

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COUNCIL  
SERRA INTERNATIONAL**

**ESTABLISHED CLUB -- OFFICERS INSTALLATION**

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES <sup>1</sup>:**

Reverend Father, fellow Serrans and guests: Throughout his life Blessed Junipero Serra never sought positions of authority, they sought him. When he was appointed Superior of Baja, California, he accepted, even though he would rather have been about another work closer to his heart, that of opening new roads for the feet of Jesus in mission areas where His name was yet unknown. Only later would Blessed Serra come to know that the Holy Spirit had given him this path as a means of fulfilling his missionary zeal.

Today, we are installing new officers for the coming year, fellow members who did not seek positions of authority, but who were sought out. Like our patron, Blessed Serra, they accepted their offices graciously and now stand ready to lead us as we carry out our ministry for the good of the Church and the glory of God.

As you are called, please come forward/stand. <sup>2</sup>

Trustee: \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_

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Treasurer: \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_

Vice president, Communications: \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_

Vice president, Membership: \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_

Vice President, Vocations: \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_

Vice president, Programs: \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_

President-elect \_\_\_(name) <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_, you and your fellow officers are to be congratulated on being elected to lead our Serra Club.

We ask you to dream great dreams and to set challenging goals. We want you to make our club truly a University of Christian Principles and help our members fulfill their vocations to service

and to promote, foster, and help preserve vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

We want you and your officers to remember that beautiful story from John's gospel where Jesus told the people, "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me ... : for these sheep I will give my life." Jesus, however, spoke of more than the good shepherd for He told us there were other shepherds, some not so good. These were the hired hands, who worked for pay, without love for their sheep, and who, on seeing the wolf, ran, leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered. Jesus told us they, as hirelings, had no concern for the sheep.

The message of Jesus' good shepherd story is simple. It is about commitment. It is about fidelity to that commitment. President \_\_\_(Name)\_\_\_, your peers selected you and your fellow officers because they know each of you will honor, with fidelity, the commitment you are undertaking. They want each of you to be good shepherds. One year from now you will not know, but the Holy Spirit will know, how many men and women, influenced by your example, prayers, and programs, heard the invitation of the Holy Spirit to "Come and See." Keep that thought ever before you and you will always be encouraged to carry out your ministry.

The welfare of Serra depends, to a large extent, upon you during this coming year. The significance and the spirit of the Serra Movement is yours, like vocations, to promote, foster, and to preserve. To you is committed the task of reminding our members of their duties and responsibilities as Catholics and Serrans to their own vocations to Christian service.

Now I ask all officers and trustees to raise their right hand and repeat after me this pledge to signify their acceptance of these responsibilities:

"I do solemnly pledge myself \* to perform faithfully and impartially \* the duties of the office of Serra I now assume."

\_\_\_(outgoing president)\_\_\_, will you pass on to \_\_\_(incoming president)\_\_\_ the gavel, a copy of our Bylaws, and the President's pin in recognition of *his/her* office?

President \_\_\_(Name)\_\_\_, the gavel is the symbol of your respect for the office of the president. Use its implied powers wisely. Wear the President's pin with pride. This emblem symbolizes your complete commitment to leading your fellow Serrans in Serra's ministry for the coming year. Congratulations. In one year you will be asked to pass it on, untarnished, to your successor.

Past President \_\_\_(Name)\_\_\_, please accept this Past President's pin, the congratulations, and the thanks of our Club for your past year of hard work. This is your pin to keep. Wear it with pride. It, too, symbolizes your commitment to Serra's ministry. It also symbolizes your willingness to serve your fellow Serrans in the future as well as in the past.

President \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_, you are the new executive head of our Serra club, endowed with full power to enforce the provisions of its Constitution and Bylaws. You will be the chair of the board of trustees, preside at all our meetings and shall, to the end that the objectives of Serra are carried out, appoint all the committees necessary to accomplish the aims and objectives of Serra. These Bylaws are the tools of your presidential office. They are not, however, all that our members place in your trust. The most sacred trust with which you are entrusted is that of teaching and preserving the principles of Catholic life.

And now I ask all the members of Serra to please stand.

Fellow Serrans, there is no rank among Serrans. Each Serran has dedicated themselves to the Serra ministry and each Serran shares with each other the obligation of service. In recognition of your pledge, President \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_, and the pledge of your fellow officers, each of us rededicates ourselves willingly and with whole heart to fulfilling the objectives of Serra and the goals you set for our Club. To this end we join together to recite the Prayer of Saint Ignatius Loyola:

"Dear Lord, teach me to be generous. \* Teach me to serve You as You deserve; \* to give and not to count the cost; \* to fight and not to heed the wounds; \* to toil and not to seek for rest; \* to labor and not to ask for any reward, \* save that of knowing that I do your will, O' God. \* Amen."

Father \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_, will you please ask God's blessing on these new officers?

(After the blessing direct the new officers back to their seats; continue with the *Mass/meeting*.)

1. Arrange with the Chaplain for a special blessing for the new officers immediately following their installation. No surprises.
2. Use your judgment according to the facilities available. If in church, call officers to the foot of the altar, with the current president and the president-elect coming and standing to one side of the lectern. In dining facilities, call to the podium if there is room with the president and president-elect coming to one side of the podium; if room is scarce have the officers stand in place, with only the president and president-elect coming forward to the podium.
3. The first use of the president or President-elect's name should be formal, e.g., "President Clara Jones"; thereafter the name may be informal, e.g., "President Clara".