



**Serra International
United States of America Council
District 126**



Strategic Leadership Planning Conference

August 4, 2018

9:00 p.m. – 1:00 pm

Agenda

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| A. Registration/Breakfast | 9:00 a.m. |
| B. Opening Prayer/Serra Prayer for Perseverance | 9:30 a.m. |
| C. District Governor Update
Jesse Gallegos – Serra Club of Harlingen | 9:35 a.m. |
| D. Serra International President-Elect
Dr. Ruben Gallegos – Serra Club of Brownsville | 9:45 a.m. |
| E. Region 10 Director
John McQuillen – Serra Club of Victoria | 10:00 a.m. |
| F. Group Planning Sessions
1. Group activity
2. Charge: Membership and Programs –
each group come up with 4 <u>strategies</u> for
increasing membership and 2 for <u>retention</u> | 10:30 a.m. |
| G. Group Planning Sessions Sharing | 10:50 a.m. |
| H. Mass@ Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle | 11:30 a.m. |
| I. Lunch @ Basilica Cafeteria
Continue sharing, if needed | 12:00 noon |
| J. Closing Prayer | 1:00 p.m. |

THE OBJECTIVES OF SERRA:

- ❖ To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service and to support priests in their sacred ministry;
- ❖ To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church;
- ❖ To assist members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

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OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin this meeting. Help us to engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community. Fill us with your grace, Lord God, as we make decisions that might inspire all Serrans of District 126, religious & those in consecrated life and young men and women discerning Your call for a religious life. To continue to remind us that all that we do here today, all that we accomplish is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of You, and for the service of vocations. We ask these things in your name, Amen

SERRA PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE OF VOCATION

O God, you have constituted your only-begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of Your majesty and the salvation of mankind; grant that those whom He has chosen ministers and dispensers of His mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received.

ST. JUNIPERO SERRA PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God, Who wills not the death of sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for Your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen

PRAYER BEFORE MEALS

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive from thy bounty through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

**MARY, MOTHER OF VOCATIONS, PRAY FOR US
ST. JUNIPERO SERRA, PRAY FOR US**

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District Governor Update:

- Club self-assessment guide

Please return the completed instrument through September 2018 to the US Vocation Committee:

Email or Mail to Anne Shepherd-Knapp aesdk2@gmail.com or 20706 Bending Pines Lane, Spring, Texas 77379

- SI Convention – Nashville, TN

<http://www.serrainternational.org/news/sights-and-sounds-serra-international-convention-nashville>

- Serra Rally – January 17-20, 2019 – Ventura California –
Ventura Beach Marriot

- Serra International Convention June 20-23, 2019 – Mexico City

- Attend Serra Rally or SI Conventions - send two people and budget for them

- Update Membership Portals:

Log in (upper right hand corner) *<http://www.serrainternational.org/>*



Serra Login

About

Resources

Serra Store

Serra Foundation

Click here

- New Clubs in San Benito and Weslaco

- **Freeconferencecall.com**:

(605) 475-4855; Access Code: 167549; Host PIN: 3554

- Expansion Committee: Purpose is to plan for events of the year

Brownsville: Tony & Ron Lang

Harlingen: Delma Gallegos & Santos Yanes

RGC: Antonio Vela & Corina Vela

McAllen: Adam/Betty Lara & Elodia de la Garza

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IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS, PLEASE CONSIDER THESE QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOU.

1. Who: Who should lead the membership responsibility? How do you recruit and retain members?
2. What: What does a successful club look like? That is, what are the pieces needed to get laborers for the church and vocations.
3. Where: Where is the ideal meeting place? Why? What are the pieces that make it a place for learning, prayer and consistency?
4. When: When should clubs meet for retaining membership? Why?
5. Why: Why are we a Serran? Look deep into your heart and soul; how has the Holy Spirit moved you through prayer to be a Serran? Where is your commitment to Serra? Is it at 100%? If not what do you and your fellow Serrans needs to do to get you to 100%?

Strategies:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Retention Strategies:

1. _____

2. _____

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US Vocation Committee of Serra International Club Self Assessment and Vocation Activity Planning Guide for the 2018/19 Year

Please complete this self assessment tool after visiting serraspark.org. Access the *Tool Index* to explore any tools/programs with which your club may be unfamiliar before completing this instrument. Share your results with the US Vocation Committee afterward so we can better serve your needs and recognize any desire to enter into a mentoring experience with another club or a committee member.

Put a check next to the vocation programs/tools your Club currently uses.

The programs/tools are followed by letter designations for tool type. A-Affirmation, B-Awareness, C- Invitation/Encouragement, D- Prayer. More detailed descriptions are available below for your understanding.

