

Club #25

District XII-2E

Central Region

March 2020

Leadership: Tradition & Innovation

George Santayana (1863-1952) memorably noted that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Of course, we can learn not only what to avoid by recalling the past, but also a good deal about very successful past accomplishments that often become traditional practices and events because they deserve repetition. Therefore, we asked presidents from the past two decades of Serra Club #25 to reflect upon their tenures, challenges, and achievements. Their recollections include many impressive achievements that we revere as our traditions, traditions that often emerged from innovation.

We begin with the reflections of **Jerry Haake** who was president both towards the



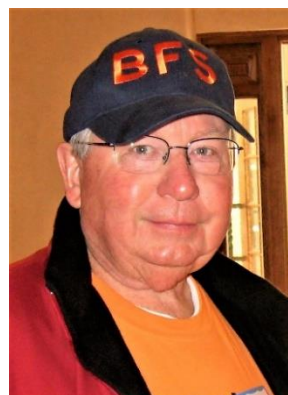
beginning and the end of the past two decades (1998-99 and 2018-19). He especially emphasized the blessings of "terrific officers and trustees who assisted me." He found it valuable to encourage these officers and trustees "to add active and inactive members to their com-

mittees" as a means of engaging members in various leadership roles where they "become more fulfilled in their Serra mission and ministry," perhaps even by plowing new ground.

A very recent president, **Greg Vranicar** (2015-16), reinforced Jerry's appreciation of officers and trustees by highlighting the input of Tom Bax, longtime treasurer of our club. Tom early on indicated to Greg that the club was in danger of running a deficit and recommended a dues increase, which the members accepted with "no negative feedback." Consistent with his reliance on Tom's input, Greg found openness to change a central component of his presidency, along with "learning well the Club's priorities, tapping the energy of volunteer leaders and helpers, and essentially staying out of the way."



While staying out of the way works after delegating an event to trusted members, Serra Club #25 presidents (actually, leaders of all types) must sometimes think outside of past practice, just as Greg did in accepting **Tom Bax's** recommendations for a dues increase and passing it along to the Board.



Such openness to change and innovation may be found throughout the past two decades. **Butch Wagner** (president from 1997-98, just prior to our two-decade look backward) felt his first item



of business was to engage not just Serra members, officers, and trustees, but their families, as well. As he saw it, “We needed to do more than lunch, good speakers, and other works that our families never saw or understood.” Going beyond the repetition of past practice,

Butch realized that “nothing brings folks together better than CHILI.” Thus, was born the annual Serra Chili Dinner for our spouses, children, grandchildren, and friends who now “know we love vocations to priesthood and religious life and who, we hope, will pick up the torch.” As a blessed consequence, this new event then (a tradition today) funds the Priests and Seminarians Picnic.

Continuing in this vein, **Charlie Murphy** (2001-02) recalled how, during his presidency, members of our club set about “establishing a new club in the Northland”; how there was a renewed emphasis on the Priests & Seminarians Picnic, even as the Club moved from one hospitable host and host-ess’ home (the Livers’) to another (the Meiners’). And on a truly sad note, he and the Club had to deal “with the shocking news of the abuse of children by our own priests.” In other words, circumstances – need of a new club, moving locations, serious crises – sometimes force change and innovation upon us: apparently necessity really can be the mother of invention!



Finally, **Jerry Cooke** (2006-08) set out to develop “more fun projects and events . . . simply to enjoy our time together as we thank the three groups we support – Priests, Nuns, Seminarians.” Just a few



years earlier, Charlie Murphy recollected, Club #25 sponsored a Sisters Picnic at Bob & Carol Miller’s home – a great gesture. But Jerry Cooke imagined something new, “something more for the Nuns than what we were currently doing.” Thus, Blisters for Sisters arose at St.

Peters Parish with about 65 sisters participating . . . and, my, how it has grown. Not surprisingly, Jerry and Bob Miller worked together on the Priest and Seminarians Golf Tournament to expand it with various innovations.

By knowing the history of Serra Club #25 over the past two decades, we have discovered many of the wonderful events that well deserve repeating. But we have also discovered that our presidents over the years innovatively looked for new ways to support clergy and women religious, as well as seminarians and postulants. Jerry Cooke’s final words on the matter speak to a possible next step: a cocktail party to which we invite all our members; where we let all members express their notions of how we might make our Club better; where we help members express their new, innovative ideas.

Yes, ignorance of the past may doom us to repeat the failures, the disasters of the past; but knowledge of the past surely allows us to repeat the good done in the past (that is, our traditions), as well as to envision what we might yet do (that is, the innovativeness that our presidents have been exercising over the years). In reviewing the accomplishments of our presidents over the past two decades, we can see the importance of learning what

to repeat, what we might do better, what we might do that is radically new.

In closing, we thank all of our past presidents for their leadership, accomplishments, and imaginative vision in support of our men and women religious.

