

serraUSA

Promoting Catholic vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life | SPRING 2010



*In thanksgiving
for the gift of our Priests
for their Service, Sacrifice, and Love*

*Members of the Serra Club
Cordially invite you to honor the Priests
of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
by your participation in the
"Celebrating Our Celebrants"
Jubilee Year for Priests Appreciation Dinner*

*Tuesday evening, the eleventh of May
in the Year of Our Lord, Two thousand and ten
Six o'clock - gathering Seven fifteen - dinner*

*Earle Brown Heritage Center
Brooklyn Center, Minnesota*

Rsvp requested by April 28, 2010

YEAR FOR PRIESTS FEATURE

Our patron, Blessed Junípero Serra | p. 3

THE HEALING MINISTRY OF FATHER DAMIEN

A journey to a sad island in paradise | p. 4

WHAT IS A "CULTURE FOR VOCATIONS"? | p. 7

The official publication of the
USA Council of Serra International

OUR MISSION: Our mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the ordained priesthood and vowed religious life in the United States, and through this ministry, foster and affirm our members' common Catholic faith.



COVER: Serra clubs in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Minn., are using this unusual and artistic invitation to announce their Year for Priests special celebration. Read about how it was created on page 8 of this issue.

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Editor: Anne McCormack

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Year for Priests: Padre Junípero Serra

By Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted,
Diocese of Phoenix

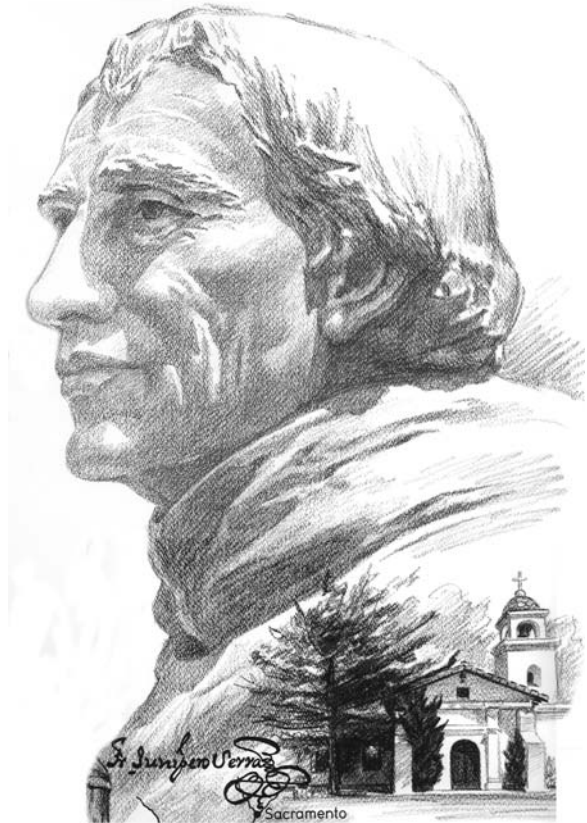
So much of what he did each day did not seem "priestly." At the age of 22, already ordained a Franciscan priest, he was awarded the Duns Scotus chair in philosophy at the Lullian University in Palma, Mallorca, and he taught with great distinction there for the following 15 years.

Much later in life, at the age of 55, on another continent and in a totally diverse setting, he was appointed the president of the Spanish mission to Alta California. The title that he most cherished, however, was not "professor" or "president," but "Padre." While thrilled with the opportunity to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Native peoples of what is today the west coast of our country, being "president" required him to perform many administrative tasks that appeared to have little to do with the life and ministry of a priest.

But Fr. Junípero Serra did not derive his sense of self from the duties and functions that made up the larger part of his busy days; he never faced a crisis of identity. He knew that, by God's grace, he was a son of St. Francis of Assisi and a Catholic priest. He would have agreed with what Archbishop Timothy Dolan says about the priesthood: "The priesthood is a call, not a career; a redefinition of self, not just a new ministry; a way of life, not a job; a state of being, not just a function; a permanent, lifelong commitment, not a temporary style of service, an identity, not just a role. We are priests; yes, the doing of the ministry... is important, but it flows from the being; we can act as priests, minister as priests, function as priests, serve as priests, preach as priests, because first and foremost, we are priests!"

'A Stolen Heart'

Junípero Serra was a flashpoint of controversy during his life and long thereafter. In fact, he remains a controversial figure even today. During this lifetime, he was a thorn in the side of the Spanish military because of his intrepid defense of the California Indians against abuse and mistreatment by the soldiers and also some of the officers. In more recent times, he has been accused of conspiring to enslave the native peoples, and even of plotting the genocide of thousands. Such



Blessed Junípero Serra art by George Pollard

controversy says more about the complexity of the times and the many obstacles to the Gospel that he faced on a daily basis in California than about Padre Serra. Moreover, the accusations against his conduct have never been proven. Rather, they stand in stark contrast to what we know for certain about Fr. Serra and his priestly ministry.

He saw the Indians not as "pagans" but as "gentiles," by which he meant persons who have not yet had the privilege of hearing the Gospel of Christ. In one letter, he describes them in this way: "They came -- men, women and children of all ages --with such a display of cleverness in everything they did... a people clever, sociable, and friendly." To the viceroy of Mexico, he wrote with all sincerity of the Native people, "They have stolen my heart away."

With a keen awareness of the possible mistreatment of the Indians by the Spanish military and by others migrating among them, this Franciscan missionary studied the writings

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Fr. Damien, now Saint Damien, in 1888, taken by an unidentified visiting journalist to the Moloka'i colony.

The Healing Ministry of Father Damien of Moloka'i

by Audry Lynch

A trip to Kalaupapa is a journey to a sad chapter in Hawaiian history

They were strangers to each other, collected by common calamity, disfigured, mentally sick, banished without sin from home and friends.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

A trip to Kalaupapa on the Island of Moloka'i is one of the most fascinating things I've ever done. It is now a National Park but it was once famous -- or notorious -- as a leper colony under the direction of Father Damien de Veuster in the 19th century. This peninsula is bound by the sea on one side and steep cliffs on the other. It is beautiful but isolated; clearly, if you were left there, there was no doubt that you could never return to the mainland. Death offered the only escape.

