



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 –OCTOBER 2009

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

OCTOBER

19 Monday Monthly vocation mass and dinner meeting at St. Petronille Church beginning with rosary at 6:00 PM. RSVP to Joanne Carr at carrgj@sbcglobal.net or phone 630 665 0994 by October 15.

24 Saturday Annual Parish Vocation Contacts (PVC) workshop. Details are on page 3.

25 Sunday Priesthood Sunday. Details are on page 3.

NOVEMBER

7 Saturday Officers meeting beginning with 7:00 am mass at St. Procopius Abbey.

7 Saturday Diaconate ordination at 11:00 am at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Aurora. More information page 1.

23 Monday Monthly vocation mass and dinner meeting at St. Petronille Church beginning with rosary at 6:00 PM.

FATHER TIM MULROY TO SPEAK AT OCTOBER 19 SERRA MASS AND DINNER MEETING

Columban Father, Tim Mulroy, grew up on a family farm along the west coast of Ireland, as the sixth child in a family with eight children. After graduating from college he taught elementary school children for a few years. At the age of 23 he entered the Columban seminary in Ireland. After his ordination in 1995 he was sent to Japan where he lived for the following seven years. During that period, he struggled to learn the language, assisted in various parishes, was engaged in ministry to migrants and coordinated the Columban lay mission program for young adults who had come to Japan on mission. Since 2002 he lives in the Columban International Seminary in Chicago, where he assists and guides seminarians from various countries - Korea, Fiji, Philippines, Chile and Peru - that have come to the USA to study English and theology as part of their preparation for Columban missionary priesthood. Fr. Tim lives and works with the Columban seminarians in Chicago.

St Columban was a 6th century Irish missionary-monk who traveled across Europe with several companions and founded various monasteries. The Columban Fathers, founded in Ireland in 1916, but now an international missionary organization, took him as its patron. Today, the Missionary Society of St Columban has approximately 750 members worldwide - 100 lay people - some married and others single, 200 Sisters and 450 priests. Their principal missions are in Asia and Latin America.

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

WELCOME NEW SERRAN VICTORIA STARK

I am a native of Germany, born and raised on a small farm in Southern Bavaria. I attended the public school in our town which was more like a Catholic school. The priest would come into the school several times a week to teach religion. We prayed before and after school hours. Along with my parents my education provided me with the foundation of my Catholic faith. Life revolved around the church calendar.

In 1963 I married Erwin and came to the United States. Living in Chicago for one year, I joined the German choir at St. Alfonsus Church, singing at mass each week. In 1964 we moved to Lombard and became members of Sacred Heart Parish. I joined the CCW and the choir. In 1968 we were recruited to be on the forefront of Sacred Heart's annual German fest. By that time we had three children, 2 daughters and 1 son, followed by one more daughter in 1979. We continue to be involved in the German fest, which has become the largest fundraiser at our parish.

Three years ago I began liturgical sewing, making various items ranging from purification chasubles, including a conical vestment.

Throughout my life, I found my Catholic faith was a stronghold and support for the challenges I faced. Living in two countries and in different cultures, can be an experience and education in itself. Being aware of the needs of our priests and seminarians, I fully support the efforts of the Serra Club.

PLANNING TO JOIN THE SERRA CLUB?

We look forward to hearing from those attendees at, and following the Seminarian Sendoff in August, who indicated interest in joining the Serra Club. Now is a great time to join. Contact Ed Graham at epgraham23@yahoo.com

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

ALSO Serran Joan Mowry has requested our prayers for her friend, Mark Podraza, through the intercession of Blessed Sr. Julia Rodzinska. The speaker at our Sept. 21st meeting, Sr. Margaret Lekan, O.P., told us about Sr. Julia's heroic life and death in a Nazi concentration camp. The Dominican nuns in Justice, IL and in Poland are praying for Sr. Julia's intercession on behalf of Mark, a cancer victim in his 40's who has only a few months to live. You can see photos of Mark, his wife Lisa, and 13-year-old son Anthony at www.caringbridge.org/visit/markpodraza.

ALSO please remember the family of seminarian John Lovitsch in your prayers. His older brother, Dan, had emergency abdominal surgery on 9/13 and may require further surgery. This is a difficult situation for John, who is in his first year of major seminary at the North American College in Rome and cannot be with his brother.

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY’S TO 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

Paul Solomon Junior - St. John Vianney College Seminary

My name is Paul Solomon. I was born October 10th, 1988 at 6:33pm at Hinsdale in Hinsdale Hospital. At 10:02pm, my mother gave birth to my twin sister Katherine. I was baptized at Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Naperville on December 4th, 1988 and was brought into the Church. I grew up in Naperville and have lived there my entire life. I attended Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic School for kindergarten through eighth grade. It was in sixth grade that I first felt the call to priesthood. I was altar serving and heard a very clear voice speak to me in my heart and say, “Come, Follow Me”, and I interpreted this calling as a call to priesthood. The next step from then was to get in touch with the diocesan vocation director. He told me about an opportunity called “Jeremiah Day” to visit Mundelein Seminary. This was a very powerful experience because it was my first contact with seminarians and it made me realize that they were regular people on fire for Jesus Christ and His Church. One seminarian in particular captured my attention. He had been a baseball player and with baseball being my favorite sport, I was very intrigued. The following June, I went to the ordination of this former baseball player and his classmates. It was the power of the Holy Spirit that continued to keep priesthood at the front of my mind throughout the rest of my time in junior high school.

