



Saint Croix Valley Serra Club

November 2009

Events for Saint Croix Valley Serra

Saturday, Nov. 7: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Jude's. Speaker – Brother Pio, FBP

Thursday, Nov. 5: 6:00 p.m. Seminarian Goodie Bag Assembly at LeAnne Syrstad's home.

Saturday, Nov. 14: Annual Seminarian Buffet Dinner at Dries' home

NO MEETING on Thursday, Nov. 19

Friday – Sunday, Nov. 20-22: District Retreat at Christ the King Retreat House in Buffalo

Thursday, Dec. 3: Team Vianney Night at SJV (we supply treats with N. Minn. Club)

Club Officers:

President: David Nagan (501-8279)

davidnagan@usfamily.net

President-elect: LeAnne Syrstad

Leannetom1024@hotmail.com

VP Programs: Scott Larson

Hollycat94@hotmail.com

VP Vocations: Irene Simon

iredsimon@hotmail.com

VP Communications: Barbara Dries

(714-4198)

Dries004@umn.edu

VP Membership: Roberta Grady

(455-5986)

Treasurer: Leanne Syrstad (702-9913)

Secretary: David Dries (714-4198)

President's Message

We have a busy November starting with assembling our treat bags on November 5 at LeAnne and Tom's home, starting at 6 pm. I will be making our pray cards. First Saturday meeting is on November 7 at St. Jude's. We WILL NOT be meeting on the third Thursday (Nov. 19). Then we will be hosting our pot luck party at Barbara and Dave's home. I don't remember the time but I think it will be like 5:00 pm on the 14 of November. On December 3, we supply the cookies and fudge at SJV for Team Vianney night with the N. Minneapolis Club. Also, there is the Kings House retreat from Nov. 20 to 22.

- See Dave's "Saint of the Day" on Page 2 -

Please remember Don Groschen in prayer for his health concerns.

During this month of November as we pray for all our loved ones who have gone before us,, please remember to pray for the soul of Jack Crowley who died on last year on Nov. 19.

Sunshine Hospitality for Nov. & Dec.

Nov. 7: Coordinator: LeAnne,
Helpers: Joan & Tony, Lector:
Irene

Dec. 5: Coordinator: Toni
Groschen

Saint of the Day, October 28

St. Jude Thaddaeus - [Patron](#) of Desperate Cases

St. Jude, known as Thaddaeus, was a brother of St. James the Less, and a relative of Our Savior. St. Jude was one of the 12 Apostles of Jesus. Ancient writers tell us that he preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Libya. According to Eusebius, he returned to [Jerusalem](#) in the year 62, and assisted at the [election](#) of his brother, St. Simeon, as [Bishop](#) of Jerusalem.

He is an author of an epistle (letter) to the Churches of the East, particularly the [Jewish](#) converts, directed against the heresies of the Simonians, Nicolaites, and Gnostics. This [Apostle](#) is said to have suffered martyrdom in Armenia, which was then subject to Persia. The final [conversion](#) of the Armenian nation to [Christianity](#) did not take place until the third century of our era.

Jude was the one who asked [Jesus](#) at the Last Supper why He would not manifest Himself to the whole world after His resurrection. Little else is known of his life. Legend claims that he visited [Beirut](#) and Edessa; possibly martyred with [St. Simon](#) in Persia.

Jude is invoked in desperate situations because his [New Testament](#) letter stresses that the faithful should persevere in the environment of harsh, difficult circumstances, just as their forefathers had done before them. Therefore, he is the patron saint of desperate cases and his [feast day](#) is October 28. [Saint Jude](#) is not the same [person](#) as [Judas Iscariot](#) who betrayed Our [Lord](#) and despaired because of his great [sin](#) and lack of trust in God's mercy.

Special Events coming up:

- **Thursday, Nov. 5, 6 p.m. : Seminarian Goodie Bag Assembly at LeAnne's home on**
 - **Saturday, Nov. 14, 5 – 8 p.m.: Club Buffet Dinner for 16 SPS & SJV Seminarians at Dave & Barbara's home (more dishes needed – please check with Barbara)**
-
-

From the S. I. Convention – Omaha, NE, Aug. 27-31, 2009. Dave Dries reports on a panel discussion of vocation experts.