One of the main ways that tourists reach Kalaupapa is by burro down the steep cliffs. At our age and stage we wanted an easier route, so we signed up to fly in on a small Cessna that seated nine people.

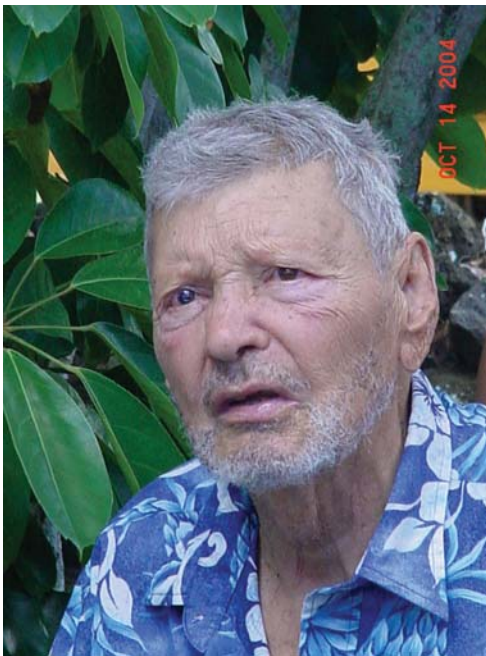
That provided enough adventure. It offered dazzling views of the islands on the way over but a turbulent trip back due to a change in the weather. Add to that a landing on a postage stamp runway and it's no wonder that two members of our party prayed out loud during the trip.

As we waited for our tour bus in the open-air airport waiting area we watched a video about the history of the place. In full view was the sea where the lepers were dropped into the water to swim ashore. They didn't have food, shelter or medical care. They were sentenced to a living tomb until Father Damien arrived from Belgium in 1874. Unlike his fellow priests, he volunteered to stay for life with a rejected and feared part of the island's population.

The video also instructed us about the current state of the disease. We learned that the term "leper" is politically incorrect. The word to use is "Hansen's Disease," and the inhabitants are extremely



A view of the cliffs from Kalaupapa



Tour leader
Richard Marks



One of many cemeteries on Kalaupapa Peninsula

sensitive to anything else. There are about 34 left on the peninsula. The arrival of sulfone drugs in 1946 cured the disease. Legally, everyone who was treated and cured with these drugs were finally free to leave Kalaupapa. Most of them, who had married and established homes there, chose to stay in the place where they had spent most of their lives.

After a short wait, an old school bus with "Damien Tours" painted on the side arrived to pick us up. It was driven by Richard Marks, the Sheriff, unofficial Mayor and general Head Man of the current colony. Richard has lived here for 47 years and all the members of his family died here with Hansen's Disease. A second bus picked up the burro riders and we formed a two-bus caravan.

While we toured he told us his own poignant story. When he was growing up, if the disease was in your family you could be arrested as a "suspect" and put in prison for two years. With his family history, he chose to run away to sea before a bounty hunter turned him in. "The disease took everyone in my family," he said sadly, "so I knew my time was coming. After seven and a half years at sea, I got hurt and the disease appeared. I was in Hong Kong at the time and I came back here to be reunited with my family".

Most of the old landmarks, like the hospital, are gone. The stark reminders of the fact that 8,000 lepers died here are the many cemeteries on the island. Even Richard did not know the exact number. "There is a sadness in the air here," he says simply.

The leprosy "solution" --imprisonment and banishment to Kalaupapa -- started 1865 when King Kamehameha signed a law to prevent the spread of the dread disease. Leprosy is a chronic, infectious disease that hurts the nerves, skin and eyes. Medical research estimates that one in 500 people, or 4 percent, of the world's population is susceptible to it. It's a disease that is well known in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It dates back to Biblical times when lepers rang bells to let people know they were coming.

When Father Damien arrived things changed on that lawless, hopeless peninsula. Originally from Belgium, single-handedly he built houses and hospitals, ministered to his patients' spiritual and physical needs, made coffins, and finally dug graves for the hundreds of victims who died during his stay.

Some of its churches are still standing so we visited St. Philomena Church, which Father Damien built and is still being used. Traveling with us was a retired priest, Father Michael O'Connor, who decided to celebrate Mass there. It was a very moving experience to attend Mass in his favorite church and listen to the gospel which mentions lepers.

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Let's not chase feathers



Doug McRoy

By Douglas P. McRoy, Serra Club of Lima, OH
USA Council President

I would like to share a story that was part of a homily a parish priest whom we knew only as “Father Bob” gave when Anne and I visited Sacred Heart Parish in Punta Gorda, Fla., last January. (We also met the parish pastor, who is young and very vibrant and has the entire parish, including “snow birds,” very motivated. They also have a Life Teen program and I have been told there is a Serra club there.)

The homily was about errors of judgment and why we should not judge people, events, or things. A young lady found she did not feel good about a new person in her neighborhood. She made a judgment about this lady and told most of her neighbors what she thought about this person. After awhile she discovered she was completely wrong and that the new neighbor felt awful about her gossip.

She went to confession and told the priest what she did and how sorry she was. The priest told her he was going to give her a penance: she was to take a feather pillow to the top of the church tower on a windy day and release all the feathers. After that she was to gather all the feathers and place them back into the pillow. The lady bowed her head and said, “Father, I would work hard to gather the feathers, but I could never restore the pillow to its original beauty and purpose.” The priest nodded.

We Serrans, Serra clubs, and our USA Council have been guilty of making judgments and have created negative impressions. We certainly have had judgments created against us as well. Not only our Serra organization, but certainly our Church and priests have also had to contend with negative images and distractions.

