

# serraUSA

Promoting Catholic vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life | SUMMER 2009



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## Year for Priests

June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010

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:** Iconographer Marek Czarnecki of Seraphic Restorations in Meriden, Conn., created this icon of Christ the Great High Priest which has become the definitive image in the United States for the Year for Priests. Czarnecki says the icon (egg tempera and gold leaf on wood panel, 28" x 22") is "based on a 15th century Greek prototype; here Christ is shown in Latin Rite vestments with a gold pelican over His heart, the ancient symbol of self-sacrifice. The borders contain a winding grapevine and altar prepared for the celebration of the liturgy of the Mass; in the borders are smaller icons of Melchizedek and St. Jean-Baptiste Vianney." Pope Benedict XVI declared St. John Vianney the "Universal Patron of Priests."

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Editor: Anne McCormack

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### features

- 3 ANNOUNCING: THE 'YEAR FOR PRIESTS'**  
Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI, March 16, 2009
- 5 JUBILEE YEARS: BUILDING BRIDGES**  
by USA Council Episcopal Adviser Bishop Peter F. Christensen
- 6 MAKE THE MOST OF THE 'YEAR FOR PRIESTS'**  
by USA Council President Douglas P. McRoy
- 7 FOR SERRRANS, EVERY YEAR IS A 'YEAR FOR PRIESTS'**  
by USA Council Vocations Vice President Homer Radford
- 8 ST. JOHN VIANNEY AND THE SPIRITUAL FORMATION OF THE DIOCESAN CLERGY**  
by Most Reverend Guy Claude Bagnard, Bishop of Belley-Ars, France

### departments

- 10 MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE PRIESTHOOD**  
A program from the USAC Programs Committee
- 11 MY VIEW**  
by USA Council Executive Director Ed Verbeke
- 16 CALLERS TO THE HARVEST**  
Club news and activities from around the nation

### inside USAC

- 18 FAREWELL**  
Serrans called to eternal life
- 19 HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**  
Club charter anniversaries
- 19 GOING FORWARD**  
USA Council calendar of events

# Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI announcing the “Year for Priests”

*Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI  
to the Members of the Congregation for the Clergy  
on the Occasion of their Plenary Assembly  
Monday, 16 March 2009*

**Your Eminences,  
Venerable Brothers in the Episcopate and in the Priesthood,**

I am glad to be able to welcome you at a special Audience on the eve of my departure for Africa, where I am going to present the *Instrumentum Laboris* of the Second Special Assembly of the Synod for Africa that will be held here in Rome next October. I thank Cardinal Cláudio Hummes for the kind words with which he has interpreted the sentiments you share and I thank you for the beautiful letter you wrote to me. With him, I greet you all, Superiors, Officials and Members of the Congregation, with gratitude for all the work you do at the service of such an important sector of the Church's life.

The theme you have chosen for this Plenary Assembly "The missionary identity of the priest in the Church as an intrinsic dimension of the exercise of the *tria munera*" suggests some reflections on the work of these days and the abundant fruit that it will certainly yield. If the whole Church is missionary and if every Christian, by virtue of Baptism and Confirmation *quasi ex officio* (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 1305), receives the mandate to profess the faith publicly, the ministerial priesthood, also from this viewpoint, is ontologically distinct, and not only by rank, from the baptismal priesthood that is also known as the "common priesthood." In fact, the apostolic mandate "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole of creation" (Mk 16: 15) is constitutive of the ministerial priesthood. This mandate is not, as we know, a mere duty entrusted to collaborators; its roots are deeper and must be sought further back in time.

The missionary dimension of the priesthood is born from the priest's sacramental configuration to Christ. As a consequence it brings with it a heartfelt and total adherence to what the ecclesial tradition has identified as *apostolica vivendi forma*. This consists in

participation in a "new life," spiritually speaking, in that "new way of life" which the Lord Jesus inaugurated and which the Apostles made their own. Through the imposition of the Bishop's hands and the consecratory prayer of the Church, the candidates become new men, they become "presbyters." In this light it is clear that the *tria munera* are first a gift and only consequently an office, first a participation in a life, and hence a *potestas*. Of course, the great ecclesial tradition has rightly separated sacramental efficacy from the concrete existential situation of the individual priest and so the legitimate expectations of the faithful are appropriately safeguarded. However, this correct doctrinal explanation takes nothing from the necessary, indeed indispensable, aspiration to moral perfection that must dwell in every authentically priestly heart.

**Your task is to promote  
and coordinate various spiritual  
and pastoral initiatives that will  
make the importance of the priest's  
role and mission in the Church  
and in contemporary society  
more clearly perceived.**

Precisely to encourage priests in this striving for spiritual perfection on which, above all, the effectiveness of their ministry depends, I have decided to establish a special "Year for Priests" that will begin on 19 June and last until 19 June 2010. In fact, it is the 150th anniversary of the death of the Holy Curé d'Arns, John Mary

Vianney, a true example of a pastor at the service of Christ's flock. It will be the task of your Congregation, in agreement with the diocesan Ordinaries and with the superiors of religious institutes to promote and to coordinate the various spiritual and pastoral initiatives that seem useful for making the importance of the priest's role and mission in the Church and in contemporary society ever more clearly perceived.

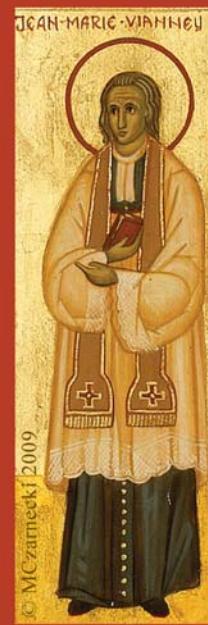
The priest's mission, as the theme of the Plenary Assembly emphasizes, is carried out "in the Church." This ecclesial communal, hierarchical and doctrinal dimension is absolutely indispensable to every authentic mission and alone guarantees its spiritual effectiveness. The four aspects mentioned must always be recognized as intimately connected: the mission is "ecclesial" because no one proclaims himself in the first person, but within and through his own humanity every priest must be well aware that he is bringing to the world Another, God himself. God is the only treasure which ultimately people desire to find in a priest.

*Continued on next page*



# YEAR FOR PRIESTS

June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010  
UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS



The mission is "communional" because it is carried out in a unity and communion that only secondly has also important aspects of social visibility. Moreover, these derive essentially from that divine intimacy in which the priest is called to be expert, so that he may be able to lead the souls entrusted to him humbly and trustingly to the same encounter with the Lord. Lastly, the "hierarchical" and "doctrinal" dimensions suggest reaffirming the importance of the ecclesiastical discipline (the term has a connection with "disciple") and doctrinal training and not only theological, initial and continuing formation.

Awareness of the radical social changes that have occurred in recent decades must motivate the best ecclesial forces to supervise the formation of candidates for the ministry. In particular, it must foster the constant concern of Pastors for their principal collaborators, both by cultivating truly fatherly human relations and by taking an interest in their continuing formation, especially from the doctrinal and spiritual viewpoints. The mission is rooted in a special way in a good formation, developed in communion with uninterrupted ecclesial Tradition, without breaks or temptations of irregularity. In this sense, it is important to encourage in priests, especially in the young generations, a correct reception of the texts of the Second Ecumenical Vatican Council, interpreted in the light of the Church's entire fund of doctrine. It seems urgent to recover that awareness that has always been at the heart of the Church's mission, which impels priests to be present, identifiable and recognizable both for their judgment of faith, for their personal virtues as well as for the habit, in the contexts of culture and of charity.

As Church and as priests, we proclaim Jesus of Nazareth Lord and Christ, Crucified and Risen, Sovereign of time and of histo-

ry, in the glad certainty that this truth coincides with the deepest expectations of the human heart. In the mystery of the Incarnation of the Word, that is, of the fact that God became man like us, lies both the content and the method of Christian proclamation. The true dynamic centre of the mission is here: in Jesus Christ, precisely. The centrality of Christ brings with it the correct appreciation of the ministerial priesthood, without which there would be neither the Eucharist, nor even the mission nor the Church herself. In this regard it is necessary to be alert to ensure that the "new structures" or pastoral organizations are not planned on the basis of an erroneous interpretation of the proper promotion of the laity for a time in which one would have "to do without" the ordained ministry, because in that case the presuppositions for a further dilution of the ministerial priesthood would be laid and possible presumed "solutions" might come dramatically to coincide with the real causes of contemporary problems linked to the ministry.