However, I made the decision to go to public school at Naperville North High School. At North, I focused a lot on sports and played baseball and football. Freshman year I began going to Eucharistic Adoration but became too busy with sports. Priesthood sank to the back of my mind. I continued to practice my faith but it weakened and I felt called in different directions. Then in my junior year of high school, I felt a prompting to go back to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and this changed my life. I would go to the Chapel once a week and go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation after to be cleansed of my impurities. This time strengthened what had been a weakened faith and moved my heart to want to live to a life a service.

As time came for me to start finding where I was to go to college, I have finally come to a decision that I wanted to study theology because God had implanted a love for religion in my heart. However, a bigger vision came back to me of priesthood. I explored a few options as far as studying theology, and looked into these schools baseball program as well. But the Lord kept pushing me to open my heart and mind to discernment of a priestly vocation. At that time I got in touch with the new vocation director, that former baseball player, Fr. Burke Masters, and he encouraged me to come and visit St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul Minnesota on the campus of the University of St. Thomas. It just so happened that when he suggested this, my dad was on business in Minneapolis. My dad was overjoyed and came over to St. Thomas during his trip and received a tour. He really enjoyed it and thought it would be a great fit for me. Also at that time, College of DuPage was hosting a college fair and the University of St. Thomas had a representative present. I called him and he came over to my school the next day to talk about the possibility of going to St. Thomas. The things he told me about the school impressed me and I came on the visit during November of my senior year in high school. I absolutely hated my first 24 hours of my visit. However, the Lord opened my eyes to see the beauty of St. John Vianney seminary and the kind of men that resided there. These students were not boys rather they were regular, athletic, intellectual, fraternal, and holy men, which was something I greatly desired and knew that there was no way I could help change the world if I was not a man like these men. After my visit, I entered the application process and was accepted to study for the Diocese of Joliet toward the end of my senior year. God wasn’t done though. At that same time, God put into my life one of the greatest graces I have ever received, which was the girl of my dreams. She and I dated the entirety of the senior year before I left for seminary. As difficult as it was to leave here, I knew it wasn’t fair to her or to me to be in this relationship until I answered this call from above. It was her gift of love for me, which has radically changed me and my approach to life. Please God; I will use the gift of her example of love to help change the world as a Catholic Priest.

This summer I had two part-time jobs. My first part-time job was helping run a 6-week summer camp at Happy Times Preschool in Naperville. My second job entailed a part-time position at Ss. Peter and Paul, doing mostly maintenance as well as pastoral work.

My first year of seminary was life changing and a great year of self-discovery. I also had the wonderful opportunity to play Division III baseball at the University of St. Thomas. This past year, I had another fantastic year at St. John Vianney. I grew so much as an intimate Son of the Father and as a Father to my younger brothers in seminary. It was an incredible year of conversion, receptivity,

transformation and grace (both joy and suffering), mercy and healing, and guidance. The seminary has been a great joy to me for so many reasons and I thank God for all He has done for me. I thank Him so much for all of those people who have been praying for me and supporting me in my discernment. Your Brother in Christ, Paul Solomon. **Paul's birthday is on October 10, 1988**

Jason Stone Fourth Theology - Mundelein Seminary

Hello, my name is Jason Stone. I was born in Florida, but my family moved to Bloomington, Illinois when I was twelve. I earned my undergraduate degree in pre-medicine/biology from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Before seminary, I worked as an Emergency Medical Technician and as a 911 dispatcher.

I started discerning my call to the priesthood in 2000, when I entered Saint John Vianney Seminary in Denver, Colorado. I studied there for four years, but as it turns out, the Lord has called me to serve him closer to home and my family, and so I am now studying for the Diocese of Joliet.

I have just finished my second year of theology at Mundelein Seminary. The studies are challenging but I am learning a lot about God and the Church that will someday help me to be a better priest. In addition to studies, I have been fortunate to spend some time as a seminarian intern at two of the parishes in the diocese. I worked at Saint Walter Parish in Roselle, Illinois, and more recently I worked at Saint Dominic Parish in Bolingbrook. This time in the parish has helped me to understand what it means to be a priest and humbled me with the realization that there is still a lot for me to learn about priesthood. Last summer I spent six weeks in Morelia, Mexico to work on my ability to speak and understand Spanish, a skill that is becoming more important for our priests.

This past year I had the opportunity to spend three months in Israel with Mundelein's Pilgrimage Quarter. We had the opportunity to study the scripture and visit the holy sites. I am thankful for the opportunity to enter so deeply into the life of Christ while I was there. It was a profound experience.

This past summer I worked as a Hospital Chaplain Intern at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois. I am looking forward to my final year of studies and I am preparing myself to become a Deacon this November.

