



THE SERRA-NADER

Club #25

District XII-2E

Central Region

March 2019

Annual Bishop's Mass and Dinner For Seminarians and their Families



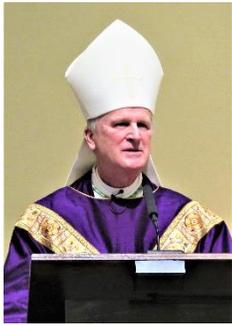
Front: Xavier Schmidt, Brandon Garduno, Randolph Lemus, Matthew Cline, Paul Harrison, Benjamin Armentrout, Mark Famuliner, Elvis Aguilar, Liam Connelly. Middle: Noah Metcalf, Silas Barlett, Daniel Stump, Bishop James Johnston, John Beshenich, Marcus Furnari, Nicholas Carleton, Garrett King. Top: Jared Samson, Deacon Andrew Kleine, Deacon Nathan Rueb, Deacon Kendall Ketterlin, Deacon Emmanuel Garduno, Craig Richter, Samuel Horan, Father Adam Johnson, Pius Nosh-Awasom, Patrick Beshenich.

Serra Club 25 sponsors the Annual Bishop's Mass and Dinner to celebrate the vocations and dedication of all KC-St. J seminarians and their families. Hosted at St. Thomas More Parish on December 20, 2018, the event drew nearly a record crowd. Bishop James V. Johnston celebrated the Mass assisted by Serra Chaplain/Vocations Director, Fr. Adam Johnson. All seminarians of the Diocese (except two studying in Rome) attended and

invited their parents and siblings to make the night truly one to remember.

This event is one of the highlights of the Serra calendar. It draws together all of the many people who are responsible for priestly vocations in the Diocese. The liturgical calendar cooperated beautifully, as the Gospel was Mary's encounter with the Angel Gabriel to foreshadow Jesus' birth and the Blessed Mother's memorable acceptance: "Behold I am the handmaid of

the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”



In his homily, **Bishop Johnston** compared Mary’s embrace of her holiest vocation to the acceptance of vocations by everyone in the room. He thanked all the families of seminarians for being worthy vessels in which vocations had taken root and grown. He prayed that, with the support of God and the people of the Diocese, the seminarians will continue their hard work to become successful priests.

Though the Mass and Dinner were dignified, there was much cheer and celebration in the hall. Serra Club members from all three Kansas City Clubs spread out among the over 30 tables so that each seminarian family was paired with at least one Serra member and spouse. Bishop Johnston circulated in the crowd to greet and welcome everyone. Many seminarians and family members freely embraced the opportunity to mingle and meet one another.

Serrans Joe and Jana Cirincione noted that their



Paul Sappington with his mother

adopted seminarian, **Paul Sappington**, is strongly supported in his vocation by his large family, as his parents, brothers and a sister attended the Mass and Dinner. “Paul

himself is studying in Rome, but his family is always present at these events to show their strong connection and help Paul in his vocation journey.”

Vocations Director Fr. Adam Johnson introduced all seminarians for the traditional sharing of gifts from the three Serra Clubs. Indeed, not only were monetary presents freely given, but friendship and support were also openly



Craig Richter with his mother

expressed. As first-year seminarian **Craig Richter**, whose mother traveled from Wisconsin, expressed it, “Your continued warm welcome and prayerful support are

important ways that we feel part of the KC and Serra Club community.”

Serra member Larry Ward summed up his observation of the Mass and Dinner this way, “The whole occasion was filled with joy. These men will be the backbone of the Diocese for decades and seeing their joy being together with one another, their families, and the Serra Club members was truly inspirational.” In a similar vein, Serran Butch Wagner thought the presence of the families was the key factor to make the Dinner special. “This is the only time that the future priests can introduce their seminary friends to their parents, brothers and sisters who have been instrumental to help them become priests. What a tremendous gift for all!”