I am certain that in these days the work of the Plenary Assembly, under the protection of the *Mater Ecclesiae*, will be able to examine these brief ideas that I permit myself to submit to the attention of the Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops, while I invoke upon you all an abundance of heavenly gifts, as a pledge of which I impart a special, affectionate Apostolic Blessing to you and to all your loved ones. ☺

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Read more about the Year of Priests at the Vatican website:  
[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

and at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website:  
<http://www.usccb.org/yearforpriests/>

# Jubilee Years: Building Bridges

by Bishop Peter F. Christensen, Diocese of Superior, Wis.

**I**N MARCH, POPE BENEDICT XVI DECLARED A "YEAR FOR PRIESTS" beginning with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 19, 2009. This new Jubilee Year will conclude in Rome with an international gathering of priests with the Holy Father on June 19, 2010.

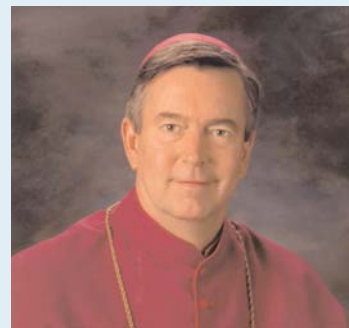
It is interesting to note that our Pope has overlapped the "Year of St. Paul" with the "Year for Priests" by nine days. As noted above, this was done in order to begin the "Year for Priests" on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 19). On June 28, our pontiff will then close the Pauline Jubilee Year with a Vespers service celebrated at St. Paul's Outside the Walls. This overlap, which centers on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, serves as a wonderful reminder of the pure and eternal love from which all priestly vocations originate. This past year we have reflected on how St. Paul gives us an example of the conviction of his faith as expressed in his tireless proclamation of the Gospel. His faith is centered on his relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ - as we read in his letters preserved in the New Testament, his was a relationship born out of a deep and lasting experience of a tremendous love.

Perhaps the overlap of our two jubilee years will continue to remind our Church of the true origins and purpose of one's call to serve as a priest today. St. Paul understood the dignity of his vocation given to strengthen the Church in the truth of the Good News of God's love for all humanity. By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, St. Paul continues to invite and encourage his successors to affirm and deepen their understanding of their own relationship with Jesus Christ and to commit themselves with zeal and courage to proclaiming the message of Christ's salvation to the world in which they live.

At the very same time the "Year for Priests" was announced, our pontiff also declared St. John Mary Vianney the universal patron of priests, using the occasion of the 150th anniversary of this holy man's death (August 4, 1859). This should come as no surprise since, as Pope Benedict XVI has said, "The Curé d'Ars is a true example of a pastor at the service of Christ's flock." In making these recent proclamations our pontiff seeks to encourage priests to strive for spiritual perfection on which, above all, the effectiveness of their ministry depends.

Using one of St. Paul's own images, "running the race that lies before us, while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus," he, in a sense, passes the baton of understanding the true and right relationship present within the call to priesthood. With the overlapping of jubilee years, together with priests throughout the world being entrusted to the humble and committed patronage of St. John Vianney, I am confident that the vocation of priesthood will experience a remarkable year of grace and growth. I also believe that this is the desired outcome held in the mind and heart of our Holy Father. As pontiff, a title that receives its origin from the Latin words for "bridge-maker," Pope Benedict XVI continues to do so much in building bridges between our understanding the treasures of our Catholic faith and making that faith a greater, lived reality in the ways in which we live our lives.

As members of Serra we are greatly blessed, for the "Year of Priests" will help to strengthen and energize the work entrusted to each of us. As we move forward in this new Jubilee Year we will also join in the work of our Holy Father building bridges of faith as we commit ourselves in service of our Lord and His Church for the encouragement of priestly vocations. ☪



## USA Council welcomes new Episcopal Adviser, Bishop Peter F. Christensen

The USA Council is pleased to announce that it has been blessed with a new episcopal adviser, Bishop Peter F. Christensen.

Bishop Christensen, who was ordained Bishop of the Diocese of Superior in Wisconsin in September of 2007, accepted the role as spiritual leader for the lay Catholic organization in early January. He will take over the duties of Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Rapid City, S.D., who had been the council's episcopal adviser since the summer of 2004.

As Episcopal Adviser for the USA Council of Serra International, the U.S. component of a world-wide organization that works to foster and promote Catholic religious vocations, Bishop Christensen will be a crucial communications link between the council, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the episcopal advisers of other Serra councils. Working closely with the USA Council Board, he will periodically assess their accomplishment of its mission as related to its spiritual, vocational and ethical activities. Above all he will provide spiritual guidance to the council and its leaders.

"It is always heartwarming to see so many people in so many areas of our church working hard to promote voca-

*Continued on page 11*



## Make the most of the “Year for Priests”



Doug McRoy

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

Isn't it a treat to be a Serran during the year that Pope Benedict XVI declared "The Year of the Priest"? This proclamation gives us an opportunity to recognize and honor those who serve our organization. Because a part of our mission is to affirm those in the priesthood and religious life, we have an obligation to put forth extra effort this year.

Our USA Council has been promoting Priesthood Sunday for several years now and each year we hear more and more clubs coming up with very creative ideas to honor the priests in their area. This year, Priesthood Sunday falls on Oct. 25, and we have all the materials you will need to plan this very special Sunday in your parish free for download at [www.priestsunday.org](http://www.priestsunday.org). If you are an officer at any level in our Council, you should have received the Serra Leader newsletter by now, which contained a centerfold pull-out section of the Priesthood Sunday Parish Planning Guide. Please share this with your club and parish.

The Holy Father's "Year of the Priest" also affords Serrans everywhere the great opportunity to become more active with their club chaplains and diocese vocation directors, especially the latter, who will likely be designing and implementing initiatives to support the jubilee year. How can we take advantage of the "joint project" given us by the Holy Father?

Of course we need to genuinely express our thanks and appreciation for what our chaplains and diocesan vocation directors do! Find a way to thank them and, as an extension of that gratitude, inform them of the Serran mission, what your club does already, and find out what you can do to help them in their own projects. I believe they will appreciate being informed and their enthusiasm could enable more good works for us.

Our *Program Manual, Part II* would be an excellent item to share as well, or possibly sections from it. The *Parish Vocation Resource Manual* (affectionately called "the red book") would be good to share as well. Of course there is the *Chaplains Manual*, so make sure your chaplain has a copy. The more information we give them, the more they can do for us and our mission.

God Bless our priests, God Bless our Serra purpose and God Bless all of you. ☪

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# For Serrans, every year is a “Year for Priests”

by Homer Radford, Serra Club of Kansas City, Mo.  
USA Council Vocations Vice President

**I**n a recent letter to all bishops in America asking for support of Priesthood Sunday, Most Reverend Peter F. Christensen, episcopal adviser to the USA Council, wrote:

As the only lay Catholic organization devoted exclusively to the support of vocations to the ministerial priesthood and vowed religious life in this country, we at the U.S.A. Council of Serra International were thrilled when Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed 2009-2010 as the 'Year for Priests.'

That is why this year, more than ever, we are excited to promote our sixth annual 'Priesthood Sunday' event, which takes place on Oct. 25, 2009. This program is designed to bring together the parish community to recognize, thank, and celebrate their priests with a special Mass liturgy, school projects, and other activities designed to help the congregation appreciate the service their priests provide.

"Priesthood Sunday' fosters communication and understanding of the priest's role in a parish, and provides a rare but much-needed opportunity for the community to make a unified statement of gratitude and honor. This kind of expression aids us in our mission to promote a culture of vocations in our Church.

In support of Bishop Christensen's communication with the bishops, Serrans are encouraged to take this opportunity to rededicate themselves to the mission and ministry of Serra International, our Council and their dioceses to make Priesthood Sunday a more widely celebrated occasion in Catholic parishes throughout the United States.

