

# Serra New Member Orientation 2023

## Support Documents



Serra New Member Orientation

## Welcome to Serra!

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## Overview

- The Big Picture (above the Club level)
  - Serra International
  - Serra Foundation
  - US Council of Serra
  - The State of Vocations in US
- How Clubs Work
- Vocations Activities

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## Serra: The Big Picture

### Our Mission Statement:

*To foster and affirm vocations to the ordained priesthood and vowed religious life, and through this ministry, to grow in our own Catholic faith.*

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# Serra New Member Orientation 2023

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### Three Distinct Missions:

- To Foster **NEW** Vocations
- To Affirm **EXISTING** Vocations
- To Grow in our own Holiness

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### History & Role of Serra Organization

- 1935: Started by four Catholics in Seattle, WA
- 1951: Became Official apostolate of Catholic Church
  - The *only* lay apostolate officially aggregated to the Church
- Our Role is to be the **LEADERS** on vocations effort
  - We **LEAD** by our own efforts: prayer, service & fellowship
  - We **LEAD** by encouraging and supporting vocations efforts by other Catholic lay organizations
  - We **LEAD** by engaging **all** Catholics in creating a culture of vocations.

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### Saint Junipero Serra "Always Forward, Never Back"

- Born 1713 in Mallorca, Spain
- At age 16 joined the Franciscans
- At age 36 volunteered to go to new world as a missionary; working in missions in Mexico
- At age 56 began establishing missions in California
- 1784 died at age 70 in California
  - traveled 24,000 miles as a missionary
- Canonized : September 2015
- Feast Day: July 1

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### Five things to Know about St. Serra

- Chose a life of humble service
- Suffered constant pain as a missionary
- Believed in the power of persistent prayer
- Advocated for the indigenous people
- The significance of the Bell

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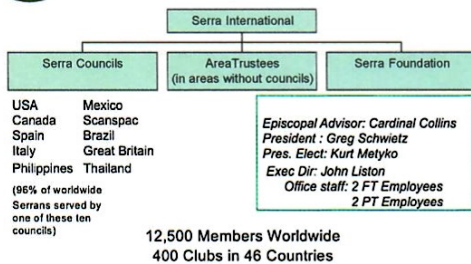
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### Organization of Serra



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### Value of Serra Intl to local Clubs

- Our mission is to serve the **worldwide** Catholic Church
- SI spreads the Serra model to areas of the world where no such vocation effort exists adapted as necessary to local culture
- SI brings Serrans together once a year at an international convention.
- SI coordinates Serra activities with the worldwide priorities of the Vatican

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### Serra Intl Foundation

- **Mission**
  - To fund programs that foster & promote religious vocations
  - To fund formation programs for men & women in consecrated religious life
  - To enhance recognition of Serra International

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### Overview of Serra Foundation

- Over \$3 million given since 2005 to advance Serra mission
- \$2.6 million in assets invested (as of 12/30/2020)
  - All assets invested according to guidelines of USCCB to insure consistency with teaching and values of Catholic Church
- \$180,000 donations received by Foundation in 2020

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### Serra Foundation Grants

- |                                  |           |                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| • <b>Paid in 2019:</b>           |           | <b>\$ 86,500</b>  |
| – To 13 USA organizations        | \$ 66,000 |                   |
| – To 9 org. in 9 other countries | \$ 20,500 |                   |
| • <b>Paid in 2020:</b>           |           | <b>\$ 99,500*</b> |
| – To 11 USA organizations        | \$ 81,500 |                   |
| – To 8 org. in 8 other countries | \$ 18,000 |                   |
| • <b>Paid in 2021:</b>           |           | <b>\$ 67,500</b>  |
| – To 12 USA organizations        | \$ 60,000 |                   |
| – To 7 org. in 5 countries       | \$ 7,500  |                   |
| • <b>Paid in 2022:</b>           |           | <b>\$ 87,800</b>  |
| – To 9 USA organizations         | \$ 72,500 |                   |
| – To 9 Org. in 6 Countries       | \$ 15,300 |                   |