As we enter this new Serra year, I would hope we can get back to concentrating on our purpose and mission. We cannot afford the distractions of justifying what we stand for and the design we have put together over the years with many talented and faithful Catholics dedicated to our cause. We have to give top priority to moving forward! For us, this means concentrating on helping Serra clubs and Serra districts in the United States accomplish their vocations mission.

Our Serra organization has to grow in membership. The more Serrans we have to pray and be active in local parish vocations, the more healthy and productive our organization will be for years to come. We also need to find leaders in our local clubs who will become involved more closely with our council. We need to convince Serrans that vocations are not always local and their help is needed throughout our country and the worldwide Church.

Let's do what most successful coaches emphasize: let's concentrate on what we have to do and not worry about what others may or may not do.

Anne and I wish all an enjoyable spring and summer, and we hope to see you in Chicago in June for the USAC SuperWeekend and Annual Meeting (see page 9), and Anchorage for the Serra International Convention in September. ☺

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What is a “Culture of Vocations”?

by Frank Gerner, Serra Club of Topeka, Kan.
USA Council Communications Vice President

As an old teacher of anthropology, I taught that "culture" entailed the following: what a group of people did, how they did it, what their value system was, and how they spoke.

Then what is the "culture of vocations"? And how does that fit into Serra?

Let me guide you through some thoughts obtained from several presenters and bishops who attended the Serra International conventions.

The "first seminary" is the home. The family's mother and father are the teachers in this "seminary." They teach the theology of their faith as they have inherited from their parents, the prayers, the celebrations, the ceremonies, and the value of their faith. They express their ideas and values regarding those persons who are called "religious" (priests, sisters, brothers, deacons, etc.). The parents teach the basics of their faith in words and deeds.

How should these teachers create a culture of vocations in their family? These questions will lead you to the answers.

Q: What does the family do? At meals do they say prayers? On Sunday and holy days, do they go to church and stay for the full service? Do they receive the sacraments regularly? Is material comfort a higher priority than attending church?

A: They participate in church programs and activities. The members of the family approach their religious obligations with love and care, without fear and distaste. The Church is not last thought but is a vital part of their lives at all times.

Q: How do the parents react to the teachings of the Church when confronted with them in the media? Do they pick and choose what "feels comfortable" and ignore those that do not? How are the teachings of the Church integrated in their daily actions?

A: There is an active effort to learn the teachings of the Church on all matters as they come up in the public

media. Religious beliefs and issues are discussed with knowledge of the Church's teachings. They live their lives according to the moral values that they teach and reflect those of the Church.

Q: Are religious vocations spoken of with respect or just as another "job" that someone else does?

A: Religious vocations are encouraged in family discussions. Individuals in a religious vocation are described in positive terms, and not based on personality. The members treat religious vocations with respect and not just as another "job".

So, that's what the bishops mean when they say: "We need to establish a Culture of Vocations!" It becomes clear that each family is mandated to teach, create awareness of these cultural characteristics, and to instill these concepts in its members. The family is to do more than just make financial contributions and say prayers in order to promote and encourage vocations in the Church. ☺

**The USAC
Vocations Committee
wants to know...**

What is YOUR club's SINGLE BEST vocations activity conducted in this past year to invite and promote NEW vocations?

Such activities would include awareness, discernment, and other programs designed to invite and encourage people to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

E-mail a brief description of the single BEST activity (please don't confuse us by sending more than one!) **to the USA Council at serraus@serraus.org**. Please put "Single BEST vocations activity" in the subject line.

“Celebrating Our Celebrants”

The "Celebrating Our Celebrants" dinner announced in the ingenious invitation featured on the cover of this edition of the *serraUSA* magazine builds upon an event held by the Serra clubs of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis five years ago in the Jubilee Year of the Eucharist. Now in this Year for Priests proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI, Serrans from the nine clubs in the Twin Cities came together to plan another such event to once again affirm the "Yes" that priests have given to God and to the laity.

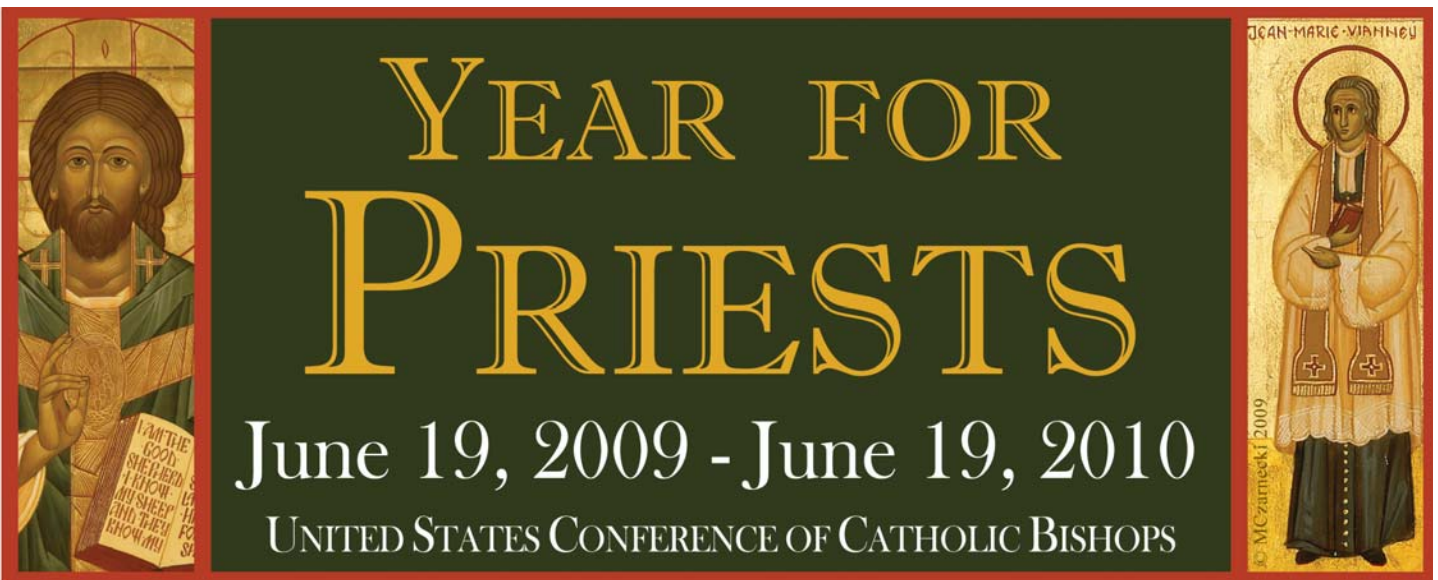
Last fall, each club took on a task, from soliciting heartwarming or humorous stories about their priests, to sending spiritual bouquet cards to them. As of this writing, other clubs are working on promoting the event to the larger community and creating tabletop displays featuring photos of all (approximately 225) altars of the churches in the archdiocese. The North-Minneapolis club was assigned the design of the invitation.



