Serra New Member Orientation 2023
Support Documents

Welcome to Serra!

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

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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Three Distinct Missions:

• To Foster NEW Vocations
• To Affirm EXISTING Vocations
• To Grow in our own Holiness

History & Role of Serra Organization

• 1936: 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.

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

Organization of Serra

- Serra International
  - Serra Chairs
  - Area Trustees (in areas without councils)
  - Serra Foundation

- USA
- Canada
- Spain
- Brazil
- Italy
- Great Britain
- Philippines
- Thailand

- 12,500 Members Worldwide
- 400 Clubs in 40 Countries

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

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 assure consistency with teaching and values of Catholic Church
- $180,000 donations received by Foundation in 2020

Serra Foundation Grants

- Paid in 2019: $86,500
  - To 13 USA organizations $25,000
  - To 9 org. in 9 other countries $20,500
- Paid in 2020: $99,500*
  - To 11 USA organizations $81,500
  - To 8 org. in 8 other countries $18,000
- Paid in 2021: $67,000
  - To 12 USA organizations $50,000
  - To 7 org. in 5 countries $7,500
- Paid in 2022: $87,800
  - To 9 USA organizations $72,500
  - To 5 Org. in 6 Countries $15,300

* Does not include $34,000 for San Gabriel Mission
# Serra International Foundation Grants

## Awarded in 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
<th>Name of Organization</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Pontifical North American College (PNAC)</td>
<td>Rome</td>
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<tr>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Institute for Priestly Formation</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Serra’s U.S. Council</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>Vocations Symposium</td>
<td>Vatican</td>
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<tr>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Bishop White Seminary</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>Missionary Sisters of Mary Queen of the World</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>Catholic Bishops of Ontario (matching grant with Canadian Serra Foundation)</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>St. Mary Sisters</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Diocese of Kibungo</td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
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<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Jesuit Eastern Africa</td>
<td>Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Serra Club of Salem</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>$1,000</td>
<td>USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus (Midwest Jesuits)</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Crosier Fathers</td>
<td>Congo &amp; Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Congregation of the Mission</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Catholic Diocese of Stockton</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,800</td>
<td>Felician Sisters</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles</td>
<td>United States</td>
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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
  - Serra magazine (with SJ)
- 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/mailing labels
  - Liability insurance certificates for club & vocation activities
  - Maintaining serraus.org website

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
### CARA Research Report

**Current US Catholic Data**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total priests</strong></td>
<td>58,632</td>
<td>59,192</td>
<td>58,908</td>
<td>58,398</td>
<td>57,317</td>
<td>52,124</td>
<td>49,084</td>
<td>45,699</td>
<td>41,309</td>
<td>37,192</td>
<td>37,181</td>
<td>36,580</td>
<td>35,513</td>
<td>34,344</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Diocesan priests</strong></td>
<td>35,925</td>
<td>37,272</td>
<td>36,005</td>
<td>35,627</td>
<td>35,052</td>
<td>34,114</td>
<td>32,349</td>
<td>30,607</td>
<td>28,084</td>
<td>27,182</td>
<td>25,760</td>
<td>25,757</td>
<td>25,254</td>
<td>24,110</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Religious priests</strong></td>
<td>22,707</td>
<td>21,920</td>
<td>22,904</td>
<td>22,771</td>
<td>22,255</td>
<td>18,010</td>
<td>16,705</td>
<td>15,092</td>
<td>13,305</td>
<td>12,811</td>
<td>11,432</td>
<td>11,424</td>
<td>11,326</td>
<td>10,308</td>
<td>10,234</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Religious sisters</strong></td>
<td>179,954</td>
<td>160,931</td>
<td>135,225</td>
<td>125,517</td>
<td>115,386</td>
<td>102,504</td>
<td>90,809</td>
<td>79,814</td>
<td>68,634</td>
<td>57,544</td>
<td>47,170</td>
<td>45,605</td>
<td>44,117</td>
<td>41,357</td>
<td>36,321</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Priestly ordinations</strong></td>
<td>994</td>
<td>805</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>451</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate-level seminarians</strong></td>
<td>8,325</td>
<td>6,602</td>
<td>5,279</td>
<td>4,197</td>
<td>4,083</td>
<td>3,658</td>
<td>3,172</td>
<td>3,474</td>
<td>3,308</td>
<td>3,483</td>
<td>3,520</td>
<td>3,405</td>
<td>3,553</td>
<td>3,801</td>
<td>3,516</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Parishes</strong></td>
<td>17,637</td>
<td>18,224</td>
<td>18,515</td>
<td>18,794</td>
<td>19,244</td>
<td>19,620</td>
<td>19,331</td>
<td>19,236</td>
<td>18,891</td>
<td>17,958</td>
<td>17,233</td>
<td>17,156</td>
<td>17,007</td>
<td>16,703</td>
<td>16,429</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Parishes without a resident priest pastor</strong></td>
<td>549</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>1,051</td>
<td>1,812</td>
<td>2,161</td>
<td>2,843</td>
<td>3,251</td>
<td>3,353</td>
<td>3,499</td>
<td>3,552</td>
<td>3,363</td>
<td>3,544</td>
<td>3,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% of diocesan priests active in ministry</strong></td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>66%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Catholic population (The Official Catholic Di</strong></td>
<td>46.3m</td>
<td>47.9m</td>
<td>48.7m</td>
<td>50.5m</td>
<td>52.3m</td>
<td>55.7m</td>
<td>57.4m</td>
<td>59.9m</td>
<td>64.8m</td>
<td>65.8m</td>
<td>67.7m</td>
<td>68.5m</td>
<td>68.7m</td>
<td>67.7m</td>
<td>66.5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foreign-born adult Catholics (survey-based e</strong></td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>4.7m</td>
<td>4.1m</td>
<td>4.8m</td>
<td>5.6m</td>
<td>7.0m</td>
<td>10.9m</td>
<td>15.8m</td>
<td>13.2m</td>
<td>15.1m</td>
<td>16.9m</td>
<td>12.7m</td>
<td>15.6m</td>
<td>15.0m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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
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

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

Newman Ministry

• 80% of Students Stop Practicing their Faith at Some Point During College
• A key time for vocation calling is
• 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 newman@newmanministry.com or 866-816-2034 x 708
**Special Seran 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

**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 in Nov.)
  - World Day for Consecrated Life (first weekend in Feb.)
  - World Day of Prayer for Vocations (Good Shepherd Sunday)
- Traveling Chalice/Crucifix/Statue programs

**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-Serrar prayer team to pray for a vocations director
- Recruit new members to Serra!
Welcome to Serra!