Session # 3:
Vocations & Programs
Functions

Beginning Prayer and Inspirational Reading

- Opening Prayer
- Reading from *To Save a Thousand Souls*, by Father Brett Brannen:
  - Story p. 17 "Priests Counsel and Guide the Suffering"

Club Vocations Efforts
"Where the rubber meets the road in Serra"

- Primary way to accomplish two key prongs of the Serra Mission:
  - Fostering NEW Priesthood and Religious Vocations
  - Affirming and supporting EXISTING Priesthood and Religious Vocations
- New revised Club Vocations Manual
**SerraSpark.org**

"The Vocations Toolkit"

- 27 ready-to-use proven vocations tools that can be easily tailored for a specific parish, diocese or club
- Designed primarily for Vocations Directors
- But most tools can be and are used by Serra Clubs as well—Four types of tools:
  - Affirmation
  - Invitation/Encouragement
  - Awareness
  - Prayer

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**SerraSprint**

Implementing Serra Spark Tools in every parish and school

- Each Club assigns a Serran to each parish & school in the Club's area
- Schedule meeting with parish and school vocations ministers & provide info re SerraSpark tools
- Institute the The Traveling Crucifix program in each classroom
- Post the Poster of the Consecrated Blessed Virgin Mary in each classroom
- Monitor followup

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**Vocations Efforts on Two Levels**

- Vocations efforts WITHIN the Club
  - Primarily just for club members
  - Tend to be more intense, ongoing, permanent
  - Traditional way many clubs used to operate

- Vocations efforts OUTSIDE the Club
  - Organized by the Club
  - Intended to get ALL Catholics praying for vocations
  - Focus is usually on parish level with support of parish priests
Vocation Activities
WITHIN the Club

• Adoration for Vocations (usually monthly)

Adoration for Vocations
Two Approaches

• One Hour Adoration for entire Serra group
• Multi-hr continuous prayer before Eucharist
  – “Piggy back” on parishes that have Adoration
  – 6-hour to 24-hour period
  – Each hour covered by assigned Serrans
  – Location rotates between parishes
    • Provides Serra exposure in numerous parishes
    • Parishioners invited to attend for vocations prayers via advance bulletin announcements
    – Allows Serrans with schedule conflicts to participate

Vocation Activities
WITHIN the Club

• Adoration for Vocations (usually monthly)
• Weekly or monthly rosaries for vocations by individual members (31 Club)
2020 Serra Club Officer Training Slides
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Rosary for Vocations
(within the Club)

- Two approaches:
  - Group rosaries
  - Individual rosaries covering each day of the week or month
- 31 Club Concept
- Allows homebound Serrans to participate

Vocation Activities
WITHIN the Club

- Adoration for Vocations (usually monthly)
- Weekly or monthly rosaries for vocations by individual members (31 Club)
- Adopt a Seminarian program
- Care packages for Seminarians
- Birthday, Christmas cards for Priests & Sems & Sisters
- Altar Server awards & recognition
- International Rosary for Vocations
- Newman Connection info gathering

Newman Connection
www.newmanconnection.com

- 80% of Students Stop Practicing their Faith at Some Point During College
- A key time for vocation calling!
- Bishops believe young people who participate in Catholic campus ministry more likely to consider vocational call
- Serra Club involvement: Assist with gathering and uploading student information to Newman site (information from Catholic high schools and RE programs)
- In past three years, 150,000 students connected with Catholic College Ministries
- Contact csampson@newmanconnection.com or 866-815-2034 x 708
Newman Connection (NC) is Simple!

- Catholic HS's: check to make sure they are sending data to NC
- Parishes:
  1. Contact RE Dir in May to get:
     - Names of RE HS graduates
     - College they will be attending
     - City & State of College
     (In many parishes this information is included in the bulletin on a special Sunday in May to honor HS graduates before they go to college)
  2. Go to newmanconnection.com/ambassador and sign up. This allows you the ability to enter the students’ information directly into the website. (Tremendously helpful & great time saver for NC)

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Vocation Activities OUTSIDE the Club

- Rosary programs in parishes (31 Club)
- Special Adorations for Vocations
- Call By Name program
- Parish Vocations Committees
- Seminarian Prayer Boards & Cards/ Adopt a Seminarian
- National Vocations Awareness Events
  - Priesthood Appreciation Sunday
  - Vocations Awareness Week
  - World Day for Consecrated Life
  - World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- Traveling Chalice/Crucifix/ Statue programs
- Vocations Bible Study

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Parish Vocations Ministries Training

- Helps parishes set up Parish Vocations Committees
- Incorporate Serran programs in parish vocations work
- Helps parishes utilize SerraSpark
Club Vocations Activities

- Questions
- Comments
- Discussion

Serra Programs Function

- Monthly Meeting Programs
- Special Programs
- Religious Appreciation Events
- National Vocations Awareness Events

Thoughts on Serran Programs

- Focus is on regular monthly meetings
  - The program challenge is for monthly meetings
    - Religious Appreciation events/ordinations tend to be "self-programming"
  - Remember importance to membership retention!
  - Be careful not to "overload" a month with too many scheduled events
  - Be as consistent as possible on dates, times and places for monthly mtgs
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Key to Successful Programs

- Line up all speakers at beginning of the year!
- Suggest a topic for speakers to talk on! (individual vocation stories get old fast) Possible topics:
  - For the Vic Dir: “How to Ask”
  - Describe personal prayer life
  - What makes for a good confession
  - What you like best/least about being a priest or sister and why
  - Forgiveness
  - How to pray in Eucharistic Adoration
  - What is the diocesan newspaper doing to promote vocations
  - What are RE teachers doing to promote vocations
  - What is spiritual direction

Tips on Program Planning

- Stay focused on vocations
- Consider Outsiders:
  - Focus, Newman Connections, Regional Resources, visiting missionaries, ordered priests, Diocesan news reporters
- Include prayer as part of every meeting
- Have some backup plans

Other Programs Options

- Pope Francis talk to Serrans 2017
- Fishers of Men DVD
- Holiness Programs (Serraus.com)
- Greg Schwitz presentations (Serraus.com)
  - How to be Top Ten Club
  - Audio of talks at recent Clubs
- Who Really was St. Serra? (Mike Downey)
Special Serran Programs

- **Seminary Visits**
  - Weekend trips can be spiritual, educational & uplifting. Consider monthly program to report experience.

- **Retreat / Day of Reflection**
  - Personal spiritual growth an important part of our mission. Mass, Adoration, Rosary and Reconciliation if possible. Usually Advent or Lent.

- **Annual Mass to Pray for Deceased Serrans**

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Affirming Existing Vocations

- Priests’ Appreciation Dinner
- Bishop Appreciation Dinner
- Sisters’ Appreciation Dinner
- Seminarian Lunch
- Ordination Mass

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Natl Vocation Events

- **Priests’ Appreciation Sunday** (last Sunday in September)
- **National Vocations Awareness Week** (first full week in November)
- **World Day for Consecrated Life** (First weekend of February)
- **World Day of Prayer for Vocations** (late April or early May—Good Shepard Sunday)
Club Programs

- Questions
- Comments
- Discussion

Closing Inspirational Reading and Prayer

- Reading from *To Save a Thousand Souls*, by Father Brett Brannen
  - P. 10 "Priests feed the people of God with the Body and Blood of Jesus"
- Prayer