By taking the lead nationally and locally to celebrate the Year for Priests, Serrans can make a difference. We are a vital link in activating the lay faithful, who are asked to develop their own special way of marking the day and honoring both priesthood and their own priests. The USA Council Vocations Committee has 15 years of experience in promoting programs and activities of prayer, affir-


mation and support. These programs are available on the [serraus.org](http://serraus.org) website, and one is featured in this magazine on page 10.

Serra's USA Council is responsible for disseminating information to parishes interested in honoring their priests on this very special day. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting and Worldwide Marriage Encounter are our partners in promoting the event.

Because men and women join Serra to show support for their priests with prayer, celebration and dialogue, club leaders have a responsibility to take an active role in this celebration on Oct. 25 and to support the Year for Priests. All Serrans know that Priesthood Sunday places emphasis on the importance of the priesthood in the lives of the faithful. It helps a community see the beauty of the priestly vocation and focuses attention on the priesthood. It is a call for parishioners to honor both Christ as priest and the men who are called to be his priests on earth.

Special liturgies, Priesthood Sunday celebrations and the opening of a dialogue between priests and parishioners are encouraged. Priesthood Sunday is traditionally celebrated on the last Sunday of October, but some dioceses and parishes may celebrate at a different time to coincide with other planned events. Lay parish leaders are invited to visit [www.priesthoodsunday.org](http://www.priesthoodsunday.org) for suggested liturgies, social celebrations, reflections, and downloadable graphics, guides and posters. There are some Priesthood Sunday posters available which may be requested at 888-777-6681.

"Affirming and supporting our priests are some of the most important things that we can do as Serrans," says USA Council Past President Gary Davis. "Our priests give of themselves every day in so many different ways. It is an honor to recognize them in a manner in which entire parishes may join together in an outpouring of appreciation."

Please consider sharing your Priesthood Sunday ideas for honoring the priesthood and your priests by emailing them to Dan Jones, Vocations Committee Chairman at [d.jones168@verizon.net](mailto:d.jones168@verizon.net), for possible posting on [www.serraus.org](http://www.serraus.org). 

**Serrans, make a difference! Take the lead nationally and locally to celebrate the Year for Priests, starting with our own annual Priesthood Sunday event.**



St. John Vianney monument marking the resting place of Ross and Josephine Lorello at Calvary Cemetery in Omaha, Neb. Photo from [www.catholictradition.org](http://www.catholictradition.org)

**When Pope Benedict XVI announced the Jubilee “Year for Priests,” he specifically identified the 19th-century French priest, St. John Vianney, as the “universal patron of priests.”**

*Who was St. John Vianney, and why has he been singled out for this honor?*

*Why do so many priests choose to model themselves after him?*

*The address delivered by Bishop Guy Claude Bagnard, of the Diocese of Belley-Ars, France, at the inauguration and dedication of Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver Colo., on Sept. 8, 1999, provides an insight into the universal patron of priests.*

## **St. John Vianney and the Spiritual Formation of Diocesan Clergy**

**by Most Reverend Guy Claude Bagnard,  
Bishop of Belley-Ars, France**

I will attempt in this short address to remind you of some aspects of the life of John Vianney, a man the Church presents us as a real treasure -- "the patron saint of all parish priests throughout the world." He is proposed to all seminarians, here and elsewhere, as an ideal for their lives, especially during their formation.

Pope John Paul II speaks to this fact in words addressed to priests in his 1986 Holy Thursday Letter: "How many of us have prepared themselves for the priesthood, or are now carrying out their difficult duty as

parish priests, with St. John Vianney's figure before their eyes. The example he set cannot fall into oblivion. More than ever, we need his testimony and intercession, in order to face the situations of our time" (no. 2).

### **I. THE SAINT IN UNION WITH GOD**

The first reason why the Church is so much attached to John Vianney is simply this one: because he was a saint. Holiness, when considered in his deepest dynamics, consists in recognizing God as the central and unique reality of one's existence. Professor Leo Scheffczyk points out that most people, even people who have

received some religious formation in their lives,

relegate God to the background and occasionally let him come to the front during times of deeper thinking, times of doubt or prayer. In fact, the center of their existence, of their lives, of their activities and of their judgment consists in man's earthly desires, in the transitory happiness and in the suffering their lives abound in. The saint, on the contrary, manages to reverse everything and to give up human relations in favor of the divine reality. The latter, then, becomes the essential criterion that judges and weighs each human measure." (Thalbach speech, July 1990)

The saint has -- once and for all -- chosen God. God is the light and the truth that will, from now on, guide his existence. The saint has been seized. Isn't something of this experience shining in the words of the Gospel, words at the root of the first Apostles' call: "They left everything and followed him" (Luke 5:11)? Christ becomes the one *raison d'être*. Everything will be considered, appreciated, determined relative to this radiating center. The "saint" is literally inhabited by God to whom he has given everything. That was what the countless pilgrims who began to invade the little parish of Ars could perceive so well. The words exclaimed by one pilgrim can aptly sum up the feeling they all shared: "I have seen God in a man."

This familiarity of the saint with the invisible world often triggers behaviors and words that puzzle those who witness them. But, after some reflection, their deep truth soon comes to the surface. Among numerous anecdotes recorded in the Acts of Canonization proceedings, which bear the sure mark of authenticity, I will share the following one with you to demonstrate that the Curé of Ars was not lacking in humor:

An important man wanted to have a talk with Monsieur Vianney. The venerable Servant of God received him together with many other people in the sacristy. He took offense at that and, when his turn came, he said that he had dined with the Emperor, thus reproaching him clearly for keeping him waiting. "Sir," the Holy Curé answered, "I am happier than you are: I have lunch with our Good God every day." (Bishop Fourrey, *The Curé of Ars as He Really Was*, p. 144)

No doubt this important man was baffled by such an unexpected remark. But such remarks were an invitation for people to search their very soul, to examine seriously the way they lived. Sometimes it became the starting-point of a genuine conversion. The words spoken by saints put everything back to the truth, because they come from Him

who commands everything.

Holiness leads us to renew the most ordinary steps of the Christian life. Prayer, for example, if God is given His rightful place, takes on an unexpected twist: "When nothing is said to God any longer, while He is known to be there, that is the most beautiful prayer!" Andre Frossard wrote that "the contemplative soul is not the one that sees, but the one that is seen, and knows it is" (*L'Art de Croire*, Paris, 1979, p. 172). Yet he never ceased to pray! John Vianney loved God more than his own pleasure. This is why he could declare, in such exemplary spiritual truth: "When one receives no consolation, one serves God for God; when one has some, one runs the risk of serving Him for oneself." His simple utterances were full of a very acute inner perception. Similarly, he

would say: "You do a lot more for God when you do the same things without feeling any pleasure or taste" (Catherine Lassagne, *Acts of the Canonization Proceedings*, no. 502).

When God is allowed to rank first, the manner in which the sacraments are perceived is deeply transformed. John Vianney understood this about the Eucharist: "All good works together cannot equal the Sacrifice of the Mass because they

are men's works, whereas the Holy Mass is God's work. Martyrdom itself is nothing in comparison to the Mass: it is the sacrifice man makes of his life to God, but Mass is the sacrifice God makes for man, the sacrifice of his own Body and Blood" (Ravier, p. 21). Concerning the sacrament of penance, he said: "It is not the sinner who returns to God to ask His forgiveness; on the contrary, it is god Himself who runs after the sinner and brings him back to Him" (Nodes, *Le Curé d'Ars*, p. 125). Finally, concerning the priest, the Curé of Ars made this amazingly simple statement about the priest: "The priesthood is the Love of Jesus' Heart" (Ravier, p. 14). Priestly ministry regained its Christological roots.

## II. THE PRIEST AS WARRIOR FOR GOD'S CAUSE

Intimacy with God began in Jean Vianney's early childhood, in a Christian family atmosphere, and developed all through his youth. Gradually, the desire for the priesthood grew. He was 17 when, for the first time, he let his mother and his aunt in on the secret. He explained: "If I became a priest, I'd want to win many souls" (Trochu, *The Curé of Ars*, Lyon-Paris, 1925, p. 41). These few words, uttered with discretion and restraint, reflect the way that he viewed the priest's mission. The priest is entrusted with the responsibility to make God triumph in man's heart.

