



**DISTRICT
CALENDAR
2011-12**

Nov. 19-20, 2011
Region 8 Convention/Retreat
“Round Table”@ 10:00AM, Fri.

March 13, 2012
Presidents Training
8 to 12 AM
St. Paul Seminary

April 21, 2012
Spring Leadership Training
St. John Vianney Seminary
8:00AM Registration

2011-2012
Team Vianney nights
Thursday, October 20, 2011
Thursday, December 1, 2011
Thursday, February 2, 2012
Thursday, April 12, 2012



DISTRICT OVERVIEW

by Bill Ohnsted, District 7 Governor

Now that we have the summer behind us with all the summer family activities, we will have to start being active with our Serra ministry. We have many items that will be coming up in the fall and winter months so let’s all get involved.

We will be making some changes in the way we’ve been doing things. We have not been getting our newsletter out but twice a year and the last one was sent out in December 2010. We have to have more communication with all of the clubs. Due to the cost of sending the letters out in the mail, we will discontinue this practice and start sending them E-mail to all of the Presidents and also the Communications VP’s for distribution to **each member** of your clubs via e-mail or printed copies to those who do not have e-mail. We will try to get a newsletter out each quarter and I will send out news reports on the other months.

I want to start my club visits soon and try to get them completed before our Serra Retreat and Fall Conference on November 18th to the 20th. I will be contacting each of you for some dates to visit your clubs.

I did not attend the Serra International Convention which was held in Ottawa, Ontario Canada but Mary Mamer, District Governor from 7 South, did and I am including her report to her Clubs in this issue.

We have a change in our District leadership! Bob Labat has accepted the position of Membership VP on the USAC Board. We express our sincere “thanks” to Bob for his years of service to Region 8, District 7 and wish him the best. We also welcome Gary Davis as our new Region 8 Director. Gary is a Past President of USAC and a Past District 7 Governor. You can be assured he will provide excellent leadership for our Region.

We also have some funds for distribution from the District Vocation Fund. The Vocation Fund Committee will be meeting in September for distribution. We will let you know where the funds will be going. The Midway Annual Steak Fry will be held on Monday, September 19, 2011, at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity, 2260 Summit Avenue. Please try to attend. It is a cost of \$30.00 for guests and other Serran members. You will be able to meet the young men studying to be our priests.

Keep in mind the Fall Conference and Serra Retreat this Fall, November 18th to the 20th. A tentative agenda is in this newsletter so you can plan to attend the whole event. Register for the Retreat soon – it fill us fast. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.
William M. (Bill) Ohnsted

“ prayer united with fasting is the most powerful force in human history.” Blessed John Paul II

Priests give us the Eucharist and because all that is evil hates the Eucharist, Priests need the power of our prayers. Fasting is praying with the body.

Asia, Africa, Europe and North America will participate Oct. 22

**Serrans are invited to participate in
6th Annual Lay Fast for Priests 2011
Offered in common with the whole body of Christ
Lay people fast for our priests –
Past – Present – And Future
Saturday, 22 October 2011
Dawn until 3:00 PM**



To Serrans of Region 8
 by Bob Labat,
 USAC VP of Membership

It was a privilege and honor to follow Dr. Tracy as Regional Director the past three years and now to know an even more capable Serran, Gary Davis, (Past USAC President and SI Trustee) will be the new R.D. During the past three years we have many positive things occur in the Region, a new Club formed in Wabasha County and several others now under consideration both in Minnesota, North Dakota and possibly even in South Dakota. We have lost some members (going to heaven to report to Our Lord) and some moving on to other endeavors. As many other groups have been challenged due to the economic conditions, etc., so have we but Region 8 still has a solid base of Clubs and hardworking and dedicated Serrans working for vocations. That, fellow Serrans is the key factor we must keep in mind.

Like our patron, Blessed Junipero Serra who faced many challenges and many opportunities to give up, he did not..."always forward, never back." What a powerful and meaningful slogan for all us both as individuals and as Serrans.

As many would agree the most devastating event recently was the misguided (my personal opinion) lawsuit by SI against the Serra United States Council. Please keep in mind the Council approach was voted into existence by the CLUBS in 1994 to assist the Clubs in their vocation work by providing more training, advice and resources than was available before. Anyone examining the history and effectiveness of USAC would have to agree it has done a wonderful job AND if we keep supporting USAC it will do even more for Clubs and members in the future. Always remember, USAC was formed FOR the CLUBS and its members, not for SI. I know many Serran leaders and members throughout the country have benefited from the help, advice and resources received from USAC (staff and USAC leaders) over the years. As a member of the USAC Board the past three years and now serving on the Executive Committee, I see this first hand and am most impressed. Can we do more and do it better? Absolutely, always room for improvement and growth and now I see the lawsuit situation as a great opportunity! Why?

