

## Annual Special Days for Vocations

Here are great examples of how special days for vocations can be handled with the assistance of Serra Club members who serve as Parish Contacts. There are four times in the liturgical year that are great for promoting Vocations.

1. **Priesthood Sunday** (Last Sunday of October) If you go to [priestsunday.org](http://priestsunday.org) and to view Priesthood Sunday resources. There are a lot of great ideas. Selected materials are en *español*, for liturgy planning guide and the religious education materials are now in Spanish. Consider putting a basket in the vestibule and having parishioners write Thank You card for your pastor or any priest who was important in their life.

The USA Council of Serra International has an arrangement with the National Coalition for Church Vocations to provide resource materials for the following programs at a very favorable cost. Begin preplanning by ordering support material on these programs in October of each year. Plan what your parish might do to promote Vocations during the next school year with School administration.

2. **National Vocation Awareness Week** (Second Sunday of January/*Baptism of the Lord*). A packet will be available through the USA Council of Serra International web site: [serraus.org](http://serraus.org) in October each year. This packet has information for many staff members and ages from young children through grandparents, homily information etc. Consider special activities during this week, homily on vocations, prayer cards passed out as people enter mass, special activities for the youth ie a priest or sister tell their story

3. **World Day for Consecrated Life** (First Sunday following February 2) A packet will be available through the USA Council of Serra International web site: [serraus.org](http://serraus.org) now. This packet has information for many staff members and ages from young children through grandparents, homily information etc. Consider special activities during this occasion.

4. **World Day of Prayer for Vocations** (Fourth Sunday of Easter / Good Shepherd Sunday) Everyday is a day to pray for Vocations, but this is just a special day to call attention to those who dedicate the life to serve the Church and your parish community.

### The USA Council of Serra International

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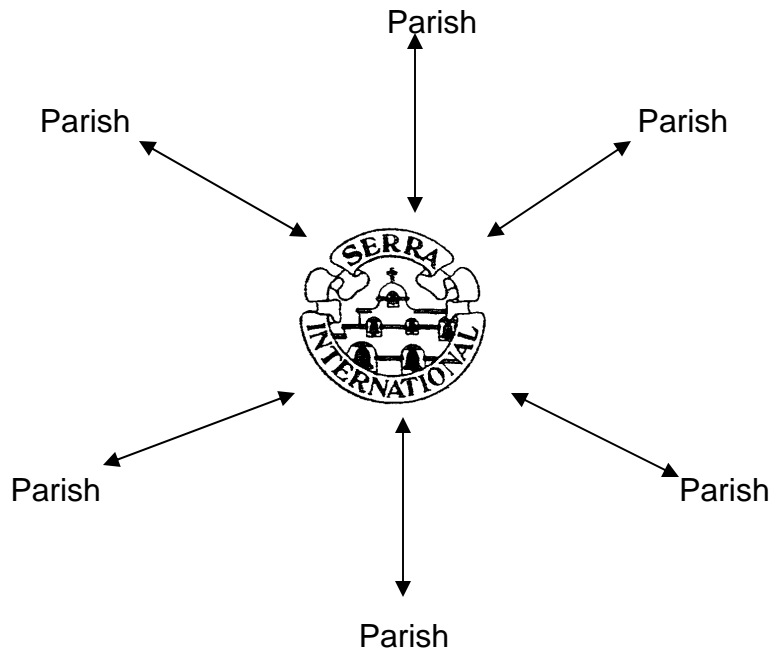
# Parish Contact Program

*Resource for building an effective program to encourage Church vocation activities in parishes served by a Serra Club.*



(Revised: 02-2009)

# Parish Contact Program and the Parish Contact Person



## What is the Parish Contact Program?

It is a way to have contact with each local parish, even if there are no Serra Club members residing in a parish.