*Continued on page 12*

## The priesthood is the Love of Jesus' Heart.

-- St. John Vianney




## *From the USAC Programs Mission and Ministry of the Priesthood*

by Bob Goldsmith, Programs Committee Chair  
Serra Club of Southern Maryland, Md.

**D**uring this Year for Priests, it would be quite appropriate for your Serra club to consider one of our programs focused on the Mission and Ministry of the Priesthood. Indeed, this would be an ideal choice, and, jubilee year or not, Serrans should revisit the themes in this program annually.

Serrans are devoted to the promotion and support of the priesthood. One could use this program as presented at right strictly as an internal program, or else supplement it by asking a priest to present his own personal perspective on how he sees his own ministry and mission in this complicated world. It would also be quite appropriate to present this program prior or close to the ordination ceremony for new priests, an event very close to the hearts of Serrans everywhere.

This is a topic with a rich scriptural background and tradition, and one could select from various sound options. An example is the reading from Matthew 28:18-20, which reads as follows: "Then Jesus approached and said to them, 'All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always until the end of the age.'"

While examining the meaning of mission and ministry of the priesthood, one should also not lose sight of the reality that there is also a mystery at work here. The topic can be explored but perhaps never fully and completely understood in all its majesty and significance. In summary, one has to celebrate this topic by agreeing with the comment which Archbishop Donald Wuerl presents in the following statement: "From this body of the faithful, a number are called to minister to the Church. The sacrament of orders allows one to participate in Christ's mission in a unique way. Ordination to ministerial priesthood makes the recipient an authentic, authoritative, and special representative of Christ as head of the Church." 

## Mission and Ministry of the Priesthood

### Theme

In essence a priest is a mediator presenting an offering of love and surrender to God in the name of the community of believers. At the same time, he is chosen by God to communicate the Lord's gifts of grace, love and forgiveness to the community. Priesthood has experienced significant changes within the last 100 years. The expectations of the community of its priests are very broad to the extent that priests are now expected to be all things to all people. This attitude should challenge us to review the purpose and meaning of priesthood.

### Scripture

"Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins... No one takes this honor upon himself, but only when called by God" (Hebrews 5: 1-4).

### Documentary Tradition

The priest has a special relationship with Jesus Christ. "By the sacrament of orders priests are configured to Christ, the Priest, so that as minister of the head and coworkers of the episcopal order they can build up and establish His Whole Body which is Christ" (Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, #12).

"The basic elements of the priestly ministry are:

- a) to proclaim the Gospel
- b) to preside over the sacraments and liturgy
- c) to build up and serve the community which in turn serves the world"

(The Report of the Bishops Ad Hoc Committee for Priestly Life and Ministry, p. 25).

The ministerial or hierarchical priesthood of bishops and priests, and the common priesthood of all the faithful participate, each in its own proper way, in the one priesthood of Christ. While being 'ordered one to another,' they differ essentially... While the common priesthood of the faithful is exercised by the faithful by the unfolding of baptismal grace — a life of faith, hope, and charity, a life according to the Spirit — the ministerial priesthood is at the service of the common priesthood. It is directed at the unfolding of the baptismal grace of all Christians. The ministerial priesthood is a means by which Christ unceasingly builds up and leads his Church. For this reason, it is transmitted by its own sacrament, the sacrament of Holy Orders" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1547).

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## Presentation Objectives

- To reflect on our own experience of priesthood.
- To recognize the changes in the role of priesthood.
- To explore the future of priesthood.

## Reflection Questions

- What is my experience of priests?
- What ministries or activities is my parish priest involved in?
- What is my understanding and expectations of priesthood?

## Discussion Starters

- What is the main conclusion that we can draw from the doctrine of the common priesthood?
- How will this challenge the priesthood in the 21st century?
- How can the common and ordained priesthood minister to each other?

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## Christensen

*Continued from p. 5*

tions," Bishop Christensen said. "Serra certainly has been a forerunner in organizing that support through activities and prayer at a time when we have such a great need to encourage vocations."

Bishop Christensen attended St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., and was ordained to the priesthood in 1985. He served as a priest for the Archdiocese of Minneapolis/St. Paul for 23 years. During that time he also served as rector of St. John Vianney College Seminary and spent eight years as pastor of Nativity of our Lord Church and School in St. Paul. He was ordained Bishop of the Diocese of Superior in Wisconsin on Sept. 14, 2007.

Presently, he serves as a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth; the Sub-Committee on Native American Catholics; and the Priority Task Force on Faith Formation and Sacramental Practice.

No stranger to Serra and its mission, Bishop Christensen first served as a student liaison for the St. John Vianney Seminary to the Midway Serra Club from 1979-1981. Later, while rector of the St. John Vianney Seminary, he served as that same club's chaplain for 10 years. ☺

## My View

Ed Verbeke,  
USAC Executive Director

**THE COUNCIL IS CELEBRATING** its 15th anniversary this year, which is quite a milestone.

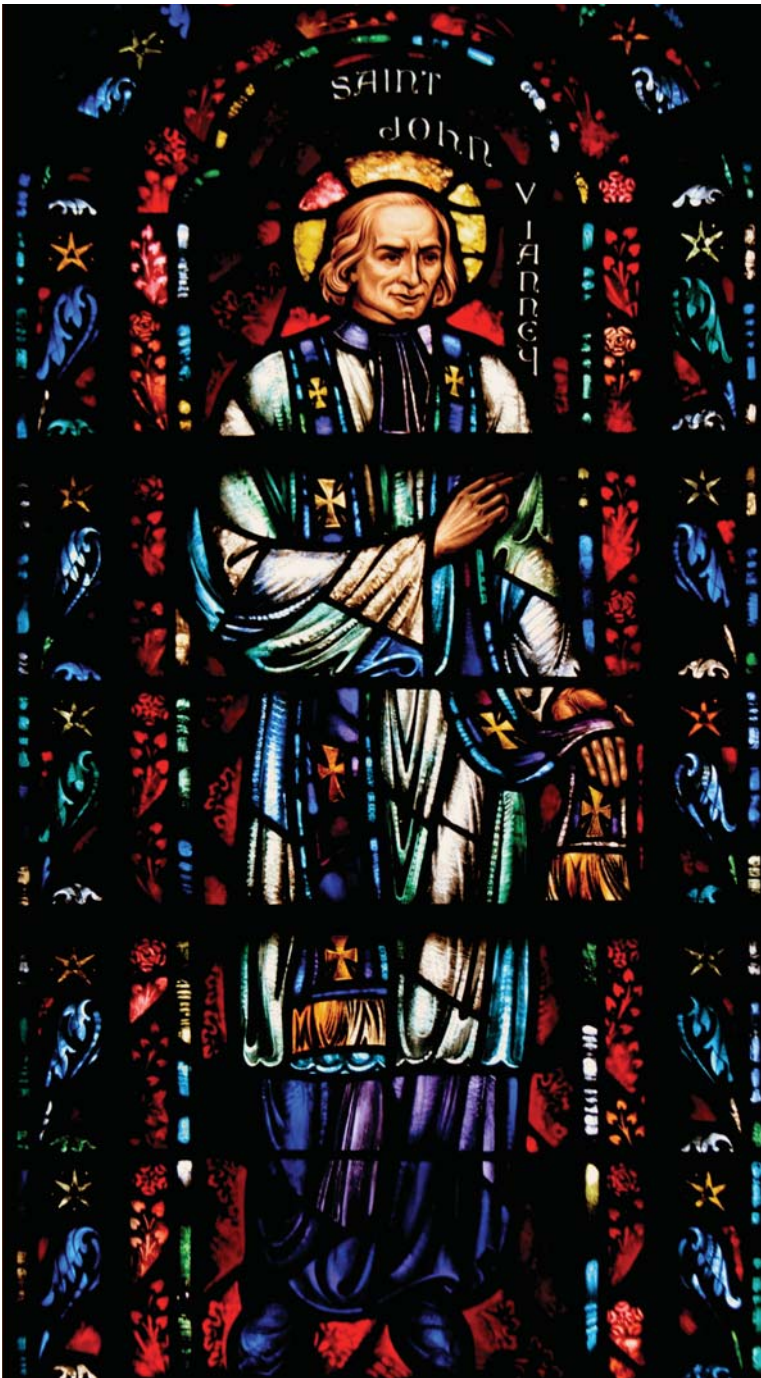
Our first USA Council president, Richard "Dick" Stolly of the Serra Club of Lima, Ohio, passed away on June 18. Dick and several others were very active in getting the Council approved and started. Dick served during the transition year and then one year as president. He set a high standard for the office of the president and challenged all of the succeeding Council presidents to meet and exceed the standard he set. He believed strongly in the Council's vocation mission and worked tirelessly to promote and affirm vocations to the ordained priesthood and vowed religious life.