Garrett King, a seminarian from St. Joseph, observed that “This is one of the only events where seminarians meet and mingle with the families of other seminarians and also see Serra members from all Kansas City Clubs. It helps us better understand and appreciate the larger context of our work and the prayer and support behind it.”



Seminarian **Jared Sampson** finds the Christmas Mass and Dinner “altogether edifying and even overwhelming for its reaching out across the Diocese to show the many factors that support us.” Jared served at the altar, a role that he enjoys very much, as it gives him an even greater appreciation of the Eucharist which is the “summit of a priest’s life.” This past semester, Jared has been interning at the Cathedral Parish in St. Joseph where he has taught Confirmation class and basic Religion Classes to 6th and 7th grade students. He finds that “teaching the faith gives me an entirely better perspective and aids greatly in my formation as a future priest.”



We reached out to Barbara and Justin Rueb, the parents of Deacon Nathan Rueb who is in his final year of preparation at the Pontifical North American College in Rome and expects to be ordained this spring in Kansas City. The Ruebs have attended the Mass and Dinner the past three years, even when Nathan cannot. (This year Deacon Rueb was able to attend—see photo.) **The**

Ruebs noted “the very welcoming acceptance of our presence and we have made several close friends from



our interactions at the Christmas Mass and Dinner. We look forward to inviting some of the folks from the event to Deacon Rueb’s first official celebration

of the Mass this coming May.”

From this review of the impact of the 2018 Christmas Mass and Dinner, one can readily see that it remains one of the most important events of the Serra calendar. On behalf of all Serra members and friends, we thank all those who make it possible and we look forward to it in 2019.

By Greg Vranacar

President’s Letter



What are we looking forward to as Serrans?

This can be a rather objective and maybe easy question to answer if we only look at our calendar. Yes, some key upcoming and normal events are:

- March 6th: Ash Wednesday’s meeting at St. Peter & to learn about our new website.
- March 8th: National Catholic Sisters Week.
- March 20th: our regular Mass, meeting. Lunch and speaker; and, to vote on our new officers at St. Peter.
- April 3rd: our quarterly morning Mass at 7 a.m. at St. Elizabeth, breakfast, meeting and speaker.
- April 17th: Noon Mass at St. Peter, meeting, lunch and a sister presenter to talk to us about the Blisters for Sisters to be held on May 4th at St. Thomas More.
- May 1st: Mass, lunch & meeting at St. Peter with a speaker.
- May 4th: Blisters for Sisters event on Saturday at St. Thomas More.
- May 12th: World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

- May 21st: we celebrate our new officers with an installation of officers on Tuesday with Mass and dinner at St. Thomas More parish.
- May 25th: we cap May with an incredible event--the ordination of four new Priests for our Diocese.

So, what does all this mean to each of us? Are these just activities or are these all part of our mission as Serrans to promote our current Priests and Religious; and, to support and foster new vocations? I’ll suggest to all of us that by our dedication to supporting, fostering and praying that we are building on our own call to be saints. This is our passion and our mission as Serrans.

So, I ask each of you to evaluate your commitment and to accept one more meeting, one more event, one more prayer for our Church. Put your passion into action and enjoy your membership to a higher level!

With prayer and respect to all members,

Jerry Haake
President-Club #25

SPRING LEADERSHIP PLANNING MEETING

APRIL 27

ALL NEW OFFICERS AND LAST YEAR’S OFFICERS NEED TO ATTEND TO KEEP OUR CLUB FIRST-CLASS!!!



Serra Relies on the Strength of Its Leaders

You’ve heard it said that while prayer for vocations is the responsibility of every Catholic, to join the ranks of Serra with its unique and targeted vocations mission is for some of the faithful. In other words, to be called to Serra is a vocation in itself.



Likewise, to be a leader in Serra is a calling. Is God calling you to lead in Serra? Is God calling you to nominate someone to lead our District 12-2 East?

