



# THE SERRA-NADER

**Club #25**

**District XII - 2E**

**Region #9**

**January, 2022**

## Letter from Club President Jon Haden (January 13, 2022)

Greetings and Happy New Year from your club president.

We are still trying to navigate the obstacles posed by the pandemic. In July 2021 we resumed the club's in-person meetings on a monthly basis with Mass and gathering at Our Lady of Good Counsel, the Westport-area parish for which our chaplain Fr. Adam Johnson serves as pastor. We have kept up the in-person monthly meeting at OLOGC, and have enjoyed some great speakers, including Fr Jim Caime, SJ (St. Francis Xavier Parish pastor and world missionary), Mark Sappington (former professional baseball player who is on staff at OLOGC), Dr. Murray (headmaster at Chesterton Academy of Kansas City), and Dr. Rick Janet (professor at Rockhurst University). I encourage you to attend these monthly club meetings; our next one is 12 noon on Wednesday, February 2 at OLOGC.

In addition to our monthly meetings, we have hosted and enjoyed several other events this past quarter. In September, a number of our members volunteered at the annual Priest's Appreciation Day at Lion's Gate Golf Club/St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Leawood. From a distance we celebrated the diaconate ordination of Paul Sappington, who was ordained in Rome, with his family, Bishop Johnston and our club chaplain, Fr. Adam Johnson, in attendance. In October our club members Jerry and Mo Haake and Dick and Daffy Shaw attending the Serra International Convention in Chicago, and

several of our members attended the Pitching for Priests event at KC Monarchs Stadium to support the clergy from both the Diocese of KCSJ and the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. In early December we hosted our annual Chili Dinner at St. Thomas More as a fundraiser for the seminarians' lake weekend; despite a late "flexing" decision by the NFL which created a conflict with the Chiefs game, we had a good turnout and successful event. On December 20 we hosted our annual Bishop's Mass and Dinner for the Seminarians and their families, which was well-attended.

Finally, Jerry and Mo Haake attended the Serra International Rally in Dallas in mid-January.

Please check the club calendar printed in this edition for coming events, and continue to check it on our website, which we will update regularly. Our upcoming club meetings will be on February 2, March 2 (Ash Wednesday), and April 6 at Our Lady of Good Counsel. Our club is co-hosting the St. John Vianney Lunch on February 17 at Hotel Kansas City, a new event to support the seminarians of the Diocese of KCSJ. We will put on a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Vocation Day on February 23 at St. Michael the Archangel High School in Lee's Summit. Due to the pandemic, we will not have a Blisters for Sisters event in 2022, but we are planning an alternate way to recognize, support and show appreciation for religious women in our metro area. Finally, please mark your calendars for Wednesday evening, May 4 to celebrate our Club 25's 75<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary with a dinner at Hallbrook Country Club, during which we will install our officers and trustees for 2022-23.

I appreciate your continuing financial support of the club, even during the curtailment of some of our activities during the pandemic. We have continued to support our priests, seminarians and religious, and the promotion of vocations, in many ways, including the events described above. We have also provided financial support to the new Serra Club in St. Joseph, MO, the St. John Vianney Lunch, and a mission trip by students at St. Michael the Archangel High School. And last summer we made \$10,000 donation to the Diocesan Vocation Office's new discernment center at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish.

I continue to be grateful for the service of our officers and trustees, who are working hard to plan and implement club activities in the face of pandemic challenges

Finally, I would like to welcome Jeff Mattern, a new member who were inducted at the at the Seminarians Mass in December. The future of our club depends on recruiting new members, and I encourage each of you to join in this effort.

Take care and God bless.

Jon Haden

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## District Governor News

Last week, I attended a St. Serra Rally in Dallas and learned a few things of which you might have interest. We attended Mass each day and Eucharistic Adoration was available throughout the weekend.

The clarity of thought by the three bishops who addressed us was refreshing: smart, well informed, and realistic. We learned that in the last 20 years, seminarian numbers and ordinations have trended down a bit. The peak in vocation numbers in the U.

S. was in the late 60's. Recent 20-year trends look better. We Serrans still have work to do.

Some key thoughts made:

“Speak O Lord, for your servant is listening”: In our work within our clubs, don't wait to be called, step up and make your willingness to serve known.

