



SERRA CLUB OF DUPAGE COUNTY

Encouraging and affirming vocations to the priesthood and religious life through prayer and active fellowship since 1958

THE SERRA NEWS –NOVEMBER 2009

CALENDAR NOVEMBER

7 Saturday

Members welcome at all meetings. Guests welcome at monthly meetings, (dinner is optional at \$15).

Diaconate ordination at 11:00 am at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Aurora.

16 Monday

Rosary mass and dinner meeting at St. Petronille Church beginning at 6:00 PM. Refer to program below.

DECEMBER

12 Saturday

Monthly meeting of officers beginning with mass at 8:00 a.m. at St. Petronille Church.

28 Monday

Monthly vocation mass and dinner meeting at St. Petronille Church beginning with rosary at 6:00 PM
Fr. Burke Masters, Vocation Director, will be the celebrant and speaker.

FATHER JOSEPH M. SIEGEL APPOINTED AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF JOLIET

It is with deep joy that I inform you that Pope Benedict XVI has announced today the appointment of Father Joseph M. Siegel as Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet. His ordination to the episcopacy will take place in the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet on Tuesday, January 19, at 2:00 pm.

Since his ordination to the priesthood in 1988, Joe has been an exemplary priest and pastor, and we priests have often called upon his considerable talents by asking him to serve on councils and committees covering a variety of areas of pastoral life. Each time he has responded generously and with competence, kindness, and love for the Lord and his people. He is well known to our people as well, and they respect him deeply.

The fact that one of our own has been called to be a bishop during the Year for Priests is particularly exciting. As you know, Joe's family has deep roots in our diocese. His parents and siblings were and continue to be extraordinary examples of the sacrament of marriage, family life, and the Catholic faith. His parents certainly smile in heaven today as the Holy Father makes his choice public.

Personally, I am thrilled! I know that Joe and I will work well together, as we already have on a number of projects over the past three years. He will bring to his new ministry gifts that we all need for the mission of our diocese.

Joe will remain Pastor of Visitation Parish in Elmhurst until the changes of assignment which take place in June. Needless to say, there are many details to be addressed and preparations to be made in the next few months, and as information is finalized, we will keep you up-to-date.

Congratulations, Bishop-elect Joseph M. Siegel! Be assured of our prayers today and every day, our support, our cooperation, and our love. Sincerely in Christ, Bishop Peter Sartain
Additional information can be obtained at www.dioceseofjoliet.org

DIACONATE ORDINATIONS NOVEMBER 7, 2009

Five men will be ordained to the Order of Deacon on Saturday, November 7 at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Aurora: Raed Bader, Stephen Eickhoff, John Lindsey, Josh Miller, and Jason Stone. All are welcome to attend. For more information please go to www.vocations.com

FR. SANTOS (SUNNY) CASTILLO TO SPEAK AT NOVEMBER 16 SERRA MASS AND DINNER MEETING

Born and raised in the Philippines, Father Sunny Castillo came to the Diocese of Joliet through his communication with Fr. John Regan via the Joliet Vocation Homepage. Leaving behind his family, his work as a philosophy professor at the Jesuit University in Manila, and a budding career in television and commercial modeling, he went to Mundelein Seminary to finish his theological studies and was ordained by Bishop Joseph Imesch in June 2004. His calling to the priesthood came to him at a very young age. He was named after a Benedictine monk who became a spiritual ally in his journey to the priesthood, and was blessed "accidentally" to priestly vocation at a young age of three. Even then, he already told people around him that he wanted to be a priest, even though I certainly did not know exactly what it was. He grew up in a very devout Catholic environment, thanks to his mother who was his major influence in his faith life, and spent his teenage years volunteering for the priests in their local church in Northern Philippines.

After his ordination, he was assigned at Saint Mary Immaculate Parish (Plainfield), and moved to Saint Michael Church (Wheaton) in 2007. His ministry for the past five years has been marked with a lot of diversity, ranging from working with children and teens, being involved in peace and social justice efforts and missions, ministering to the Hispanic communities of the diocese, working with refugees, promoting vocations and serving as chaplain to some Catholic and civic organizations. But he is most enthusiastic when celebrating the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. It is in the sacraments that he draws much of his passion for the priestly ministry. In his leisure time, he enjoys reading and writing poetry, singing and dancing, playing the guitar, oil painting, traveling and cooking. It is also his personal goal to someday visit all the mission churches in California, and has already been to some of them, including the Shrine of Blessed Junipero

Serra at the Carmel Mission. His motto in life comes in three words: *gratia, pietas, laetitia* (thanksgiving, compassion and joy).

