

# Saint Croix Valley Serra Club

**September 2009**

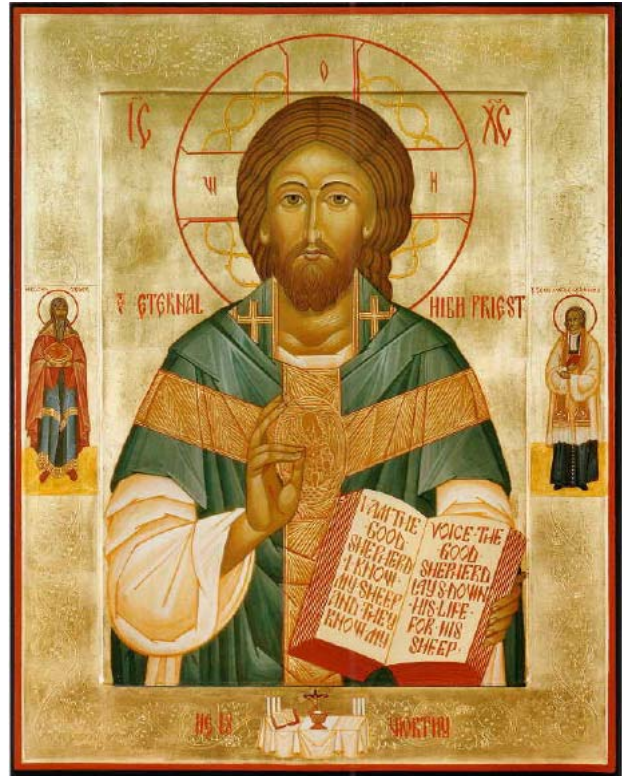
**Events for Saint Croix Valley Serra**

**Saturday, Sept. 5, 8:30 am: Mass at St. Jude's, breakfast & fellowship. Speaker TBA**

**Thursday, Sept. 17: 6:30 pm –dinner @ Tinucci's. Speaker TBA**

**Monday, Sept. 21: SPS Seminary Steak Fry**

**Saturday, Oct. 3: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Jude's. Speaker Mgrs. Matthew Odong**



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**Year for Priests  
June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010**



Secretariat of Clergy,  
Consecrated Life and Vocations

## President's Message

I would like to thank the whole club for your patience on my vacation and my mother's cataract surgery. My mother is recovering fine and will see the eye doctor soon. On my vacation I wanted to go to Mass on Oak Island. I and my uncle talked about it all way up to Sunday morning. Everything went wrong. First we over slept then I needed to rush Uncle Johnny into the shower. You need to remember he has had two knee replacements and two hip replacements and one kidney removed and 10 % of the other one. He is retired and this is his second time up here at Lake of the Woods. When you are out on the lake you need to watch for deadheads (floating logs after rain storms) and big rocks. Earlier in the morning I talked with the resort owner. There are 14,000 Islands. He said just follow the lake shore till you see the weather station on Flag Island then the next Island is Oak and the biggest house is where Mass is going to be. Well there had to be at least 4 Islands after the weather station. So we over drove to the Island and we turned around found the place with drums betting on the dock. We were helped off the boat and they tied up the boat with Mass starting in a few minutes. We were half hour late but made on time to Mass with a retired Priest saying the Mass. His home was on the Indians Vision Quest. Which when a young Indian would come into manhood they would send him out into the wilderness on Vision Quest to see how he would like the rest of his life. I came away that I needed to this more often myself so that leads me to the retreat in Buffalo at the Kings house. I would like to start taking Vision Quest around the U.S.A. at Catholic retreat centers. Persistence pays off we made to Mass as our persistence pays off in vocations.

Don't forget about the steak fry in September. Hopefully see you all at the steak fry.

Dave Nagan

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### Information on the Serra District 7 Retreat

**Presented by:** Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, D.D.  
**November 20-22, 2009**

**Registration:** Friday, November 20 at 7:00pm

**Concludes:** Sunday, November 22 at 12:45pm

**Suggested Offering:** \$135.00 per

A non-refundable deposit of \$30.00 per person is required

**NOTE: This retreat is already filling up!  
Please call Kings House right away to  
reserve your spot and send the  
\$30 deposit ASAP! # 763-682-1394**

### Quotable Quotes

#### From Pope Benedict XVI:

...“The priest is a man who totally belongs to the Lord, for it is God himself who has called him and establishes him in his apostolic service. For the very reason that he belongs completely to the Lord, he belongs completely to the people. During this Year for Priests that will last until the next Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, let us pray for all priests...” Excerpt from Pope Benedict XVI's General Audience, July 1, 2009

#### From St. John Vianney: Catechism notes

"The more one prays, the more one wishes to pray."

## Message from Chaplain Fr. Ralph Talbot

**Note: This is a continuation from Fr. Talbot's message last month.**

As has been announced, the Holy Father Benedict XVI has decided to establish a special Year for Priests on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of St John Mary Vianney, the holy Curé d'Ars, a shining model of a priest totally dedicated to the service of the people of God. During the Year for Priests, which began on 19 June 2009 and will end on 19 June 2010, the gift of special Indulgences is granted.

A plenary indulgence is the remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven. A plenary indulgence means that by the merits of Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, the full remission of the temporal punishment due to sacramentally forgiven sins is obtained. The person becomes *as if just baptized* and would fly immediately to heaven if he died in that instant. You can receive a plenary indulgence for yourself or a deceased person. The normal requirements for the indulgence must be met – celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, reception of the Eucharist, offering prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father and total detachment from sin.