## PARISH CONTACT PROGRAM

### List of Tools

(available at USAC as of February 2009)

#### PUBLICATIONS

#### COST

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| <i>Handbook for Parish Vocations Activities</i> (red book)<br>20 pages of programs & activities to implement  | \$ 3.50 |
| <i>Parish Contact Kit</i> (envelope) How to start the Parish Contact Program in your club. One kit contains: Ten (10) copies of "Very Busy Pastor" brochure (Hints on how to approach a pastor for the first time), One (1) copy of "Suggestions for Club Parish Contact Coordinator"   | \$ 4.50 |
| <i>15 Ways to Promote Parish Vocations in Your Parish</i><br>Brochure on glossy paper   | \$ 0.25 |
| <i>Parish Contact Program</i> booklet 12 page green booklet to help convince local Serra leadership on the benefits of adopting a Parish Contact Program. (this is the booklet you're now looking at)   | \$ 2.50 |
| <i>Training Parish Contacts</i> Kit for each attendee at a one hour \$22.00 Training Class for Parish Contact Persons. One kit per attendee. Agenda for meeting, Step by Step directions for person conducting the meeting, 16 different "How to do it" suggestion handouts, Samples of Parish Activities literature from USAC and NCCV, Sample prayer cards and actual posters available from NCCV, NCCV catalogue and USAC literature catalogue | \$ 0.15 |
| <i>Parish Vocations Awareness form</i> Survey form to help determine initial Vocations Awareness health of a parish. Suggest one per Parish Contact (can be duplicated locally).  | \$ 0.20 |
| <i>Parish Contact Program DVD</i><br>Explains how Serrans can work with their diocesan vocation office to provide an important and effective communication link with pastors.   | \$ 5.50 |

Merchandise Catalog Items: Call Tool Free 1-88-777-6681 or Email [serraus@serraus.org](mailto:serraus@serraus.org)

## WHO BENEFITS?

### PASTOR

He will get help on **his** vocations awareness goals. Many priests have a desire to contribute more toward a solution to the vocation problem.

Our action could easily dispel any fear that Serra means more work for him.

### YOUR SERRA CLUB

Generate good feelings among members by doing something extra for vocations.

Helps fulfill the vocations mission of the club.

Will establish a fertile field of Vocations Awareness activities.

Will help membership in our clubs.

Will often improve the positive image to key people in the diocese of the work that Serra does.

### YOUR DIOCESE

This will build an excellent network which the diocese **may** elect to disseminate Vocations Awareness Programs.

Sometimes pastors are so busy that they **overlook** normal diocesan distributions.

### USAC of Serra International

We are keeping our commitment to the bishops.

We will have an established communication network into all parishes and subsequently to all Catholic families.

We will establish a feeling camaraderie between all Serra Clubs.

(For additional support for Church Vocations Activities go to the USAC Vocations Committee website at: [serraus.org](http://serraus.org) or call 888-777-6681 )

## Why are we Encouraging the program?

### Because it's wanted and needed!

**Pope John Paul II** Stated in *Pastores Dabo Vobis* that **VOCATIONS ARE EVERY BODY'S BUSINESS.**

**American Bishops** Stated that any solution to the vocations shortage is **THEIR** responsibility.

One of the things that they do is **build a Culture of Vocations** in American Families.

Are asking all lay organizations and particularly asking **SERRA** to help.

**USAC Leadership** is responding by encouraging Serra Clubs to **send a Serran into every parish** to help build a **Culture of Vocations.**

### Why is this needed?

Vocation programs are very essential to the Serra organization and this is a means for Serra to **share its programs** with each parish. Also, we can extend our services and goals into areas where no Serrans are parish members.

## How does this work?

Serra activities, such as Priesthood Sunday and other events, can be introduced to the parishes, but a person is needed to make the contact with the parish in order for that parish to participate. It is the *Parish Contact Person (PCP) who is to make the bridge between each parish and the Serra Club.*

Not all parishes have a parish vocations committee; in such cases the contact person (PCP) should check with the parish coordinator/ administrator and **NOT** go directly to the pastor or priest. The priest is always busy and should not be bothered, the parish coordinator will advise them of the contact at the appropriate time.