\* Does not include \$34,000 for San Gabriel Mission

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# Serra International Foundation Grants Awarded in 2022

<i>Amount Awarded</i>	<i>Name of Organization</i>	<i>Country</i>
\$25,000	Pontifical North American College (PNAC)	Rome
\$10,000	Institute for Priestly Formation	United States
\$15,000	Serra's U.S. Council	United States
\$12,000	Vocations Symposium	Vatican
\$5,000	Bishop White Seminary	United States
\$3,000	Missionary Sisters of Mary Queen of the World	United States
\$2,500	<i>Catholic Bishops of Ontario (matching grant with Canadian Serra Foundation)</i>	Canada
\$2,000	St. Mary Sisters	United States
\$2,000	Diocese of Kibungo	Rwanda
\$2,000	Jesuit Eastern Africa	Africa
\$2,000	Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes	Kenya
\$1,000	Serra Club of Salem	India
\$1,000	USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus (Midwest Jesuits)	United States
\$1,000	Crosier Fathers	Congo & Indonesia
\$1,000	Congregation of the Mission	Kenya
\$500	Catholic Diocese of Stockton	United States
\$1,800	Felician Sisters	Kenya
\$1,000	Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles	United States




# Serra New Member Orientation 2023

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**Serra US Council**  
President: Mike Downey (2022-2024)

**Regions**  
Serra U.S. Regions



9 Regions:  
each with a  
Regional  
Director

44 Districts:  
each with a  
District  
Governor

Overall USA:  
7,500 Serrans  
200 Clubs

US Episcopal  
Advisor:  
Archbishop Tom  
Daly (Spokane)

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**Value of US Council to local Serra Clubs**

- Repository of "Wisdom" of Serra through the years
  - Training programs, officer & club manuals
- Clearing House for new ideas and problem solving
  - National workshops, national conventions\*
  - *Serran* magazine (with SI);
- Communicates vocation priorities of US Bishops
  - Annual vocation awareness program support materials
  - Newman Ministry
  - Digital resources for Vocations Directors / SerraSpark.org
- Professional support for all-volunteer clubs
  - Maintenance of membership records/database/mailling labels
  - Liability insurance certificates for club & vocation activities
  - Maintaining [serraus.org](http://serraus.org) website

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**State of Vocations in US**

- Shortage of Priests remains a CRISIS
- Lots of Good things happening:
  - New priest ordinations steady since 2000
  - Grad level seminarians steady to up since 1995
- Total No. Diocesan Priests still declining
  - Down 30% since 1965
- US Catholic population up 50% since 1965!
- 35% of US Catholics are Hispanic while only 5% of priests are Hispanic

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**CARA Research Report  
Current US Catholic Data**

	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2016	2017	2018	2020	2022
Total priests	58,632	59,192	58,909	58,398	57,317	52,124	49,054	45,699	41,399	39,993	37,192	37,181	36,580	35,513	34,344
Diocesan priests	35,925	37,272	36,005	35,627	35,052	34,114	32,349	30,607	28,094	27,182	25,760	25,757	25,254	24,653	24,110
Religious priests	22,707	21,920	22,904	22,771	22,265	18,010	16,705	15,092	13,305	12,811	11,432	11,424	11,326	10,308	10,234
Religious sisters	179,954	160,931	135,225	126,517	115,386	102,504	90,809	79,814	68,634	57,544	47,170	45,605	44,117	41,357	36,321
Priestly ordinations	994	805	771	593	533	595	511	442	454	459	548	504	518	495	451
Graduate-level seminarians	8,325	6,602	5,279	4,197	4,063	3,658	3,172	3,474	3,308	3,483	3,520	3,405	3,553	3,801	3,516
Parishes	17,637	18,224	18,515	18,794	19,244	19,620	19,331	19,236	18,891	17,958	17,233	17,156	17,007	16,703	16,429
Parishes without a resident priest pastor	549	571	702	791	1,051	1,812	2,161	2,843	3,251	3,353	3,499	3,552	3,363	3,544	3,215
% of diocesan priests active in ministry	94%	90%	88%	85%	84%	80%	76%	74%	70%	68%	63%	63%	66%	65%	66%
Catholic population ( <i>The Official Catholic Directory</i> )	46.3m	47.9m	48.7m	50.5m	52.3m	55.7m	57.4m	59.9m	64.8m	65.6m	67.7m	68.5m	68.7m	67.7m	66.5m
Foreign-born adult Catholics (survey-based estimate)	--	--	4.7m	4.1m	4.8m	5.6m	7.0m	10.9m	15.8m	13.2m	15.1m	16.9m	12.7m	15.6m	15.0m

