors, teaching faculty, administrative faculty, spiritual directors, vocation directors and mentors for the newly ordained in ongoing priestly formation. The certification consists of eight modules overseen by four practicum members.

In a small but significant way, this program is serving to help implement the new Ratio Fundamentalis, "The Gift of the Priestly Vocation." This Ratio provides the Holy Father's new guidelines for seminary formation as a new era in priestly formation is inaugurated.

We have made plans for the second round of certification (2019-2021). In the first round we had the happy situation of needing to create a "waiting list" for those interested in participating. The first certificate program that you supported so generously reached capacity through rolling admissions that gave priority to applicants who desired to sign up for all eight modules in this two-year program of continuing formation.

The certificate has earned endorsements from cardinals, bishops, lay leaders and participants.

Promotion
The program was successfully marketed with annual mailings to all bishops, seminary rectors, and vocation directors while personal promotions took place at the annual meetings of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD), National Association of Theology Schools, and the Federation of Seminary Spiritual Directors.

Attendance
The certificate program operated at full capacity with 38 full-time participants representing 22 seminaries and/or houses of formation.

Assessment
Each teaching module was monitored by way of professional evaluations. Both content and pedagogy have been consistently evaluated favorably.

We believe that the anticipated outcome of strengthening seminary personnel to advance the quality of seminary formation in light of the new guidelines outlined in the Ratio is being achieved. The evaluations as well as the endorsements displayed in our new brochure speak to this.

Additional Funding
We remained faithful to your request to seek funding from additional sources for financial support. Our Sunday Visitor Foundation provided a grant of $40,000, and the Koch Foundation granted $10,000 for to support the second round of this important initiative. Several private benefactors also contributed to the vital mission of the Seminary Formation Council.

As result of the wide support received, including the $3,000 from the Serra International Foundation, we were able to become self-sustaining. We are most grateful for you providing some of the financial foundation that allowed this to transpire.

Thank you again for having assisted so generously in helping launch this new initiative that strengthens seminary personnel in the Church's vital mission of priestly formation. Be assured of our prayers as we request yours. ☀

This first-of-a-kind continuing education certificate for seminary formators is designed to fulfill a need to offer a comprehensive training program for those serving in diocesan seminary formation.
Radio, Video, Print
Grants to Promote Vocations through Media

Light of Life Radio Ministry

Light of Life (LoL) Radio is a Catholic station broadcast from Core, West Virginia, USA. The Serra International Foundation supplied a grant to support the radio program "Answering the Call" (ATC), which features interviews with local priests and religious about their vocation story. The grant also was applied to radio spot announcements on vocation awareness to West Virginians.

LoL Radio produced 18 ATC interviews with six additional segments currently being edited. During the 12-month period of the Serra grant, ATC has been promoted at least twice daily (totaling over 700 times) and broadcast once a week for a total of 48 programs. The current 60 vocation awareness spots were broadcast an average of three times a day totaling over 10,000 spots over the past year.

Although these accomplishments are less than originally proposed, they are significantly more than the corresponding grant funding levels. These accomplishments were made possible through our dedicated volunteer efforts and to a lesser degree our planned student intern efforts.

NCDVD’s Art of Accompaniment booklet

At the 55th annual National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD) meeting in September 2018, the NCDVD introduced the booklet Art of Accompaniment, the publication of which was made possible by the generous support of the Serra International Foundation. Art of Accompaniment is a tremendous aide for priests, deacons, youth ministers, campus ministers, and any other adult who helps teens and young adults to discover the Lord’s call for their lives. Naturally of special interest to Serrans, the book is also being shared with parish and college campus ministers and apostolates such as Life Teen and Focus.

From the Introduction by author Fr. Chris Martin: “Using Jesus’ encounter with the disciples on the Road to Emmaus as our launching point, I hope that this booklet provides both practical advice as well as spiritual nourishment for all those whom the Lord has called to journey with young people on the path of discernment.”

The continued support of the Serra International Foundation has a powerful impact beyond the borders of the USA and into the wider Church. Many countries do not have the quality of resources available to them that the NCDVD strives to offer in the United States. Vocation directors are now looking to the NCDVD for the training they need to better serve the Lord. We are most grateful for this $10,000.00 grant.