Fathers, Families and Vocations:

The Reverend Mr. James Keating of the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha led a spirited discussion of the role of fatherhood in the cultivation of vocations to the Church. In Catholic theology, St. Joseph protects the mystery of the sacred family. As leader of the Holy Family, Joseph is more than the typical provider or foil in the modern media. With Jesus, he is depicted as paying attention to Mother Mary

through respect for her work as Bride and mother and later as representative of the Church. The Father must pray with his children to introduce the gifts and mystery of the Holy Family to the heart of his children.

Most Serrans are aware of the key role of paternal leadership in Mass attendance. Where the father attends Mass, it is likely that his children will do so as well. If a Father does not lead in prayer and worship in the home, children frequently fall away from the Faith.

The Priest also has a key role in bringing the sacraments to the family. Today, for many reasons this often doesn't happen. Some of these reasons are administrative and economic pressures. Some of the separation of the Parish Priest and the family is a reflection of the social pressures against the role of the Priest. Nonetheless, the soil of priestly vocations comes from stable Fathers who are able to love the faith in a public way in the presence of spouse and children.

Much of seminary formation work today is healing from the emotionally and spiritually absent Fathers. Sons can emulate the Father's journey to God if the Father is serene, assured and full in his faith. Spiritual formation of Fathers is vital to the promotion of priestly vocations today. From the Fathers of today will come tomorrow's Fathers, Priests and other leaders. The Father in Western society is conflicted. Success is frequently depicted as placing trust in material goals rather than in God. Pope Benedict reminds us that no man trusted God more than St. Joseph.

Vocations rise from Dads and Priests working together producing young men who go to seminary because they were sent by a faith-filled Father as opposed to young men who go to seminary in search of faith-filled Fathers (Priests). For this to occur, we need to pull Fathers out of the shadows. If Christ does not leave the Church and go into the home, he is "*homeless*" and the mission of Christian family life is not realized. The Father must lead his domestic Church into the mystery of the holy family and, with his wife, be accepting of vocations from sons and daughters.

Serra International Vocation work makes the national news!

It is very exciting to pick up the National Catholic Register and see a front page article on Serra! Headlined as "Vocational Voltage", the article written by Minnesotan Tim Drake, is all about the Serra International Omaha Convention and spotlights Serran Vocational ministry. If you are interested in reading the entire article, contact Barbara.

Our local Little Sisters of the Poor have great reason for celebration! Their Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, was canonized by Pope Benedict on October 11, 2009. Let us offer our prayers for their continued success in ministering to the elderly in our community!

From Pope Benedict XVI on the Canonization of St. Jeanne Jugan, Oct. 11, 2009

"... Born in 1792 in Cancale, Brittany, Jeanne Jugan was concerned with the dignity of her brothers and sisters in humanity whom age had made vulnerable, recognizing in them the person of Christ Himself. "Look at the poor with compassion, she would say, and Jesus will look at you with goodness on your last day". This compassionate gaze on the aged, drawn from a profound communion with God, was carried by Jeanne Jugan throughout her joyous and disinterested service, practiced with gentleness and humility of heart, wishing to be herself a poor person among the poor. Jeanne lived the mystery of love by peacefully accepting darkness and divesting herself of all material possessions until her death.

Her charism is always relevant, while so many aged persons suffer different types of poverty and solitude, sometimes even abandoned by their families. The spirit of hospitality and fraternal love, founded on limitless trust in Providence, which Jeanne Jugan drew from the Beatitudes, illuminated her whole existence. The evangelical impulse is followed today throughout the world in the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor, which she founded and which bears witness to her following the mercy of God and the compassionate love of the Heart of Jesus for the littlest ones. May Saint Jeanne Jugan be for the elderly a living source of hope and for the persons so generously placing themselves at their service a powerful stimulus to pursue and develop her work!"