COLUMBAN FATHERS REQUESTING HOUSING FOR 2 SEMINARIANS OVER HOLIDAYS

Father Tim Mulroy. Columban Fathers celebrated mass and spoke to the Serrans at the monthly meeting on Monday October 19. Following is a request from Father Tim regarding possible interest from some of our readers to provide accommodations for seminarians during the holiday period.

“As I mentioned in my talk last Monday I live and work with seminarians from various countries, some of whom are learning English at DePaul University on the Loop. Two of them will have a long winter vacation coming up soon and so I am looking for ways to help them to improve their language skills with native speakers during that period.

It occurred to me that living-in with an American family for a two week period and participating in everyday activities with the members would be helpful, so I am wondering if there are people among your members who might be willing to host them.

Let me give you some background information about them.

-Rafael, from Chile, is in his early 30s and has been a Columban seminarian for about 4 years. He came to Chicago in March of this year. He speaks English reasonably well and enjoys meeting people. If possible, Rafael would like to spend two weeks with a family between November 29 - December 13, OR between January 3 - 17.

Edwin, from Peru, is in his late 30s and has been a Columban seminarian for about 4 years. He came to Chicago in March of this year. He is still at the early stages of learning English, is self-conscious, and thus finds it difficult to communicate through English in a group, but is somewhat more courageous in a one on one situation. If possible, Edwin would like to spend two weeks with a family between November 29 - December 13.

Both men would be willing to participate in any kind of household activity - clearing snow setting the table, washing dishes, shopping, etc, - or assist in a store or business (without any monetary recompense whatsoever).

If there were families that were willing to host them, the Columbans would pay for their living expenses during that period.

If you think that there might be some members interested in hosting these men, I would be most grateful if you would ask them to contact me by email at mulroytim@yahoo.com or by phone (773) 955 - 0660. Once again, thanks for your hospitality and support. Kind regards, Tim Mulroy (Columban Fathers)”

A postscript to the above, received from Serrans George and Joanne Carr is as follows.

Joanne and I have been in contact with Fr. Tim and we have agreed to host one of the seminarians, Edwin Aguirre Lopez from Casma, Peru for two weeks in December. Fr. Tim also included the following in his message to us: "One of our Columban confreres was kidnapped in the Philippines two and a half weeks ago and we are still in the dark as to where he is or how we can ensure his safety and release. Since he will turn 80 years in December and has medical concerns, we are particularly concerned about his well being. Today all Columbans throughout the world are observing a day of prayer and fasting for him."

CORRECTION TO OCTOBER SERRA NEWS

In the bio for new member Victoria Stark, the sentence that read “Three years ago I began liturgical sewing, making various items ranging from purification chasubles, including a conical vestment.” should have said “Three years ago I began liturgical sewing, making various items ranging from *purificators and chasubles*, including a conical vestment.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THE FOLLOWING WHO ARE ILL

Fr. Tom Botheroyd, Serra Club former chaplain. Jim & Rita O’Toole, Betty Rosenbaum, Jim and Jeanne Cormack, Gahan Hangsterfer and Hugh Toner who is recovering from surgery.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY’S - SEMINARIANS STUDYING FOR THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Serran’s and others reading The Serra News are requested to take a few minutes and read about the Seminarians who are celebrating birthdays each month. Remember to pray for all of our Seminarians.

Consider taking a moment and sending a birthday, Easter or Christmas card with a personal message. And where possible consider including a gift card that could be used at McDonald’s, Wal-Mart or wherever. Here are the addresses.

Mundelein Seminary	1000 E. Maple Ave.	Mundelein, IL 60060
Conception Seminary College	P.O. Box 501	Conception, MO 64433
North American College in Rome	00120 Vatican City State	Europe
Sts. Cyril and Methodius Seminary	3535 Indian Trail	Orchard Lake, MI 48324
St. John Vianney College Seminary	Mail #5024, 2115 Summit Avenue	St. Paul, MN 55105-1095
St. Meinrad School of Theology	200 Hill Drive	St. Meinrad, IN 47577

Stephen Eickhoff Fourth Theology - Mundelein Seminary

This is my sixth and final year of seminary formation. Born in Memphis, TN – a great city, not least because our Bishop is from there – in 1975, my family first came to the Joliet Diocese from Virginia in 1990, and my parents have been

parishioners at Our Lady of Mercy in Aurora ever since. I am the oldest of four children. One of my brothers lives and works in Brazil (I would love to visit), my sister lives in Normal with her husband, and my youngest brother is at home. For my own part I moved around a good deal after graduating from Western Illinois, first attending St. Joseph's parish in Addison, and then St. Stephen's parish in Milwaukee, before returning to the Joliet Diocese (and Our Lady of Mercy) and beginning seminary studies.