Like Dick, all of the presidents over the last 15 years have been active on the club level and served as district governors before joining the national leadership team. Before each became president-elect, they served on the Executive Committee in a vice president capacity. Each of them have made a significant investment in the Council, giving of their time, talents and treasure. In Dick's case, he served on the Serra International Board before the formation of the Council in 1994. Unlike Douglas MacArthur, old USA Council presidents "don't just fade away," they remain active in their clubs and in the Council. They are and have been invaluable in the success of the Council and this commitment is not always easy for them.

When I was attending Officers Candidate School, we were taught that you lead through precept and example. Dick Stolly did just that: he lead by his strong commitment to the mission of the Council and by working to implement the mission. All of the presidents who followed enjoyed his legacy. Dick's passing leaves a definite void, but his gift to us through his visionary spirit and hard work leaves behind a major challenge for all of us. He may not be here with us physically, but he will be present forever in memory.

If you are with us in Omaha at the Serra International Convention, I'd like to urge you to attend the Council's Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers and District Governors on August 27 at 1:00 p.m. Many important items will be discussed and voted on at the Serra International's Delegate meeting. Make sure your club has both a delegate and an alternate.

I'm very proud of all the work our Council has accomplished in the past 15 years. We've generated a lot of useful materials, programs, and leaders in service to our mission and our Church. I look forward to the years to come. ☺



**St. John Vianney stained glass window**  
Photo from [www.catholictradition.org](http://www.catholictradition.org)

### *Continued from page 9*

We can find a similar vision of the priest in a brief conversation he had with the shepherd, Antoine Givre, when, 15 years later - on Feb. 13th, 1818 - he arrived at Ars, his parish. After getting lost in the fog, the new priest in charge no longer knew what direction to follow to get to the parish. He caught sight of a young boy tending his flock. After being given the necessary information, the Curé said to him: "You showed me the way to Ars; I'll show you the way to Heaven." The whole mystery of the priest was expressed and revealed in these simple words. The priest's *raison d'être* is to usher from earth to Heaven those to whom he was sent. One understands what a serious matter human existence is. Something considerable is at stake: God is either reached or missed. Man struggles for no less than eternity, or, in John Vianney's words, for "Heaven, the fullness of life with God."

The image of the priest who risks his life so that the life of God may be given to men is deeply rooted in the story of his childhood. Only a few priests were left after the upheavals of the French Revolution. Plenty of blood had been shed. Many priests had been executed without any trial. Some priests had taken the oath demanded by the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, thus stepping away from the Church. A large number of priests had been deported or had chosen to go into exile. Those who were left, a small number, were compelled to hide because of their faithfulness to the Church. They became hunted priests since it was illegal for them to carry out their ministry. "By day they stayed in isolated farmhouses, sometimes dressed up as farmers; by night, led by catechists, they went into villages to administer the sacraments" (*Thesis* by Enzo Bienuni, 1995, p. 35).

The young Vianney grew up in that atmosphere. Sometimes at night Jean Vianney's mother would gather her children and secretly take them away. She had heard that some unknown missionary was present on a certain farm for a very short while. Bishop Trochu describes the scene:

The Vianneys would leave at night without a noise, and they walked, sometimes for a long time, in the dark... Once there, they would be led into a barn or a remote room, almost devoid of any light, where they would find a stranger kneeling next to a poor table, praying, a very sweet smile shining through the features of his face. Holding out his open hands, he would come and meet the newcomers. Then, in the furthest corner, a few words were exchanged in confidence behind a makeshift curtain, in a very low voice; the good priest gave advice, encouraged and absolved consciences. Sometimes too, newly engaged young people would ask him to bless their marriage. Eventually, there was

Mass, the Mass that grown-ups and children alike had so much longed for. The priest would put on the table the consecrated slate-board that he had brought along with him, the missal, the chalice and several hosts -- for he would not be the only communicant on that night... He would start saying the liturgical prayers, surrounded by a deep silence: "I shall climb up to the Lord's altar." What fervor in the tone of his voice, and how collected and moved the audience was! How deeply young Vianney's soul experienced such unforgettable minutes! (Trochu, p. 17)

John Vianney watched and attended the sacrifice of the Mass very attentively. He gazed on the faces of the heroic priests who were risking their lives for the salvation of souls. Under such circumstances, he received Holy Communion for the first time.

The priest, against such a background, appeared to young John Vianney as a valiant warrior fighting for God's cause. This influenced John Vianney when he was to receive the sacrament of confirmation. He wanted to add to his first name the name Baptist (Baptiste) in order to show clearly that, from then on, he wanted to act in the same way as John the Baptist, the one who prepared the way for the Lord. But where does the fight actually take place? John Vianney soon understood that the battle was fought in the human soul. He would often say: "What a beautiful thing a soul is! The picture of God shines through a pure soul like the sun through the water" (Ravier, p. 32).

But this transparency to the light of God meets many obstacles. In the secret recesses of man's conscience the fiercest and also the most invisible fights take place. There the decisions fraught with the most serious consequences are made; there doubts slip in, or negligence can give rise to the worst acts of cowardice; but also on this interior battlefield the choice of martyrdom and absolute self-abandonment is made. Saint John Vianney, deeply convinced that man's eternal destiny was at stake in this interior battle, progressively let himself become a prisoner of the confessional. There the soul is freed from all its heavy burdens.

We can scarcely understand today what really happened at Ars during the course of the last 20 years John Vianney spent there as pastor. The pilgrims thirsting for light, comfort and pardon came in ever-growing crowds every year. Saint John Vianney had to start using several confessionals situated in various parts of the small village church. He went from one to the other, according to the number of penitents waiting. There was a confession-box reserved for men, one for women, one for priests and religious, one for his own parishioners, and, finally, one confession-box for great sinners. John Vianney realized that, among those who came to Ars incognito, sometimes from great distances, some had long given up all religious practice. Many came after long years spent far away from the faith. They needed to be helped to take a step toward conversion. Therefore he had an almost hidden door built in the right-hand side of the church, next to the entrance. People could remain anonymous. In his vivid, picturesque language, John Vianney once said: "It is this confession-box that enabled me to catch souls in their flight."

On July 29, 1859, five days before John Vianney died, he was still sitting in his confession-box! On the very day he died, as he lay on his death-bed, only a few hours before he breathed his last, there were still penitents begging the dying man for absolution! Hard to believe and yet true! His witness helps us to accept the most surprising pages of the gospels themselves; the lives of the saints make Jesus' story easier to believe. They drink from the source of Christ's holiness and reproduce its effects; indeed, Christ said to the Apostles:

*Continued on next page*

## ***Prayer for Parish Priests by St. John Vianney***

Pray that God may give to His Church  
today many more Priests  
after His Own Heart.

Pray for all Priests  
under thy patronage,  
that they may be worthy representatives  
of Christ the Good Shepherd.

May they wholeheartedly  
devote themselves to prayer  
and penance;  
by examples of humility and poverty;  
shining models of holiness;  
tireless and powerful preachers  
of the Word of God;  
zealous dispensers of  
God's Grace in the Sacraments.

May their loving devotion  
to Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mary,  
His Mother  
be the Twin Fountains of fruitfulness  
for their ministry.

Amen.

## Continued from page 13

"Whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do; and he will perform even greater works" (John 14:12). Thus the priest becomes a soldier fighting by God's side so that man may be freed and may accomplish his eternal vocation: "winning over souls to God."

The funny thing about this is that when John Vianney was ordained a priest, he was denied the faculty to hear confession. It was granted to him only about a year later (Trochu, p. 121, 126-27; Fourrey, p. 99). Considered to be unfit, he proved to be greatest confessor ever known in the history of the Church. It is believed that nearly a million penitents received absolution for their sins from him. He was a true warrior for God's cause.