North-Minneapolis Serran Judy Makowske had what she describes as a "God incident -- an inspired accident" -- in this case, a vision of what the invitation would look like. She told her altar pop-up idea to her husband, Don, a retired graphic designer, who laid it out with a Roman collar on one side and an altar and church sanctuary on the other. The design provided the perfect focus for the event.

Artist Marilyn Menzhuber generously offered her talents using colored pencils to create the invitation's interior artwork. A special edition of the card was made for the priests who were invited as guests and a second edition was worded for all other invitees with a cost for the dinner and encouragement to sponsor a priest or seminarian.

"The response of those who have received the cards has been phenomenal," Judy says. "They know the minute they open the card that something special is about to happen, and with anticipation they want to be a part of it." 🕊



CHECK OUT THE COLUMN JUST TO THE LEFT OF THIS ONE. Read it carefully, mark the dates off on your calendar, and consider your transportation options if you are inclined to join us for this great annual event.

In June, at that Annual Meeting, Doug McRoy of Lima, Ohio, will review his year as the 16th president of the USA Council. Then, we will install Joseph DeLoy from Denver, Colo., as the 17th president. Joe will announce his plans for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

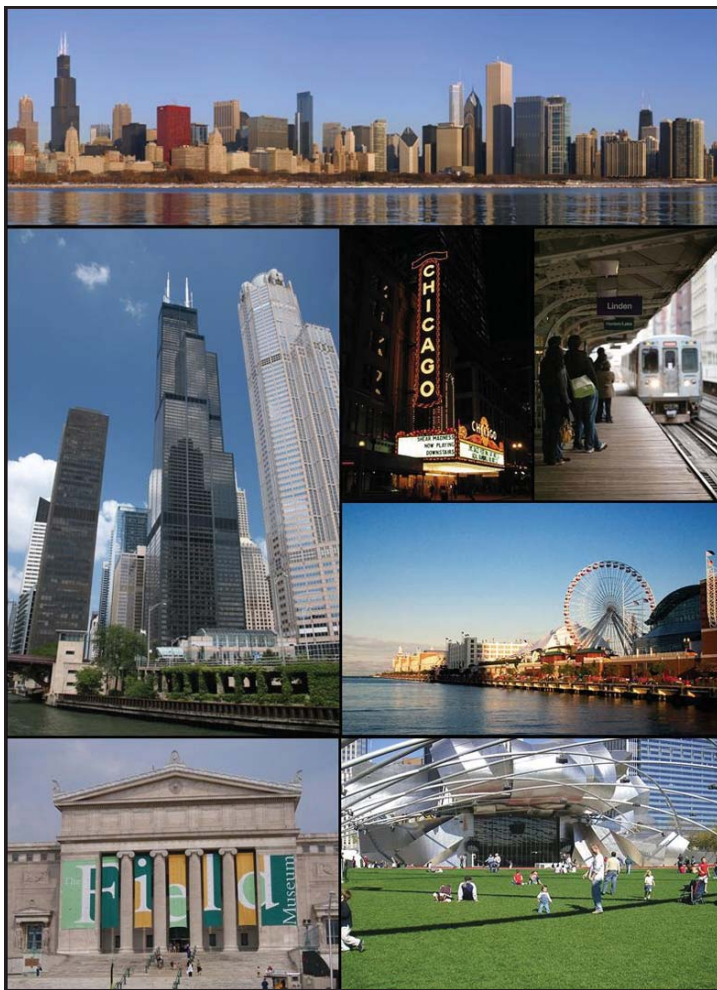
Joe gathered his incoming Executive Committee for four days in March 2010 to examine our successes and to determine those areas that need improvement. Out of these meetings three priorities emerged. Like all 16 of his predecessors, his first priority is cost containment: how can we do more for less to provide funds to achieve the second priority, which is working to increase our work in our vocation ministry? Cost containment is also a key to achieving our third priority of retaining and increasing our current membership and forming new Serra Clubs in the dioceses where we are not present.

To accomplish these three goals, Joe and his board will need the assistance of all of Serrans at all levels. You can make your individual contribution to achieving these priorities by attending our June meetings. Registration material is on our website at the address indicated at left. Come see how your Council works!

As we start this new fiscal year, encourage your club to recommit to the mission of Serra. The Program Committee's "In His Steps" recommitment ceremony materials are available for free download at our website. Plan this simple ceremony for the first meeting of your Serra year.

Materials for Priesthood Sunday 2010 will be available by early summer. This program really has two objectives. The first is to affirm our ordained priests and to thank them for answering God's call to the ordained ministry. Second, the event helps us raise awareness about listening to God's call to ministry.

I hope to see you at the June Super Weekend and Annual Meeting. ☺



JOIN US for our Super Weekend and Annual Meeting on June 17-19, 2010 in Chicago!

