



Saint Serra Club of Des Moines

Monthly Newsletter



June 2016

Serra Vocations Prayer



God our Father, today may I have an opportunity by my actions to encourage a vocation to the religious life. Help me to conduct myself in a Christian manner that I might give proper example particularly to the young. Through the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, may I also support those in religious life in their vocation of service to your Church. May the sincerity of my prayers and my concern for vocations result in an increase of laborers for Jesus and His Church. Amen.

Thoughts from the President -

We have three very important events coming up in June, and I ask that you consider saving the date for these events!

1. Friday, June 3rd is the Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Dan Gehler, and the Holy Order of Transitional Diaconate for Carlos Emilio Gomez Pineda at 7:00 PM St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines. As this is the culmination of the work of the Holy Spirit, and the answers to many of our prayers as Serrans, I invite and encourage all of our members to attend this wonderful ceremony! It is only fitting that we Serrans participate in this celebration! Also, we have the honor of serving 'soon to be' Fr. Dan and Deacon Carlos by assisting with set-up/clean-up at the Pastoral Center. NOTE - We will NOT have our monthly First Friday Mass in June!



2. Fr Dan Gehler's First Mass of Thanksgiving will be at St. Joseph's in Des Moines at 5pm the next day (Saturday, June 4th).
3. The next meeting of the St. Serra Club of DSM will be at 7:00 PM Wednesday June 15th (our regular 3rd Wed. gathering) at Our Lady of the Americas Church at 1271 E. 9th St., Des Moines (close to Lutheran Hospital). In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Our Lady of the Americas Church is designated as having a "Holy Door of Mercy". During this special period of time in the Church, Pope Francis calls all Catholics to be profound witnesses to mercy and to "find the joy rediscovering and rendering fruitful God's mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and every woman of our time" (from St. Anthony's parish website).

Fr. Andrew Windschitl will make a presentation on this Year of Mercy, what it means to us, and the plenary indulgence that Pope Francis has granted all those who walk through a Door of Mercy! We will also pray the Rosary and Chaplet, participate in OLOA's Adoration, and have the opportunity for Reconciliation, adjoining at 8:00 PM. The intention of this evening will be in thanksgiving for our newest priest – Fr. Dan Gehler, and for all those pursuing a Vocation in our Diocese!

What is a "Jubilee Indulgence" in the Catholic Church?

This is for those who are making a pilgrimage to a destination that includes visiting a Church/Basilica that owns a Jubilee – Holy Door (Our Lady of the Americas!).

To gain a Jubilee Indulgence: All steps with Plenary Indulgence, plus -

- † Walk through the Jubilee – Holy Door(s)
- † Recite the Our Father and Apostle's Creed
- † Receive the Communion
- † Say one (1) Our Father, and one (1) Hail Mary
- † Go to Confession within twenty (20) days
- † Be free of all attachment to sin, even venial (small sin)

<http://www.stanthonydsm.org/worship/jubilee-year-of-mercy.html>

4. Special thanks for Jim Glaser for donating a statue of St. Junipero Serra to our Club! I know this statue means a lot to Jim for many different

reasons, so the statue will be displayed at all group functions! Jim doesn't get email, so if/when anyone sees Jim please tell him THANK YOU!

5. Pentecost - by [Matthew Halbach, PhD](#) - Pentecost—the birthday of the Church—is this Sunday. Though perhaps this feast day doesn't get as much attention as Christmas and Easter, its celebration is pivotal for a couple of reasons:
 - a. Pentecost celebrates the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles for the purpose of sharing the good news of Jesus and baptizing the nations.
 - b. Without Pentecost, all we are left with is stories about Jesus. However, with Pentecost, Jesus remains with the Church until the end of days; and those who are baptized by the Holy Spirit are empowered to share the Spirit's gifts with others.

When we think about (or pray to) God, the Holy Spirit might not get as much attention as the Son and the Father. Unlike the Father and Son, it's difficult to relate to the Spirit. What is it, anyway? In Scripture, we are given hints as to the Spirit's purpose (e.g., counselor, advocate, helper, teacher, etc.).

The Spirit makes possible the gift of faith and the celebration of the Sacraments. The Spirit is a person but also a creative force. It is the Spirit that hovered over the waters of chaos in the Creation Story, bringing order and new life. It is the Spirit that transformed the apostles into evangelizers, and it is the Spirit who calls us to share in the gifts of God so that we may share them with others.

Perhaps one of the reasons why the celebration of Pentecost is a bit subdued is that we don't know about or trust the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This Pentecost Sunday, say "Hello" to the Spirit. Ask the Spirit to reveal your gifts to you. Such gifts can be extraordinary, like healing or speaking in tongues. Others are more "ordinary" but can have extraordinary effects such as the gifts of counsel, wisdom, fortitude, etc.

Discerning your gifts takes time and patience. To learn more, visit the [Siena Institute website](#), which provides information and discernment workshops, or check out [Bishop Barron's podcast](#) on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We are all called by the Spirit to share the good news of Christ in our own unique ways. Take the opportunity this Pentecost Sunday to begin discerning how God might be calling you to live more deeply, a life in the Spirit.

Jim Henscheid, St. Serra Club of DSM, President (515-422-0960)

Serra Foundation - consider giving this year!

The Serra Foundation was established in 1951 and had over \$1 million in requests for help last year from seminaries and convents worldwide. It gave out about \$225,000 to many worthy vocations projects, including the Archdiocese of the US Military in the US. Clubs and individual members are asked to consider giving any amount this year to the Foundation to help with worldwide vocations work. For more information, go to www.serrainternational.org and click on the Serra Foundation tab.

Serra International Convention to be Hosted by Region 9 this year in St. Louis, June 30 - July 3

In lieu of its annual regional convention, Region 9 is helping to host the Serra International Convention this year in St. Louis. The St. Louis Serra clubs are organizing the event with the help of Serra International. It's rare that we get the opportunity to attend a Serra International Convention so close to us. Please consider coming. The event will be held in downtown St. Louis at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch. The Archbishop of St. Louis, Robert Carlson (formerly of Sioux Falls SD) will be celebrating the opening Mass. Father Brett Brannen, author of *To Save A Thousand Souls*, will speak, as will Patty Schneir on her personal faith journey. Archbishop George Lucas of Omaha will celebrate Friday Mass, and Bishop Andrew Cozzens, our episcopal advisor to Serra US will celebrate the Mass on July 1 (first anniversary of Junipero Serra as a Saint). For baseball fans, The KC Royals are playing the St. Louis Cardinals at the nearby stadium on Wednesday, June 29th, at 7:30 pm, and Thursday, June 30th at 6:15 pm.

Serra Directory Update

An updated Saint Serra Club of Des Moines directory is forthcoming after June 30th, 2016. We need need updated emails, deleted land line phones, new cell numbers, death of spouse, etc. Please contact Denny Hagedorn by email at g14509.kids13@gmail.com or Jerry Boesen by email at Jerry.boesen@rbc.com with updated information.

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