



Serra Ministry of Duluth, Minnesota

Region 8, District 7, Club #62

WINTER 2016

From Our Chaplain

Dear Friends, During this year of Mercy I want to reflect upon how we can be MERCY for others. It starts in us as we celebrate the Sacraments of the church. In these events we receive from our God and Father, Mercy and Grace. The best way for our God and Father to touch our hearts is to open up to Him in prayer and relationship. In the Eucharist we commune with the Holy and as we grow in union, we become what we eat, thus the Mercy of God the Father touches our hearts as gift. To share the gift with others is to be MERCY for them. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we receive Mercy from God the Father; it is the mystery of absolution and forgiveness of sin. When we share forgiveness with others we become MERCY for them.

During this great Season of Lent, we are invited to look at the Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Corporal Works of Mercy. These, I believe, flow from the mystery of God the Father manifest in the Sacraments of the Church. So God the Father touches us with Mercy, and as we come to realize it in our lives, we can become MERCY for others as we share that great gift. Reflect upon the gift of MERCY in your life, and make that known by your witness in our great Church.

By our Baptism we were all identified as *special* by God the Father. Thus, we have a Vocation in the world, as did Jesus, who brought Mercy by the Cross and Resurrection to all who believe. It is now our turn to show MERCY for others that they may believe. Remember the Words of the Prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and the recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." This is the year for us to grow in MERCY for others.

Yours in Christ, Fr. John C. Petrich, Duluth Serra Ministry Chaplain

President's Message: WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The distressing articles about the Catholic Faith appearing in the local and national newspapers, on the evening news, and even in the Northern Cross could be discouraging. We as members of the Duluth Serra Ministry have an advantage. Although all Catholics are taught we are each co-creators with God to make this world, here and now, what it should and can be, we have the Ministry to focus our actions.

The Duluth Serra Ministry provides each of us a platform to act in support of the Faith and those who serve the faithful. Beyond what we can do as an individual, we act as a group in support of vocations. It is our only purpose. We are not all things to all people. We are faithful Catholics serving those who serve us. What an unbeatable combination. Mission, purpose and focus.

Actions speak louder than words. The smallest act of kindness in support of those who serve is more powerful than any words, no matter how many spoken. Just our presence sends the message. The operative word is being present. Take action to participate. Serve at an ordination, visit the seminarians, have ice cream with the Sisters, or just be the loudest person in your pew on Sunday saying the vocation prayer.

When asked, say yes!

Al Makynen, President, Serra Ministry Duluth

Updates from Vice President of Membership

We have some work to do. We are getting about 20 to 25 people to attend our Serra Ministry meetings. We have to find out why some members are not coming. I can understand some absences, but not as many as we have. We all understand the urgent call to support vocations for new priests and religious, and to support those who have a religious vocation in our diocese. Our work in support of the Serra Ministry mission has never been more needed. We have about nine parishes in the Duluth area. We should have parish Vocation programs in each parish led by Serra Ministry with the Pastor's approval. We should be asking the Pastor in each parish for the names of at least 5 devout Catholic men and women who would be good candidates to join Serra Ministry. We must show that we are dedicated to the pursuit of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

I sometimes think as we are reciting the Serra Prayer for vocations we are asking Mary, Joseph, St Serra and all the saints to help us. If I were "in their shoes" listening to our prayer for vocations, I would think that all is well. Do you ever ask yourself: "What am I doing to promote Vocations? Do I ever talk with anyone about joining our ministry? Do I ever encourage anyone who may have a religious vocation? Or am I just joining other Serra Ministry members for lunch, saying the prayer for vocations, and going home until next meeting.

Pope Francis is leading the effort for the Catholic Church to evangelize new members, bring back those who have left the faith, and retain its current members and teach them more about our faith and develop effective ways to fellowship so they have a greater love for the Catholic Church. We have 44 members at this time. We recruited three new members in 2015 which is great. Our problem is that our membership is aging and we will have continue recruiting new members to continue our ministry's good work. We are all responsible for membership we should all carry applications with us in case we have an opportunity to recruit new members. Be thoughtful about inviting potential new members to our Serra Ministry meetings so they can see what we do and can learn more about our ministry. We should all help our new members feel welcome and get them involved in our ministry. May God Bless you for all you do for Serra Ministry.

Bill Ohnsted, VP Membership

Calendar of Serra Events from John Hansen, VP of Vocations

April 17, 2016	Pie and Ice Cream Social for the Consecrated Religious at the Benedictine Monastery
June 2, 2016	Transitional Deacon Ordination for Jeremy Bock and Beau Braun with Duluth Serra Ministry hosting the coffee and cake reception
June 3, 2016	Priest Ordinations for Deacon Charles Friebohle and Deacon Paul Strommer
July 1, 2016	Patron Saint Junipero Serra feast day

Upcoming Speakers for Duluth Serra Ministry 2016-2017 from Pat Pfahl, VP of Programs

04/04 - Fr. John Petrich – Serra Ministry Chaplin – Mass in Celebration of the Easter Season
04/18 – Debra Lieberg – Director of Respect for Life – Diocese of Superior
05/02 - Fr. Thomas Galarneault (My Vocation Journey)
05/16
6/2/16 – Serra Ministry to serve cake and coffee after Deacon Ordination Mass
06/06 – Changing of the Guard – Installation of Officers
06/20 –
07/-4 – **NO MEETING (Fourth of July)**
07/18
08/01
08/15
09/05 – **NO MEETING (Labor Day)**

09/19 - Bill LeMire - Director of Advancement at the Laboure Society

10/03 – Michael Smeby – District Governor visit.