*If a parish vocations committee is present, ask the coordinator to be introduced to the committee chairperson. This person will probably become the contact in the parish. The chairperson is aware of the parish needs and existing parish programs.*

## Duties of the VP of Vocations and

### Who can be a Parish Contact Person?

The Vice-President of Vocations is responsible for the selection and training of the PCP with a 40-minute training session separate from your regular meeting. (*Training Parish Contact kits are available from USAC*). Who is to be selected as PCP? First consideration would be a member of the Serra club's vocation committee who is willing to work with the Vice-President of Vocations. If there is a Serra member who

# CLUB PRESIDENT

## Action Steps

**Get permission** from your local bishop(s) to conduct the program by working with your District Governor.

**Get the support** of your club's Board of Directors and sell the idea to the general membership on the viability of the program. They play an important role in its success.

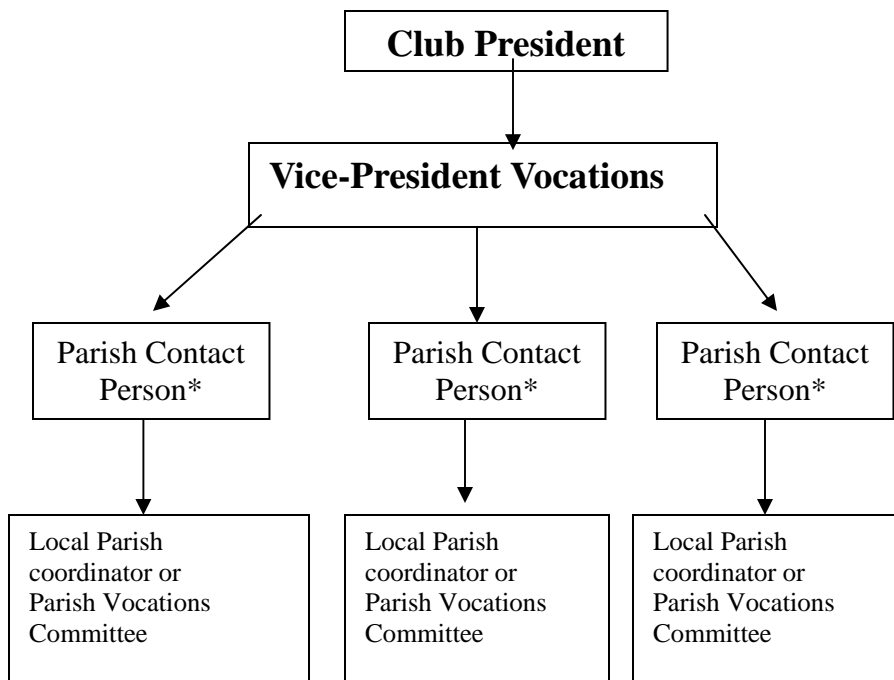
**Determine who will be the Parish Contact Person:** (See pages: 4-5).

**Identify parishes in your club's area** by working with the VP of Vocations of your club.

**Advise your diocese** via the Diocesan Vocations Office and District Governor that your club has the program in effect and you are now ready to assist the diocese in direct parish contact, as they need.

# Parish Contact Program And Parish Contact Person

## KEY PLAYERS



*(Select and train as many PCPs as needed, one per parish).*

One PCP should be assigned to each parish. The contact persons in the club should cover for each other in case one cannot perform their assigned task due to vacation, illness, etc.

**\*The Parish Contact Person (PCP)** should be a member of the club's vocation committee, or a member of the parish vocations committee.