— Rosemary Sullivan, Executive Director, NCDVD
What is Vocation Ministry? Video

Author and public speaker Rhonda Gruenewald of Houston, Texas, USA, received a $2,000.00 grant from the Serra International Foundation to produce the video “What Is Vocation Ministry?” The 2-minute, 45-second video promotes Gruenewald’s book, Hundredfold: A Guide to Vocation Ministry, and her website, www.vocationministry.com. The video, which you can view at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNCO5pgvflU, is prominently displayed on her website and social media accounts.

“I am so thankful for the Serra International Foundation who made this video possible to reach those who may never have thought of the need to create a culture of vocations at their parish before,” Gruenewald said.

Magnificat House of Discernment Brochure

Magnificat House of Discernment in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, provides a place where women, guided by religious mentors and a supportive community, may live together for up to a year in order to deepen their relationship with God and discern their vocational call. The program also provides support for women who are exploring a call to religious life but do not live at Magnificat House. The mentors collaborate with vocation directors to insure that the many expressions of religious life are explored.

The Serra International Foundation awarded a grant of $2000.00 to Magnificant House to be used for the design, printing and distribution of a new brochure to promote their program.

Among the many opportunities in which the brochures were distributed, brochures were made available to several groups of young adults who gathered at Magnificat House last spring; among these were religious under the age of 50 who relished the insights of the authors of In Our Own Words edited by Juliet Mousseau RSCJ. Sister Mousseau spoke at the Archdiocesan Celebration of Consecrated Life last February. Three of the authors offered to help to publicize their discernment house and carried brochures home with them.

A steady stream of inquirers come to Magnificat House for assistance in discerning God’s plan for them and for community support. They also receive copies of the new brochure.

All associated with Magnificat House remain grateful for your generosity to us and especially for your labors for religious vocations. You are truly a blessing to the Church. We keep you in our prayers.

—Sarah McDonald, Project Director, Magnificat House of Discernment
Planned Giving helps you meet your personal, financial and estate planning goals by making a lifetime charitable gift. This article will help you learn about a few ways to give and the benefits of each method.

GIFTS OF STOCKS AND BONDS
Donating appreciated securities, including stocks or bonds, is an easy and tax-effective way for you to make a gift to the Serra International Foundation.

Benefits of gifts of stocks and bonds:
• Avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of appreciated stock
• Receive a charitable income tax deduction
• Further our vocation mission today

How to make a gift of stocks and bonds:
• By electronic transfer: Please contact us for instructions on how you can transfer stock or bonds from your brokerage or investment account to the Serra International Foundation.
• By certified mail: If you hold securities in certificate form, you will need to mail two envelopes separately to complete your gift. In the first envelope, place the unsigned stock certificate(s). In the other envelope, include a signed stock power for each certificate. You may obtain this power from your broker or bank. Please remember to use certified mail.

More on gifts of stocks and bonds:
There are special rules for valuing a gift of stock. The value of a charitable gift of stock is determined by taking the mean between the high and low stock price on the date of the gift. Mutual fund shares are valued using the closing price for the fund on the date of the gift.

GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE
Donating appreciated real estate, such as a home, vacation property, undeveloped land, farmland, ranch or commercial property can make a great gift.

Benefits of gifts of real estate:
• Avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of the real estate
• Receive a charitable income tax deduction based on the value of the gift
• Leave a lasting legacy

How to make a gift of real estate:
Your property may be given to Serra International Foundation by executing or signing a deed transferring ownership. You may deed part or all of your property to the Serra International Foundation. Your gift will generally be based on the property’s fair market value, which must be established by an independent appraisal.

Specific issues regarding gifts of real estate:
• Mortgaged Property - Please contact us if the property you wish to give has existing debt or a mortgage. Indebtedness can affect your charitable tax deduction.
• Difficult Property Gifts - Certain properties pose challenges. We have adopted policies to limit the acceptance of certain kinds of real estate. Please check with us before making a gift of real estate so we can explain our gift acceptance policies.
• Capital Gains Tax - Check with us on the capital gains tax implications of your gift. You may also be interested in life income options.

GIFTS OF RETIREMENT ASSETS
Donating part or all of your unused retirement assets, such as your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), pension or other tax-deferred plan, is an excellent way to make a gift to Serra International Foundation. If you are like most people, you probably will not use all of your retirement assets
during your lifetime. You can make a gift of your unused retirement assets to help further our mission.