Joe Cirincione

Fellow Serrans

With the scheduling of the 5th Grade Vocation Day at St. Pius X High School last October many of our members were introduced to the Diocese program Protecting God's Children also referred to as the Virtus Program. This program has been adopted by the Diocese of Kansas City St. Joseph for the protection of children and all in need of protection. The program basically requires any employee of the Diocese or any volunteer in any capacity to undergo a rigorous supervised training session, submit a detailed application and have a background check completed BEFORE engaging in work or efforts for the Diocese.



Many if not most of our members were unaware of this program so we had to scramble to complete the training and requirements of the program in order to volunteer and assist with the 5th Grade Vocation Program. The press of time also meant that many of our members could not complete the training in 2019. This fact led us to a decision to try and solve this issue by using the Virtus training as a program for our regular monthly meeting in January 2020.

Frankly we were a little concerned as to whether or not our members would be willing to take the opportunity for the training as it required us to lengthen our regular meeting. Our Board member Jon Haden was able to arrange for one of the outstanding facilitators from the Diocese's Office of

Child and Youth Protection to facilitate the training session. We also decided to open the training program to Catholics interested in completing the Program and we were thrilled with the response.



The short story is that we ended up with sixty (60) folks, many of whom joined us for Holy Mass at noon and for lunch and for the training session. Everyone who completed the training session was then certified to go online to the Virtus program and complete the necessary forms to be submitted to the Diocese, have the background check submitted and with approval, be certified as a volunteer for work in the many areas of need within our Diocese.

This effort saved many people significant time as the training was "brought to them". Most likely it brought many who might not have otherwise participated. It also brought Serra to the attention of our guests who were very effusive in their thanks as they were leaving.

We certainly considered it a WIN-WIN result all the way around.

Larry Ward

**SAVE THE DATE
MAY 02, 2020**



BLISTERS FOR SISTERS

Dear Serrans,

This past January we held our first Quo Vadis retreat for men discerning priesthood at Our Lady of Good Counsel. We had a good turnout for the retreat day and several of our priests joined to help. There were meditations, time for prayer, and individual conversations with priests for all of the men who are currently discerning a vocation to the priesthood.



On January 29th, we had a very successful fundraising event at Union Station. It was the 27th annual Support Our Seminarians Dinner known as the 'S.O.S. Banquet'. The funds raised that evening are divided between our Diocese, the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas, and Conception Abbey. One of our seminarians, Jared Samson, spoke at the dinner and did an incredible job.

On February 20 we hosted the 5th Grade Vocation Day at St. Michael's High School in Lee's Summit. We are anticipated 360 5th grade students from 13 different diocesan schools. I am grateful for all the help of Serra Club members who serve as chaperones in classrooms, who provide breakfast for the kids, and help run the hospitality room. Your assistance helps to make the day run smoothly.

We are excited that in a few months we will have an ordination of some new transitional deacons. The diaconate ordination will take place at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on Saturday, May 23rd. There will not be a priesthood ordination this year. Please continue to pray for all the men currently in discernment and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

In Christ and Mary,

Fr. Johnson

Luncheon Speakers



Stephen D. Minnis
President
of [Benedictine College](#)



Meaghan Cisneros
Virtus Program,
Protecting God's
Children



Bob Rueckert
District Governor

Welcome New Serrans



Gary Hense



Beth Sullivan

Annual Chili Dinner to Support Lake Retreat



Matt Stirs



Frank Serves



Becky & Charlie Pose



The Haden Family Partakes



The Bishop Surveys

Retired Priests Luncheon at McCormick and Schmick's



Always a good time when we get our retired priests together for lunch.