Thank you to everyone in the Serra Club for your work to encourage vocations. Your prayers and support mean everything to us. Preparing for the priesthood is a challenging endeavor, but knowing that I have people praying for my success gives me strength for the journey! **Jason's birthday is on October 21 1973**

CALENDAR OF FUTURE SERRA VOCATION MASS AND DINNER MEETINGS

Please mark your calendar. November 16, December 28, Jan 18, February 15, Mar 15, Apr 5, May 17 and June 21

JUMP FOR JOY VOCATION WORKSHOP

The "Jump for Joy" vocation workshop on 9/13 at Holy Trinity parish in Westmont was well attended by students in grades 8-12 from around the diocese. Total attendance was over 100. Speakers included Joliet Vocation Director Fr. Burke Masters, the Dominican nuns of Ann Arbor, MI, seminarian David Mowry, and his parents. Bishop Sartain led a period of Adoration before sharing a meal with the young people.

PARISH VOCATION CONTACTS – ANNUAL WORKSHOP/TRAINING SESSION OCTOBER 24

On Saturday, **October 24, 2009**, the Vocation Office & JAVA (Joliet Area Vocation Association) will host a training session from **8:30am – 12:30pm** at the **Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet** for those who are interested in promoting vocations in their parish. Each pastor has been requested to send at least 2 representatives from their parish to this meeting. This will be a great way to develop a culture of vocations in your parish. Practical ways in which vocations can be promoted in the parish will be discussed. Names of those who will be attending should be sent to Ron Beaumont at rrboards@aol.com. There is no cost for this training session.

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY OCTOBER 25, 2009

Priesthood Sunday is a special day set aside to honor priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one. The nationwide event is sponsored by the USA Council of Serra International.

Please go to www.serraus.org for information on how you can develop your own way of marking the day and honoring parish priests both at Mass and other parish events, such as social celebrations and school activities.

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 Joanne Carr, 320 Browning Court, Wheaton, IL 60189. Net proceeds will go for the education of Seminarians.

ADVISING A PRIEST THAT YOU HAVE ADOPTED HIM

Your editor participated in the Adopt-A-Priest program by making a monetary contribution in early August. The priest, whose name that I was randomly provided was Fr. Adam Bobola, S. Ch. (Society of Christ in America), pastor of Divine Mercy Polish Mission located at 21W411 Sunset Avenue, Lombard.

Since I had not met Fr. Adam, I wanted to make an effort to meet the priest that I was adopting. On September 15, I found him in his office around the noon hour busy working at reducing the pile of papers and bills on his desk which all priests enjoy doing...not!

He was very gracious with his time and offered information about the 3 homes adjacent to the church, which have been converted into the provincial's home/offices, the parish rectory and a parish office/meeting facility. The provincial is responsible for the United States and Canada. They have two priests serving at parishes in Joliet and several in the Chicago diocese as well as at other parishes throughout North America.

I provided Fr. Adam with a copy of the Serra News, and he took a time to read the article about the Adopt-A-Priest program. I then explained to him that I had randomly selected his name and that I would be wearing the pin with his initials and date of ordination and that I would be praying for him. He was grateful and expressed his appreciation. I left, happy to have met one more of all the good priests of our diocese.

I know that my wife Carolyn who was very proud of her Polish heritage and who passed away in March would be very happy that the priest I adopted was born in Poland.

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

1 Rev. David Simpson, O. Carm.	Aylesford, Darien
2 Rev. Thomas Corbino	St. Pius X, Lombard
2 Rev. Gordon Mahoney	Sts. Peter & Paul, Naperville
3 Rev. Raymond Lescher	Sacred Heart, Joliet
4 Rev. Jude Randall, OSB	Benet Academy, Lisle
5 Rev. Min Ki Ju	Our Lady of Korean Martyrs, Darien
6 Rev. Bradley Baker	St. Raymond Cathedral, Joliet
7 Rev. James Curtin	St. Dennis, Lockport
8 Rev. Thomson Panakal	St. Dennis, Lockport
9 Rev. James Antiporek	St. Irene, Warrenville
10 Rev. Francis Maher	Retired-Colorado Springs, CO
11 Rev. Gregory Rothfuchs	St. Paul the Apostle, Joliet
12 Rev. Godwin Olugbami	St. Joseph, Lockport
13 Rev. Arthur Maher	Retired-Wheaton
13 Rev. John Phan	St. Mary of Gostyn, Downers Grove
17 Rev. Larry Dreffein, OFM	Mayslake, Oak Brook
17 Rev. Robert Noesen	Assumption, Coal City
19 Rev. John Palmer, CSV	Benedictine University, Lisle
20 Rev. Walter Dziordz, MIC	Our Lady of Peace, Darien
23 Rev. Charles Wheeler	St. Rose, Kankakee
23 Rev. Kenneth Zigmund, OSB	St. Joan of Arc, Lisle
25 Rev. Mark Cote	St. Isidore, Bloomingdale
29 Rev. Patrick Murphy	St. Isaac Jogues, Hinsdale

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.