Since becoming a seminarian I have studied for two years at the seminary in Conception Abbey in Missouri, and now in my 4th year at Mundelein Seminary. The past five + years of study and prayer have been a revealing and rewarding experience for me, which has been of great help to me in confirming my vocation to the priesthood. The past year alone has been filled with wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth (and some sightseeing). Last winter I traveled to the Holy Land for a ten week long pilgrimage to Bethlehem, the Galilee, and Jerusalem. It was quite literally the experience of a lifetime to be able to spend so much time living in the land of the Bible. Closer to home, I completed a summer internship program working as a chaplain at Lutheran Advocate Hospital in Park Ridge, which was another marvelous opportunity to discover my future ministry.

Stephen Eickhoff's birthday is on November 2¹⁹⁷⁵

Christopher Lankford Sophomore - St. John Vianney College Seminary

Hello, my name is Christopher Lankford. My home Parish is Notre Dame in Clarendon Hills, IL. I'm the youngest in my family, born on November 28, 1989. I live with my mother Theresa, who is a Registered Nurse, for the Illinois Department of Public Health, and my father Steven, who works as a member of the Technical Services Team, at the Elmhurst Public Library. I also have one older sister named Stephanie. She recently married to Matthew Gollan, and they live in Downers Grove, IL.

I went to Notre Dame School for Pre-K – 8th grade where I became an Altar Server and really started my journey in wanting to be a Priest. From there I attended Hinsdale Central High School. In my High School years, I became an Extraordinary Minister, a Minister of Care, helped in the training of new altar servers, and served as Master of Ceremonies for the Easter Triduum.

It was at the Ordination of three new priests that the Holy Spirit really gave my heart a push to try Seminary. Seeing it reignited all the feelings and desire to become a priest. Before the Ordination, my mind was pretty much set on going to College of DuPage. When Mass was over, I talked to a friend I met at St. Thomas when I had visited the campus. We got talking about how I never applied and how I thought it was too late. He reminded me, "It is never too late." So I applied and was accepted.

This past year I completed my first year of Seminary. Though it was a difficult choice at first whether or not to try and see if Seminary would be the place for me, I can say it has been the best decision I have ever made and I'm so happy I went. Two of the biggest highlights for me of the year were Spiritual Direction, and the brotherhood I became a part of at Seminary. Being able to every other week sit down with a Priest and open my heart to the Lord gave me so much grace, and the desire to continue on even stronger on my journey towards Priesthood, and then the brothers to talk to and share what's on my heart and having them be a constant support for me really made the year special.

This past summer I worked at the Elmhurst Library as a summertime helper, and continued being an active part of my parish by working part time, as well serving for the Lord at various liturgical events.

Christopher's birthday is November 28, 1989

John Lovitsch First Theology – North American College in Rome

My vocation story all started when I was a young man. My family is a moderately sized family with three boys, of which I am the youngest. I attend St. Mary Immaculate Parish in Plainfield, where I live. I have just recently graduated from college seminary at SJV in St. Paul,

Minnesota. I always wanted to be the Pastor in the church. I would put on my bathrobe and play priest with my brother who would be the parishioner. We would take down the bunk bed ladder and use it as a rail. Then it passed out of my mind in middle school, but it made a

huge resurgence in high school thanks to a friend Ryan who challenged me to grow spiritually in my faith and intellectually.

I began going to Daily Mass with my Grandma in Oak Park for 6:00am Mass. I talked to my family, my parents and two brothers, about this to help discern where I was in my life. Eventually, I made the decision to approach my Associate Pastor, Father Pat Murphy, in Hinsdale, and he introduced me to Seminarian Bill Vagenas. It was Bill who took it from there and introduced me to the Vocation's Director and Bishop Sartain.

Then at the Serra club dinner three years ago Bishop Imesch was sitting across from me and as he stood up he told me, "You're going to be a priest, it's my job to know these things." I would say that after that I really began to move forward. I was at Wheaton College and finally decided to move forward with the application process. Several interviews and exams later I sat in Bishop Sartain's office and was formerly accepted to study for the Diocese on Thursday June 28th.

I am now at the North American College in Rome for studies for the next four years with 7 other seminarians from St. Paul Minnesota. I am ecstatic to be studying for the Diocesan Priesthood in Joliet, and look forward to everyday in the seminary as it is a beautiful time of growth into the man Christ wants me to be that I may one day, God willing, become a priest.

