



# 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 – JANUARY 2010

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

### DECEMBER

**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. Serra Chaplain Fr. Matthew Pratscher will concelebrate. Seminarians present will include Vicente Fernandez, David Mowry, Ish Munoz, Jake Pratscher, Tom Reusz, Deogratias Massawe and Bill Vagenas. Reservations required. Contact Ron Beaumont 630 858 4646 by noon Saturday December 26.

### JANUARY

**9 Saturday**

Monthly officers meeting at St. Procopius Abbey beginning with 7:00 am mass.

**25 Monday**

Monthly mass and dinner meeting beginning with rosary at 6:00 PM at St. Petronille church. Celebrant and speaker will be Serra Chaplain Fr. Matthew Pratscher. **Note:** This meeting in on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday.

**Please rsvp to Joanne Carr at [carrgj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carrgj@sbcglobal.net) or 630 665 0994 by noon January 21<sup>st</sup>.**

### **VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK – JANUARY 9-16, 2010**

Vocation Awareness Week is January 9-16. This is an opportunity for Serran’s to contact their pastors and offer to assist them with promoting vocations. . Go to <http://www.vocations.com/nvaw/nvaw09/index.htm> for further information.

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

Jim & Rita O’Toole, Betty Rosenbaum, Jim & Jeanne Cormack, Hugh Toner, Gahan Hangsterfer. Jim McGonnagle and Dick Haymaker’s daughter Kate.

### **JANUARY 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

### **Michael Kearney First Theology - Mundelein Seminary**

I am truly blessed to share a small part of my story. I grew up in Naperville, Illinois with my parents and my two older sisters. I received my first Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Raphael’s in Naperville. My parents were always faithful taking my sisters and me to Sunday Mass. Yet as I was hitting my adolescence, I questioned, doubted, and was quite skeptical of my faith. And so when I went off to college to the University of Illinois to study engineering, I had no idea of the journey Our Lord had in store for me.

To my surprise, one of largest public schools in the nation would also have one of the greatest Newman Centers. I was blessed to have great formation, great priestly examples, and to be involved in a program called FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. It was there that I began to learn, desire and thirst to understand my faith in scripture. It was due to this thirst and desire, that after I graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Engineering, I decided to pursue that which I enjoyed the most; ministry. I worked for a year at Washington University in St. Louis as a campus ministry intern, followed by pursuing missionary work on University campuses for 3 years with FOCUS.

As a missionary I worked at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs for a year, and then as a Director of a FOCUS program in Kansas City for two years. I spent my time challenging men and women to live their faith. I received countless blessings of seeing students accepting and being challenged by their faith.

Amidst great consolation and joy, Christ had another challenge for me. He wanted me to join him in his cross; On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 I had a biopsy done to discover my diagnosis of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. Beginning March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006 I started my 6 months of Chemo-Therapy. It was during that time; God worked on my heart and gave me the strength to consider the life of the priesthood. It was at that moment, united in Christ’s suffering, that Christ called me to dedicate my life to his Church.

After two years of studying at the University of St. Thomas to fulfill my pre-theology requirements, I am now studying closer to home at the University of St. Mary of the Lake Major Seminary. I just finished my first quarter at Mundelein seminary. Being closer to home has been a true gift. Since my time at Mundelein, I have been able to make visits to see my family, help out with youth ministry programs in my diocese, help out with vocations, and take part in my home parish. I am looking forward to the next 3 and half years of studies and carrying that into ministry and prayer.  
**Michael's birthday is on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1981.**

### **William Vagenas                      Second Theology - Mundelein Seminary**

My name is Bill Vagenas and I am in my second year of theology at Mundelein Seminary located at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL.

I was born in Merrillville, IN but within a few years moved to Tinley Park, IL where I lived through first grade and attended St. George Catholic School. It was there that I first felt a calling to the priesthood. The following year my family moved to Hinsdale, IL where I attended Saint Isaac Jogues School from second through eighth grade. While there I was an altar server and loved it! After graduating I attended Hinsdale Central High School but I still stayed involved in my parish. I was very involved with the Youth Ministry and that led me to get involved with other committees as well. By my senior year I was a member of the Parish Council, Worship Commission, Christian Service Commission, Charitable Contributions Committee, and Youth Commission. I was also an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and I helped train the altar servers, all the while still desiring to be a priest.

After my four years of high school I applied to the Diocese of Joliet and went to Saint John Vianney College Seminary on the campus of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. I am extremely grateful for my time in Minnesota. It was there that I was able to grow in love and service of the Lord. I made strong and lasting friendships with people both in and out of the seminary. I also had the privilege to study in Rome for close to six months. It was truly a blessing to be able to walk the streets that so many saints and martyrs have walked before me and to be able to celebrate the Triduum, and Easter with our Holy Father, Benedict XVI.

Following my four years at Saint John Vianney Seminary and the University of St. Thomas I entered Mundelein Seminary where I am now in my second year of theological and pastoral studies. I continue to stay very involved in parish life as I find this to be a great source of joy and inspiration for me. I love to be with and to serve the people of God. This spring I will have the opportunity to work with the faithful of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Romeoville, IL as I begin my full-time pastoral internship. I look forward to the chance to minister to the wonderful people of Romeoville, of whom I have heard great things.

This past summer I had the opportunity to take part in a 10-week program offered by the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha, NE. It was a wonderful opportunity to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and to grow in self-knowledge.

I wish to thank the Serra Club for all that they do for me and the seminarians of the Diocese. It is truly a blessing and a great support knowing you are praying for all of us. Know that we here at the seminary pray for you often.

**William's birthday is on January 16, 1986**

### **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.

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

1 Rt. Rev. Dismas Kalcic, OSB	Abbot-St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle
1 Rev Alejandro Flores	Holy Family, Shorewood
2 Rev. Donald Bates	St. Jude, New Lenox
4 Rev. John Ohner, OSA	Our Mother of Good Counsel, Homer Glen
4 Rev. Michael O'Keefe, O. Carm.	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Darien

5 Rev. Michael McMillen, SCJ	Elmhurst Hospital, Elmhurst
5 Rev. Theodore Weitzel	St Raphael, Naperville
8 Rev. Gavin Quinn, O. Carm.	Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Darien
10 Rev. John Antczak	St. Joseph, Bradley
11 Rev. Thomas Borkowski	Wheaton Franciscans
11 Rev. Jose M. Valenzuela, OFM	St. John the Baptist, Joliet
12 Very Rev. John Welch, O. Carm.	Provincial-Carmelite Provincial Office, Darien
12 Rev Stanley Tabor	St. Mary Immaculate - Plainfield
15 Rev. Lee Bacchi	Assumption, Coal City
20 Eugene Hemrick	Washington, DC
20 Rev. Adam Bobola, SCh	Divine Mercy Polish Mission, Lombard
20 Rev Daniel Belanger, CSV	St. George, Bourbonnais
22 Rev Joseph Kudilil	St. Joseph, Rockdale
25 Rev. David Dillon, O. Carm.	St. Matthew, Glendale Heights
26 Rev. Rogelio Martinez-Rutcaga, OFM	St. John the Baptist, Joliet
30 Rev. Thomas Botheroyd	Sacred Heart, Lombard
30 Rev. Roger Kutzner	St. Joseph, Joliet
30 Rt. Rev. Hugh Anderson, OSB	Retired-St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle

## **WISHING ALL OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR**

### **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.