**Benefits of gifts of retirement assets**
- Avoid potential estate tax on retirement assets
- Your heirs would avoid income tax on any retirement assets funded on a pre-tax basis
- Receive potential estate tax savings from an estate tax deduction

**How to make a gift of retirement assets**
To leave your retirement assets to Serra International Foundation, you will need to complete a beneficiary designation form provided by your retirement plan custodian. If you designate Serra International Foundation as beneficiary, we will benefit from the full value of your gift because your IRA assets will not be taxed at your death. Your estate will benefit from an estate tax charitable deduction for the gift.

**More on gifts of retirement assets**
Did you know that 60%-70% of your retirement assets may be taxed if you leave them to your heirs at your death? Another option is to leave your heirs assets that receive a step up in basis, such as real estate and stock, and give the retirement assets to Serra International Foundation. As a charity, we are not taxed upon receiving an IRA or other retirement plan assets.

Please contact us if you have already included Serra International Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement assets. We would like to thank you and recognize you for your gift.

**GIFTS OF INSURANCE**
If you have a life insurance policy that has outlasted its original purpose, consider making a gift of your insurance policy to Serra International Foundation. For example, you may have purchased a policy to provide for minor children and they are now financially independent adults.

**Benefits of gifts of life insurance**
- Receive a charitable income tax deduction
- If Serra International Foundation retains the policy to maturity, you can receive additional tax deductions by making annual gifts so that we can pay the premiums
- If Serra International Foundation cashes in the policy, you will be able to see firsthand how your gift supports our charitable work
- If we retain the policy to maturity, or you name us as a beneficiary, once the policy matures, the proceeds of your policy will be paid to our organization so that we can use the proceeds to further our charitable work

**How to make a gift of life insurance:**
To make a gift of life insurance, please contact your life insurance provider, request a beneficiary designation form from the insurer and include us as the beneficiary of your policy.

Please let us know if you have already named us as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy. We would like to thank you and recognize you for your gift.

**BEQUESTS**
**What are the benefits of making a bequest?**
- You leave a lasting legacy to be remembered
- You lessen the burden of taxes on your family
- You may receive estate tax savings

**How do I make a bequest?**
A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of an adviser, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift be made to family, friends or Serra International Foundation as part of your estate plan.

**A bequest can be made in several ways:**
- You can gift a specific dollar amount or asset
- You can gift a percentage of your estate
- You can gift from the balance or residue of your estate
- You can make a beneficiary designation of certain assets

**QUESTIONS?**
The ways to give to Serra International are many. As you consider these selection above, realize that there are many more options available. Please contact John Liston at 312-419-7411 or jliston@serrainternational.org to receive additional help.
The Serra Rally
Jan. 17-20, 2019 | Ventura, California

Engage, Inspire, Ignite!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Fr. Eugene Hemrick
Energizing Ministry and Future Ministers through Inspirational Images

Serra International Episcopal Adviser
Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, Ontario
Serra Discipleship and Spirituality

Christina Lamas Executive Director, National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry
Generation Z: Engaging Our Youngest Catholics to Become Missionary Disciples

Fr. Ralph O’Donnell Executive Director, USCCB’s Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations
My Sheep Hear My Voice and Follow Me: Vocational Discernment at Every Age

Our featured speakers are here to powerfully connect you to our Serran mission!

This Rally will be a super-charged leadership and inspirational weekend in a place infused by the spiritual presence of our patron, Saint Junípero Serra.

CHAPLAIN TRACK INCLUDED: Club chaplain registration discount available

Register at www.serraus.org or call 888.777.6681
Sunrise warms the face of Old Mission Santa Barbara. Birds sing from the surrounding hills and treetops. Nearby, the mission fountain burbles gently with its clean, refreshing water.

The echo of footsteps whispers down the long cloister. Are these the footsteps of Saint Junipero Serra? Would you follow them?

This January, Serra's United States Council invites you to do just that: walk in the footsteps of our patron on a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage of seven California missions led by a tour chaplain assisted by local guides.

Connect to your Serran spirituality like never before when you treat yourself to the California Mission Trail pilgrimage.

Your Pilgrimage Includes
- 3-star deluxe hotel accommodations (all hotel taxes & fees)
- Transportation by deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- Breakfast and dinner (see itinerary for details)
- Wine served with some dinners
- Assistance of a Canterbury tour manager
- Assistance of local guides
- All sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- All gratuities for hotel staff and restaurants
- Daily rosary, devotions, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
- Opportunities for confession and spiritual direction

Exciting details at https://www.canterburypilgrimages.com/serra-international
Read the Opening Prayer and Scripture out loud.