Our USA Council Annual Meeting marks the time of year when all Serrans in our Council are invited to assemble and reflect upon the past year, as well as plan for the year ahead.

We encourage you to join us in Chicago for our outgoing Board meeting on June 17, 2010, at 2:30 p.m., and to sample some of our committee meetings the following day. It's a great opportunity to see how our USA Council works. The Annual Meeting follows on June 19, 2010, from 12:45 to 2:15 p.m. Finally, don't miss our Vocations Committee's special "Focus on Vocations" presentation planned after the Annual Meeting from 2:30-4:00 p.m.

You should have received registration information by mail already, but you can see the full agenda and register online at www.serraus.org/serra_usa/serra_loop.htm#chicago. There, you can find out more about what there is to see and do in Chicago as well! We have some fun optional extracurriculars planned. ☺

Chicago montage 1 photo by Jleon

Continued from page 3

of Bishop Bartolome De Las Casas, OP, who earned the title "Protector of the Indians." He also acquainted himself with the Laws of the Indies of the Spanish Crown so that he would be ready to take legal action in defense of the Native people, should it ever be needed. Sad to say, it was! When abuse did occur, without hesitation, in 1773, Fr. Serra made a dramatic appeal to the viceroy, traveling at great personal cost to his health all the way to Mexico City to present his carefully documented "representación." So effectively did he present his case that it resulted in a kind of "bill of rights" for California Indians, the first significant legislation ever to address the question of human rights in California.

Missionary Priest

From the time he left Spain until his death at the Carmel mission near Monterey, Calif., Fr. Serra knew without a doubt that God had called him to serve as a priest in America. He was inspired, without a doubt, by the heroic examples of St. Francis Xavier and St. Francis Solano; but he was answering, above all, the summons of Jesus, his beloved Master and Savior.

John Paul II reminded us that enthusiasm for evangelization is not meant for only a few of our priests. In 1990, he wrote (*Redemptoris missio*, #67), "all priests must have the mind and heart of missionaries open to the needs of the Church and the world, with concern for those farthest away, and especially for the non-Christian groups." Fr. Serra would have resonated with those words. Like all missionaries who leave behind the familiar and known in order to witness to Christ among people of different cultures and diverse mindsets, he inevitably made some mistakes, but whatever he undertook was done, not for selfish purposes but out of love for Christ and for the people "who had stolen his heart."

Patron for vocation promotion

Who can explain a call from Christ to be a priest? How can you put into words the fathomless mystery of God establishing a completely unique relationship with a man and, then, in the inner sanctuary of his conscience, calling him to act *in persona Christi*, in the person of Christ? Certainly, it is a profoundly personal experience, but at the same time, it is an ecclesial one, that is, the Church plays a

key role in the call and response. We see this work done in a marvelous way today by members of Serra clubs, who daily pray for vocations in the Church.

As St. Andrew assisted his brother Peter to encounter Christ and answer His call, Fr. Junípero Serra did something similar for the California Indians nearly 250 years ago. The results were clearly remarkable. Records show that he baptized more than 6,000 people, without coercing any of them to become followers of Christ.

At his beatification in Rome in 1988, John Paul II described him in this way, "Relying on the divine power of the message he proclaimed, Father Serra led the native peoples to Christ. He was well aware of their heroic virtues -- as exemplified in the life of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha -- and he sought to further their authentic human development on the basis of their newfound faith as persons created and redeemed by God. He also had to admonish the powerful... not to abuse and exploit the poor and the weak."

As the Year for Priests unfolds over the next 12 months, I shall be looking at various priests who have achieved heroic sanctity in their pastoral ministry, and who continue to inspire us today. It seems fitting to begin with Blessed Junípero Serra, a faithful Franciscan Friar and a holy priest. ☪

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Rediscovering Blessed Junípero Serra

Feast day: July 1

A club program from the USA Council Programs Committee

Miguel Serra was born into a humble family in a farming village on the Mediterranean island of Mallorca. His parents sent him to a nearby Franciscan school where his teachers quickly recognized his intellectual abilities. Within a year he became a novice in the Franciscan order, taking the name of Junípero after the beloved friend of Saint Francis, and shortly thereafter was ordained a priest.

After years of formation in the Franciscan way of life and academic studies in philosophy and theology, Serra was named professor of philosophy. He was well known as a bright and articulate scholar, a moving preacher and a clear, precise writer. Dedicated to the Gospel and a tireless worker, Father Serra responded to the call of the Franciscan missionaries to preach the good news to the New World.

In 1769, Father Serra was sent to the missionary territories on the American West Coast where he is credited with being responsible for the foundation and spread of the Catholic Church, and establishing a system of nine missions in what is now the state of California. Blessed Junípero Serra was a zealous missionary devoted to spreading the Gospel. He not only brought this message to the American Indians, but as one who lived the Gospel, he also became their defender.

As a missionary in the Franciscan order of the Catholic Church and a political entity advocating for the rights of others, Father Junípero Serra was a driving force in the colonization of the state of California. Through his missionary activity, he and the other friars converted thousands of Indians and trained many in the European methods of agriculture, animal husbandry, and crafts.

Since 1934, Junípero Serra has been a candidate for canonization as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. Pope John Paul II remarked that Serra is an exemplary model of a selfless evangelizer, a shining example of Christian virtue and the missionary spirit.

The Gift of Blessed Junípero Serra

Blessed Junípero Serra was a man of faith.

At life's crossroads, Junípero Serra enjoyed a professorial lifestyle that promised him a beloved homeland, associations of his youth, a cloister and community, books and university, honor, and a

secure future. He traded this comfort for a missionary lifestyle that required him to say farewell to his home and life, embracing uncertainty and instability by moving forward and never turning back.

Which paths have I chosen at the many crossroads that have been part of my life? Why did I choose them?

Blessed Junípero Serra was a preacher.

