



## SERRA CLUB OF DUPAGE COUNTY – DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Encouraging and affirming vocations to the priesthood and religious life through prayer and active fellowship since 1958

### THE SERRA NEWS – DECEMBER 2009

#### **CALENDAR DECEMBER**

**Members welcome at all meetings. Guests welcome at monthly meetings, (dinner is optional at \$15).**

#### **12 Saturday**

Monthly meeting of officers beginning with mass at 8:15 a.m. at Visitation Church in Elmhurst. Meeting in Madonna Hall following mass. **Please note new time and location for this meeting.**

#### **28 Monday**

Monthly vocation mass and dinner meeting at St. Petronille Church beginning with rosary at 6:00 PM. Fr. Burke Masters, Vocation Director, will be the celebrant and speaker. **Note date for this meeting.**

#### **FR. BURKE MASTERS TO SPEAK AT DECEMBER 28 SERRA MASS AND DINNER MEETING**

*Note: Fr. Burke joins us at about this time each year to celebrate the Eucharist and to share the state of Vocations in the Diocese.*

Fr. Burke was born December 17, 1966 and raised in Joliet, IL, the youngest of three sons to Tod and Janet Masters. He was not raised Catholic but attended Providence Catholic High School in order to move closer to his dream of becoming a Major League baseball player. It was at Providence that Fr. Burke fell in love with the Eucharist and the Catholic Church. He became Catholic his senior year in high school.

He went on to play baseball at Mississippi State University, where he played in the College World Series. His major league dream did not materialize, so after working as an actuary, and then ticket manager for the Kane County Cougars, Fr. Burke felt the call to become a priest.

He attended Mundelein Seminary from 1997-2002 and was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Joliet in June of 2002. He served for four years as associate pastor at St. Mary's Parish in West Chicago, IL.

In June of 2006 he became the Vocation Director for the Diocese of Joliet. He now travels around the diocese to encourage young men and women to lay down their lives for the sake of Jesus Christ.

#### **FR. MATTHEW PRATSCHER APPOINTED SERRA CLUB OF DUPAGE CHAPLAIN**

*We are pleased to welcome Fr. Matt Pratscher as Chaplain of the Serra Club of DuPage County. He succeeds Fr. Dan Bachner who served as Club Chaplain for the past two years. Fr. Matt provides the following item for our readers.*

My twin sister Genevieve and I were born on August 4, 1982, in Honolulu, Hawaii to Dan and Christine Pratscher, and we have two younger brothers: Josh and Jake (Jake is currently a freshman in college seminary for the Diocese of Joliet). My dad served in the Marines, and so I was born in Hawaii, where we lived until I was two and a half, and then we moved to Florida, Maryland, and ultimately Romeoville, Illinois in 1990 in order to be near family—both of my parents are from the Darien/Downers Grove area. We became parishioners at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Romeoville, and it was there that I went to grade school. I graduated from Joliet Catholic Academy in 2000 and then went to St. John Vianney College Seminary at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, where I graduated in 2004. I graduated from the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in May, 2008 and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Joliet on Saturday, June 7, 2008 in the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet, Illinois. I was then given my present assignment, which is to serve the Parish of the Visitation in Elmhurst as parochial vicar.

I owe my vocation first of all to my family (after the Holy Spirit, of course.). It is there where I have learned to encounter Christ in the Catholic traditions, and it is there where I have learned to live and love. I have been blessed to attend Catholic schools and develop many lasting relationships in these schools and in my parish. I also gained a familiarity with and love for the Eucharist as an altar server. I was very active in youth ministry in high school, and it was during that time that I felt a nudge to enter the seminary. It was also during that time that I grew in my desire to know the Bible, pray, and serve. I led a weekly Bible study, led prayers for the youth ministry, earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and went on mission trips to Bolivia and Appalachia. Despite many doubts and fears, I entered the college seminary where I grew in love for Christ in the Church and the Blessed Sacrament, in his people and in the Tradition.

I am grateful to the Serra Club of DuPage County for all of its support and prayers over the years, and I am excited to serve as its chaplain. Know of my constant prayers for you, and please remember me in your prayers as well. In Christ, Fr. Matt Pratscher

#### **SERRAN THERESA GILBERT APPOINTED VP PROGRAMS FOR SERRA CLUB OF DUPAGE**

Theresa Gilbert, Serra and member of St. Elizabeth Seton parish will assume the open position of VP Programs. She will be responsible for arranging for speakers at the monthly mass and dinner meetings. We wish Theresa all the very best with her new responsibilities.

## GOING ON RETREAT

Serran Jim Korneschuk has previewed the "Going on Retreat" 5-disc set by Bishop Sheen and recommends it to our readers.