Priesthood is a unique calling and not for everyone. At the same time sin is keeping the called from willingness. Encourage prayer, Eucharistic adoration to those considering a vocation. The Holy Spirit calls the willing.

Need for friendship. This carries, commitment, responsibilities, courtesy, and respect. To be a friend does not mean to be a peer. Within a club, friendship takes work and respect for the dignity of each individual.

While many other thoughts were presented, I think the issues facing our Serran communities are similar:

1. How to maintain a healthy new member function. New members bring new ideas and new energy.
2. Our aging out of current members.
3. Creating a message that energizes our mission. We learned at the Rally how our Catholic faith is integrated into and dependent on the culture we create in our businesses, our families and our personal life.
4. Bringing the St. Serra mission to our youth and college campuses, bringing our mission to each of our catholic schools and parishes.

Finally, many discussions on how the SerraUS.org website presents the Spark programs. Maybe a good idea to have a “SPARK minute” at each club meeting to share one of the 28 programs.

Peace, Love and Mercy to you and your families,

Wayne Snyder, St. Serra District Governor

Diocese of Kansas City/St. Joseph

## Letter from Our Chaplain

Dear Serrans,

All our seminarians are now back at school for the start of a new semester, and we are pleased to welcome four new seminarians this year.

It was a great summer and wonderful to have all our seminarians back home. The men in theology were assigned to different parishes and the men in college worked to help pay for a portion of their tuition. The summer ended with a trip to the Lake of the Ozarks sponsored by the Serra Club. Many of the Serrans were there to prepare meals and take the seminarians out on boats. Everyone had a really great time.

We are excited about all the events this year for the men who are discerning priesthood. In addition to a monthly discernment night at Good Counsel, we will have a series of regional "Come and See" dinners throughout the Diocese. There is also an Encounter Weekend at Conception

Seminary and a Quo Vadis weekend retreat at the Sisters of St. Francis in Independence.

We also recently completed all the construction on the third-floor discernment house at Our Lady of Good Counsel. This will now be a place where men who are discerning the priesthood can live and pray in an intentional way.

Later this month, I will travel to Rome with Bishop Johnston for the Diaconate Ordination of one of our seminarians, Paul Sappington. Paul will be ordained a deacon on September 30<sup>th</sup> in St. Peter's Basilica.

Please continue to pray for all of the men who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood. I remain very grateful for your support.

In Christ and Mary,

Fr. Adam Johnson

Club Chaplain

## In Memory of Our Fellow Serrans

*Who have left our world and joined hands with our loving God in heaven.*

*May their souls and all the souls of faithfully departed rest in peace through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Fr. Pete O'Sullivan (Brother of Jim O'Sullivan)  
December 23, 1955 - September 25, 2020

Rev. Peter Glenn O'Sullivan, 65, priest of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, was born December 23, 1955 to James F and Margaret R O'Sullivan. He faithfully served as a diocesan priest for 38 years. He died on October 9, 2021 after a brief but brave battle against head and neck cancer. He was a beloved brother, adored uncle, teacher, coach, mentor chaplain and friend. A talented storyteller and compelling, but relatable homilist, he was truly a humble servant.

When recently asked what his goals are, he related, "I just want to help people." The outpouring of stories about Pete on hearing about his death show he met that goal. Pete did the little things that matter. He attended countless sporting events, visitations, hospitals, hospices and homes. Yet, he never talked about how tirelessly he worked. He continued to meet with parishioners as he was able up until he was hospitalized himself.

Pete grew up in Shawnee, Kansas where he was salutatorian of St. Joseph High School class of 1974. He was a star athlete playing on the offensive line for football and doing hurdles in track. He was an

All-State football player and was selected to play in the inaugural Shrine Bowl and later gave the invocation at the 10th anniversary game.

He received a football scholarship to Washburn University where he played until an injury his junior year. He was getting his degree in mathematics, history and education with plans to coach and teach. From there he went to the US Marine Corp in Quantico, Virginia. During Lent that year, he attended Mass every day at 6 am in the morning where he discerned his vocation. He attended St. Louis University where he received a Master's in Theology.