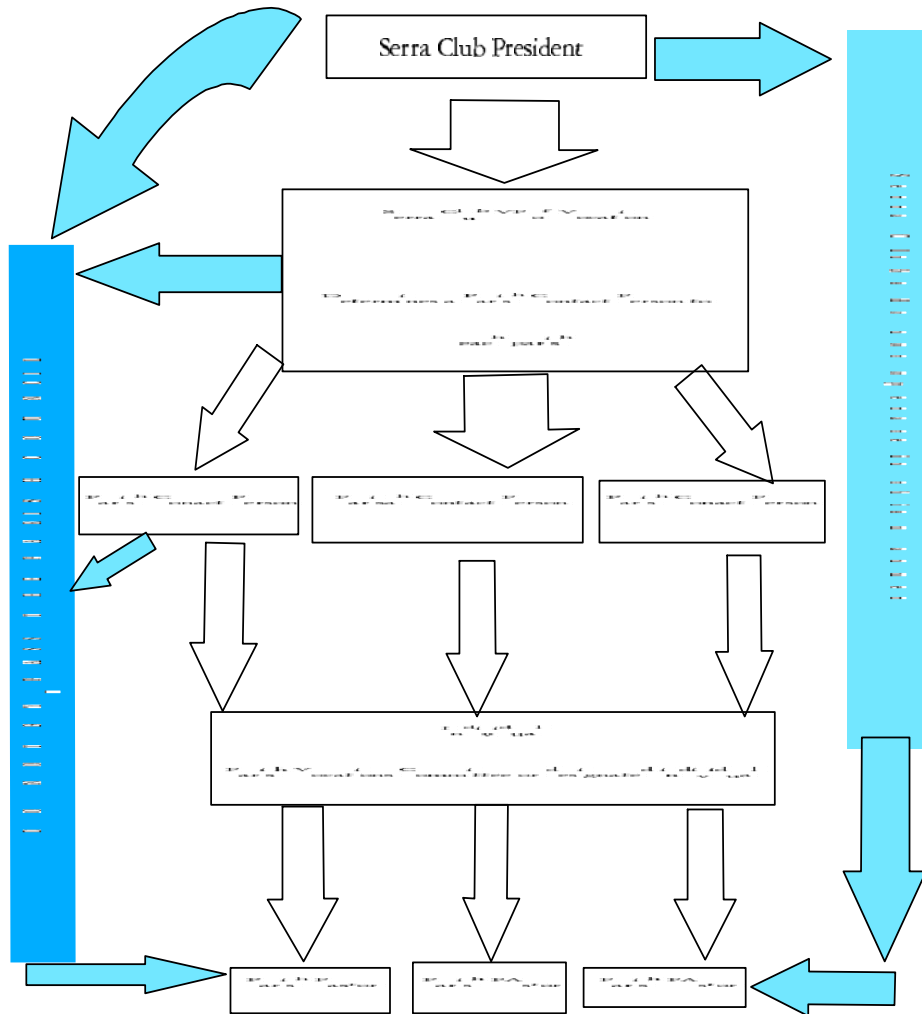
is both a vocations committee member and a member of a parish, it would be very ideal to ask them to assume that role. It is best that the VP of Vocations should select the Parish Contact Person among his/her committee members since this program is within the responsibilities of the vocations committee. The club president should be consulted regarding the selection.

## Expectations of the Parish Contact Person.

CONTACT with each parish's vocations committee chairperson, or parish coordinator/administrator, and introduce themselves as the Serra PCP to the parish priest/pastor. Establish a good relationship and understand each parish; get to know what each church has as its own programs and plans, so you can introduce your activities and resources. Reach out and make a bridge between the Serra Club and the parish.



**CAUTION:** DO NOT by-pass the parish vocations committee, **work with them!**



## Overall

We are doing a great service for the Church as Serra Clubs in supporting parish vocation activities and assisting in the formation of Parish Vocation Committees.

Let us keep supporting them and work together in fostering vocations. Vocations need to come from each parish.

### **The goal of the USA Council Vocations Committee is:**

To have a vocations committee in every parish so Serra can work with them....

**VOCATIONS COME FROM EACH HOME, EACH PARISH COMMUNITY**