Digitally re-mastered on six audio CDs, *Going on Retreat* features eleven spiritual conferences originally delivered by Bishop Sheen to priests and seminarians in January of 1972. As you listen in your office, home, or car, these enlightening conferences will profoundly affect your soul as the beloved prelate opens wide his priestly heart. A gifted orator, theologian, and philosopher, Bishop Sheen offers colorful preaching on a variety of sensitive subjects including the nature of Christ and of the Priesthood, the remission of sin, the Holy Spirit, Our Blessed Mother, and more. The humor, intensity, and intellect of this great man of faith will refresh and restore your spirit to live the Faith with renewed zeal and conviction.

The CD (set #46) can be ordered by calling 1-800-526-2151 or going to the website, [www.saintjoe.com](http://www.saintjoe.com) (Saint Joseph Communications.) Questions may be referred to Jim at [jkornchex@yahoo.com](mailto:jkornchex@yahoo.com)

## NOMINATIONS FOR NEW SLATE OF SERRA OFFICERS THE NEW YEAR BEGINNING JUNE 1, 2010

Serran Trustee Peter Carey has been appointed Chairman of the Nominations Committee.

All Serrans should give serious consideration in becoming active in serving their club for the cause of vocations. We all have commitments so let's try to share a little in our lives by serving an organization that we are all proud to be a part of priestly vocations. Express your interest to serve to Peter Carey.

Newly elected officers will have several months to become familiar with their duties by working together with the current officers. The timeline is as follows:

December 1	Appointment of Nominations Chairman and Committee
February 6	Present new slate to officers.
February 15	Present nominations to members
March 15	Election of new officers & notify new officer slate to USAC and District Governor
May 17	Installation of New Officers
June 1	Newly elected officers take office

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THE FOLLOWING WHO ARE ILL

Fr. Tom Botheroyd, Serra Club former chaplain. Jim & Rita O'Toole, Betty Rosenbaum, Jim and Jeanne Cormack and Hugh Toner.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S - SEMINARIANS STUDYING FOR THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Serran's and others reading The Serra News are requested to take a few minutes and read about the Seminarians who are celebrating birthdays each month. Remember to pray for all of our Seminarians.

Consider taking a moment and sending a birthday, Easter or Christmas card with a personal message. And where possible consider including a gift card that could be used at McDonald's, Wal-Mart or wherever. Here are the addresses.

Mundelein Seminary	1000 E. Maple Ave.	Mundelein, IL 60060
Conception Seminary College	P.O. Box 501	Conception, MO 64433
North American College in Rome	00120 Vatican City State	Europe
Sts. Cyril and Methodius Seminary	3535 Indian Trail	Orchard Lake, MI 48324
St. John Vianney College Seminary	Mail #5024, 2115 Summit Avenue	St. Paul, MN 55105-1095
St. Meinrad School of Theology	200 Hill Drive	St. Meinrad, IN 47577

## Steven Borello Third Theology - Mundelein Seminary

My name is Steven Borello and I grew up in Glen Ellyn, Illinois with my parents, John and Penny and three sisters: Kathy, Nancy and Jackie. We have been life long parishioners at St. James the Apostle Parish in Glen Ellyn where I made my First Communion and received Confirmation. I was active in the parish as an altar server, youth representative to the Parish Council, and as a Eucharistic Minister. I attended Glen Crest Middle School and Glenbard South High School. After graduating from high school in the spring of 2005, I began studying chemistry and chemical engineering at the University of Illinois.

While at the University of Illinois, I went through two distinct phases. The first was a period of questioning the Church's teachings and traditions which prepared me for a deep conversion. The second phase was a period of transformation in which the faith my family handed on to me, became my own. At U of I, the Newman Center became like a second home. I joined a discernment group, bible studies, and the Koinonia retreat program. While in the discernment group, I realized that to my initial surprise the Lord asked me to enter seminary. Upon completion of my engineering degree, I began to study at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, for the Diocese of Peoria.

Following my three years in the Diocese of Peoria, where I attended the Institute for Priestly Formation, the Lord made me aware of the need to reexamine my discernment to the Diocese of Peoria. Over the next six months, I discerned that I was called to return to the Diocese of Joliet where the seeds of my vocation had been planted.

I have just completed part of my second year formation at Mundelein Seminary. It has truly been a blessed time for me. The Lord called me to a greater intimacy with him and allowed me to make numerous new friends. I am especially grateful to the diocese for placing me at Visitation Parish in Elmhurst for my pastoral internship. It was a great opportunity to grow pastoral formation. This past summer, I was a part of SET (seminarian evangelization team) and travel to six different parishes to work with first through twelfth graders teaching them about Christ using the Totus Tuus program. It was an exceptional joy to watch God work in these children's' lives.