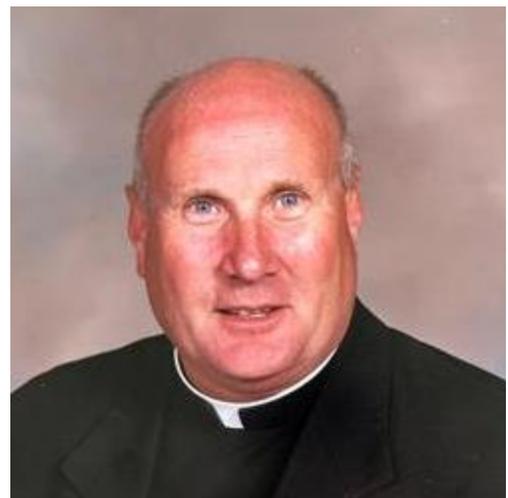
Pete was ordained at St. Joseph Church in Shawnee, Kansas on June 4, 1983. He served as a deacon at Annunciation Catholic Church in Frankfort, Ks. His first ten years as a priest he also taught at the local Catholic high schools where he served. His first parish was Christ the King, in Kansas City, Kansas where he taught at Bishop Ward High School for three years. From there, he went to Topeka at Assumption and St. Joseph parishes. While in Topeka, he taught at Hayden Catholic High School for four years. Next, he was pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Nortonville and Immaculate Conception in Valley Falls while teaching at Maur Hill Academy for three years. Next, he was sent to St. Pius in Mission and then to Emporia, where he served both Sacred Heart and St. Catherine's Parishes and helped both with new buildings. He returned to Topeka at Christ the King and then was reassigned to Queen of the Holy Rosary in Overland Park, Kansas. He was serving at Holy Trinity parish in Paola at the time of his death.

Pete was a straight shooter. He enjoyed a good Cabernet or an IPA. A lifelong athlete, he discovered golf as an adult and became hooked. He is a former marathon runner and took to walking after a knee injury. He loved cooking and smoking meat, trying out his own recipes on the family at holiday gatherings- some with more success than others. Pete liked a good game of trivia and was known to spout off events that happened on a

particular date years ago. His family provided the source of many of his sermons and they ask that you remember that Pete had the gift of blarney. Pete could not sit still and was always on the move. He was known to be a big fan of whatever team KU happened to be playing. His collection of jerseys and hats is renowned.

He ministered to a group of nuns originally from Mexico at St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison and was able to travel with them on a pilgrimage to Mexico. While in Emporia, Pete convinced their Mother Superior to send some sisters to minister to the large Hispanic community there. Pete could communicate with his Spanish-speaking parishioners and was also fluent in sign language. A true Irish Catholic, he was fortunate to go to Ireland on a family trip where he visited the town where his grandfather was born. He always carried a rosary in his pocket. "I'll tell ya what" - he was one of the good ones.

Pete is survived by his siblings, Janet (Dennis) Cawley, Margaret O'Sullivan, and James (Kathy) O'Sullivan and their progeny, Debbie Moeller, Carolyn Cawley, Michelle (Chris) Masoner, Jennifer Cawley, Meredith (Chris) Mays, James P. O'Sullivan, Remi, Mack and Hollis Moeller, James, Paul and Maggie Masoner and Giles and Fiona Mays.



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Nancy Brogan (Wife of former member Mike Brogan)  
January 31, 1932 - July 3, 2021

Nancy was born March 11, 1947 to Luther and Doris Hinds in New Bedford, MA.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her husband, Michael; son, Shawn Brogan; a brother, Rick Hinds.



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John F. Wilcox  
August 21, 1944 – December 12, 2021

John was born on August 21, 1944, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He was the son of George William and Rita D. (Keating) Wilcox. He attended Rockhurst College before joining the Army in 1965. John was a helicopter pilot and served two tours in Vietnam. After leaving active duty, John earned his bachelor's degree and MBA from Northwest Missouri State University. He continued his military career in the Army National Guard, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1988.

He was an active member of the Serra Club 25 since 2015. John was also a member of many fraternal organizations including the Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. Earning his Eagle Scout in 1962 he became a life-long Scouter, and continued as a Boy Scout leader for the rest of his life. John earned numerous military and civilian awards for his work.

Many of his Serra colleagues who sat and talked with him noted that he always shared an interesting story about his military experience and responsibilities.

He John was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Regina. He is survived by six children: John (Melissa) Wilcox, Jr., Betsy (Dean) Zoellner, James (Mary) Wilcox, Carrie (Cameron) Horton, Julie (Joe Kannady) Wilcox, and Cathy (Brent) Chapman and his seventeen grandchildren.