- #1 Adopt A Seminarian-CD
- #2 Called By Name-BC
- #3 Altar Server Awards-BC
- #4 Traveling Chalice/Crucifix Program for the Parish-BD
- #5 Focus 11-BC
- #6 Organizing Visits to Seminaries-BC
- #7 Involving the Homebound in the Vocation Effort-BD
- #8 Rosary Before Ordination-CD
- #9 Discernment Retreats-BC
- #10 Parish Vocation Ministry-B
- #11 Planning Resources for Priesthood Sunday-AB
- #12 Rosaries for Vocations-D
- #13 Parish Vocations Prayer-BD
- #14 The 31 Club-BD
- #15 Quo Vadis-BC
- #16 Promoting Vocations in Parishes Through Social Media, Websites, Bulletins-B
- #17 How to Organize School Visits for Seminarians and Religious-ABC
- #18 School Traveling Crucifix-BD
- #19 Maintaining a Parish Vocations Ministry-B
- #20 Holy Hours-D
- #21 Vocation Talks for Elementary, Middle, and High School-B
- #22 Video Resources on Religious Vocations for Different Ages -B
- #23 St. Andrew Dinners and Marian Dinners-C
- #24 The Newman Connection-BCD
- #25 Master of Ceremony-CD

Tools from each of the following areas should be employed to insure your club's vocation activities are well rounded.

Affirmation Tools (A)-express appreciation for those already serving in church vocations

Awareness Tools (B)-Aim to create an atmosphere conducive to vocations to emerge whether in community, parish, classroom or household.

Invitation/Encouragement Tools (C)-offer invitation, appreciation, encouragement to the laity who possess the right qualities for a church vocation and who have demonstrated a dedication and love for the church.

Prayer Tools (D)-acknowledge our dependence on God for calling those who will serve in church vocations.

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1. Is there a particular tool type not currently being addressed by your club? If so, check the type:

Affirmation Awareness Invitation/Encouragement Prayer

2. List at least one tool that your club has successfully **mastered** and would feel competent enough to provide mentoring to another club. (The Club President and VP of Vocations should be in agreement on this offer of assistance and be willing to be connected with clubs requesting a tool mentor. Any Serran who is well versed and experienced with a particular tool may qualify as a mentor for that tool but should also be recommended by their club.)

Mastered Tools by Number (From Page 1): _____, _____, _____, _____.

Willing to Mentor Another Club Not Willing to Mentor this year

3. Which **mastered** tool will your club commit to take into a **new** location or parish this year?

Tool # and Location _____

Goal/Tip-Consult the Serra SPARK Sampler for a list of entry level tools to aid in creating a culture of vocations in new parishes or communities.

4. Name **one** tool your Club has not used but will commit to implementing this year where you are most established or comfortable for a trial run?

New tool commitment: _____

5. List the numbers of one to three tool(s) for which your club would like to receive mentoring. (Choose up to three Tools from the list of tools on page 1 using their designated number.)

Mentoring Request for Tool(s) # _____, _____, _____. Mentoring Not Required

6. Does your club participate in the US Vocation Committee conference calls scheduled every few weeks throughout the year?

Yes No because _____

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Goal/Tip: Visit Serraus.org for the US Vocation Committee conference call schedule. Look for email notices of upcoming calls in *Always Forward, Never Back* publications from Serra International.

7. List the number of parishes in your club's jurisdiction, the number of parishes in which your club is involved with vocation activities and the number of parishes from which you draw club members.

_____ Total parishes _____ Number of Parishes Served _____ Total Parishes with Serra Members

Goal/tip-provide vocation activities to all parishes in your jurisdiction and offer membership campaigns on site at each one. Potential members are more likely to join Serra in their familiar parish environment. Include a Holy Hour as part of the campaign. Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament can bring about countless blessings for your club membership and is known by the church to increase discerners of religious vocations where held regularly. See the Holy Hour tool in the Serra SPARK Sampler and at serraspark.org, tool #20 for additional resources on the subject. Serra International has three monstrances available for your club to use for Holy Hours. Contact Serra in Chicago about monstrances. The Program Committee's Call to Holiness Manual also has information on the subject of Holy Hours.

8. What is your club's most pressing issue with which you would like assistance whether vocation related or not?

Goal/Tip-Engage every member in vocation activities at some level to keep your membership active and committed. Team-up new members with seasoned Serrans for fellowship and mentoring in all activities.

Name of Serra Club: _____

Club City/State: _____

Club VP of Vocations: _____

Email: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Club President: _____

Email: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Person completing this instrument: _____

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