Opening Prayer
Eternal God, we now know the joy of receiving the Christ Child in our hearts. Help us to hold Him with a reverent spirit so that we experience His continual presence in our lives. We pray that your holy birth inspires us to live in loving peace where we recognize the signs of good tidings and salvation to the world. Amen.

Scripture
“On that day, the root of Jesse set up as a signal for the nations, The Gentiles shall seek him out, for his dwelling shall be glorious. On that day, The Lord shall again take it in hand to reclaim the remnant of his people that is left from Assyria and Egypt, Pathros, Ethiopia, and Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the isles of the sea.” (Isaiah 11:10-11)

Take time for silent reflection, and then read the Introduction out loud.

Introduction
More than any other time of the year, the Christmas season is a time of celebrating the great gift of salvation through Jesus. During this period we marvel at God’s unconditional love for humanity. The purpose of this program is to experience the gift of the Christ child and the true gifts God has given us.

Introduce a speaker or the facilitator can read the following paragraphs with pauses in between.

Documentary Tradition
During the Christmas season we celebrate the coming of the Messiah into our lives and into the world of justice at the end of time. The unending love of God that is to be seen in the Bethlehem event of 2,000 years ago is present among us today. Consequently, the nativity story is more than an historical drama that is reenacted each year. It is also a time to reflect on how Jesus is born into our lives every single day.

Featured Club Program: Christmas Season

Christmas Season Greetings to all Serrans!

Once again, welcome to the Christmas Season and all the Glad Tidings it brings as we continue carrying out the Serran Mission in solidarity of spirit, celebrating the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. As our mind and hearts are turned to the birth of Jesus at Christmas, we have much to look forward to in our prayer and sacramental life. During this time of year, celebrating the traditional feast days such as the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Feast of the Holy Family, the Epiphany, and the Baptism of Our Lord enriches our souls and helps us to persevere moving forward the Serran mission.

As a Serran you have the opportunity to enrich your spirituality at any time throughout the year. When you go to www.serraus.org, click on Club Meetings/Programs and among the categories you will see listed “Meeting Topics by Liturgical Calendar” and “Meeting Programs – A Call to Holiness Manual.”

If you are reviewing the Liturgical Calendar for December, you will see suggested programs listed, such as “The Immaculate Conception” and “Feast of the Holy Family” with their page numbers.

On the other hand, if you are browsing the manual, you may discover another program titled, “Christmas Season,” found on page 24. Revised by the committee in April 2018, this is the program featured in this edition of The Serran (shown in full at right). The scripture readings and documentary tradition remind us to discern how we bring Christ into the world through our daily faith formation practices, actions and service to one another.

If you have any questions or wish to share your club’s experience and implementation methods with the “Christmas Season” or any other programs presented in the Call to Holiness Manual, I invite you to participate in the Committee’s conference call held the first Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m. Mountain time. Simply dial: (712) 775-7031. You will receive a prompt to enter the Meeting ID: 648-583-478#. The next conference call will be February 4, 2019.

Thank you for your continued willingness and faithful commitment in your own Serran call to holiness.

May you have a very blessed and holy Christmas season.

—Aileen G. Fields, USA Council Programs Vice President
While popular culture may be finished with Christmas on December 26th, the church has not yet begun to celebrate the fullness of the season. We embody the incarnational Christmas theme by continuing to tell the story. Because Jesus was born, God now resides in our flesh and blood, is in the pulsing of our needs and aspirations, and even in the shadows of our forgiven sins.

The scriptures for this season capture the events of history that the prophets uttered to their people. Their message is simple. Believe in the creative, redeeming, purifying, loving, and blessing word of God. By remembering the community’s return from exile, the prophets lay the foundation for the good news to be proclaimed as it reflects not only what God said to His people, but also who God is in history and how God acts.

These Christmas days are filled with specific festive events highlighting aspects of Jesus’ humanity. These include the birth of Jesus (Christmas), born of Mary (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God), who become a part of a human family (Feast of the Holy Family), was manifested to the nations (Epiphany), and revealed as God’s own beloved child (Baptism of the Lord). The Christmas season celebrates the appearance of God among us. It highlights the familiar bonds that foster relationships and provides learning about life, receiving seeds of faith, experiencing communion, and being of service that Jesus understood as He grew in wisdom, age, and grace.

“Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty heaven’s glory was made manifest. The Church never tires of singing the glory of this night:

The Virgin today brings into the world the Eternal, and the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible.

The angels and shepherds praise him, and the magi advance with the star. For you are born for us, Little Child, God eternal!

To become a child in relation to God is the condition for entering the kingdom. For this, we must humble ourselves and become little. Even more: to become "children of God" we must be "born from above" or "born of God." Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us. Christmas is the mystery of this "marvelous exchange":

O marvelous exchange! Man’s Creator has become man, born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 525-526)

The facilitator can read the Discussion Questions out loud for general or small group discussion.

Discussion Questions
1. What does Jesus’ birth teach you about God?
2. How has believing in the Word of God affected your life?
3. In what ways does your Serra Club proclaim the Word of God to others? Is a gift to others?

If time permits invite the small groups to share with the large group any insights that they gain from the group discussion, then read the Closing Reflection.

Closing Reflection
Christmas does not merely celebrate the birth of a child but rather this great feast celebrates the birth of our Lord in our very flesh. These days reveal the divine manifestation and human discovery. They celebrate the dawn of salvation in a world shrouded with shadows of sin and darkness. We come to live in the true light and warmth of the Christ child, the greatest gift to us all.

The movement from the birth of Christ to the reality that He is now a part of our human world is a challenge to many of us. We are called to begin, continue, or assess how we have brought Christ in to the world through our actions and service to one another. The giving of gifts to family and friends must open to giving to the rest of humanity in whatever capacity we are able.

Bibliography

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If you are going to take your family on a trip to a great location, a considerable distance from home on a specific weekend to enjoy an activity together, when do you start planning, gathering information and resources? Serra clubs can use the same process and dedication in their approach to celebrating the 2019 World Day for Consecrated Life (Feb. 2-3, 2019). Start today by using the resources provided by the USA Council Vocations Committee. This could be your best trip of the year!

Why Celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life?

The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life (WDCL) invites all the Church to reflect on the role of consecrated life within the Christian community. Those who choose to live a consecrated life do so for the sake of the Gospel.

Some Christian women and men respond to God’s call to become followers of Jesus through profession of vows and a life dedicated to prayer and service. They live out the consecrated life in different ways. Religious sisters, nuns, brothers, religious priests, and monks consecrate their lives through their profession of evangelical vows and live as part of a community. Single lay people may choose to be consecrated virgins and make private vows to the local bishop as they live out their vocation in various walks of life. Secular institutes are another form of living the consecrated life as single people. Those who become followers of Jesus through the consecrated life bless the Church.

Religious communities have not only developed ministries within the Church; they have served all people all over the world. The value of their years of dedication cannot be measured in dollars. They have touched every continent with social services to the poor, built and staffed hospitals and medical clinics, Catholic grade schools, high schools and universities. They have given their lives to make our world and our Church better by serving the mission and sharing the charism of their community.

Planning Made Easy: WDCL Resources

World Day for Consecrated Life provides an opportunity for Serrans to express our appreciation by taking the following resources to your parishes so they can show their support for men and women religious.

The USA Council WDCL Free Planning Kit provides age-appropriate ideas to create a meaningful celebration in your parishes and parish schools, diocese, religious community or other church institution. http://www.serrainternational.org/content/world-day-consecrated-life-2019

The WDCL page at www.usccb.org includes promotional materials: http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/world-day-for-consecrated-life.cfm


Avow is a small discussion group for young women who want to make the journey of discernment together: https://www.discernavow.com/

More resources can be found at the Serra SPARK TOOL #11 page: https://www.serraspark.org/11-priesthood-sunday.html.
I am proud to say that the Serra International Council of Brazil, where they lead the Movimento Serra do Brasil (Serra Movement of Brazil), is alive and well. Serra International Executive Director John Liston joined me and my fellow Brownsville, Texas, member Jesse Gallegos for a trip to the Brazil Council’s 29th National Serra Convention held on Nov. 16-18, 2018. While we were there, we were treated like royalty.

On Thursday, November 15, Jesse and I flew to São Paulo, Brazil. Past Serra International President Afonso Iannone and John Liston met us at the airport and we traveled two hours to the famous pilgrimage city of Aparecida. We stayed at the Santo Afonso Hotel, where the cafeteria food was exceptional.