### III. THE PARISH PRIEST AND PASTORAL CHARITY

As penitents poured into his parish, between 300 and 500 a day, John Vianney could no longer devote his energies to his parishioners. They were deprived of their pastor and he was filled with anguish: "I would be the happiest of all priests but for the thought that I shall have to appear before God's Tribunal with my poor life as a parish priest!" (Acts, no. 491). "Fatigue, that is nothing; but appearing before God's Tribunal as a parish priest - passing from a presbytery to God's Tribunal, that is something we have no idea of!" (Nodet, *Pensées*, p. 105; Le Sourd, p. 154) Saint Augustine reminds us: "For you I am a bishop; with you I am a Christian. The former name is that of an office (I have received); the latter, that of Grace. The former is that of some danger; the latter, that of salvation" (Sermon 340.1).

Foreshadowing *Pastores Dabo Vobis* (PDV), John Vianney said: "The priest is not a priest for himself. He is not there for himself; he is there for you!" (Ravier, p. 21). These words reveal all their truth in the care a pastor shows his people. And that is why, when John Vianney felt unable to carry out his duty, he was tempted to flee from his parish. Indeed, he made several attempts, yet always returned at his bishop's insistence. He had the keenest sense of what *Pastores Dabo Vobis* calls "pastoral charity."

The essential content of this pastoral charity is the gift of self, the total gift of self to the Church following the example of Christ. Pastoral charity is the virtue by which we imitate Christ in his self-giving and in his service. It is not just what we do, but our gift of self, which manifests Christ's love for his flock. Pastoral charity determines our way of thinking and acting, our way of relating to people... the priest... is in a

position to make this a loving choice, as a result of which the Church and souls become his first interest.... This same pastoral charity is the dynamic inner principle capable of unifying the many different activities of the priest. (PDV 23)

How does John Vianney's love for his flock reveal itself? Catherine Lassagne informed us about an absolutely unique symbolical gesture: "Everyone agreed," she said, "on the fact that when he first arrived to take office in the parish of Ars, the Holy Curé knelt down as soon as he caught sight of the roofs of the houses, to ask God for abundant graces for himself and for his parishioners" (Acts, no. 469).

John Paul II took up this particular gesture. He tells about his arrival as a young priest in his first parish:

I could see the church of Niegowic in the distance. It was harvest time. I was walking between fields of wheat that had already been reaped and others which were still undulating in the wind. When I finally arrived on the territory of the Niegowic parish, I knelt down and kissed the ground. I had learnt this gesture from Saint John Vianney. (*My Vocation, a Gift and a Mystery*, pp. 75-76)

**The priest is not a priest  
for himself.  
He is not there for himself;  
he is there for you!**

-- *St. John Vianney*

John Paul II repeats this gesture on every trip of his throughout the world. This gesture, the first sign of pastoral charity, symbolically expresses the love that links the pastor to his flock from the instant of his arrival.


Pastoral charity took on very concrete aspects later on in John Vianney's life. He prayed for long hours of adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament and he regularly visited all his parishioners. In those days that meant a real revolution! A description of the Holy Curé's pastoral work is made by Father Nodet:

As soon as he arrived, he wanted to get to know all his people and to know them as they were at home. At midday, contrary to all habits, he would go and visit the families one after another. On entering the yards he would call the master of the house by his first name, in his hoarse voice, and while everyone felt moved and excited around the table, he would step in quickly and beg everyone there to sit down and go on eating the meal that was slightly steaming from each plate. He stood leaning against some sideboard or windowsill, talking to the poor people... then, by degrees, he started talking about the children. And he would encourage the parents not to chide them too often, but rather to become aware of their responsibility: "Your children will remember what you will have been much more than what you will have said to them."

He soon realized that the children of the village were totally lacking in schooling. Most of them could neither read nor write, nor could they even sign their names. He considered ignorance to be one of the worst forms of poverty. He opened a school for girls, and then another one for boys. Above all, John Vianney was deeply moved by the dire poverty of the teenage girls that had been abandoned by their parents. He turned an old house he had bought into an orphanage, "La Providence," where all the orphan girls of the region were welcome for free. With the help of three young women of Ars, he housed over 80 orphans.

John Vianney's pastoral charity as a new pastor was considerable and transformed the village. His sermons made a deep impression on his people and he insisted regularly on Sunday rest. "Sunday, that's God's property. It is His day, the Lord's day. He made every day of the week; He could have kept them all: He gave you six, He only kept the seventh. What right do you have to lay hands on something that does not belong to you? You know that ill-gotten gains seldom prosper. You will not profit by the day you steal from the Lord. I know of two sure ways to become poor: working on Sunday and stealing someone else's property" (Trochu, p. 175). Furthermore, through his work family life recovered its rights and was greatly improved. By closing the village taverns the number of drunkards were reduced; men would go back home at night without being violent or aggressive. He restored peace to many families. Without explicitly planning to do so, John Vianney performed social work by working for the good of souls. He "stroved to take initiatives that suited his times and parishioners" (John Paul II, *Holy Thursday Letter 1986*, no. 6). But he always did so as a "pastor" not as "a social worker" who merely cares for good social order.

If John Vianney was so close to his parishioners, the Holy Father comments, it was always "with a view to their salvation and the progress of God's Kingdom." For the priest "is the witness and giver of a life different from earthly life. It is essential for the Church that the priest's identity be safeguarded, with its vertical dimension. The life and personality of the Curé of Ars provide us with particularly luminous and vigorous evidence" (*ibid.*, no. 10). Pastoral charity was at the heart of his ministry.

In conclusion, the saints have the power to transform life in its most humble realities, simply because they are full of God's Life. Ultimately, that is why the Curé of Ars has become "a priestly model for all pastors" (*ibid.*, no. 4). The secret of his generosity lies in his love for God, a love lived beyond all bounds. How full of meaning his last prayer was, when his life drew to a close: "O my God, I prefer to die in love with you rather than to live one single instant without loving you." 

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*Bishop Bagnard's presentation is reprinted with the kind permission of St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver, Colo. Visit the seminary online at [www.sjvdenver.edu](http://www.sjvdenver.edu)*

## *Quotes from St. John Vianney on the priesthood and devotion:*

"Next to God, the priest is everything. Leave a parish for 20 years without a priest, and it will worship the beasts... If M. le Missionaire and I were to go away, you would say, 'What should we do in this church? There is no Mass now. Our Lord is no longer there; we may as well pray at home.'"

"When people want to destroy religion, they begin by attacking the priest; for when there is no priest, there is no sacrifice; and when there is no sacrifice, there is no religion."

"All the good works in the world are not equal to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass because they are the works of men; but the Mass is the work of God. Martyrdom is nothing in comparison for it is but the sacrifice of man to God; but the Mass is the sacrifice of God for man."

"My children, we are come to the Sacrament of Orders. It is a Sacrament which seems to have no relation to any of you, and which yet in fact bears a relation to every one. This Sacrament raises man to God. What is a priest? A man who holds the place of God, a man invested with all the powers of God. 'Go,' says our Lord to the priest; 'as My Father hath sent Me, so send I you. All power is given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go, therefore; teach all nations.'"

"The soul hungers for God, and nothing but God can satiate it. Therefore He came to dwell on earth and assumed a Body in order that this Body might become the Food of our souls."

"When we go before the Blessed Sacrament, let us open our heart; our good God will open His. We shall go to Him; He will come to us; the one to ask, the other to receive. It will be like a breath from one to the other."

"The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ."

# Callers to the Harvest

A forum for club activity, reports and ideas



## Omaha clubs honor Distinguished Serrans and welcome 17 new members

The Serra clubs of Omaha and West Omaha, Neb., honored their Distinguished Serrans of the Year last February at their induction dinner, where they also welcomed 17 new members. Omaha Archbishop Elden Curtiss presided at Mass and presented pins to the new members.

Muriel Munchrath of West Omaha and Dick Bené of Omaha were recognized for their service with statues of Serra International's patron, Blessed Junipero Serra. Munchrath and Bené pose for a photo with Archbishop Curtiss in the photo at left.

## Kansas City clubs show love for seminarians

The four Serra clubs in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph (Kansas City, Southeast Kansas City, Northland and St. Joseph) invited the 26 seminarians in the diocese along with their families to attend the clubs' annual Seminarian Appreciation Dinner last December. Twenty seminarians attended and received gifts and financial assistance from the four clubs.

