



Serra International United States Council
65 E. Wacker Place, Chicago, IL 60601 888-777-6681

March 2, 2009

The **KICK OFF for the 2009 *College Connection* program** has already begun with some 60 Serra Clubs. These are clubs that actually participated in the program during the past two years, or are seriously interested in doing so this year.

With interest growing rapidly around the country, we expect a number of other Clubs to join this year. There will be an increase in national publicity through Catholic media (magazines, newsletters, Diocesan papers and possibly Catholic radio. We have a number of schools requesting information about the program, in areas where we have no Serra Clubs.

Our “partners” in the program include both the Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA) and the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers (NFCYM). Needless to say, both organizations are very enthused with what Serra is doing with this program.

For those of you needing a reminder of how the program works attached is a brief description, of the program along with some comments from various supporters. Included with the attachment is a form to help interested Clubs obtain more information. By the way, the program seems to be attractive to new club members as well as less active members. You might want to consider them for the committee should your club become involved.

Will the *College Connection* program require time and energy? Of course it will. This program is not for sissies – but the rewards you will receive personally will be, as they say, “priceless”. If your effort should cause some of the students to become active in Campus Ministry, who knows where that may lead? A study completed by CARA for the U. S. Bishops concerning Catholic Campus Ministry (November, 2005) confirmed a strong opinion that those who were active in Catholic Campus Ministry: attended Mass more often than those who did not; donated more to their Parishes; became leaders in the Parishes; and were more likely to consider a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life. The obvious conclusion: increasing the number of students active in Campus Ministry by even 10% should greatly benefit the Church in many ways, including Vocations!

This fall, almost 1,250,000 Catholics will enter colleges in the USA. These will be decision making years for most of them. Keeping them “connected” to the faith can be very important. Let’s not forget them in our daily prayers!

Mary, Queen of Vocations, Pray for us.

Dick

Dick Stolly, Chairman
College Connection program

The *College Connection* Program

This new and exciting Serra vocation program helps High School graduates locate the “Catholic presence”, (especially Catholic Campus Ministry) when they arrive on campus. More and more Serra clubs are beginning to take part. In 2008, there were 19 clubs from 11 states that were involved. These few Clubs delivered over 4,000 Packets of information to the students whose names we received from Serra Clubs! Imagine what it will be as more Clubs join the forces.

Already we have received requests from 45 clubs for information about the 2009 program. Serra Clubs work with Catholic High Schools and Parish Youth Ministers, to obtain student names; the school they plan to attend; and their home address (so the Cam[s Minister may send a letter of invitation to visit their facility when they arrive on campus).

If your Club would like to take part in the program), please furnish below your current information - e-mail if possible – if not, by regular mail.

- - - - -

YES we want to be involved. Here is our contact information:

Serra Club of _____ Date _____

Contact Person (Print) _____ Club Position _____

E-mail (print) _____ Phone _____

Mai Address _____

____ We will prepare our own Packets – ____ Please send information

____ We will ask you to prepare the Packets at cost of .80 per Packets delivered

We will contact approximately ____ Parishes ____ Catholic High Schools

COMMENTS:

Return to Dick Stolly dikstoly@wcoil.com - or mail to: #4 Sheffield Lane, Lima, OH 45805

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS OF SUPPORT

“It is clear that you and your collaborators (Catholic Campus Ministry Association and National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry) have worked hard to put this program together and it promises to be very helpful . . . I fully support your efforts and prayers for the successful implementation of *College Connection*.”

Most Rev. Blasé Cupich, Bishop of Rapid City, Past Chairman Bishops’ Committee on Vocations (10-17-06)

“Our Catholic College students need support in connecting with Catholic communities on or near their campuses. Catholic campus ministries offer a rich venue for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life to surface and flourish provided they are nurtured. Serra’s College Connection has the potential to reach many young people in our nation with the Lord’s call to follow him in his continuing ministry to people.”

Most Rev. Eldon F. Curtiss, Archbishop of Omaha, Past Episcopal Adviser Serra International (1-10-07)

“I believe that your program (*College Connection*) will be helpful in our vocation efforts and will provide wonderful opportunities for young people to discern the call of God in their lives”.

Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson, Bishop of Saginaw. Author of “Future Full of Hope” Vocation plan (1-10-07)

“At a large state university like ours (University of Toledo) getting names of Catholic students coming each year from Serra Clubs in our Diocese (Toledo) is “like gold in our pockets”. It is of great help in our ministry. I am hopeful that other Serra clubs will pick this up and make a similar effort to assist campus ministers in their area. These students are the future leaders of society and of our church”.

Rev. James J. Bacik, Ph.D. Pastor, Authored “Empowered by the Spirit”, Campus Ministry document (8-10-06)

“At a meeting of Serra in Chicago in 2003, I was asked to talk about campus ministry and how your organization (Serra) might help with the higher education ministry to college students. The *College Connection* program seems to be a major step in that direction.”

Michael Galligan-Stierle, Ph.D. Secretary for Higher Education and Campus Ministry-USCCB (9-11-2006)

“In the U.S. Bishops’ 1997 Document “A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry” the first goal is “to call young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.” The second goal challenges the church know “to draw young people to responsible participation to the life work and mission of the faith community.” This *College Connection*, will certainly respond to both goals.

Robert McCarty, Executive Director, National Federation Catholic Youth Ministers (9-6-06)

“This is a note of appreciation to you and your fellow Serrans for your wonderful contribution to our ministry. The list of incoming Catholic Freshmen has been a tremendous assistance in identifying those we wish to reach out to. With your help, we have been able to register more than 1,200 Catholic students here at IU”

Fr. Stan Drongowski, O.P. Director of Campus Ministry – Indiana University (9-16-08)

AND MORE . . .

Other positive letters received from three Bishops, eleven Campus Ministers, many Catholic High Schools and Serra Clubs during the past two years to encourage and support the continuation and expansion of the College Connection Program. Serra Club leaders tell us that this program has energized their club and drawn new members to join