The Little Sisters of the Poor celebrated St. Jeanne Jugan's canonization here in St. Paul on November 1, 2009, at Mass at the Cathedral. Archbishop Nienstedt was the Celebrant and afterwards there was a reception at the St. Paul Hotel. Congratulations

Minutes of Year for the Priest (JYFP) Meeting October 15, 2009

Meeting opened with prayer at 7:05 by Committee Chair Dave Power

In attendance: Rajah Kolb, Judy Makowske, Dave Power, Norma Swanson, Don Traxler, Mariann Bramer, and Jerry Halloran

1). **VENUE:** A brief run down of the meeting with Earle Brown Center was given. The site was deemed to be very favorable and the free parking was a definite plus. The standard contract was given to review and it was also sent to Pat Murray for his opinion. Pat pointed out several places where clarification is needed but felt the contract was a fairer agreement than the one we had at CentrePoint and that one went well. The date is confirmed at May 11th.

2) TREASURY: Pat Finley of South Suburban has agreed to be acting treasurer. A separate “Special Events” checking account will be set up with the same bank used by District 7. A resolution needs to be made by the District to authorize the steps needed to be taken to set up the account. This will be done at the November 20th District Meeting to be held at King’s House prior to the Annual Retreat.

3) SOLICITATION OF DONATIONS: Suggestion was made to have one person in charge of solicitations. It was agreed this would be a good thing to do. Pat Murray had volunteered to do this but in his absence we shall wait to hear more from him at the next meeting.

4) TIME LINE: Dave Power has developed an Event time line Calendar. Each project will have a specific deadline to meet i.e. Save the Date cards go out in Jan. Spiritual Bouquet requests go out in Jan. Invites go out in early March. Centerpieces determined by Mar. Food selection must be made by Apr. Blank event calendars were handed out to all in attendance.

5) INVITATION: Judy Makowske has obtained a bid for the invitation designed by her husband and has received approval to proceed with printing the “Save the Date” cards as well as the invitations.

6) VIDEO PRODUCER: Dave Power will contact Fr. Tiffany for suggestions. Judy Makowske will contact Fr. Joseph Johnson for his suggestions.

7) PHOTOGRAPHER: David Sellars has already begun taking pictures of Archdiocesan Altars. Does he need help?

8) PRIEST STORIES: The Story idea will be brought up at the District meeting in November for dissemination to all the clubs. Each Club President will be asked to produce a number of stories from each club. Stories will be gathered by Jerry Halloran and the St. Paul Club for review and selection of those to be read. He will seek out the two presenters or “readers” of the chosen stories who will share the stories with the banquet attendees.

9) PUBLICITY: Flyers, Parish Announcements etc. Norma will contact Rich Graner of Midway Club who has done beautiful work on SJV Flyers.

10) CENTERPIECES: Maryanne Frank was not able to be with us but Judy indicated she know Maryanne has several ideas to put forth but would leave that for Maryanne to present. The time is not so critical for them, now that the date has been moved to May.

11) REGISTRATION: Mariann Bramer, a new member of the committee, offered to help with the registration. She lives close to Pat Finley and said it might make it easier for him to have access to the checks for deposit. She is familiar with data input and with the Excel program. We will discuss this with Pat Murray who was also researching a willing person from his Club.

12) SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS: Approval was given for Lori Covak to begin printing, promoting and mailing the Spiritual Bouquets to the Clubs.

13.) BUDGET: As figures are available, Dave Power will be inserting them in the budget he is working with.

14) MUSIC: What do we want? Piano cocktail music? a soloist? trio? a capella choral? instrumental? Decision has to be made and music people need to be approached. *(from last minutes: Added to the names previously suggested for music, Vickie Kueppers of our St. Paul Club was mentioned. She has a professional group also and has recorded several records. The others mentioned were: Jim Vnak, a professional piano player, Jill Gubash, who sang at the last Deaconate Ordination and a 3 person singing group from St. Charles.)*

15) THEME: Before the meeting was over the theme of the event was decided. It will be Jubilee Year For the Priests (not “of the Priests”). The dinner theme will be:

“Celebrating our Celebrants”- An Appreciation Dinner to Honor Priests

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:35pm

NEXT MEETING: November 12th, 7:00 PM at St. Charles Borromeo

St. Croix Valley Serra Club
c/o Dries
3129 Edgewater View
Woodbury, MN 55125