We are looking for a new leader to serve Serra as District Governor Elect. If you feel called to this important and exciting service, or if you know someone who would accept the position, please contact; Bob Rueckert, 816 896 7945 or rrueckert20@gmail.com

Chaplain's Letter



Dear Serrans,

I am very grateful for all your help this week as we put on 5th Grade Vocation Days at St. Michael's High School on Wednesday and Thursday. We had 822 students attend over the two days as they got to discover more about how

God calls people to serve the Church as priests and religious sisters.

Your help was instrumental in the days being such a success as Serrans served as classroom chaperones, helped with breakfast and lunch, and ran a wonderful hospitality room for the teachers and religious who came to speak to the students. A special thanks to the Dick and Daffy Shaw who made prayer cards for each of the kids and to Wayne Snyder who worked with Catholic Radio to get packs of priest baseball cards to give out.

Events like these, help to create an atmosphere in our Diocese where young people are able to hear the voice of God in their lives. Thank you for all your support. Please continue to pray for the 27 men we currently have in seminary and for the several men we currently have who are filling out applications to become seminarians next year. Please also pray for me and for safe travels as I will be in Cincinnati this weekend and St. Louis next week visiting our men studying at Mount St. Mary's and Kenrick.

In Christ and Mary,
Fr. Johnson

SAVE THE DATE BLISTERS FOR SISTERS SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019



MAKE PLANS NOW



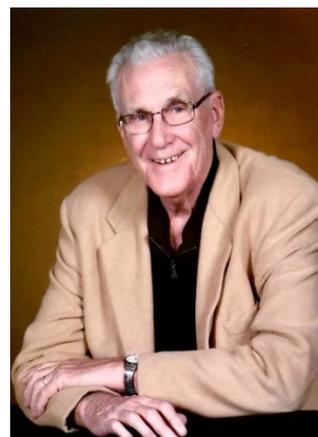
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS BANQUET TUESDAY, MAY 21 ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH

*May He Rest
In Peace*

Thomas Lillis

September 7, 1932

February 1, 2019



WHAT WE DID LAST QUARTER



Annual Chili Dinner to support Seminarian Lake Retreat—Our brand-new Serran, Donna Melgaard, joins the serving line; Bishop Johnston enjoys chili with seminarian Garrett King; our soon-to-be-Serran, Mo Haake cares for the condiments; Scott Cook does the dishes; and Father Johnson plans to consume his lonesome hot dog—while hungry, Greg Vranicar, looks on with envy. (Phil Muellner)



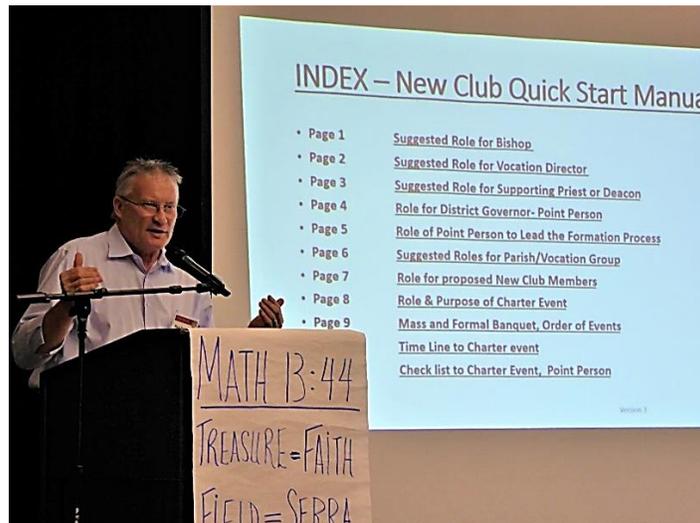
BISHOP'S MASS AND DINNER FOR SEMINARIANS AND FAMILIES



Bishop James Johnston offers Mass and is assisted by our newest Deacon, Nathan Rueb; Donna Melgaard who officially becomes a Serran is with her sponsor, Becky Turner; Seminarian Sam Horan is with his father, Terry, and sister, Cecilia; the fabulous Barlett family of four with seminarian Marcus Furnari; and President Jerry Haake greets the newest seminarian, Nicholas Carleton, as Presidents Wayne Snyder and Yvonne Teeple of the other two Kansas City Serra Clubs look on.



