Have You Adopted a Seminarian?

Back in 2006 when Jerry Cooke was President of Serra Club #25, he introduced a new program that is called, “Adopt a Seminarian.” The program began slowly and not every Serran understood its objectives and what was expected of them. Over the years, a better description of the program evolved and more and more Serrans got involved and eventually all the seminarians were adopted. (At first some Serrans must have thought that “if you adopt a seminarian, you must pay his tuition!” Not so.)

At the end of the Spring Semester last May, all 29 seminarians were adopted by at least one Serran and most seminarians had two or more sponsors. In all, 61 Serrans and Friends of Serra adopted each of our seminarians. Various approaches to “adoption” developed. For example, three Serrans got together and agreed to adopt one Seminarian and they do all activities together, in a few cases a family (Dad, Mom and children) adopted a seminarian and invite him to their family dinner, in still other cases, one Serran develops a special relationship with his selected seminarian and, occasionally, some Serrans adopt two seminarians.

When asked about his experience with the program, Joe Cirincione replied, “Two of our (Joe & Jana) great experiences in the Adopt-a-Seminarian program have been getting to know our seminarians, as well as their families, and knowing that our participation supports our seminarians in their discernment process.” He added, “We have found it extremely rewarding to find out who our seminarians are: their education, upbringing, family relationships. We have met the parents, sisters, and brothers of our seminarian Paul Sappington, and have been blessed to witness their love for each other and pride in each other’s accomplishments, especially Paul’s – for instance, his powerful presentation at this year’s SOS (Support Our Seminarians) event at Union Station.”

Mark McGilley who has adopted Deacon Andrew Kleine and is pictured giving Deacon Andrew Royals tickets for an upcoming game said, “Adopting Andrew has been a very fulfilling experience. We have come to be good friends. He has even asked me to critique his practice Homilies and he has become a very good Homilist. I believe he will be a great addition to the Priesthood!”
Later, the Cirinciones, who have adopted two different seminarians since joining our club, added, “We have experienced the satisfaction of knowing that whatever small tokens we have provided our two seminarians (monetary and emotional) have supported them in reflecting authentically upon their vocations: to discern whether their relationships with Christ are best carried out in the ordained life or not. Thus, one adoptee discerned that it was best for him to leave the seminary; our present adoptee has chosen to continue his journey to ordination through his coming studies in Rome this year. We consider our experiences to be blessed ones and our adoptions to be successes in both cases.”

Another Serran, Jerry Hughes, offered this succinct comment when discussing his experience with the Program, “Support for a Seminarian, for me, is the most important feature of being a Serran. Aaron (Hooper) has had my enthusiastic and continuing support for two years and in that time, I’ve gotten to know him and his Mom & Dad. The most important gift we can give to seminarians is prayerful active encouragement, always trusting the Lord will see them through to ordination.”

The President-Elect for the Downtown Club, Larry Ward, described his assessment of the Adopt-A-Seminar Program in this way, “It is a program of Serra members working to become acquainted with, be of assistance to, offer prayers with and support to seminarians of our Diocese.” Larry said that the program is strong and continues to gain both momentum and wide spread acceptance among Serrans. Larry explained that “our coordinator, Dick Shaw is responsible for matching Serrans and Seminarians together and then it is up to the Serran to begin the process of making a new friend. The reception on the Seminarian’s side has been great and we quickly develop a lasting friendship—which is the goal of the program. This friendship lasts far beyond the “seminarian portion” of our new friend’s career and extends well into the years of his Priesthood.”

Larry continued, “This growing bond is seen in abundance at the annual Seminarian Family Christmas celebration held each December at St. Thomas More Church under the direction of the “God-Father” of the event, Jerry Cooke. It is a great event at just the right time of year and the celebration is specular. However, this program is definitely not a once a year visit, rather it is a continuing, thru all the 12 months events--dinners, get-togethers and personal contacts.”

What is expected of a Serran who adopts a seminarian? Here’s the template for the program:

1. Say a prayer for your seminarian daily,
2. Remember your seminarian at Mass at least once a month—or whenever you are at Mass,
3. Try to make contact your seminarian once or twice during each semester. Choose a way in which you are comfortable: write a letter; send an email or text; send a card for his Birthday, Christmas, Easter or for “No Reason at All.”

Jerry Hughes with Aaron, Mike & Elizabeth Hooper

Ben Armentrout, Dick & Daffy Shaw, & Nathan Rueb

Randolfo Lemu & Steve Pierce
a. Invite him to breakfast, lunch or dinner when he is in town.
b. Try to sit with him and his family at our Annual Christmas Dinner.
c. Take him to a sporting event, golf outing, theatre, movie, etc.—perhaps you could ask him to bring a fellow seminarian if he wants.
d. Send him a few dollars during the year, it is suggested that you not be overly generous—maximum $200.00 a year.

Pretty simple, yes? . . . but so valuable!

Are you ready to adopt a seminarian this year?
Yes or Yes!

Dick Shaw

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

How much we are all blessed to be a part of the Serra influence!
Take a moment to think about enjoy by our membership in this faith related club. Think of the camaraderie of fellow Catholics pursuing the same purpose. Think of support for our Priests, avowed religious Sisters, Brothers & Deacons, and for prayers for additional formation to each. Then think of how we can enhance our own spirituality, faith and love for Christ by our daily actions both inside and outside of our Serra activities.

Serra membership offers us the joy of serving and praying for those who make our Church stronger by their commitment to live a life fully serving God and His Church.

