

# THE BELLRINGERS

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR SERRA LEADERS

17 July 2009

## OMAHA 2009 CONVENTION

This edition contains updated information regarding this year's international convention. Omaha 2009 will offer a convention venue and program of the highest standard. If you have not yet attended an international convention, take advantage of this year's opportunity for an informative and stimulating look at the Serra apostolate worldwide.

It is over six years since Serra's international convention was held in the Midwest of the United States which encompasses some of the most dedicated and active Serra Clubs in North America.

Omaha 2009 will focus the attention of Serrans on the ministerial priesthood of the Church. The convention theme "*Pastores Dabo Vobis – The Role of Christ's Lay Faithful*" invites us to reflect more deeply on two of Pope John Paul II's teaching documents that are of particular relevance to lay Catholics who are involved in fostering and promoting priestly vocations. The choice of that theme has been made even more appropriate by the recent decision of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to call a special "Year for Priests" which will run from 19 June 2009 until 19 June 2010. Those dates were chosen to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St. Jean Marie Vianney and to recognize his new designation as "Patron Saint of All Priests."

Once again, Serra needs the active participation of its members from across the world if this year's international convention is to do justice to the dedicated planning and commitment to excellence of the Serrans of Omaha and nearby Council Bluffs in Iowa. **DON'T DELAY. REGISTER TODAY!**

Many of you are approaching the end of your term as district governor, club president or as the holder of some other important office in Serra. As leaders of Serra, you can help to ensure that Omaha 2009 is the success it deserves to be. Please make a direct appeal to your constituency so we can achieve a big boost in first-time registrations. Your personal encouragement may well make the difference.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR THE SPECIAL CONVENTION ROOM RATE OF \$142.00 SINGLE/DOUBLE AT THE HEADQUARTERS HOTEL IS 27 JULY 2009.**

Thank you for all that you do for Serra.

Mary, mother of vocations, pray for us!

John W. Woodward  
Executive Director

# Omaha 2009 Convention Highlights

## Thursday 27 August 2009

6:00 p.m. Opening Mass in St. Cecilia Cathedral  
Principal Celebrant Most Reverend George Lucas  
Archbishop of Omaha

7:45 p.m. Welcome Reception and Dinner in the Qwest Center

## Friday 28 August 2009

9:00 a.m. Mass in the Qwest Center  
Principal Celebrant Most Reverend Emilio Carlos Berlié  
Archbishop of Yucatan in Mexico

10:30 a.m. State of Serra President Cesare Gambardella

11:45 a.m. General Session Archbishop Emilio Carlos Berlié

1:15 p.m. Lunch honoring District Governors and Serra Council Presidents

2:45 p.m. Panel Session: Projecting the Priestly Identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Fr. Richard Gabuzda et al  
Institute for Priestly Formation  
Creighton University

**Saturday 29 August 2009**

9:00 a.m. Mass in the Qwest Center

Principal Celebrant

Most Reverend Richard Pates

Bishop of Des Moines

11:00 a.m. General Session

Most Reverend Elden Curtiss

Archbishop Emeritus of Omaha

12:30 p.m. Annual Serra Awards Lunch in the Qwest Center

4:00 p.m. General Session

Rev. Mr. James Keating Ph. D.

Director of Theological Formation

Institute for Priestly Formation in

Omaha

6:30 p.m. Theme Night Reception and Dinner at Durham Museum

**Sunday 30 August 2009**

- 9:00 a.m. Keynote Address Most Reverend Timothy Dolan  
Archbishop of New York
- 10:30 a.m. Seminary Rectors' Panel Archbishops Berlié, Curtiss,  
Dolan and Lucas
- 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions on Vocations, Programs, Communications and  
Membership
- 2:30 p.m. Delegates' Meeting in Hilton Omaha
- 4:30 p.m. Closing Mass in the Qwest Center  
Principal Celebrant Archbishop Timothy Dolan
- 7:30 p.m. Annual Banquet in the Qwest Center

**Monday 31 August 2009**

- 8:00 a.m. Travelers' Mass in the Qwest Center  
Principal Celebrant Most Reverend Francisco Moreno  
Barrón  
Bishop of Tlaxcala in Mexico

## **Omaha 2009 Convention Registration**

A registration form for Serra's 67th international convention to be held in Omaha, Nebraska, U. S. A., 27 - 30 August 2009 is enclosed. Please complete and return it by mail to:

Serra International  
70 East Lake Street Suite 1210  
Chicago IL 60611 U.S.A.

or by fax to 1-312-419-7411

or register online at [www.serra.org](http://www.serra.org).

## **Omaha 2009 Hotel Reservations**

Please note that all hotel reservations MUST be made directly with the Hilton Omaha by either calling the hotel directly at 1-800-445-8667 and quoting group code "SIA"

OR

by clicking on the link <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/OMACVHH-SIA-20090824/index.jhtml> which can be found by visiting [www.serra.org](http://www.serra.org).

**PLEASE NOTE: The cut-off date for the special convention room rate of \$142.00 single/double is 27 July 2009.**

## **Recommendation to increase the international dues base**

Refer to Serra International Bylaws Article XI, Sections 2 and 3.