Only 5% of priests in the US identify as Hispanic or Latino. Hispanic Catholics make up 35% of US Catholics

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### What We Know about Vocations

(from A Priest in the Family by Fr. Brannen)

- Holy Spirit calls the vocation, not us
- Culture of Vocations critical to call being heard
- Key influencers: **Priests/Spiritual Directors**, Mothers, others
- Time of most serious consideration: **Age 17**
- Time spent in **Eucharistic Adoration**
- 60% of Priests were **altar servers**
- 50 % of Seminarians "discern out"
- 92% of Priests are happy being priests
- Celibacy not cause of shortage--mainline protestant churches have same shortage

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### How Clubs Work

- Clubs are chartered by Serra Intl with the permission of the local Bishop and have a club number
- Organized by diocese: Work with and for Bishop and Vocations Director
- Focus:
  - Prayer
  - Service
  - Fellowship
- July 1 – June 30 typical planning cycle
- Vocations "recruitment" is not primary function

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### How Clubs are Structured

- Board: current & former officers
- President & President Elect
- Vice Presidents:
  - Vocations
  - Programs
  - Membership
  - Communications
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Trustees
- Past President
- Club Foundation Rep

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# Serra New Member Orientation 2023

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### Club Meetings & Activities

- Board meetings (quarterly)
- Member meetings (two per month)
  - Program meeting (3rd Week of month usually)
  - First Friday or First Saturday Mass w/ informal gathering
- Annual appreciation events:
  - Ordination Mass
  - Priests' Appreciation event
  - Bishop's Appreciation dinner
  - Sisters' Appreciation event
  - Seminarian lunch or dinner

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### Vocations 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
- Altar Server awards & recognition
- International Rosary for Vocations
- Newman Ministry info gathering

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### Newman Ministry

[www.newmanministry.com](http://www.newmanministry.com)

- 80% of Students Stop Practicing their Faith at Some Point During College
- A key time for vocation callings!
- 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 [ccampton@newmanministry.com](mailto:ccampton@newmanministry.com) or 866-815-2034 x 708

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# Serra New Member Orientation 2023

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### Special Serran Programs (within the Club)

- **Seminary Visits**
  - Weekend trips can be spiritual, educational & uplifting.
- **Retreat / Day of Reflection**
  - Usually Advent or Lent.
- **Annual Mass to Pray for Deceased Serrans**

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### Vocations 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
- National Vocations Awareness Events
  - Priesthood Appreciation Sunday (last Sunday in Sept.)
  - National Vocations Awareness Week (first full week Nov.)
  - World Day for Consecrated Life (first weekend in Feb.)
  - World Day of Prayer for Vocations (Good Shepherd Sunday)
- Traveling Chalice/Crucifix/ Statue programs

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### How YOU can ENGAGE in Serra Vocations Work

- Attend Monthly Program meetings; First Friday/Saturday Mass; and Appreciation events
- Pray a rosary weekly or monthly for vocations
- One hour of Eucharistic Adoration for vocations per month
- Adopt a Seminarian
- Help with Newman Ministry info gathering (May-August)
- Assist with Appreciation event planning
- Join a 7-Serrans prayer team to pray for a vocations director
- Recruit new members to Serra!

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# Serra New Member Orientation 2023

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Serra New Member Orientation

**Welcome to  
Serra!**

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