



The Serra Club of Owatonna Area

Club No. 968, District 7S, Region 8

October, 2016

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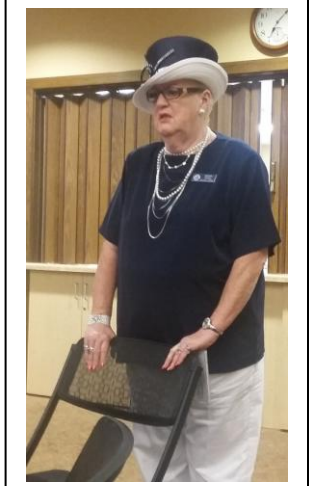
Hospitality

The Club Members

*In her moment of most profound sorrow,
Jesus made His Mother
the Mother of all people.*

*Now she cares for us.
Far more than any other mother could.*

Our District Governor, Chuck de Vos came to our September Membership Meeting and encouraged us to get more members and explained about the new Membership Program, Let's Expand Serra!



His lovely wife, Marlene, came along and spoke about the music CD's the seminarians recorded and are selling to raise money.

TALENT

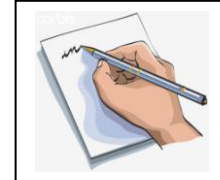
"If you have talent, use it in every which way possible. Don't hoard it. Don't dole it out like a miser. Spend it lavishly--like a millionaire intent on going broke." - Brendan Francis

The Great Promise Award is coming up on Monday, October 10th! This annual event gives us every confidence in our generation to come! We are planning on 5:30pm Mass at St. Joseph Parish, with photos, dinner, guest speaker and awards in Joseph Hall.

Carol Deetz will be working on the table assignments, so if you would please RSVP (yes or no) to Carol at: gdeetz@hotmail.com or 451-1894 **as soon as possible**. As we have done in the past, we ask the Serrans' to connect with one of the recipients and their family to seat with them at Mass and take them to Joseph Hall to their designated table.

We ask **everyone to stay** after the conclusion of the ceremony to help clean up the room. With everyone's help, we can finish much quicker!

President's Letter



Dear Serrans,

Hope you all survived the generous rains that we received. Please pray for all the farmers as they try to harvest their crops in their wet fields. It certainly will be a challenge!

This fall brings many exciting events for the Serra Club of Owatonna Area as we will be celebrating with nine 7th grade students from St. Mary's School in Owatonna and Medford Faith Formation classes as they are honored at our Great Promise Award Banquet, on Monday, October 10th, beginning with Mass at 5:30 p.m. Father Jason Kern will be our guest speaker. Hope you will all be able to join us, and also help out in setting up at 9 a.m. and cleaning up afterwards. (*Each Serra member is asked to contribute \$10 for their meal*). The students who will be honored are: Damian Boubin, Connor Ginskey, Hillary Haartstad, Noah Hodgman, Haley Meiners, Elizabeth Prostrollo, Lauren Thamert, Scotty Weckman, and Adam Paschke.

On Sunday, October 30th we celebrate Priesthood Sunday, a time to let our priests know how much we appreciate all they do. We will be offering a Mass at the seminary for each Steele County Priest and Deacon Pat and we will be taking them out for dinner on Saturday, October 29th. Check for further details in this newsletter.

We are happy to announce that Deacon Pat Fagan has agreed to become our new Chaplain for our club. Thank You! Congratulations to Sister Franchon Pirkl on her 60th anniversary as a Franciscan Nun. We are happy she is still able to be so active in the community at the Hospice House.

Special thanks to all who helped to make the KC Breakfast on September 11th the great success that it was. We made \$830, which is wonderful.

We are looking for someone to host our Christmas Party on Monday, December 12th, so if you will be able to do that, please contact me. It is a potluck.

Keep trying to encourage more members to join us. We do need more people to help with our mission. As the upcoming election is nearing, come to the Patriotic Rosary every Monday at St. Joseph's Church from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. until election day. Please say the following prayer each day and plan to vote.....

AN ELECTION PRAYER

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community. We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty. We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender. We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom. We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

Sincerely,

Rose Ann Kubicek, President

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK, November 6-11. 2016

We celebrate and honor all known and unknown holy men and women, and seek their intercession this week. We recall their commitment to the faith in the Lord Jesus as one we should aspire to. It is fitting, as we prepare to celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week that we remember those gone before us and learn from their example.

