

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COUNCIL
OF SERRA INTERNATIONAL
ESTABLISHED CLUB -- INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will the new members of the Serra Club of (*_official name of the Club_*) please come forward (*or stand and remain in place* ,) as you are called?

(After assembling)

CHAPLAIN: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

CHAPLAIN: The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

CHAPLAIN:

Heavenly Father, look with favor upon the Serrans assembled here. Bless their apostolate. Guide our new members through your Spirit dwelling in them to fulfill their new apostolate to the end that many generous people through their vocations may preach the Good News your Son proclaimed, and make his sacrifice visible in the lives of those whom they serve.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

You are about to be inducted as members into the Serra Club of (*_official name of Club_*). Serra International's mission is a sacred ministry. You will strengthen Serra's role in the Church by promoting, fostering and preserving vocations to the priesthood and religious life both by prayer and by active vocation programs. Furthermore, you are to promote, through Christian education and Serran fellowship, your own personal holiness, and that of your fellow Serrans, in order to better carry out your own Christian vocation to service.

His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, recognizing Serra's unique character in promoting vocations, sent this message to its members:

"Serrans have wished to keep two outstanding characteristics of Father Junipero Serra: love for priestly and religious vocations, and the constant testimony of Christian faith in the environment in which your activity takes place.

“On behalf of the Church, I must tell you of my esteem and my encouragement for your numerous initiatives in favor of priestly and religious vocations. It is really admirable that lay people, deeply convinced that the Church and society needs priests and religious, take as a purpose of their commitment as Christians prayer and hard working action for the

spread, development, perseverance, increase and assistance of vocations. You are mindful of this in Jesus' words: 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'

“Your commitment of praying, promoting and helping priestly and religious vocations continually stimulates you to reflect on the requirements of the Word of God. For this reason, you intend also to live up to your own Christian vocations. Prove to everyone, with clarity and without compromise, your sincere adherence to Christ. Prove at home, at work, in your associations, that the message of Jesus forms real men and women, capable of coping serenely with the harshness of daily life. Be available to contribute with all your strength to the construction of a civil society more worthy of man. Prove in your whole behavior that, with the grace of God, it is possible to put into practice in the modern world the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes with all the radicalism they involve.”

(Distribute and light individual candles or one large candle.³)

CHAPLAIN:

This candle is a reminder of the one you received on the day of your baptism. Its light symbolizes Jesus, the light of the world, and its fire, the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit. Let it be a symbol of rededication to your solemn pledge to direct yourself in Christian principles. In this spirit I ask these questions of you. Please answer, “I will.”

Will you give your time, efforts and prayers for the encouragement and preservation of vocations to the ordained and professed ministries?

NEW MEMBERS: I will.

CHAPLAIN:

Will you, by faithful attendance at Serra meetings and by the example of your Christian life, promote and deepen Christian justice and charity, and continually strive to fulfill your own Christian vocation?

NEW MEMBERS: I will.

CHAPLAIN:

Will you do your best to share our Serra community with others who have much to give and much to gain from the Christian friendships which are refined through Serra membership?

NEW MEMBERS: I will.

CHAPLAIN: *(A short sentence or two of congratulations, e.g., “Congratulations!! Welcome to Serra International.”)*

(If it has not been done at Installation of Officers the same day/evening, the following rededication by all Serrans present may be added before new members return to their seats.)

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will all Serrans please stand? Please refer to your program. We ask all Serrans to rededicate themselves with these words, based on Saint John Paul II's 1985 letter to Serrans:

(ALL READ the following which is also printed in their program:)

**In virtue of my baptism and confirmation,
I take my place among the People of God.
I pledge to fulfill the responsibilities
which correspond to my state in life
and to practice the virtues
of faith, hope, and charity.**

**I pledge to use the grace of my personal gifts,
guided by the light of the Gospel
and the mind of the Church
to carry out my mission in the world.
I accept the Serran responsibility
to promote vocations to the Ordained Ministries,
and the Religious Life
and to offer support and encouragement
to those who have answered the call
to these vocations.**

**Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.
Saint Junipero Serra, pray for us.**

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: *(Ask new members to be seated and continue with the Mass or meeting.)*

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- ¹ When at all possible, the District Governor should be invited to be Master of Ceremonies.
 - ² Use your judgment according to the facilities available. In general, try to line up the new members near the podium in dining facilities, or in front of the altar, if in church.
 - ³ Lighting candles can be cumbersome. Use individual candles for four or fewer new members. Use a single larger candle for five or more new members; give to one of the new members to hold.