Bishop Robert Finn was among the 250 guests who attended, and at the event renewed his promise to take care of all seminarians God gives the diocese.

"You must prepare well," Bishop Finn told the seminarians during his homily at Mass. "You must work and study so that the timeless lessons of the Church's traditions and the heritage of the fathers and the Magisterium will fortify your efforts."

Each seminarian introduced his family and told the attendees a bit about himself. Serrans were treated to grateful words from

the seminarians themselves:

"It's very important for you to understand that everything you do, you do make a difference," said Jeffrey Gardner, a seminarian at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis.

"We do rely on your prayers and support," said Ben Kneib, also studying at Kenrick-Glennon. "It's not only the external, material support like this. It's the internal, spiritual support as well."

## Southwest Houston club honors altar servers

In coordination with the Galveston/Houston Archdiocesan Office of Vocations, the Serra Club of Southwest Houston hosted two spring picnics at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston for altar servers from parishes all over the archdiocese.

Both picnics took place last April and included tours of the seminary (including a look at a secret tunnel linking the former

cloister to the dining hall), lunch and games. Each altar server was presented with a crucifix in appreciation for their valuable service to God and the Church.

## Kansas City clubs' third annual Blisters for Sisters walkathon is a runaway hit

God blessed Serrans, sisters and supporters of the third annual Blisters for Sisters walkathon in Kansas City, Mo., with good weather on May 2, 2009, despite predictions of rain.

Setting a record for attendance, 368 people participated in the event, walking either 1.4, 2.4 or 3.4-mile courses, with some choosing to create their own trail. Of the total attendees, 100 were sisters and 268 were lay people. Over \$27,000 was raised by the walkers, and this money will be distributed to the 14 different communities of sisters who participated this year.

The event was supported and staffed by Serrans from the four clubs of the Kansas

City-St. Joseph Diocese and the four clubs from the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kan. Boy Scouts and their leaders manned the water stands at the half-way mark.

### Serra celebrates 70 years in Minnesota

The sixth club in all of Serra International was chartered on April 28, 1939, in Minneapolis, Minn. Last April, the “mother club” of many clubs in the Midwest was feted along with two of the many clubs they sponsored: the Serra clubs of South Suburban Minneapolis and North-Minneapolis, who were celebrating 45 years and 35 years, respectively. A celebratory Mass, reception and dinner was held at St. Olaf Church in downtown Minneapolis.

Fr. John Gillespie, OP, celebrated Mass and gave an inspiring homily to a full church of Serrans and guests. Three members with the longest membership, one from each anniversary club, served as Eucharistic gift bearers and three others participated as altar server, lector, and intercession reader. The entire congregation read the Canonization Prayer for Blessed Junipero Serra as a closing for the petition prayers.

At the dinner, over 170 attendees enjoyed keynote speaker Fr. William Baer, Rector of St. John Vianney College Seminary, who delivered a talk entitled, “Serra at 70: Learning from the Past, Living for the Future.” Pointing out that Serra was started during a tough economical time and continued to grow despite other trying times, he encouraged the Serrans to renew their purpose and rededicate themselves to the needs of the current day. “Don’t grow old, Serra!” he cautioned.

Sr. Patricia Tekippe of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration gave a talk on how Serra has been a blessing to vocations ministers. ☺



Dubuque Serrans (and some sisters) entertain ...



...an honored audience at the Dubuque Serra club’s Sisters Picnic!

### Serra Club of Dubuque hosts Sisters Picnic

Serrans in Dubuque, Iowa, treated 160 sisters from eight religious Orders to a picnic dinner at Eagle Point Park in Dubuque on June 10, 2009. Sisters from the tri-state area of Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois were invited to the third annual picnic. Fifty-five Serrans and spouses welcomed the sisters to an evening of fellowship, food and fun. Several of the sisters and Serrans entertained the crowd with songs and stories.

As a way of showing their gratitude for the sisters’ service to the Church, the Serra Club of Dubuque began their Sisters Picnic in 2007. The club also hosts a dinner in July for all men religious in the area.

#### GOT CLUB NEWS?

Want to see it online or in the **serraUSA** magazine?

Email your news to [serraus@serraus.org](mailto:serraus@serraus.org)

Or mail photos, newsletters and press releases to:

**USA Council of Serra International**  
65 E. Wacker Place, Suite 802  
Chicago, IL 60625  
Attn: Anne McCormack

# Farewell

## SERRANS CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

- Eugene Adler, Evansville, IN  
Stephan Andras, Aurora, IL  
George Artz, Sacramento, CA  
Joseph Baker, Jr., Mobile, AL  
Allen Bares, Lafayette, LA  
Fred Bell, West Green Bay, WI  
John Bertsch, Cleveland East, OH  
John Blomberg, Parkersburg, WV  
C. Adrien Bodet Jr., Mobile, AL  
Samuel Bozich, East Harris County, TX  
Henry Brands, Portland, OR  
Lois Broker, St. Cloud, MN  
Edward Bryson, Hartford, CT  
Joseph Buoye, San Bernardino, CA  
Nathan Cannella, Alexandria, LA  
Frank Carenbauer D.D.S., Wheeling, WV  
Dolores Carroll, Clarksburg, WV  
James Carter, Cleveland Downtown, OH  
Gail Carter, Cascade, WA  
John Casasanta, Amarillo, TX  
Bernard Casserly, St. Paul, MN  
John Cleary, Buffalo, NY  
William Collins, Philadelphia, PA  
Marc Conklin, Kansas City, KS  
Mary Ellen Connolly, Des Moines, IA  
George Connolly, Kenosha, WI  
James Considine MD, Southwest Houston, TX  
David Crewe, Kenosha, WI  
John Crowley, St. Croix Valley, MN  
Dorothy Croy, Minot, ND  
Betty Cummings, Albuquerque, NM  
Nick Curalli DO, Spokane, WA  
Robert Dean, Milwaukee, WI  
Gilbert Dechant, Milwaukee, WI  
Ralph DeDecker, Fox Cities, WI  
Lawrence Degner, Toledo, OH  
Arthur Deichmann, East Jefferson, LA  
Milo DePhillips, Des Moines, IA  
John Devine, Watertown Area, SD  
James Dickson, Tacoma, WA  
Robert Dixon, Charleston, WV  
Joseph Donahue, Northwest Denver, CO  
William Donnelly, St. Louis, MO  
John Dowling, Minneapolis, MN  
James Dresser, Phoenix, AZ  
William Duhigg M.D., Cleveland  
Downtown, OH  
Joseph Durkin, Fort Worth, TX  
Caroline Dusel, Buffalo, NY  
Joan Falquette, Fremont Deanery, OH  
Charles Fatta, Warren County, NJ  
Kevin Feely, Southwest Denver, CO  
John Fierst, Jasper Deanery, IN  
David Fisher, Madison, WI  
John Gaschen, Lubbock, TX  
Gerard Gaudreau, Baltimore, MD  
Joseph Geisen, Hammond, IN Area  
Donald Gerhardt, Kansas City, KS  
Joseph Glotzbach, Hammond, IN Area  
Bill Gorges, Wichita, KS  
Robert Gorman, USA Council Member-at-  
Large  
Robert Goyette, Lubbock, TX  
Margaret Grosz, Bismarck-Mandan, ND  
Phillip Hall, Mobile, AL  
William Hammer, San Mateo, CA  
William Han, Modesto, CA  
Michael Handlos, San Francisco, CA  
Catherine Hannon, West Suburban Area,  
IL  
Richard Harvey, West Omaha, NE  
Joe Healey, Southeast Denver, CO  
Mary Heman, Carroll Area, IA  
John Heroux, Lancaster, PA  
Andrew Hoenig, Worcester South, MA  
Patricia Holgate, The Oranges, NJ  
J. Richard Jacobs, Wichita-Metro, KS  
James Jakubek, Phoenix, AZ  
Joseph Jiorle, Warren County, NJ  
William Jones, Cleveland West, OH  
Thomas Juettner, San Diego, CA  
Kay Kelly, Riverside, CA  
Wray Kessel, Savannah, GA  
John Killinger, Indianapolis, IN  
Raymond Kingcaid, Lancaster, PA  
Allen Kinghorn, Houston, TX  
Kathy Kopka, North-Minneapolis, MN  
Walter Kurtz, Midway-St. Paul, MN  
Catherine Lange, Southeast Denver, CO  
George Largess, Washington, DC  
Marion Lawless, Tallahassee, FL  
Frank Lawson, San Francisco, CA  
William Lindquist, Kansas City, KS  
Gordon Lymburn, Tacoma, WA  
Gerard Lyons, Des Moines, IA  
Doris Madigan, Green Bay, WI  
William Malloy, Parkersburg, WV  
Virginia Manning Lyons, Waterloo, IA  
William Marconi, San Francisco, CA  
Robert Masters, West Omaha, NE  
Alfred Masterson, San Diego East, CA  
Julian McBride, Nashville, TN  
Joseph McCann, Pittsburgh, PA  
John McCarthy, Cleveland Downtown, OH  
Marie McConnell, St. Cloud, MN  
Jean McConnell, Tri-Cities, WA  
Paul McGovern, Marin County, CA  
Bernard McGucken, Knox-Licking  
Vicariate, OH  
John McGuckin, Jr., San Francisco, CA  
Jane McKenna, Albuquerque, NM  
John McLaughlin, Indian River Area, FL  
Patricia McMahan, Hartford, CT  
Brian McNamara, Paterson, NJ  
Rosalie McNearney, St. Louis, MO  
Robert Michels, Aurora, IL  
Olga Mirek, Palo Alto - Menlo Park, CA  
Norman Montgomery, Sacramento, CA  
J. Kevin Mueller, Baltimore, MD  
Kathleen Murphy, Sacramento, CA  
David Murphy, Tallahassee, FL  
George Murphy, Palm Springs Vicariate,  
CA  
Bill Murphy, Palm Springs Vicariate, CA  
Frederick Muzzy, South Suburban Area, IL  
Norbert Norpel, Des Moines, IA  
Mike Novak, Kansas City, KS  
Maurice Olson, Everett, WA  
Thomas O'Toole, Muskegon, MI  
Winnifred O'Toole, Aurora, CO  
Adela Pohl, Diocese of Victoria NW, TX  
Michael Pohlen, Twin Cities Airport, MN  
Edwin Quinn, Lancaster, PA  
Richard Reuland, Aurora, IL  
Irene Riehl, Bismarck-Mandan, ND  
Anthony Rinella, Kansas City, KS  
Gerald Rosekrans, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