Chaplain's Corner

Here we are again, another National election period, and a chance for Christians to learn for whom they should vote without being told for WHOM to vote. As an American citizen, I encourage everyone to vote. As clergy, I encourage everyone to vote WISELY, with an INFORMED conscience. And the best way to know who to vote for is to find out what the candidates stand for, and then decide if that person best represents the needs of the people.

The two major contenders, Democrats and Republicans, represent two separate and very different ideologies: socialism versus capitalism. The Democrats offer an outwardly noble view that the individual is important and must be cared for by government means. The Republicans want us to see that the individual is best cared for when he earns for himself by working. Granted, this view of the two contenders is super-oversimplified, but use it as a springboard to compare, to better understand, how each party HAS ALREADY approached the issues concerning "we the people", and will that party CONTINUE down the path they've chosen.

Right to choose (death) or Right to life. Welcome EVERYONE into the country or Controlled access (not everyone was allowed off the boat at Ellis Island). Welfare or Workfare. Government dictates what one can believe or Freedom of religion. This is a short list to get you started. Write up your own list of issues or concerns, draw two columns (Democrat-Republican), and place a mark in the column where YOUR values match that of the candidate. You'll most likely have a "split ticket" because no candidate will match you 100-percent, but you might find the one who suits you best.

Then, when you think you're ready to vote - PRAY, pray hard for our Nation in turmoil, that we may choose a leader for the people, of the people, and by the people. "God, help us."

Deacon Pat Fagan, Chaplain of Serra Club of Owatonna Area

Serra Retreat 2016

November 18-20, 2016

Fall Retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, MN

"Reawakening Hope" will be presented by: King's House Preaching Team. Looking for an opportunity to share your passion for vocations with other Serrans? Consider the annual fall Serran Retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center. Space fills up quickly for this weekend retreat. This also includes the District 7 and 7South Fall Meeting from 10am to 3pm, Friday, Nov. 18th, including lunch, with program followed by social hour and supper if desired. The cost is \$8.00 for lunch; \$12.00 for supper; or \$20.00 if staying for both. RSVP: Jerry Biese by email jerry.biese@earthlink.net; or by phone to Jerry at 651-450-5412. Please pay that day but let Jerry know ahead about your attendance so Retreat Center can have a head count.

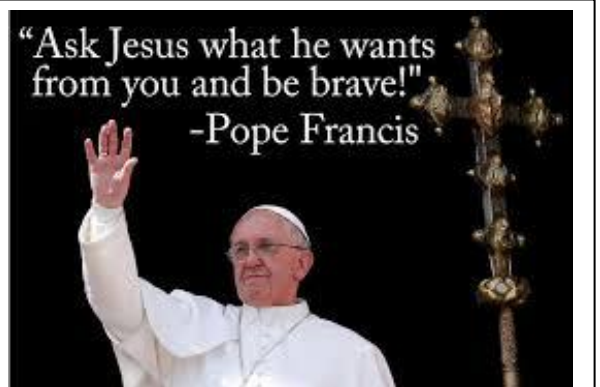
Celebrate!

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

October 30, 2016

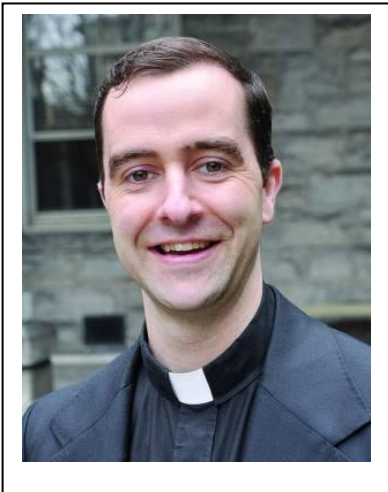
We'll take the priests out to dinner at a time to be determined.

"Ask Jesus what he wants
from you and be brave!"
-Pope Francis



9/11 Experience Points Man to Priesthood

Excerpt of article from Catholic New York magazine



At about 8:45 on Sept. 11, Vincent Druding, a recent arrival in New York City from Indiana, on his way to his first full day of work as an intern at a city agency, emerged from the City Hall subway station mere moments after the first plane hit the north tower. “I was looking at the other tower when the plane went in,” now-Father Vincent Druding, parochial vicar at Assumption Parish in Peekskill, told CNY. “I saw the explosion. I saw people jumping to their deaths.”