Annual Seminarians and Family Christmas Mass and Dinner



Seminarians—Class of 2019-2020



The Horan Family



The Knott Family



The Elder and Connolly Families

Celebration of Married Love on Valentine's Day



Anita and Butch Wagner



Mo and Jerry Haake



Tom and Virginia Coppinger



Earlene & Thomas Gordon

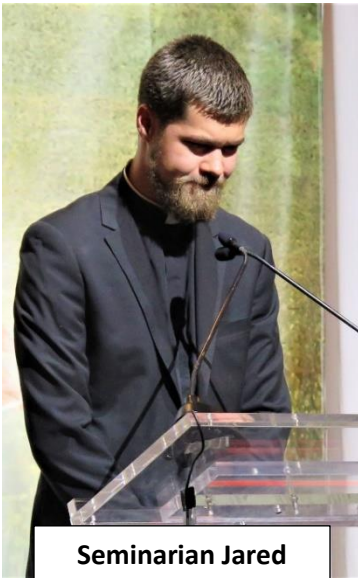


Father Randy & Sandy Sly
Featured Speaker

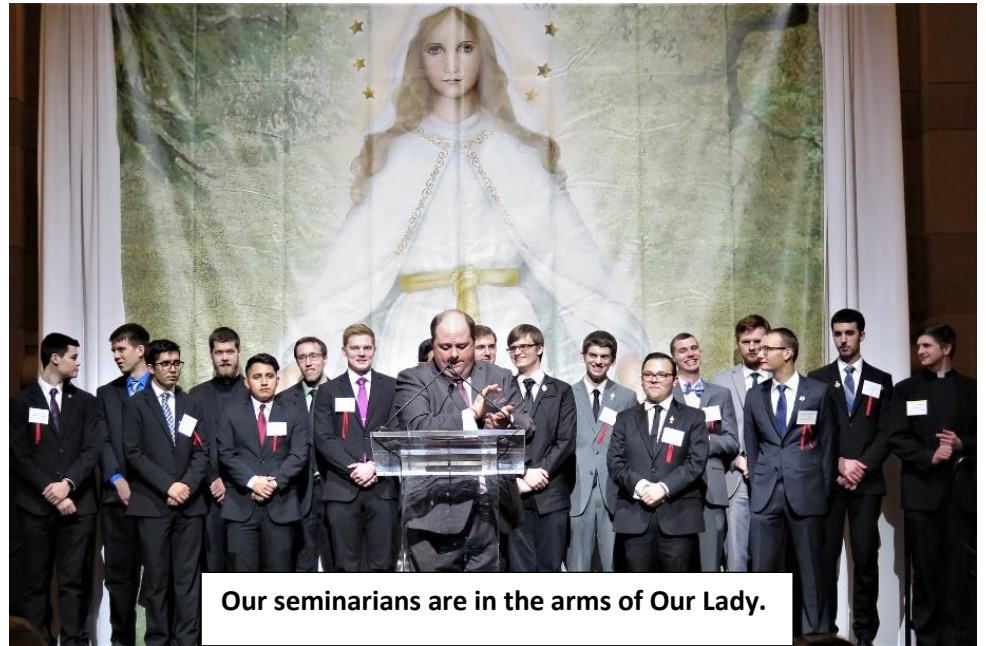


Dick and Daffy Shaw

SOS—Support Our Seminarians



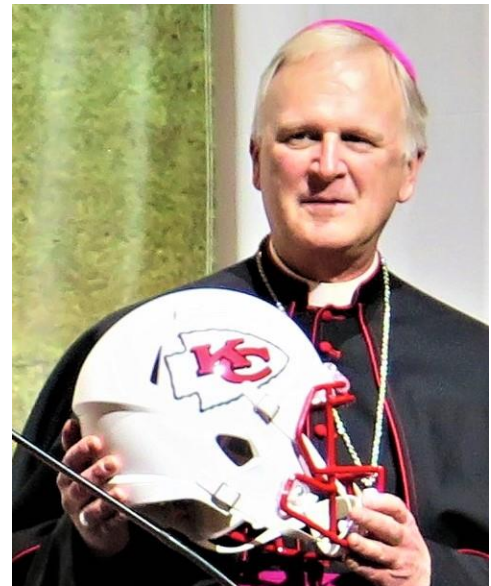
**Seminarian Jared
Samson Addresses
The Assembly**



Our seminarians are in the arms of Our Lady.



The Pierce & Haake Families Enjoy!



**Bishop Johnston auctions off a helmet
from our Super Bowl Champs!**



**Father Evan Harkins –1986-2020
May He Rest in Peace**



The Vranicars with Father Ketterlin

Mark Your Calendars

March 2020	April 2020	May 2020
<i>(Set date for Christmas Dinner—Call Bishop)</i> 1-7 Nat'l Catholic Sisters Week 10 Board Meeting-4:30pm St. P 18 Mass and Lunch- 12 noon St. P (Election of Officers today) — Incoming President's Planning Session (TBA)	(submit credentials for Club Delegate to International Convention & SI Awards nominations) 6-8 Encounter with God's Call-Conception 7 Board Meeting-4:30pm St. P. 12 Easter 15 Mass and Lunch- 12 noon St. P --A Sister to talk for Blisters for Sisters 18 Spring Leadership Planning Meeting	1 Year End Reports Due 2 Blisters for Sisters @ STM 3 World Day Prayer for Vocations 6 Mass and Lunch- 12 noon St. P 12 Joint Board Meeting St. P 19 Installation of Officers-Banquet STM 23 Ordination of Transitional Deacons 25 Memorial Day 31 Incoming President & VP Reports Due

2019-2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<i>President</i>	Larry Ward	<i>Communication</i>	Greg Vranicar	<i>Friends of Serra</i>	John Massman
<i>President Elect</i>	Vince Sabia	<i>Membership</i>	Becky Turner	<i>Historian</i>	Dick Shaw
<i>Past President</i>	Jerry Haake		Marty Meyer	<i>One Year</i>	Jeff Crowe
<i>Secretary</i>	Mike O'Flaherty		Charlie Murphy	<i>Trustees</i>	Charlie Huffman
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ken Woodward	<i>Programs</i>	Tom Kenagy		Butch Wagner
<i>Chaplain</i>	Fr. Adam Johnson		John Massman	<i>Two Year Trustees</i>	Jon Haden
<i>Assistant to the</i>	Deacon Doug	<i>Vocations</i>	Vince Sabia		Rey Gonzalez
<i>Chaplain</i>	Warrens	<i>Serra-Nader Editor</i>	Dick Shaw		Eric Melgaard



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