SERRA RALLY – VENTURA, CALIFORNIA



Judy Cozzens (left above) the current the President of the U.S. Council of Serra International and Mark Bonkiewicz (above) Owner, Dynamic Consulting, Inc., addressed the Serra Rally in Ventura and will be speakers at our Regional Convention at Conception Abbey in November. Both are long time Serrans and in demand as speakers. Below: Do you recognize the white haired couple on the left— Jerry and Mo Haake. Bob Rueckert, our District Governor, also attended the Rally.



SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS (S.O.S.)



Above: The Coppingers, Bob Haake, Carolyn Stewart, Kaye Meiners; Fr. McCaffery, the Turners, the Murphys & Marty Meyers; Guest Speaker: Bill Quatman who spoke on Mary's Home in Ephesus; Below: Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Bishop James Johnston & the Quatmans; a whole bunch of people; and last but not least, the Derks, the Cirinciones and Daffy Shaw.



5TH AND 6TH GRADE VOCATIONS DAYS AT ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL HIGH SCHOOL



Last year's Vocations Days was "snowed out" so we made it up this year. Above: Large crowd before Mass; Concelebrants were incensed by servers. Below: Sister displays her Rosary—all 15 decades; Bishop addresses participants; & a student listens intently.



VALENTINE'S DAY – SERRANS CELEBRATE MARRIAGE



The annual Valentine's Day Mass and Dinner that is sponsored by the Southeast Serra Club was held at Avila on February 14. Father Sean Patrick McCaffery celebrated Mass and gave a memorable talk on what "Marriage Really Is". The story about the Bahamas will be remembered but never spoken about again--maybe. Right above: the Wards, Haakes, Derks and Tom Bax. Below: Carol Miller, the Fishers, Norma Mauer, Dorothy, Tom Baker; Louann and Charlie Huffman; & the Cirinciones and the Shaws.



Mark Your Calendars

March 2019	April 2019	May 2019
<p><i>(Set date for Christmas Dinner—Call Bishop)</i></p> <p>6 Ash Wednesday: Mass and Lunch—12:00 Noon St. P. (New website will be rolled out.)</p> <p>8-14 Nat'l Catholic Sisters Week</p> <p>12 Board Meeting-4:30pm St.P.</p> <p>20 Mass and Lunch- 12noon St.P Seminarian Garret King to speak (Election of Officers today)</p>	<p><i>(submit credentials for Club Delegate to International Convention & SI Awards nominations)</i></p> <p>3 Mass and Breakfast- 7:00 am St. E. Father Thomas OSB, St. Catherine's</p> <p>6-8 Encounter with God's Call-Conception</p> <p>9 Board Meeting-4:30pm St. P.</p> <p>17 Mass and Lunch- 12 noon St. P --A Sister to talk for Blisters for Sisters</p> <p>21 Easter</p> <p>27 Spring Leadership Planning Meeting</p>	<p>1 Year End Reports Due</p> <p>1 Mass and Lunch- 12 noon St. P</p> <p>2 National Day of Prayer</p> <p>4 Blisters for Sisters @ STM</p> <p>7 Joint Board Meeting St.P</p> <p>14 World Day Prayer for Vocations</p> <p>18 Ordination of Transitional Deacons</p> <p>15 NO MEETING</p> <p>21 Installation of Officers-Banquet STM</p> <p>25 Ordinations to the Priesthood</p> <p>27 Memorial Day</p> <p>31 Incoming President & VP Reports Due</p>

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