1. In addition to the standard conditions, a person seeking a **Plenary Indulgence** during the Year for Priests must satisfy these additional requirements:

- a. In church or in chapel, devoutly attend the divine Sacrifice of Mass; and
- b. Offer prayers to Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest, for the priests of the Church, and any other good work which they have done on that day, so that Jesus may sanctify them and form them in accordance with His Heart; and,
- c. Do so on the days in which the Year for Priests begins and ends, on the day of the 150th anniversary of the pious passing of St John Mary Vianney [August 4], on the first Thursday of the month or on any other day established by the local Ordinaries for the benefit of the faithful.

2. The **Plenary Indulgence** will likewise be granted to the elderly, the sick and all those who for any legitimate reason are confined to their homes who, with a mind detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling as soon as possible the usual conditions, at home or wherever their impediment detains them, provided that on the above-mentioned days they recite prayers for the sanctification of priests and confidently offer the illnesses and hardships of their lives to God through Mary Queen of Apostles.

The faithful are also able to obtain a **Partial Indulgence** during this Jubilee Year. A **Partial Indulgence** means that a portion of the temporal punishment due to forgiven sin is remitted. A **Partial Indulgence** is granted to all the faithful every time they devoutly recite five Our Fathers, Hail Marys and Glorias, or another expressly approved prayer, in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to obtain that priests be preserved in purity and holiness of life.

I encourage you to take advantage of these special graces during the Year for Priests. Through your prayers and good works and God's infinite mercy, you will become holier and your priests will receive many graces.

Peace, Fr. T

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**Thank you note from Fr. Allan Paul Eilen:** “Dear SCV Club, Thank you so much for your prayers and support and gift of the late Fr. Wirth's priestly stole. God bless and keep you in your families and your work for Serra.”

## **Prayer Needs**

- for all priests this "Year for Priests"
  - for all those in Consecrated Life
  - for all seminarians and those discerning religious vocations
  - Marcus Milless, senior at St. John Vianney Seminary, is receiving treatment for lymphoma.
  - S. Justin Wirth's sister Carol who died last month.
  - S. Rosemarie Cramble and S. Toni Antoinette at the Regina Care Center
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## **Report on the Serra International Convention – Omaha, NE, Aug. 27-31, 2009**

Dave and Barbara Dries had the honor (and fun!) of representing our club at the SI Annual Convention in Omaha, NE, on Aug. 27- 31. It was a packed three-plus days, with about 500 attendees from all over the world. In the next few newsletters, we will have articles by Dave on the Convention talks by speakers, such as Archbishop Timothy Dolan from New York. These articles hopefully will give readers the flavor of the convention as well as to get Serrans fired up for their vocation work.

### **Dave Dries' notes on the Keynote Address: Archbishop Timothy Dolan (New York): The Role of Christ's Lay Faithful:**

The role of the laity and Serrans, in particular, is two-fold. First, the laity must reclaim the duty of taking care of vocations to priesthood and religious life. The laity must invite vocations. The role of the Priest, as representative of the clergy, is to teach, serve and sanctify.

Archbishop Dolan notes four ways that Serrans and the greater laity must take care of vocations.

- Sanctify marriage and family life.
- Create a culture where vocations are accepted.
- Support the quest for vocation in clergy and laity.
- Focus on the goal of our spiritual life: heaven.

We face a crisis in lifelong, life-giving and faithful marriage. Even children of Catholic marriages do not approach matrimony. Part of this change may reflect societal pressures and the effect of jobs and materialism. Part of this crisis, however, reflects the instability and de-emphasis of Christian marriage.

We need to recreate a culture of vocations. In such a culture, we have a climate where a young man can comfortably say that *"I want to be a Priest"* and be supported by his parents, greater family, neighbors and parish. At present, we are emerging from a climate of fear to accept the vocation call by young men who receive it. In a frightening survey from the late 1980s, only 51% of Christian families identified themselves as supportive of children seeking priesthood or other positions in the Catholic clergy. We are beginning to see signs of improvement. Some communities are strongly and openly supportive of young men and women seeking the priesthood and religious life. We still have a long way to go.

We need to ask our Priests to help the laity be holy. The Priest's role is to give us sacraments; the tools of spiritual growth. The sacraments are *"rings on the ladder toward union with God"*. By asking the priesthood to provide us with sacramental life, the laity encourages Priests to be holy (happy). By embracing the importance of holiness in the laity, the critical role of the priesthood in celebration of the sacraments is emphasized within the Church.

The laity must remind Priests that they are to help us to get to heaven. The Patron of Parish Priests, St. John Vianney was lost on his way to Ars, the small French town where he was to serve his life in ministry. He met a young boy and asked directions. The great Saint told the young man that if he would give him directions to the town he sought, he would give the boy the means to heaven. Heaven is the realm beyond us. We have a need for hope and meaning in our lives which is directed toward achieving heaven.

In a subsequent question and answer, Archbishop Dolan identified other factors affecting vocations to the priesthood in the United States. First, is the shrinking number of Catholic schools. While Catholic elementary and secondary education is not essential to priestly formation, many vocations come from Catholic schools. Second, is a history of watered-down theology stemming from the confusion following the second Vatican council. We are slowly addressing this problem. Third, is the prosperity of American Catholics. Prosperous people have many distractions which decrease vocations. Finally, the Church may be seen as city-focused or urban. Many vocations come from the country where the resources of the Church are spread thin.

## The Saint Paul Seminary Calendar

September 9 – Opening Mass, 5:00 p.m., St. Mary's Chapel

September 10 - Classes begin

September 17 – Admission to Candidacy, Theology I, II, and III, 7 p.m.  
St. Mary's Chapel

September 21 – Mass and Serran Steak Fry, 5:00 p.m.

October 3 – Rectors' Bowl, University of St. Thomas. 7:00 p.m.

October 6-8 – 40 Hours Adoration

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