# Happy Anniversary

During the months of November 2008 through August 2009, the USA Council celebrates the charter anniversaries of 27 clubs. Congratulations on all your work for vocations!

**70** Minneapolis, MN - April 28, 1939

**60** Austin, TX - Nov. 3, 1948  
Marin County, CA - Jan. 12, 1949  
Muskegon, MI - March 24, 1949  
Albuquerque, NM - April 8, 1949  
Stockton, CA - April 26, 1949  
Des Moines, IA - Aug. 4, 1949

**50** Du Page County, IL - Nov. 20, 1958  
Chattanooga, TN - Dec. 10, 1958  
Lafayette, IN - Jan. 12, 1959  
Miami, FL - April 26, 1959

**40** East Harris County, TX - March 19, 1969  
Metropolitan Dallas, TX - March 25, 1969  
Escanaba, MI - May 5, 1969  
Fresno, CA - May 7, 1969  
Northwest Houston, TX - June 26, 1969

**30** Mid-Manhattan, NY - June 2, 1979

**25** East Jefferson, LA - Jan. 13, 1984  
Prince George's County, MN - Feb. 3, 1984  
North San Diego County, CA - April 2, 1984

**20** North Metro Atlanta, GA - Nov. 30, 1988  
Mercer County, PA - Aug. 25, 1989

**10** Reno County, KS - Feb. 28, 1999  
Hunterdon County, NJ - April 13, 1999  
Johnson County, KS - April 26, 1999  
Tulsa, OK - Aug. 15, 1999  
Lawrence Area, KS - Aug. 31, 1999

## Farewell SERRANS CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

Harold Rueth, Hammond, IN Area  
Frank Ryan, Mankato, MN  
Jim Scanlon, North Columbus, OH  
Jerome Schneider, Jasper Deanery, IN  
Virginia Schroeder, St. Louis, MO  
John Schweitzer, St. Louis, MO  
C. Frank Sena, Esq, Bronx-Westchester County, NY  
Phil Shannon, Mesilla Valley, NM  
Marie Shea, Memphis, TN  
Thomas Southerington, Baltimore, MD  
Joseph Spedale, East Jefferson, LA  
Robert St. Louis, Iron Mountain Kingsford, MI  
Milton Staley, Carroll Area, IA  
Donald Steffensen, Des Moines, IA  
Victor Stein, Northwest Hennepin, MN  
Donald Stevens, Baltimore, MD  
Richard Stolly, Lima, OH

John Sullivan, St. Paul, MN  
Chester Sychterz, Reading, PA  
John Tocchini, Cascade, WA  
Gerald Tracy M.D., Watertown Area, SD  
Robert Trainer, Cape May County, NJ  
Robert Turcios O.D., West Contra Costa, CA  
Richard Urda, Clarksburg, WV  
Regina Uveges, Mercerville, NJ  
Herbert Van Hout, Green Bay, WI  
John Vogt, City of Orange, CA  
Ervin Vrazel, Victoria, TX  
Paul Waller Jr., St. Clair County, IL  
Demain Whitesides, Morgantown, WV  
Eugene Witt, WEST Omaha, NE  
William Wittenauer, Akron, OH  
Phyllis Wudi, Milwaukee, WI  
Constance Zierden, St. Cloud, MN  
Lydia Zipperle, Palm Springs Vicariate, CA

## 2009-2010 GOING FORWARD

**ALL YEAR**  
**UNTIL JUNE 19, 2010**  
Year for Priests

**SEPTEMBER**  
All month

District governor club visits

15

Regional director nominee report due to USAC office in Chicago

**OCTOBER**  
All month

District governor club visits

25

**Priesthood Sunday**

See [www.priestsunday.org](http://www.priestsunday.org) for details!



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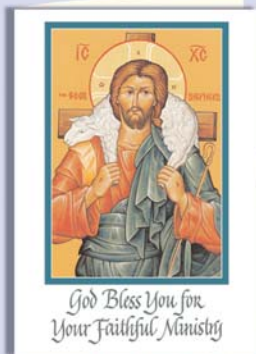
# THE PRINTERY HOUSE

*Christian Greeting Cards and Gifts*

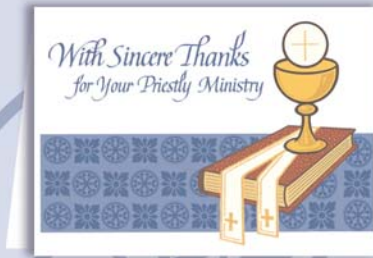
**Pope Benedict XVI has proclaimed a Year for Priests**

- A time of renewal for priests in their ministries
- A time to support your priests with prayer and encouragement

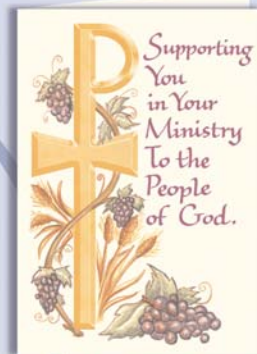
Share in the celebration with Priest Appreciation cards from The Printery House.  
Thank your priests for their faithful ministry to the People of God and the Church



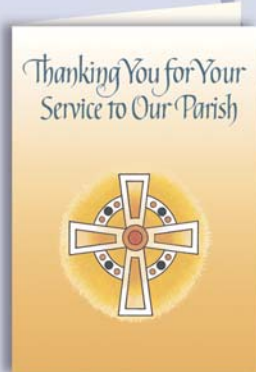
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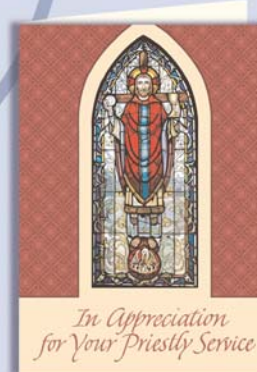
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