10/17

11/07

11/21

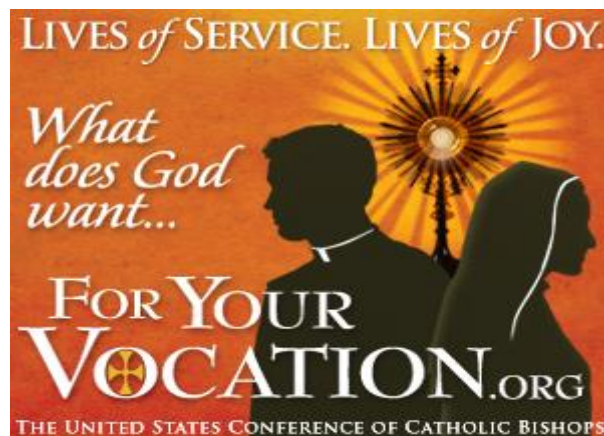
12/05 – Christmas Party for the Priests of the Diocese

12/19 – Fr. John Petrich – Serra Ministry Chaplin – Mass in Celebration of the Christmas Season

Serra Ministry Christmas Party at Blackwoods Proctor on December 14, 2015



Left to Right: Bishop Paul Sirba, Father Anthony Craig, Father Michael Garry and Father Elias Gieske





Father Joseph Sobolik, Father Vincent Arimond and Father Jim Bissonette



Father Anthony Craig and Father Richard Partika



Father Paul Larson (May he rest in peace) and Father Ron Gagne



Father Rich Kunst, Father Kris McKusky and Bill Ohnsted



L to R: Dan Dougherty, Dr. Jim Monge, Father Bill Fider, MaryAnn Monge and JoAnn Miller



Father Gabriel Waweru and Father Peter Muhich



Father Elias Gieske and Dillon Flaherty



Father Nick Nelson and Sue McClernon



Katie Kelly, Bernie Kolar and Bishop Paul Sirba



Father Kris McKusky and Serra Chaplain Father John Petrich

The fourth annual theatrical production of the
Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity

MOONSHINE ABBEY

The monks at Saint Hippolytus Abbey have been distilling their “elixir of happiness” since they settled in America hundreds of years ago. But with the onset of Prohibition, the civil authorities will stop at nothing to purify the country from the evils of alcohol. What will this band of brothers do to maintain their “pious” way of life?

This musical comedy

will be fun for all ages!

Admission is Free!

Tickets can be reserved online or are available at the door. Donations are also highly appreciated and assist in funding the cost of the production as well as future seminary productions. The Box Office opens 30 minutes prior to each show. Any reserved tickets not redeemed 5 minutes before the performance will also be made free to the general public.

Showtimes:

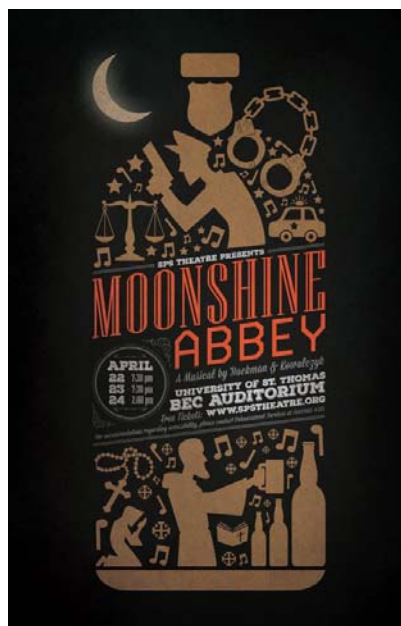
Friday, April 22 @ 7:30 PM

Saturday, April 23 @ 7:30 PM

Sunday, April 24 @ 2:00 PM

Location: Brady Educational Center, University of Saint Thomas
(Park in Lot O, near the Binz refectory)

<http://www.spstheatre.org/>



Excerpt from Saint Junipero Serra's Canonization Mass Homily by Pope Francis

Provided by District Governor Jerry Biese

Father Serra had a motto which inspired his life and work, not just a saying, but above all a reality which shaped the way he lived: *siempre adelante!* Keep moving forward! For him, this was the way to continue experiencing the joy of the Gospel, to keep his heart from growing numb, from being anesthetized. He kept moving forward, because the Lord was waiting. He kept going, because his brothers and sisters were waiting. He kept going forward to the end of his life. Today, like him, may we be able to say: Forward! Let's keep moving forward!



Duluth Serra Ministry Secretary/ Newsletter Editor, Carol Spielman