If history were something static, the world would hardly be in need of missionary activity. However, the Gospel must be preached and interpreted in every age. As history unfolds, every generation is called to embrace the same challenge as Blessed Junípero Serra and define for themselves how they will proclaim God's message to the world in a new evangelization.

How are we, as a church, responding to the call of evangelization in our new world?

Blessed Junípero was a missionary at heart.

The missionary is one who responds to the privilege of participating in the mission of God by offering himself to work for, and giving witness for, the salvation of the world. Fidelity is the quality of response needed for a missionary to be true to one's self and one's vocation.

How necessary do you think missionaries are today?

Blessed Junípero Serra was just like us.

He was a visionary man who persevered with his mission in spite of adversity, controversy, and hardships.

How do we as Serrans persevere in our vision to foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and to further Catholicism by encouraging one another to fulfill our Christian vocation to service through education about our faith? 🙏

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St. Philomena Roman Catholic Church in Kalawao, Kalaupapa Peninsula, Moloka'i, Hawaii



Original grave of Father Damien next to St. Philomena Church

With the exception of the portrait on page 4, all photos appearing with this story were taken by Michael Seixas.

Continued from page 5


A few other people arrived after a few years to help out Father Damien in his work. They were Mother Marianne Cope, O.S.F., who is being considered for beatification, and Joseph Dutton, who took care of the boys in the colony while Mother Cope worked with the girls.

Finally, and probably inevitably because he worked so closely with his parishioners, Father Damien contracted the disease. In spite of that, he continued his work until a few days before his death on April 15, 1889. His remains were returned to Belgium to the order where he entered religious life. In 1995, the relic of his right hand was re-interred in his original grave after a triumphant tour of all the islands.

One of Father Damien's main contributions was to restore respect and hope to a scorned group of people. "We are people and want to be treated that way," said Richard Marks. "We're not some joke on TV. Now we can laugh and share stories but the pain at how we were treated will go on forever." This lingering pain explains the empathy and compassion that these survivors of Hansen's Disease have for AIDS patients.

About 10,000 people a year visit Kalaupapa, though it's far from the glitz of Oahu and the paradise quality of some of the other islands. Robert Louis Stevenson spent some time here because he was fascinated by it and the work of Father Damien (see the quote at the beginning of this article). He admired Mother Marianne Cope and was touched by the fact that the residents wanted the settlement to be "more humane."

A visit to Kalaupapa is also a visit an old and sad chapter of Hawaiian history. But underneath the sadness is a story of hope and compassion. At the end of his life, Father Damien summed up his work by saying, "I am the happiest missionary in the world."

Father Damien was canonized on October 11, 2009, by Pope Benedict XVI. His feast Day is celebrated on May 10. In Hawaii, it is celebrated on the day of his death, April 15. 

The Damien Museum is located behind St. Augustine Church in Waikiki on 130 Oliua Avenue, Honolulu. Entrance is free of charge. You can call for information at 808.923.2690.

More information about Father Damien and about the Sacred Hearts Congregation of Jesus and Mary can be obtained at Sacred Heart Novitiate, PO BOX 787, Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744, or at St. Francis Church, Kalaupapa, Moloka'i, Hawaii, 96742, or on the mainland at Sacred Heart Fathers, 77 Adams Street, Box 111, Fairhaven, Mass., 02719-0111. For Damien Tours, call Richard Marks at 808.567.6171.

Callers to the Harvest

A forum for club activity, reports and ideas



A BIG statement for vocations!

Msgr. William Whelan, chaplain of the Serra Club of Omaha, stands with Art Hastings, the club's president-elect, in front of the Priesthood Sunday billboard in Omaha.

Sponsored by the Serra clubs of Omaha and West Omaha, the billboard celebrated Priesthood Sunday on Oct. 25, 2009. *Photo by Bill Ramsey.*



Say Cheese, Everybody!

Top left: No small number of seminarians attended the Serra Club of Southwest Houston's fish fry on March 4, 2010!

Bottom left: Rev. Mr. Wayne Youngman received the Montgomery Serra Club's Alabama Bell of Clay in appreciation of his visit last Fall. Also pictured (from left) are Larry Russo, club president; Fr. Jose Paillacho, St. Bede Associate Pastor; Dale Scott, club vocations vice president, and club guest Ray Tyc.

Below: Some of the 40 Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston sisters who attended the Serra Club of East Harris County's Nuns Luncheon pose for a group shot last March.



Columbia River distributes seminarian prayer card

In honor of the Year for Priests, seminarian prayer cards distributed by the Serra Club of Columbia River, Wash., let parishioners see the Seattle Archdiocese seminarians for whom they are praying. On one side of the 3x5" card is a reproduction of the Seattle Archdiocese Vocations Office's official seminarian poster and the other side is the Serran Prayer for Vocations.

Denver club showers sisters with gifts galore

The Serra Club of Denver's 23rd annual Religious Sisters Appreciation Day took place on April 10, 2010. Each sister in attendance received a \$100 bill from the Denver club. Over 70 door prizes were also awarded, with values up to \$150. Prizes ranged from a private airplane flight over Denver for three sisters, opera tickets, gift boxes filled with treats such as gourmet coffee, chocolate, tea, cookies, preserves, and oatmeal. Other drawing prizes included grocery certificates, shopping and restaurant gift certificates, religious goods. Special gift bags were awarded to all sisters.