On Friday, November 16, I joined the Brazil Council’s Executive Committee meeting. I brought greetings from Serra International President Mario Biscardi, who was recovering from surgery and whom I was representing. I offered our prayers and support for vocations and encouraged Brazilian Serrans to continue recruiting new members.

The Executive Committee presented a resolution I call “Clubs for the Poor.” This proposal, which outlines potential changes to the Serra International dues structure for clubs in less developed nations, will be considered by the Serra International Board at their meeting in January 2019. At Mass that evening, I was honored to carry the statue of Our Lady of Aparecida from the chapel to the auditorium followed by the procession of Serrans.

The next morning, the convention officially started with presentations from the districts. All presentations were made in Portuguese; mine were made in Spanish, understood by most Brazilians. I enjoyed listening to Portuguese words that sounded like Spanish, which makes the languages very similar. The afternoon agenda included Palavra do Presidente de Serra Internacional which is Palabra del Presidente de Serra Internacional in Spanish. Filling in for President Biscardi, I repeated my prepared speech.

On Sunday, November 18, the convention continued at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida. I was amazed by the multitude of the faithful, literally in the thousands. The convention, presided over by Serra’s Council for Brazil President Roberto Abicalaffe, began in the shrine auditorium with over 800 Serrans in attendance. I addressed the crowd, recognizing President Abicalaffe and outgoing President Alcides Dachery. I also complimented the Brazil Council’s Executive Secretary, Ulysses Sebben, for a very well organized convention. At the end of this meeting, 55 seminarians from Brazil graced us with their enthusiastic presence.

Continued on p. 21
Vocations Begin with a SPARK

by Judy Cozzens
President, Serra’s USA Council

Last September, the USA Council of Serra International’s Board attended the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD) annual meeting in Phoenix.

The first two days of the conference were for new vocation directors. I walked into a meeting where a seasoned vocation director was sharing resources with the new vocation directors. There on the screen were three vocation activities from SPARK (Serra Promotion and Resource Kit)! The director was sharing our well-organized online resource that helps vocation directors in planning activities.

That night, our USA Council Board hosted a reception featuring SPARK and about 50 new vocation directors attended. During this time, board members visited with the directors and showed them the Serra SPARK website on our computers and tablets. Everyone enjoyed learning about SPARK, spending time among friends and having refreshments. This reception was funded by our grant from the Serra International Foundation.

The next day, Father Ralph O’Donnell, executive director of the USCCB’s Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, addressed the conference attendees. He shared the SPARK website and complimented Serra on providing this beautiful resource for vocation directors. After his presentation, one vocation director came up and asked him, “How can I get a Serra club in my diocese?”

Then the more seasoned vocation directors joined the group. Rosemary Sullivan, executive director for the NCDVD, welcomed everyone to the conference and shared the beauty of the SPARK website. When the vocation directors looked on their tables, they found little matchboxes with the SPARK logo and website address on them. Why match boxes? Because like fire, vocations begin with a SPARK!

Later, I had an opportunity to speak to the vocation directors, who were impressed that Serra SPARK resources make planning a vocation activity easy and that we included the activities that they requested on the website. The directors loved the fact that www.serraspark.org is a one-stop shop for all their vocation needs and is easy to find, easy to use and available 24/7. The vocation directors showed their approval with an enthusiastic round of applause and with many positive comments during the rest of the conference.

At our booth in the exhibition area, we chatted with many vocation directors and handed out the Serra Sampler booklet for parish vocation ministries to them. One of the blessings of our presence was that many vocation directors asked about starting a new Serra club and/or revitalizing an older club. Serrans across the country are already working on following up on these requests.

Wherever you turned, people were talking about SPARK. One of the vocation directors asked me, “How did you guys get all this publicity for your project?” I smiled because I knew the project has been blessed by the prayers and financial support of Serrans. Thank you for donating to the Serra International Foundation. Your support has made SPARK the “crown jewel of Serra,” a valued resource helping vocation directors and vocation promoters.
Serra Is More than Just a Social Club

by Col. John J. Halloran, Jr.
Serra USA Council Membership Vice-President

I received an e-mail from a Serran about my article, “Is Serra a Secret Organization?”, published in the August edition of The Serran magazine. She mentioned that up until she read my article she considered her Serra club to be more of a “social club.” She enjoyed sitting at the same table with the same people during each meeting. I was wondering how many other folks thought the same things about their club. Is being thought of as a social club good or bad?