*Delegates to the Omaha 2009 convention will be asked to vote on the following proposal approved by Serra's Board of Trustees at its meeting on 14 March 2009 in Chicago Illinois U.S.A.:*

**"That the present international dues base of US\$32.00 be increased to US\$45.00 effective 15 January 2010."**

**Note: The most recent increase in the international dues base was approved by the delegates to the Spokane 2006 convention. In these uncertain times, the board of trustees is recommending that the delegates approve a substantial dues increase on the basis that it is prudent to eliminate the current deficit and to build a financial reserve for the future.**



# 2009 Serra International Convention

*Pastores Dabo Vobis*

The Role of Christ's Lay Faithful

27-30 August 2009

Qwest Center and Hilton Omaha

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_

Name on badge \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse name on badge \_\_\_\_\_

Children (give ages if attending) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St./Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Serra Club of \_\_\_\_\_

Language:  English  Spanish  Italian  Portuguese  \_\_\_\_\_

### Check all applicable titles for attendees (as of 1 June 2009)

- |  |   |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club President    | <input type="checkbox"/> Past Club President    | <input type="checkbox"/> Club President Elect    | <input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee | <input type="checkbox"/> Council President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> Past District Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> District Governor Elect | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Director   | <input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Rep    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaplain          | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocations Director     | <input type="checkbox"/> Priest                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Brother             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon            | <input type="checkbox"/> Past Int'l President   | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                   | <input type="checkbox"/> _____               |  |

## Registration Information:

\_\_\_\_\_ Adults at USD 350.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Spouses at USD 300.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Teens/Pre-teens at USD 175.00

**Total Number of Registrants** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Due USD** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment by (circle one):** Check    Credit card

**Hotel Accommodations:** The **Hilton Omaha** is the main convention hotel. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-445-8667 and quoting group code "SIA" or online through [www.serra.org](http://www.serra.org).

### Credit Card Information

Visa     MasterCard     Discover

American Express

Card Number  
\_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations received on or before 27 July 2009 will receive a full refund. Cancellations received 28 July -27 August 2009 will receive a 50% refund. There will be no refunds after the convention has begun.

Every Serra Club is urged to send a delegate to Serra's 67th International Convention to be held in Omaha, Nebraska from 27 - 30 August 2009. At the delegates' meeting, there will be discussion and voting on a number of important matters, including proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of Serra International, a proposal to increase the international dues base, the election of the 2009-2010 Board of Trustees and approval of the 2009-2010 budget.

***It is important for each club's voice to be heard and vote counted.***

Delegates also bring back to their clubs a report of the convention happenings; they inform members of the new ideas and initiatives for vocation activities, internal programs, recruiting and membership retention, and communications.

At your club board of trustees meeting, plan now to make sure that your club will be represented by its own delegate or alternate delegate or by proxy.

***Please complete and return the Delegate Credential by the date specified.***

## **2009 CONVENTION DELEGATE CREDENTIAL**

**Please have your club elect a delegate to the 2009 international convention by completing the form on the reverse side and either mailing it to Serra International, 70 East Lake Street, Suite 1210, Chicago, IL 60601 U.S.A. or faxing it to 1-312-419-8077. Delegate credentials sent by mail must be postmarked no later than 28 July 2009. Alternatively, delegate credentials may be taken in person by your delegate, alternate delegate or proxy delegate and hand-delivered to the office of Serra International at the Qwest Center (Room 207) in Omaha before noon on 28 August 2009.**

## **Bylaws of Serra International, Article II, Section 2**

*The only members of SERRA INTERNATIONAL entitled to vote as such under the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act shall be SERRA CLUBS. Each SERRA CLUB in good standing shall be entitled to one vote at international conventions, which shall be cast for it by its duly elected delegate. Each SERRA CLUB in good standing shall be entitled to one delegate. Such delegate, and an alternate shall be selected from the membership of the club, but, if the club cannot send one of its own members, it may select, as a proxy delegate, a member of another club in the same district to represent it at a convention, or it may select a proxy delegate from any other district. The credentials of a delegate, alternate delegate or proxy delegate shall be evidenced by a certificate of the president and the secretary of the club she or he represents, and such credentials shall be delivered to SERRA INTERNATIONAL before noon on the opening day of the convention, or mailed to the executive office of SERRA INTERNATIONAL postmarked not less than thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the convention.*

**Delegates have the option of delivering their credentials in person when they arrive in Omaha. To be valid, such delegate credentials must be delivered before noon on Friday 28 August 2009 to SERRA INTERNATIONAL'S office located at the Qwest Convention Center – Room 207.**

**As required by the Bylaws of SERRA INTERNATIONAL, every delegate credential must bear the signatures of both the president and the secretary of the Serra Club that he or she is representing.**

**Chaplains of Serra Clubs are NOT eligible to serve as delegates.**

**Each club, in order to send a delegate to the convention, must be in good standing with Serra International.**

# 2009 Delegate Credential

This certifies that the official delegate of the Serra Club of \_\_\_\_\_  
to Serra's 67th international convention be held in Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A. is:

Delegate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signatures - President: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
(print name) (print name)

## (If no member of the club can attend this convention)

Proxy's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Serra Club of: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signatures - President: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
(print name) (print name)

### *Serra International*

- *70 East Lake Street Suite 1210 Chicago Illinois 60601 U.S.A.*
  - *Telephone: (312) 419 7411 Fax: (312) 419 8077*
  - *Web site: [www.serra.org](http://www.serra.org) E-mail: [info@serra.org](mailto:info@serra.org)*