How do we as Serrans accomplish this? By prayer and attending our monthly meetings, supporting the Support Our Seminarians in January, attending the Valentine’s Day dinner and 5th Grade Vocation Days in February, supporting Blisters for Sisters and our Installation Mass/Dinner in May, being present for Diocesan Ordinations for the Priesthood and Transitional Deacons and possibly attending the annual Serra International Convention (this coming year in Mexico City) in June, being in the stands for Pitching for Priests or helping out at the North Club’s Seminarian cookout in July, helping out for the annual Seminarians Retreat at the lake in August as well as attending the annual Tri-Club Mass & lunch with Bishop Johnston, helping out for the Priests and Seminarians Appreciation Day in September, volunteering to help & financially supporting for a successful Chili Dinner fundraising effort in support of funds for the August Seminarians retreat in the month of November, and of course support for the December Bishop’s Mass & dinner for our Seminarians and their families.

Is it a big commitment? Is it a worthwhile commitment? Is it worthy of our considering jumping into a few or as many opportunities that our club presents to us? Yes, on all parts. It is up to each one of us to consider what our commitment can be and then to plan to act on those choices.

Thanks to so many of you who have committed, and I pray that many more members will prayerfully consider taking a more involved position in their membership in this wonderful club.

Jerry Haake, President

FORE FOR CORE
Priests Appreciation Day
Monday,
September 17, 2018
10:30 am to 8:00 pm
Nicklaus Golf Club
at LionsGate

Golf, Texas Hold ‘em, Gin, BBQ, Fun

Go To St. Joe!
Partnering for Future Priests

Dinner and Auction
Friday, October 5, 2018
Our Lady of Guadalupe
St. Joseph, Missouri
5:15 pm – Prayer
Silent Auction, Country Store, Live Music, Social, Dinner
**MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN**

Dear Serrans,

The summer went by so quickly it’s hard to believe a new fall semester is upon us. We had a great few months with the seminarians back home in the Diocese. In May, Bishop Johnston and I took all the seminarians on a pilgrimage to Mexico City. It was a great trip that included Mass in front of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In June, the men in theology studies gathered for a week at the chancery to attend a workshop on Evangelization and forming Missionary Disciples. I hope these experiences will help them to bear much fruit in their future ministries.

Most recently all the seminarians gathered with the Serra Club at the Lake of the Ozarks for a few days together before the fall semester begins. It’s always a great time when Steve Pierce is preparing the food! They will head back to school this week to begin another year at their respective seminaries. Our total number of seminarians for the 2018-2019 school year is 26. Next year we hope to ordain four new priests, but no new deacons.

Please continue to pray for all of our seminarians, for all the men in discernment, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Thank you for all your support.

In Christ and Mary,

Fr. Johnson

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**

- **Michael Kleinman**
  - January 27, 1942 - July 29, 2018
- **Elinor Bax**
  - November 29, 1941 - August 1, 2018
- **Elmo “Moe” Courville**
  - June 3, 1931 - July 3, 2018

**QUARTERLY PICTORIAL REVIEW**

**LUNCHEON SPEAKERS**

- **Joe D’Amato**
  - St. Paul’s Outreach
- **Dr. Richard Janet**
  - Professor: Rockhurst U.
  - *In Missouri’s Wilds*

**5TH ANNUAL PITCHING FOR PRIESTS**

- Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese vs. Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

“Pound it, Father Gabe!” -- KC-St. Joe won in extra innings
Ordination of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese

Eleven men were raised to the Order of Diaconate for the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese on June, 3, 2018. They are: Brian Buckner, Robert Falke, Joshua Fultz, James Koger, Michael Koile, Fred Lange, Paul Nguyen, Victor Quiason, David Rennicke, Shane Voyles and Joseph Zager.

Laying on of hands: Robert Falke

The 2018 Class of Permanent Deacons with Bishop Johnston.
ANNUAL LAKE OF THE OZARKS RETREAT FOR OUR SEMINARIANS

Kneeling: Randolfo Lemus, Aaron Hooper, Matthew Cline, Paul Harrison, Marcus Furnari, Ben Armentrout, Liam Connelly, Randolfo Lemus, Aaron Hooper, Matthew Cline, Paul Harrison, Marcus Furnari, Ben Armentrout, Liam Connelly, 

Bishop Johnston begins the day with Holy Mass.

Jerry Haake takes seminarians for the ride of their life!

Chow line at the Red Oak Lodge.

Seminarians from St. Gregory the Great Seminary “get to do the dishes.”
Steve Pierce knows how to light a fire!

Getting ready for some “Texas Hold ‘Em”

RELIGIOUS SISTERS APPRECIATION DAY

Mo and Jerry Haake and Dick and Daffy Shaw at the check-in table.

Bishop Johnston chats with Sisters who have finished their BBQ.

201 Sisters fill the parish hall at St. Patrick’s in K.C., Kansas

Get Sister Connie a new Bingo Card.

Mark Your Calendars

September 2018
5 Mass and Lunch- 12noon CTK—Father Jerry Waris
11 Board Meeting 4:30pm
17 Priests and Seminarian Appreciation Day—Lion’s Gate
19 NO MEETING
23 Anniversary of Canonization of St. Junipero Serra

October 2018
3 Mass and Breakfast- 7:00am St. E. Dr. Brendan Sweetman, Rockhurst University. “Religion in Public Life”
6 Partnering for Future Priests—St. Joe
9 Board Meeting 4:30pm
17 NO MEETING
28 Priesthood Sunday

November 2018
4-10 Nat’l Vocations Awareness Week
6 Wine and Dine—North Club
7 Mass and Lunch- 12noon CTK—Program for Deceased Serrans Relatives are invited to attend
13 Board Meeting 4:30
18 Chili Dinner- KCMO Club @ STM
21 NO MEETING
22 Thanksgiving

2018-2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Larry Ward
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Serra Club #25 of Kansas City
4004 E. 107th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64137

Return Service Requested. Please Do Not Forward