I am a Newman at the North American College and a first year theologian and have the privilege and responsibility of Studying with some of the brightest minds the church in the United States has to offer. This past year has been the greatest time of my life. I have noticed tremendous growth in formation as a Catholic man and God + have moved in my heart to more fully convert not just part of me but the whole of me according to His will. At St. John Vianney we really stressed fatherhood because regardless of whether you are called to the priesthood or married life fatherhood is essential. It has been great getting to know the other Joliet seminarians during my final year of SJV. It has really opened my eyes to the different gifts that God gives to his people in order to build up his Church here on earth.

The European system of education is different so let me explain: Universities are for study and academic life, and Colleges are the living quarters. So, I will be at the North American College living with seminarians from the United States and Australia but studying at the Gregorian University (Greg) with all different nationalities. It is taught in Italian so it is important to really get Italian learned. Please pray for me that the Lord may make my studies successful and fruitful. I look forward to my time in Rome but even more do I look forward to ordination and the joy of coming back to the beautiful diocese of Joliet to serve the people of God.

Thank you very much for all your support at Serra. We are grateful for all your prayers and support of the Seminarians in Joliet. As we keep you in our prayers I hope you will continue to keep us in yours. God Bless.
John Lovitsch's birthday is on November 28, 1986

FR. BURKE MASTERS – VOCATION DIRECTOR – THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY BLOG

Fr. Burke Master has a blog which includes his “thoughts for the day”. Go to <http://frburke23.wordpress.com> to see the blog. You can subscribe to receive the daily “thoughts” on the front page of the blog.

ADOPT-A-PRIEST PROGRAM

With the concurrence and encouragement of Bishop Peter Sartain, the Serra Club has established the Adopt-A-Priest program for diocesan and religious priests in the diocese of Joliet. The purpose of Adopt-A-Priest is to insure that all our active and retired priests know that they are supported with prayer by Serrans and others.

The method of adoption is a lapel pin with a Roman collar against a black background with wording at the top “Serra for Vocations” and at the bottom “Adopt-A-Priest”. Each pin is unique with inscription on the back of the pin which includes the adopted priest’s initials and year of ordination.



The adopter is provided with the pin to wear. They are also provided with an introductory card with the name of the adopted priest along and a mailing envelope to mail to the priest. The card will also indicate the name of the adopted priest.

We encourage all of our readers and friends to Adopt-A-Priest **today**.

To Adopt-A-Priest mail a check for \$10 payable to Serra Club of DuPage County. You may adopt more than one priest. To insure that all priests are adopted, names will be assigned randomly.

Mail to Hugh Toner, PO Box 155, Westmont IL 60559. Net proceeds will go for the education of Diocese of Joliet Seminarians.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS - CLERGY - DIOCESE OF JOLIET – PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OUR PRIESTS

1 Rev. Tom Milota	Sts. Peter & Paul, Naperville
2 Rev. John Ducaji	St. Mark, Wheaton
3 Rev. Robert Hoffenkamp	Corpus Christi, Carol Stream
3 Rev. Philip Timko, OSB	St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle
5 Rev. Gerold Schubert, OFM	Retired
6 Rev. Mark Fracaro	St. Mary, Minooka
8 Rev. Leonard Guz	Retired-Burnham
12 Rev. Show Reddy Allam	Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst
15 Rev. Steven Bond	St. Rose, Wilmington
17 Rev. Venard Kommer, OFM	Notre Dame, Clarendon Hills
19 Rev. James Fanale, CSV	St. Anne, St. Anne
21 Rev. Santos Castillo	St. Michael, Wheaton
22 Rev. John Doyle	St. Anne, Crest Hill
23 Rev. Joseph Chang, OSB	St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle
23 Rev. David Lawrence	St. Dominic, Bolingbrook
23 Rev. John Sponder	Resurrection, Wayne
25 Rev. Mario Quejadas	St. Walter, Roselle
26 Rev. Edward Ward, O. Carm.	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Darien
28 Rev. Richard McGrath, OSA	Providence, New Lenox
28 Rev. John Merkelis, OSA	St. Jude, New Lenox
29 Rev. Lloyd Bowden	Retired-Joliet

OBJECTIVES OF SERRA INTERNATIONAL

To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support priests in their sacred ministry. To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church; and

To assist its members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God’s call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

THE SERRA NEWS The Serra News is distributed monthly by the Serra Club of DuPage County.

Contact Ron Beaumont at rrboards@aol.com or phone 630 858 4646 to be removed from the mailing list.