Frequently Requested Church Statistics from "The CARA Report," <http://cara.georgetown.edu>

U.S. Data	1965	1975	1985	1995	2000	2005	2009
Total priests	58,632	58,909	57,317	49,054	45,699	42,839	40,666
Diocesan priests	35,925	36,005	35,052	32,349	30,607	28,702	27,594
Religious priests	22,707	22,904	22,265	16,705	15,092	14,137	13,072
Priestly ordinations	994	771	533	511	442	454	472
Graduate-level seminarians	8,325	5,279	4,063	3,172	3,474	3,308	3,357
Permanent deacons	na	898	7,204	10,932	12,378	14,574	16,380
Religious brothers	12,271	8,625	7,544	6,535	5,662	5,451	4,863
Religious sisters	179,954	135,225	115,386	90,809	79,814	68,634	59,601
Parishes	17,637	18,515	19,244	19,331	19,236	18,891	18,280
Without a resident priest pastor	549	702	1,051	2,161	2,843	3,251	3,400
Where a bishop has entrusted the pastoral care of the parish to a deacon, religious sister or brother, or other lay person (Canon 517.2)	na	na	93	314	447	553	517
Catholic population	45.6m	48.7m	52.3m	57.4m	59.9m	64.8m	65.2m
Percent of U.S. population	24%	23%	23%	23%	22%	23%	22%

Outstanding Students recognized by Janesville Serrans

The Serra Club of Janesville, Wis., honored 18 middle school students representing six Catholic schools and 10 parish religious education programs at its annual Outstanding Student Recognition Mass and Luncheon on Dec. 30, 2009. The students were recognized for academic and extracurricular achievements as well as their service to their parishes. Eleven of the 12 parishes in the club's area submitted nominees for the event.

Bowl-a-Rama for altar servers in Escanaba

Escanaba, Mich., Serrans treated 60 altar servers to a day of bowling at their Bowl-a-Rama party held the day after Thanksgiving. The club's chaplain, Fr. Rick Courier, spoke to the group about the importance of religious vocations. The children also brought canned goods for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry to the event as well.

Bishop's Night for Vocations in Altoona-Johnstown Diocese

The Serra Clubs of Altoona and Cambria County, Penn., sponsored

the annual Bishop's Night for Vocations on April 21, 2010. This year's theme, "How the Priest Brings God to Me," was chosen for the Year for Priests. Keynote speaker Bishop Joseph Adamec recounted his own journey into the priesthood during his college years. Winners of the annual Vocations Essay, Poetry and Poster contests were also recognized.

KCMO Seminarian Appreciation Dinner

Over 250 people attended the Serra Club of Kansas City, Mo.'s Christmas Appreciation Dinner for Seminarians on Dec. 21, 2009. Of those in attendance, 21 were seminarians. Bishop Robert W. Finn celebrated Mass for the event. After dinner, each seminarian introduced his family and guests and said a few words of gratitude. Each man was awarded a gift of \$200 from the Serra Club of Kansas City.

GOT CLUB NEWS?

Email your club news to serraus@serraus.org, or mail photos, newsletters and press releases to: USA Council of Serra International 65 E. Wacker Place, Suite 802, Chicago, IL 60601.

Happy Anniversary

During the months of September 2009 through March 2010, the USA Council celebrates the charter anniversaries of 25 clubs. Congratulations on all your work for vocations!

75
Seattle, Wash. - Feb. 27, 1935

70
Milwaukee, Wis. - Nov. 10, 1939

60
Beaumont, Texas - Oct. 5, 1949
Monterey Peninsula, Calif. - Nov. 8, 1949
Hammond, Ind. - Dec. 8, 1949
Los Angeles, Calif. - Dec. 12, 1949
Denver, Colo. - Dec. 28, 1949
El Paso, Texas - March 27, 1950

50
Victoria, Texas - Nov. 2, 1959
Stevens Point, Wis. - Nov. 22, 1959
Erie, Pa. - Feb. 24, 2010

40
Brownsville, Texas - Dec. 25, 1969
Kansas City, Kan. - Feb. 12, 1970

30
Ocean County, N.J. - Dec. 12, 1979
San Bernardino, Calif. - Feb. 19, 1980

25
Metro Baton Rouge, La. - Dec. 6, 1984
Warren County, N.J. - Dec. 21, 1984
Brazoria County, Texas - Feb. 2, 1985
Milwaukee-West, Wis. - Feb. 3, 1985

20
Mountain View, Calif. - Nov. 2, 1989
Southwest Houston, Texas - Dec. 4, 1989
Washington, D.C. Downtown - Dec. 27, 1989

10
Owatonna Area, Minn. - Oct. 26, 1999
Wichita Falls Area, Kan. - Dec. 9, 1999
Columbia River, Wash. - Feb. 26, 2000

Farewell SERRANS CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

George Ahern, Oakland, CA
Norbert Arth, Lafayette, IN
Robert Bennett, Trenton, NJ
Howard Berger, Carroll Area, IA
Barbara Bessette, Worcester North, MA
Adrian Betleski, Lorain County, OH
Louis Boitano, Santa Clara, CA
William Bond, West Omaha, NE
Daniel Bradley, D.D.S., West Contra Costa, CA
M. Duane Brands, Portland, OR
John Brown, East Jefferson, LA
Lawrence Bruggeman, Del-Chester, PA
Albert Buehrle, Akron, OH
James Byrne, Hartford, CT
John Caroselli, Trumbull County, OH
Mary Caruso, Union County, NJ
Thomas Cavanaugh, Del-Chester, PA
George Charlet, Jr., Baton Rouge, LA
Dan Ciernick, Mountain View, CA
Lawrence Comfort, M.D., Mountain View, CA
Joseph Connolly, West Contra Costa, CA
Vincent Corbett, Wichita, KS
Charles Core, North San Diego, CA
John Corrigan, Mesilla Valley, NM
Josephine Costa, Del-Chester, PA
Louis Costanzo, Wheeling, WV
Philip Cramer, Metropolitan Dallas, TX
Dolores Danduran, Northern Colorado, CO
Glenn DeBaker, Manitowoc County, WI
Leo Dobard, Alexandria, LA
Winnifred Doohan, Spokane, WA
Francis Edwards, Mountain View, CA
Edward Fay, Pittsburgh, PA
John Ford, San Diego, CA
Franklin Fragale, Morgantown, WV
Audrey Frantz, Escanaba, MI
Patricia Friederichs, Rochester, MN
Max Friend, Little Rock, AR