Father Druding would work as a civilian volunteer at Ground Zero, driving himself almost to the point of physical and mental exhaustion over the days that immediately followed. “I was depressed, exhausted, having nightmares,

my hair was falling out,” he recalled. But a pair of chance encounters with two priests brought him back from the brink. One was a priest he saw in the middle of the night blessing the remains of a firefighter. The other was priest who gave him the Eucharist on a Sunday morning. After receiving Communion, he lay down and took a two-hour nap, the first real sleep he’d had in a week. When he awoke he felt at peace. “It was the hand of God,” he said. “I encountered Christ two or three times in that hellish place.”

He had spiritual yearnings before. But 9/11 removed all hesitation. The horrors of 9/11 and those chance encounters with the priesthood got him thinking seriously about his own life, and vocation. “I was a different person. I wanted to find out what my purpose in life was. I felt a real core desire to live for something greater,” he explained. He entered the St. John Neumann Residence at St. Joseph Seminary and began his formal studies for the priesthood in 2005. He was ordained in 2009.

Father Druding acknowledges his experience on 9/11 has given his ministry a degree of urgency. “9/11 put right in front of me my own death,” he said. “I don’t know how many times I’ve preached that death can happen at any time. The most important thing in life is to live prepared to die at any moment, to reconcile with God, to put away grudges and disrespect, to love with reckless abandon. That is true freedom.”

A large part of our International dues go to **The Serra International Foundation**. Their objectives and purposes are:

To fund programs that foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood of the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service; and

To fund programs of formation for men and women in consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church; and

To enhance the recognition of Serra International as the global lay apostolate for vocations in the Catholic Church.

In 2016, the Foundation gave 25 recipients a total of \$156,500.00.

Vocations Are Everyone's Business

One size does NOT fit all. It is important that we develop an interest and awareness of vocations. We need to support the concept that it is everyone's business to encourage vocations—not just a few!

Serra members must expand their horizon by constantly inviting other parish members, both men and women, retired, those with families, young single adults and even those in high school. If we have enough of the high school age, we can develop a Junior Serra Club. This may be a good source of future vocations.

Who will be available in the future to provide the sacraments, if not a priest? He is the only one who can receive Holy Orders and perform all the duties and responsibilities of the priesthood. WE NEED PRIESTS

Let's expand Serra now by providing the names of 4 priests or sisters that you would be willing to call and ask them for the names of four family members who live in our diocese whom they think could be good Serrans. Please send your list and your email address to me by October 10, so that I can ensure that none of the priests or sisters will be called by more than one Serran. I will return your reviewed list so you can contact those on your list and will provide you with an outline to follow when you make your calls. Please print the names of the priests or sisters that you are willing to contact here— **then submit them to Mary Mamer, marymamer@hotmail.com before October 10th.**

Questions? Call me: 451-8323

YOUR NAME _____ Your Phone # _____

Your email address _____

Priest or Sister Name Current Parish City Reason you are close friends

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

THANK YOU, MARY MAMER

It is with great sadness that I write that long time Serra member Pete Schneider passed away on September 30th. He brought joy wherever he went and will be greatly missed.

*Happy
Birthday!!*



JoAnn Eichten	10/12
Pete Schneider	10/14
Shirley Jenö	10/27

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 6th** – Mass for Norbert Schrom at 7:15 am at Sacred Heart Church
- Oct. 6th** – Adoration at Sacred Heart Church at 5:00 pm
- Oct. 9th** – Call to Be Catholic speaker Laura Kelly Fanucci at 3:00 pm at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Her Topic is “Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting”.
- Oct. 10th** – Great Promise Award Ceremony at 5:30 pm at St. Joseph's Church
- Oct. 20th** – Adoration at 5:00 pm at the Catholic Community Adoration Chapel – can go out to eat afterwards if desired.
- Oct. 29th** – Serra International Rosary on-line or on your phone at 8:00 am CST
- Oct. 30th** – Priesthood Sunday
- Nov. 3rd** - Adoration at Sacred Heart Church at 5:00 pm
- Nov. 6 – 12** – National Vocations Awareness Week
- Nov. 18 – 20** - Serra Conference and Retreat, Friday, Nov 18th. Retreat includes Meetings, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Silence and Quiet time, Opportunity for Spiritual Direction.