All of us now have an opportunity to analyze, evaluate and duly consider where we have been, where we are at and were and HOW do we want to go in the future? Be assured the relationship we have with SI is, and will be, fully reviewed and eventually (upon removal of the lawsuit) be revised and/or modified in a manner that will benefit our Serra mission of VOCATION WORK more effectively and efficiently in the future. Any thoughts you have in this area, please let me know.
 Bob Labat, USAC, VP of Membership

REGION 8'S UNSUNG ANGEL: HAL DURRETT

This is the man whose e-mail needs your utmost attention. He's the brains and the brawn behind the massive Region 8 Directory but he can only do his magic if Clubs respond to his update requests. He needs to know when a member joins or when one dies or (perish the thought) if one resigns. Courtesy demands we help Hal by answering his e-mail requests ASAP. If you can't do it, be sure somebody from your club can and does.



INCREDIBLE???

DULUTH CLUB INDUCTS 11 NEW MEMBERS & 3 MEMBERS RECEIVE 50 YEAR PINS.

On May 16th, 2011 the Duluth Serra Club inducted their new club officers, inducted 11 new members to the club and gave out years of service pins.

- 19 10 year pins,
- 14 25 year pins and
- 3 50 year pins



The above photo of the 50 year recipients shows:
 l to r: Tom Dougherty, member since 1951, Clarence Laliberte, member since 1954 and Bernie Kolar, member since 1957.

Combined total of these three members equals 171 years of prayers and service for vocations. All three are still involved in the Serra Ministry.

Congratulations to these outstanding Serra members and to the entire Club for their membership growth and longevity.

"In the designs of Providence there are no mere coincidences." JP11

'TIS A CONUNDRUM!!!!
A logical postulation that evades resolution, an intricate and difficult problem
definition from Wikipedia

Ageing Clubs and Shrinking Clubs
 When the need for more vocations is critical, is merging our Clubs, the answer? Or is expanding our personal outreach and our personal effort the answer?

Many members of Serra are sons or daughters of Serrans. Have **you** invited **your** children? (Maybe you could offer to pay their first year dues if they cannot afford them and you are able to.)

Do you have other solutions or suggestions?

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SERRA EXISTS WHERE THE CLUBS ARE

by Region 8 Director Gary Davis

Recently, I have noticed that some of our clubs are afflicted with a certain malaise that has not been common for Serra clubs in our region.

After a certain amount of discussion it appears that this condition is due to the actions initiated by Serra International in starting a legal action against the United States Council of Serra based on what appears to be a most questionable set of facts.

Unfortunately, this action has caused some people to question the wisdom of inviting new members to join their club or to doubt the benefit of supporting new vocation activities in their area. Should one question what the "authorities" are saying about our Serra Council? Have we been doing the wrong things all these years?

These might seem to be good, valid questions until we remember one thing----the important work of Serra takes place in the clubs, not in an office in Chicago or in a courtroom in the Windy City!

It is at the club level where we invite young men and women to consider if they might have a vocation. It is the clubs that get together to put on a priests and religious appreciation dinner. It is Serra club members who rent vans and buses to take grade school youth to local seminaries and novitiates to learn about training for priesthood and religious life. A list of the vocation-related actions taken by our Serra clubs could go on and on. It is in the clubs where Serra really lives!

It should be pointed out that our international organization and our national councils are primarily support organizations whose prime purpose is to support our local clubs not to make things more difficult for them.

Based on my experience with our United States Council I believe that it does an excellent job of supporting the Serra clubs in the United States. Nonetheless, our clubs are like members of the infantry. It is the clubs that have their feet on the ground and do their best to fight the battle and to win the vocation "war."

Please remember when you feel down, distraught, or unmotivated after hearing that there is a legal wrangling going on, that the important work of Serra goes on in the clubs. Work hard at the club level and ignore most of the rest. That way you will be doing the real and important work of Serra.

Gary A. Davis Regional Director, Region #8

"Always go forward ... never back".

SERRANS ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY

FOR THEIR OFFICE

When we are sworn into a position of responsibility in our Club, part of the swearing in ceremony asks if you accept these responsibilities and we all answered with our personal "YES."

One of the biggest of those responsibilities is a prompt response to requests we receive from those in positions above us so they can do their jobs.

The District Governor needs a response to his requests, whatever they may be. He is there to help you but you need to communicate with him for District 7 to remain the outstanding District it has come to be known as throughout the USA.

The most valuable tool our leaders have is the Directory of Serrans. It is of little value if it is not correct, or not current. Members who are deceased or who have moved out of our area must be removed from our rosters or dues accounting becomes a near impossible task. Although the President is ultimately responsible for this reporting, the Treasurer is the logical person to provide the information to him/her so it can be sent to USAC and to our Directory keeper, who at this time is Hal Durrett. The directory is updated twice a year so be on the alert for this request.