If all the meetings and events serve no other purpose than just getting together with friends, sitting at the same table with the same people each time, and nothing is being done to foster and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life, then I would say that being strictly a social club would be detrimental.

How comfortable would a new member be if they are not made to feel welcomed and included? “Sorry, this table is taken, find another.” It would be like going to church, taking a seat and then having a long-time parishioner come in and say, “You are in my seat.” Not very welcoming or inclusive either. How long would a new Serra member last if their reason for joining is not fulfilled?

On the other hand, a well-rounded club has a social aspect to it. Most of us should be familiar with Abraham Maslow’s “Hierarchy of Needs.” Once the basic physiological and safety needs are met, a person starts looking to fulfill the social belonging, esteem and self-actualization needs. Remember that a person needs to feel that they are accomplishing something useful, while feeling needed and wanted. A club just doing programs, events and activities to promote and foster vocations but no activities that help to strengthen friendship and fellowship within the club is also detrimental. A club’s biggest challenge is to know how to balance the mission of Serra and the social aspects that help to keep the members longer and meet their needs. So, is there a seat for a new member at your table?

The person who sent me the e-mail is from the United States’ fifth largest club. The club raises and distributes about $10,000 each year to support vocations in the diocese. It has been recognized for its contribution to the Serra International Foundation every year since 1983. The club offers a number of spiritual and social opportunities during the year. The club has been in existence since 1950. It turns out that the club she is in, is mine, the Serra Club of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and I have been its president for almost eight years! SURPRISE, you just never know how someone thinks of their club until something jogs their thoughts. Consider opening a discussion about this with your fellow Serrans today.

Gallegos
Continued from p. 19

We proceeded from the auditorium to Mass in the shrine. At the altar, Affonso Iannone introduced me to the Serrans and to thousands of people participating in the Mass services in person and via nationwide televised broadcast. “Movimento Serra!” was chanted repeatedly throughout the Mass. Most impressive was the respective clubs parading their banners with great honor before the people.

Serra’s Council for Brazil wants to serve as ambassadors in promoting Serra in South America’s Spanish-speaking countries. A Brazilian club is ready to start a club in Uruguay. I believe that if financial support is given to Brazil we will see membership growth in Spanish-speaking South America.

I enjoyed attending the Brazil Council’s convention and know it was a tremendous success. The Brazil Serrans are serious and committed. As with Our Lady of Guadalupe, I will also pray to Our Lady of Aparecida. Our Lady of Aparecida pray for us!
The Serra Decade Rosary

Beautiful decade rosary by Italian craftsmen Ghirelli, hand-made for Serra. Features polished bohemian glass beads and custom bronze medallions of Saint Serra, the Caravaca Crucifix, the San Diego mission bell tower, the Serra logo, and a Miraculous Medal. A true Serra keepsake only $19.95 Ten or more $16.95

The Traveling Vocations Crucifix

The Traveling Vocation Crucifix is a tried-and true program to inspire prayer for vocations. Every week, the crucifix travels to a new family or classroom. They enthrone it in a place of honor and pray for vocations each night using the prayers inside the brochure.

The kit includes 10” bronze crucifix with stand-up base brochures for schools and families; 200 prayer cards; and box with protective foam padding. $75 with wooden case or $85 with aluminum case

Personalized Business Cards

Great-looking glossy cards with Serra logo and message, printed with your name and contact info. $32 for 250 personalized cards. See website for other quantities.

Over 100 clubs use the Vocations Crucifix to pray for vocations in more than 250 schools and parishes!
Serra Display Banner
Customizable 5’x2’ banner creates an instant “presence” for your club at events!
Crisply printed on 10mil vinyl, with aluminum X-style stand. Sets up in seconds.
Customize the bottom with your club’s name. Only $95

Customized Serra Membership Brochure
Attract new members to your club!
Beautiful trifold brochure clearly explains Serra’s mission and reasons for becoming a Serran. Back panel is customizable with your club’s name and information. View the whole brochure online. $237 for 500
• $324 for 1,000 • $513 for 2,500

Called by Name Kit
This decades-old strategy asks Catholics in the pew, who truly know their own parishioners, to recommend young people who may be called to priesthood or religious life. Serrans gather the submitted names, give them to the pastor, and then supply them with discernment resources.
A. 100 pew cards .......$4.50
B. Standup Banner.....$95
C. Posters.....................$6
D. Ballot-style box ......$15

