



Saint Serra Club of Des Moines

Monthly Newsletter



Sept. 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 -

Did you know?

Newly-ordained priests were often influenced by their families, and involved in church activities.

The average age of men ordained to the priesthood is trending younger with the average age at 34. Most of those ordained say they were encouraged to enter seminary by a priest, and about half say their friends or parents encouraged them to consider the priesthood. The role of the family, parish priest, friends, and youth ministry are vital to vocations. Along with their education and work experience, 71 percent report they served as an altar server. This seems to indicate that the involvement of youth in the Church's activities, especially the liturgy, has a positive impact for their choice of a vocation. What is clear is that new priests were not swayed by television or a billboard, but by experiences in the Church.



What Can You Do to Help Grow the Priesthood?

- * Pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life daily.
- * Ask a priest about how he discovered his call.
- * For parents, talk to your children about God's call.
- * Write letters to our seminarians to encourage them as they discern.
- * Ask your pastor what you can do in the parish to foster vocations. * Get a free book to help a young man discern his vocation at gopriest.com * Visit www.foryourvocation.com for more ideas.

Six Ways to Discern My Vocation

1. PRAYER

Prayer is a conversation with God – not just saying prayers, but speaking to the Lord from your heart. Ask him to reveal his plan for you: “Jesus, I want to want what you want. Here I am Lord; I come to do your will.” Trust that God has a plan for you.

2. SACRAMENTS

The soul is the window through which we can see God and hear his voice. If the window is dirty because of sin, it must be cleaned through Confession so we can be in union with God. When you receive Communion, ask Jesus to show you your vocation.

3. GOOD INFORMATION

It is impossible to discover your vocation without good information. What does it mean to have a holy Christian marriage? What do priests do? What is it like to be a religious sister or brother? Contact the diocesan vocations office at 669-3100 or search for good information online, then take what you have learned back to prayer.

4. GO ON RETREAT

Miracles happen on retreats! One of the surest ways to discover God's plan for you is to enter into silence and prayer over an extended period. Ask the Vocation Director to help you find a good retreat.

5. GET ADVICE

Don't try to discern your vocation alone, without the help of the Church. Talk to a

sister, brother, priest, or deacon you trust.

6. THE BLESSED MOTHER

Mary is the ultimate example of openness to the will of God. Are you open to God's will for you? Pray three Hail Mary's every day, specifically to know your vocation and have the courage to follow it.

Upcoming Events Due to Labor Day week-end St. Serra Club WILL NOT meet for First Friday Mass and Rosary at St. Francis of Assisi this Friday Sept. 2nd. The next First Friday Mass and Rosary at St. Francis of Assisi will be held on Friday Oct. 7th. Rosary at 6:55 AM with Mass at 7:15 AM, followed by coffee/pastries after Mass in the St. Clare Rm.

2. WINE AND CHEESE! - The Sept. meeting of the St. Serra membership will be held on Wednesday Sept. 21st at 7:00 PM at the home of Victoria Carver. As you recall from past announcements, Victoria is in the process of starting a new religious Order for women named "Daughters of Mary, the New Eve". She is also an expert in Theology of the Body. She will discuss updates on the forming of the Order, and make a presentation on Theology of the Body. I intend to say a Rosary for Vocations to complete the evening gathering. Her address is: 7514 Oakwood Dr., Urbandale, IA 50322. For directions contact Victoria at: (515) 988-3767.

3. The St. Serra Club will sponsor its annual Bishop's Burse Dinner on Sunday October 16th at 5:00 PM at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club. All members are welcome to attend, and guests are invited, too! All funds raised will be presented to Bishop Pates in support of our Diocesan Vocations. Formal invitations will be mailed to all Members within the next few days! Guests interested in attending should contact Jim Henscheid for more information at: (515) 422-0960

Due to the Bishop's Burse Dinner we will NOT hold our monthly luncheon in October.

4. Phil Huss and Nicole Ryan have established our Adoration/Rosary schedule for the rest of the year. Please schedule time to be in the presence of the Lord in support of those in a Vocation to the Church, and our priests and religious.

September 15th @ Holy Trinity 2-10 no mass prior

October 14-15 (24 hours) St. Pius 8:00 AM mass on 14th then adoration

until 8:00AM Saturday 15th

November 4th St. Mary's 6:30-8:30 PM (Might be mass at 6:00 will let you know as it gets closer)

December 13th St. Francis of Assisi 7:15 mass adoration to follow until 8:00 PM

January will be at St. Augustin's not sure on date just yet.

5. Monthly meetings for the rest of 2016 to be held on Sept. 21st and Nov. 16th. NO monthly gatherings in October and December!

6. Scheduled First Friday Masses, preceded by the Rosary will be held on Oct. 7th, Nov. 4th, and Dec. 2nd. (No First Friday Mass in Sept.)

7. St. Serra members are planning an event to support families of those in a Vocation. This will probably be held in late October or early November. We'd like to host a gathering that will allow the families of those pursuing a Vocation to "mix" with the other families. More to come.

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 Directory Update

An updated Saint Serra Club of Des Moines directory is forthcoming after September 30th, 2016. We 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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