I just finished the first quarter of my third year of theology at Mundelein and had the opportunity to serve my brothers at their ordination. It was truly a humbling experience realizing that in a year's time, I too with the bishop's approval will be ordained to the diaconate. This upcoming quarter is truly a special one because Mundelein Seminary sends the third theology class on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I ask that you please continue to pray for my classmates and myself as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. If you have

any prayer requests that you would like to have prayed for at the Holy sites in the Holy Land, please pass them along. Thank you again for your prayers and support. God Bless

**Steven's birthday is December 10, 1982**

**Jacob Pratscher                      Freshman - St. John Vianney Seminary**

Hi, my name is Jacob Pratscher. My home parish is St. Andrew the Apostle in Romeoville, IL. I am the youngest in my family; I was born on December 17, 1990. I live with my mom Christine who currently helps at the church, and my father Daniel who works at the U.S. Post Office in Plainfield. I have an older sister Genevieve Pratscher who lives at home, and my older brother Fr. Matthew Pratscher who is stationed at Visitation Parish in Elmhurst. My other brother Joshua lives in Minnesota working for Sprint and finishing an education.

I started school at St. Andrew for kindergarten to eighth grade. I started as an alter server there and started my relationship with the Lord. With my brother starting seminary, I started to think about the priesthood and his choice opened my eyes to the possibility. I went to Joliet Catholic Academy for high school, and became an Extraordinary Minister. I also became involved with the confirmation program at the church, the treasurer for the High School Youth Ministry at St. Andrew. At JCA I became involved with the religious club Upper Room and started to get more involved with my religion there. Since the beginning of my senior year of high school, Fr. Burke and I went through the application process where I got accepted on December 16, 2008.

With my brother I have visited St. John Vianney and came to start to have a desire to become a part of such happy people. I liked St. Thomas so much I already had my mind set on going there, so because I have decided to want to go there joining the seminarian program became easier. This past summer I worked at St. Andrew and volunteering where I could, in the community.

**Jacob's birthday is December 17, 1990**

**ADOPT-A-PRIEST PROGRAM**

With the concurrence and encouragement of Bishop Peter Sartain, the Serra Club has established the Adopt-A-Priest program for diocesan and religious priests in the diocese of Joliet. The purpose of Adopt-A-Priest is to insure that all our active and retired priests know that they are supported with prayer by Serrans and others.

The method of adoption is a lapel pin with a Roman collar against a black background with wording at the top "Serra for Vocations" and at the bottom "Adopt-A-Priest". Each pin is unique with inscription on the back of the pin which includes the adopted priest's initials and year of ordination.



The adopter is provided with the pin to wear. They are also provided with an introductory card with the name of the adopted priest along and a mailing envelope to mail to the priest. The card will also indicate the name of the adopted priest.

We encourage all of our readers and friends to Adopt-A-Priest **today**.

To Adopt-A-Priest mail a check for \$10 payable to Serra Club of DuPage County. You may adopt more than one priest. To insure that all priests are adopted, names will be assigned randomly.

Mail to Hugh Toner, PO Box 155, Westmont IL 60559. Net proceeds will go for the education of Diocese of Joliet Seminarians.

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS - CLERGY - DIOCESE OF JOLIET – PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OUR PRIESTS**

1 Rev. Robert J. Duda	St. John the Apostle, Villa Park
3 Rev. Ryan Larson	Sts. Peter and Paul, Naperville
4 Rev. Gregor Gorsic	St. Andrew the Apostle, Romeoville
4 Rev. Theodore D. Suchy, OSB	St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle
7 Rev. Vernon Arseneau	Sts. Mary & Joseph, Chebanse, & Clifton
8 Rev. Timothy Andres, O. Carm.	Joliet
8 Rev. Felipe DeJesus Legaretta	St. Mary, West Chicago
17 Rev. Burke Masters	Fiat House, Joliet
18 Rev. John Kloepfer	Retired-Virginia
18 Rev. Donald Kocher	St. Joan of Arc, Lisle
19 Rev. John Hornicak	St. Lawrence, South Wilmington
20 Rev. Dominic Morrissette	Retired-California
21 Rev. Robert Schuler	Notre Dame, Clarendon Hills
23 Rev. Robert Colaresi, O. Carm.	Director of Carmelite Spiritual Center, Darien
23 Rev. Dennis Settles	St. Martin of Tours, KKK
24 Rev. Richard Jacklin	Sacred Heart, Goodrich
26 Rev. Alfred Badawi	Our Lady of Lebanon, Lombard
29 Rev. Anthony Nugent	St. Joseph, Bradley
29 Rev. Marius Phan-Hong Suk	St. Andrew Kim, Itasca
30 Rev. Raymond Foster, O. Carm.	Prior-St. Elias Priory, Joliet

**Editors note.** You are receiving the December issue earlier than usual since I will be away for 2+ weeks. Beginning with Bethesda MD for Thanksgiving followed by visiting family in the Province of Quebec in Drummondville, Beloeil, Sherbrooke, Notre-Dame de Ile-Perrot and Montreal as well as Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario.

*WISHING ALL OUR READERS A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS*

**OBJECTIVES OF SERRA INTERNATIONAL**

To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support priests in their sacred ministry. To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church; and

To assist its members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

**THE SERRA NEWS**

The Serra News is distributed monthly by the Serra Club of DuPage County.

Contact Ron Beaumont at [rrboards@aol.com](mailto:rrboards@aol.com) or phone 630 858 4646 to be removed from the mailing list.