# Serra Chili Dinner



# CORE Golf Tournament



# Seminarian Dinner





# Serra International



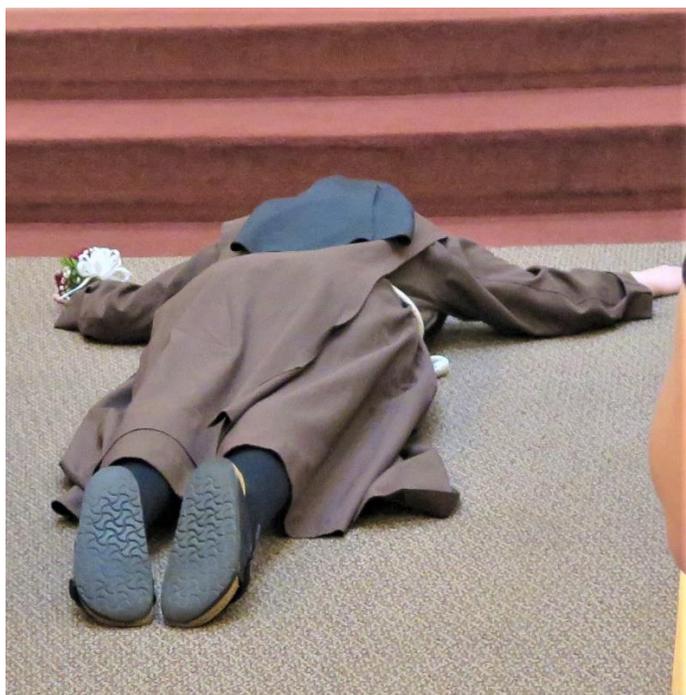
# Serra Club North Devine Wine and Dine



## Serra Meetings



# Sister Colette Jaros Final Vows



## Mark Your Calendars

| February 2022                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | March 2022                                                                                                                                                                                        | April 2022                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>2</b> Mass and Lunch – 12n OLOGC</p> <p><b>5-6</b> World Day for Consecrated Life</p> <p><b>7</b> Vocation Mass, 9am – The Catholic Center</p> <p><b>8</b> Board Meeting - 4p St. Peter</p> <p><b>17</b> St. John Vianney Lunch, The Catholic Center</p> <p><b>23</b> 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Vocation Days, St. Michael the Archangel High School</p> | <p><b>2</b> Mass and Lunch- 12n OLOGC</p> <p><b>7</b> Vocation Mass, 9am – The Catholic Center</p> <p><b>8</b> Board Meeting - 4p St. Peter</p> <p><b>8-14</b> National Catholic Sisters Week</p> | <p><b>6</b> Mass and Lunch- 12n OLOGC</p> <p><b>11</b> Vocation Mass, 9am – The Catholic Center</p> <p><b>10-16</b> Palm Sunday/Holy Week</p> <p><b>12</b> Board Meeting - 4p St. Peter</p> <p><b>17</b> Easter Sunday/Resurrection of Jesus Christ</p> |

## 2021-22 Club 25 Officers and Trustees

|                          |                 |                                        |                                                  |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <i>President</i>         | Jon Haden       | <i>VP-Vocations</i>                    | Kevin Conner                                     |
| <i>President-Elect</i>   | Mike Van Dyke   | <i>Historian</i>                       | Dick Shaw                                        |
| <i>Past President</i>    | Vince Sabia     | <i>Chaplain</i>                        | Fr. Adam Johnson                                 |
| <i>Secretary</i>         | Mike O’Flaherty | <i>Serra Nader Editor</i>              | John Froeschl                                    |
| <i>Treasurer</i>         | Ken Woodward    | <i>Serra Foundation Representative</i> | Jeff Randolph                                    |
| <i>VP-Communications</i> | Frank Clifford  | <i>Friends of Serra</i>                | John Massman                                     |
| <i>VP-Membership</i>     | Jerry Cook      | <i>Two-Year Trustees</i>               | Danny Bonderer<br>Tom Kenagy                     |
| <i>VP-Programs</i>       | Jana Cirincione | <i>One-Year Trustees</i>               | Rey Gonzalez<br>Lawrence Freeman<br>Edward Greim |

Checkout our website at [www.serrakcmo.org](http://www.serrakcmo.org).