WHAT LOCAL CLUBS ARE DOING

The **Midway** annual Seminarian Steak Fry, September 19th is open to all Serrans with a prior reservation.

North-Minneapolis hosted the John Paul II Traveling Monstrance on its recent visit to the twin cities.

St. Paul Midway and **St. Paul Downtown** Clubs will be joining each other for special gatherings and events. The Clubs will alternate hosting the events.

Wright County held their annual Appreciation Picnic at King's House.

St. Cloud was asked to host ordinations at the Cathedral.

VOCATION VICE PRESIDENTS ALERT

Watch for a survey from USAC Vocations Committee.

The USA Council Vocations Committee is requesting your help in having the clubs complete this survey in order to prepare and respond to club vocations programs needs and best practices.

Complete the survey and be prepared to give it to your District Governor when he/she visits your club.



MARY MAMER, DISTRICT 7S
GOVERNOR, REPORTS ON THE
2011 SERRA INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION

“Thank you for the privilege of being your delegate or proxy at the **Serra International Convention** in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. It was a delight to mingle with many of our Serra Leaders: members of both the Serra International and the US Council of Serra International, Regional Directors, District Governors, Club Officers, and others who attended.

As I reflect on the convention, I have come to the realization that the process of resolving the issues will take some time, but I felt that some progress was made. It is a difficult, but not impossible task, for the members of both boards to come to a resolution soon. They and all Serrans need to work, think, and pray in an atmosphere of trust and respect, in order to change hearts and come to a resolution.

We have a great opportunity to re-examine all aspects of both SI and USAC and determine the necessary changes to be even more effective and efficient in the work of encouraging and affirming vocations. The most important element of Serra is club members working for vocations, enhancing their spiritual growth, and having fun.

I urge you to continue the vocation work that you have begun, recruit more members for this important work, continue with your good meeting programs, and increase the communication messages about our Serra mission and objectives. In other words, keep on doing all the wonderful work that you are doing for the sake of Serra and the Church and let those in authority take care of coming to a solvable resolution.

The keynote speaker was Most Reverend Gary Gordon, Bishop of the Yukon Territory and the northern part of British Columbia. He presented his entire talk, *Sincerity and Truth in Jesus Christ*, with only a few scribbled notes. He spoke from the heart! It was a powerful message—one of the best we have ever heard. It was delivered with conviction and understanding of those he serves. He showed so much gratitude for the little things, respect for those he served, and understanding of their life style. He drove many miles to celebrate Mass for them which is once a month at each Parish.”

Editor’s note: Mary will be reporting on the Bishop’s speech as she visits her 7S Clubs. For those of you interested in hearing his entire message, DVD’s are available through Serra Int’l.

“Various convention functions and speakers have been professionally recorded and are available for purchase. Click on the convention of your choice to see the all the available titles. Most titles are available for immediate digital download or you can choose to have your selection(s) mailed to you.”..... from SI website

69th International Convention Ottawa, Ontario - July 7-10, 2011
See Serra International web site (serra.org) for more details.

District 7 Newsletter

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REGION 8 CONVENTION & RETREAT
November 18-20, 2011
Tentative Schedule

Convention activities begin Friday, at 10:00 A.M.

10:00 7,7S & 7W Round Table Discussions

Lunch available

1:00 PM Region 8 General Meeting

3:00 PM Break into Districts for District Meetings

Region 8 Reception 4:00 P.M.

Dinner available

Retreat Registration: Friday, November 18 at 7:00pm

Concludes: Sunday, November 20 at 12:45pm

Living in the Love of the Holy Trinity
Retreat Master: Bishop Victor Balke
Bishop Emeritus of Crookston, MN

You may register for retreats via phone call or email:

Christ the King Retreat Center

621 First Ave. South
Buffalo MN 55313

Phone: (763) 682-1394

email: christtheking@kingshouse.com

A **non-refundable** deposit of \$30 per person is required to reserve a space

Today's Top Vocation Activities
(from USAC website)

Special days for vocations

There are four times in the liturgical year that are great for promoting Vocations

1. **National Priesthood Sunday Oct. 30, 2011.** If you go to www.serraus.org and click on National Priesthood Sunday it will give you a lot of great ideas You can also go to www.priestsunday.org. Selected materials are en español, for liturgy planning guide and the religious education materials are now in Spanish.

Consider putting a basket in the vestibule and having parishioners write Thank You card for your pastor or any priest who was important in their life.

2. **National Vocation Awareness Week January 9-14, 2012**
3. **World Day for Consecrated Life Feb 5, 2012.**
4. **World Day of Prayer for Vocations Apr 29, 2012.**

See www.serraus.org

Search under vocations for more ideas for #'s 2, 3 & 4