Handbook for Serrans Called to Holiness
Our manual to live as good Catholics and effective Serrans. Packed with solid information about vocations and the spiritual life. $10

Serra Spark Sampler
A 36-page booklet describing five great tools from the Serra Spark website to help create a culture of vocations.
$4 for single booklet
$100 for pack of 30 booklets
$75 for 4 or more packs of 30

More Items Online
Take a look at our full inventory at www.serrastore.org

ORDER ONLINE AT SERRASTORE.ORG OR CALL (877) 585-1551
**Serra Apparel**

**Women’s Short-Sleeve Dress Shirt**
Comfortable, wrinkle-free shirt with embroidered logo. Cotton-poly blend for a traditional, relaxed look. $41

**Men’s and Women’s Fleece**
Extra soft mid-weight fleece jacket with logo and zippered pockets. Available in various colors. $48

**Serra Cap**
Sharp-looking adjustable cotton twill hat with gray Serra logo. $20

**Suit Coat in Men & Women’s Styles**
Lightweight suit coat with embroidered Serra logo has contemporary styling and fit. Colorfast and wrinkle-resistant. $180-$192

**Serra Polo Shirt**
High-quality polos with embroidered Serra logo. Men’s & women’s sizes. Over 30 colors available! $29-$41

**Serra Insulated Travel Tumbler**
20 oz. stainless steel mug imprinted with the Serra International logo and matching blue lid. Double-walled construction keep drinks hot or cold for hours. Lid has rubber gasket to prevent spills. $20

**St. Serra Holy Bear**
Know a future Serran that loves plush toys? Adorable bear has embroidered St. Serra on the front and is holding an excerpt from Pope Francis’ homily at the canonization Mass. only $12

**Serra Logo Note Cards**
Natural smooth card stock with raised (thermographic) ink, providing visual and manual texture. Includes printed matching envelopes. A sharp way to send a note! $8 per set of 10 (quantity discounts)

**Serra Messenger Briefcase**
Functional briefcase with embroidered Serra logo is designed to protect your laptop and organize necessities. Versatile straps for different carry options. $33. Custom-embroider your name for only $3

ORDER ONLINE AT SERRASTORE.ORG OR CALL (877) 585-1551
Setting up an account for your Club allows for fast ordering, as well as invoicing. To set up an account, visit [www.serrastore.org](http://www.serrastore.org) or call Vianney Vocations at 877-585-1551.

**St. Junipero Serra, pray for us!**
Why Are We Serrans?
Homer and Katie Radford, Serra Club of Southeast Kansas City, Missouri, USA

Why are we Serrans? It’s all Serran Tom Walsh’s fault, God rest his soul. Tom and Homer had become friends through the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, promoting the National Catholic Committee on Scouting’s Religious Emblems Program. Our journey in Serra began in 1991 when Tom, a member of the Serra Club of Kansas City, Missouri, Club #25, asked Homer to go with him to a mid-day Mass, luncheon and meeting, to something called a “Serra Club.”

Soon Homer was a member; then he was asked in 1992 to be part of the group forming a new club, the Serra Club of Southeast Kansas City, Missouri, Club #785. Club #25 was an all men’s group at the time; Club #785 recruited women and men. I, Katie, attended all the meetings and events but was leery of joining any organization. Finally, after six years, I decided it was a fine group with important work. Since then we have both held offices on the club, district and council level.

Why are we still Serrans after all these years? Here are our top six reasons.

6. In Serra we meet and get to collaborate with a lot of loving Catholic people.
5. We can have friends from all over the world.
4. The mission of Serra is Church-wide, broader than any local club issue alone.
3. We can work together as a couple.
2. We can be of service to the Church and by that, to the world.
1. We love our clergy and religious.

Individually and as a couple for over 35 years we try our best to live out our Sacrament of Marriage. We have grown spiritually because of the Serra Club programs at bi-monthly meetings, the regional conferences with presentations from bishops and other national leaders involved in Church vocations, and the USA Council and Serra International conventions.

Without the invitation from Tom Walsh, our lives and Faith would not have grown, our circle of friends would not have included the many dedicated Serrans, nor would we have been able to share in the worldwide ministry of Serra International. We challenge each Serran to be like Tom Walsh: invite a family member or Catholic friend to join Serra today.

Katie and Homer Radford