Bea Fuentes, Dothan, AL
Edward Ganley, Hunterdon County, NJ
Catherine Ginnery, Fairfield/Hocking Cos., OH
Ann Goodwin, Palo Alto-Menlo Park, CA
Thomas Grabarek, South Bend, IN
James Graham, Jr., Downtown New Orleans, LA
Robert Green, Atlantic County East, NJ
Joe Guerra, Brownsville, TX
Albert Hackman, Jr., Northern Kentucky, KY
William Haley, San Francisco, CA
Rose Harrington Coulter, The Oranges, NJ
Thomas Haug, Manitowoc County, WI
Carl Hobelman, Downtown Washington DC
Wayne Hoover, St. Louis, MO
Ralph Houghton, Kenosha, WI
Rose Hoyt, Altoona, PA
Wanda Huboky, Lancaster, PA
John Kelley, Indianapolis, IN
James Kenny Jr, West Contra Costa, CA
John Kibelstis, Allentown, PA
John Kitchin, Kansas City, MO
Edward Kurdziel, Milwaukee, WI
Cesare Laruffa, Broward County, FL
Thomas Lee, St. Clair County, IL
John Linn M.D., Milwaukee, WI
Ernest Lovin, Bismarck-Mandan, ND
Edward Markovits, Oakland, CA
Fredrick McNair, Austin, TX
Floyd Mehrwerth, Milwaukee West, WI
Mary Midile, Cambria County, PA
Mary Miller, Racine, WI
Roy Moser, Jr., Northern Kentucky, KY
Joseph O'Connor, Atlanta, GA
Ralph Oswald, Palo Alto-Menlo Park, CA
Charles Owen, Kansas City, MO
John Peine, Davenport, IA
Lloyd Perez MD, Baton Rouge, LA
Rita Perkins, Wichita, KS

Joe Quattrone, Steubenville, OH
Philip Quittman, Oakland, CA
Richard Reicherter, Topeka, KS
Milton Reiterman, San Francisco, CA
Gerald Riederer, Sleepy Eye Good Shepherd
Diocese of New Ulm
Alvin Rindfleisch, Milwaukee, WI
William Rowane, D.O., Erie, PA
Gen Ryan, Mankato, MN
Antonio Salazar, Jr., Amarillo, TX
Linda Salfrank, Aberdeen, SD
Hector Samaniego, Mesilla Valley, NM
Millie Sanders, Gary, IN
Jack Sassone, East Jefferson, LA
Robert Schaedle, Jr., Memphis, TN
Eugene Schoener, Winona, MN
Robert Senesac, Lafayette, IN
Jack Shannon, Reno, NV
John Skevington, Fort Wayne, IN
Richard Stanton, Paterson, NJ
Betty Jean Steinkolk, North San Diego Co., CA
John Sullivan, Southeast Denver, CO
Ben Swint, Charleston, WV
Joseph Szalay, South Bend, IN
Bernard Thomas, Henderson, KY
Lorraine Thomas, North-Minneapolis, MN
Donald Tikalsky, Waukesha, WI
Jacques Vinmont, South Palm Beach County, FL
Denis Virnig, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Cleal Watts, Metropolitan Dallas, TX
Philip Weber, Grand Rapids, MI
Aaron Wieland, Victoria, TX
Robert Wilkins, North San Diego County, CA
Calder Willingham, Chattanooga, TN
Eugene Wiltgen, San Diego-North Coast CA
Henry Yelverton, Lake Charles, LA



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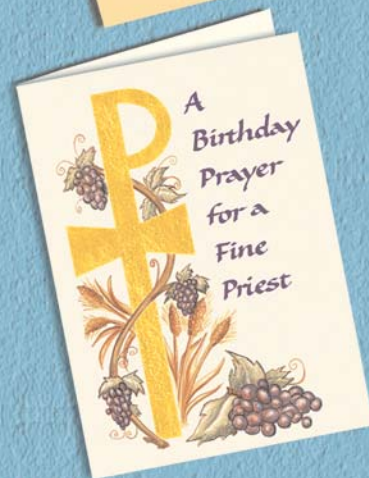
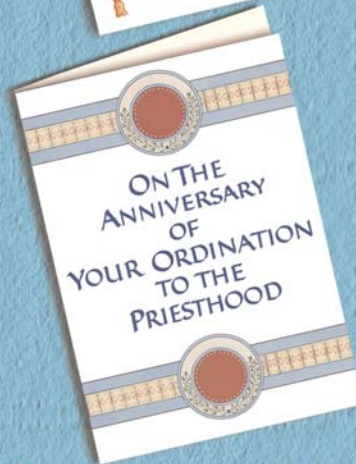
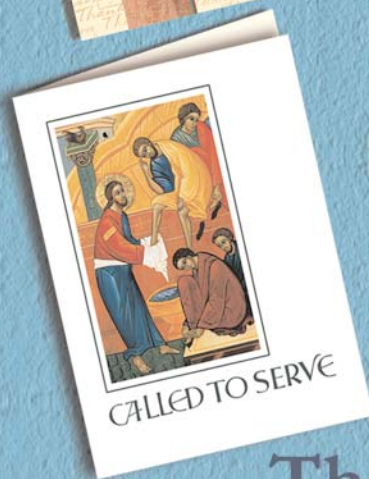
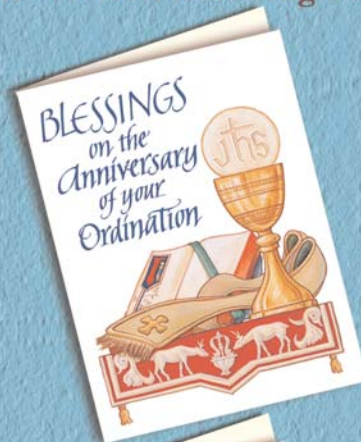


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