

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COUNCIL
OF SERRA INTERNATIONAL
CHARTER CLUB -- INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS
and INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

DISTRICT GOVERNOR / DESIGNEE:

Your Excellency, Reverend Fathers, Sisters, Brothers, honored guests, Serrans and friends, today we are going to charter a new Club into the ministry of Serra International. 1 These men and women join over 18,000 active Serrans in 36 countries around the world. Little did our four founders from Seattle realize in 1935 that their endeavor would be blessed by God and one day be recognized as a special gift of the Holy Spirit to His Son's Church.

Will the members of the newly chartered Serra Club of (*official name of the Club*) please come forward (*or*) stand and remain in place as your name is called? 2

President ___(*name*) ___
President-elect ___(*name*) ___
Vice president, Programs: ___(*name*)___
Vice President, Vocations: ___(*name*)___
Vice president, Membership: ___(*name*)___
Vice president, Communications: ___(*name*)___
Secretary: ___(*name*)___
Treasurer: ___(*name*)___
Trustee: ___(*name*)___
Trustee: ___(*name*)___
Trustee: ___(*name*)___
Member name, member name, member name, etc.

(*After assembling*)

CHAPLAIN: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

CHAPLAIN: The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

CHAPLAIN:

Heavenly Father, look with favor upon the Serrans assembled here. Bless their apostolate. Guide our new members through your Spirit dwelling in them to fulfill their new apostolate to the end that many generous people through their vocations may preach the

Good News your Son proclaimed, and make his sacrifice visible in the lives of those whom they serve.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR / DESIGNEE:

You are about to be inducted as charter members into the Serra Club of (*_official name of Club_*). Serra International's mission is a sacred ministry. You will strengthen Serra's role in the Church by promoting, fostering and preserving vocations to the priesthood and religious life both by prayer and by active vocation programs. Furthermore, you are to promote, through Christian education and Serran fellowship, your own personal holiness, and that of your fellow Serrans, in order to better carry out your own Christian vocation to service.

(Light one large candle.)

CHAPLAIN:

This candle is a reminder of the one you received on the day of your baptism. Its light symbolizes Jesus, the light of the world, and its fire, the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit. Let it be a symbol of rededication to your solemn pledge to direct yourself in Christian principles. In this spirit I ask these questions of you. Please answer, "I will."

Will you give your time, efforts and prayers for the encouragement and preservation of vocations to the ordained and professed ministries?

NEW MEMBERS: I will.

CHAPLAIN:

Will you, by faithful attendance at Serra meetings and by the example of your Christian life, promote and deepen Christian justice and charity, and continually strive to fulfill your own Christian vocation?

NEW MEMBERS: I will.

CHAPLAIN:

Will you do your best to share our Serra community with others who have much to give and much to gain from the Christian friendships which are refined through Serra membership?

NEW MEMBERS: I will.

CHAPLAIN: (*A short sentence or two of congratulations, e.g., "Congratulations!! Welcome to Serra International." Pause to allow for applause.*)

(District Governor or designee proceeds to the installation of the Serra Club officers immediately. Ask officers to stay forward or remain standing and the rest of the new members to proceed to their seats)

DISTRICT GOVERNOR / DESIGNEE:

Today we are installing the first officers of the newly chartered Serra Club for the coming year, fellow members who did not seek positions of authority, but who were sought out. Like our patron, Blessed Serra, they accepted their offices graciously and now stand ready to lead us as we carry out our ministry for the good of the Church and the glory of God.

President (*Name*___), you and your fellow officers are to be congratulated on being elected to lead your new Serra Club. The welfare of this Serra Club depends, to a great extent, upon you and your Board during the coming year. We ask you to dream great dreams and to set challenging goals. We want you to make your club truly a place to learn and grow as Catholics and help your members to promote, foster, and help preserve vocations to the priesthood and religious life and thus fulfill their vocation to service.

President ___(*name*)___, your peers selected you and your fellow officers because they know each of you will honor, with fidelity, the commitment you are undertaking. One year from now you will not know, but the Holy Spirit will know, how many men and women, influenced by your example, prayers and programs heard the invitation of the Holy Spirit to "Come and See." Keep that thought ever before you and you will always be encouraged to carry out your ministry.

Now I ask all officers and trustees to raise their right hand and repeat after me this pledge to signify their acceptance of these responsibilities:

**“I do solemnly pledge myself *
to perform faithfully and impartially *
the duties of the office of Serra I now assume.”**

President ___(*name*)___, I present you this gavel, your Bylaws, and a Serra Club President's pin in recognition of your new office.

President ___ (*name*)___, the gavel is the symbol of your respect for the office of the president. Use its implied powers wisely. Wear the President's pin with pride. This emblem symbolizes your complete commitment to leading your fellow Serrans in their Serran ministry for the coming year. Congratulations. After your term in office you will be asked to pass it on, untarnished, to your successor.

You are the new executive head of our Serra Club, endowed with full power to enforce the provisions of its Constitution and Bylaws. You will be the chair of the board of trustees, preside at all Club meetings and shall, to the end that the objectives of Serra are carried out, appoint all the committees necessary to accomplish the aims and objectives of Serra.

And now I ask all the members of Serra to please stand.

Fellow Serrans, there is no rank among Serrans. Each Serran has dedicated him or herself to the Serra ministry and each Serran shares with the other the obligation of service. In recognition of your pledge, President (name) and the pledge of your fellow officers, each member of this newly chartered Serra Club dedicates him or herself willingly and with whole heart to fulfilling the objectives of Serra and the goals you have set for this Club. Congratulations!

- ¹ Update this information by contacting the USA Council Membership Coordinator.
- ² Use your judgment according to the facilities available. In general, call the President to the lectern/podium first, then call the remaining officers by office, then the rest of the members in alphabetical order. All should either come forward or remain in place, as space available dictates.
- ³ Light a single larger sized candle; give to the President to hold. Do not try to pass our and light individual candles for a large group.
- ⁴ The first use of the President's name should be formal, e.g., "President Clara Jones;" the remaining uses can be informal, e.g., "President Clara."