

College Connection for Catholics (CCC)

USA COUNCIL OF SERRA INTERNATIONAL AND NET MINISTERIES



Are you concerned about Catholic College Students losing their faith?

Campus ministry programs are helping students grow in their faith and consider a religious vocation—**PROVIDING** students come to their programs.

Serra and YOU can help college freshmen get connected through CCC.

Attached to this flier you will find an approach to working with Catholic High Schools to obtain the names, addresses, colleges and locations for high school graduates. This packet, **to be sent to the high school principal and president of the parent group**, includes the following:

- A letter to share with the high school principal and parent group president (for electronic copy, send email to admin@collegeconnectionforcatholics.org or jcozzens@msn.com)
- Article: *Why Serra's College Connection for Catholics Program Is So Important*
- Short article on CCC with "OPT OUT" provision
- Example of student campus ministry packet

It takes courage to get involved - but you can change the future of young Catholics and increase vocations for our church. We will assign a mentor to help you with the process. Our new database and administrator will also help. Entering data and printing out a campus ministry packet for the student on the website is easy with the help of the CCC administrator. She is willing to assist on the phone or by email.

For further information or to request an implementation guide please contact the following:
CCC Administrator: admin@collegeconnectionforcatholics.org or by phone: 651-450-6833 x44
College Connection for Catholics Chair: jcozzens@msn.com or cell: 303-941-3965



Learn more at WWW.COLLEGECONNECTIONFORCATHOLICS.ORG

Mr. John Smith, Principal
St. George Catholic High School
2000 Serra Way
St. Paul, MN

Dear

Thank you for working in a Catholic School where you are striving to enhance the spiritual life of students and offer a quality education within the Catholic tradition. Your sacrifice is appreciated.

We know you are concerned about the future of your students and want to provide you with a tool to help them grow in their Catholic faith. The USA Council of Serra International and NET Ministries are sponsoring College Connection for Catholics (CCC) with the approval and encouragement of bishops and campus ministry programs. These groups have given testimonies about how vital it is to introduce new students to the Catholic community as soon as they arrive on campus. (See article on page 2)

Students join campus groups and form most of their friendships during the first few weeks on campus. Recent studies show that only 15% of college freshmen find or connect to the Catholic Campus Ministry/nearby Parish during their hectic adjustment to college life. We hope to increase this number significantly through College Connection for Catholics.

Many campus ministry programs provide a home like environment, social activities including meals and a place to attend Mass and learn about the Catholic faith. They also encourage a spirit of volunteer service. Studies show that students involved in campus ministry are more likely to graduate from college.

Many Catholic Schools participate in the program because they believe it is a continuation of their mission to promote the Catholic faith. Occasionally there are a few parents that prefer not to have their children included and want to “opt-out” of the program. We have included an article on College Connection for Catholics along with an “Opt-Out” provision for your use. (See page 3) Catholic schools are using our program to show future students and their parents their dedication to promoting our beautiful Catholic faith. We will be sending a press release of participating high schools to the diocesan newspaper and to you for school publications.

The Serra Club of _____ will assist you with this program. On our secure website (www.collegeconnectionforcatholics.org) a staff person or a Serran can enter student information and print personalized campus ministry packets (Example packet included.) The website will automatically forward the students’ information to the campus ministers. I will be calling you to set up an appointment. Together, we can help young people stay involved in our Catholic Faith.

Sincerely,

cc to head of parent group

Why Serra's College Connection for Catholics Program Is So Important

A Catholic for Applied Research Association (CARA) Study in 2005, showed that young Catholics that practiced their faith in college...

- Attended Mass more often
- Became leaders in their parishes
- Were more likely to consider a religious vocation

Other studies show:

- College freshman are likely to make their "best" friends during their first few weeks on campus.
- During the first 1-5 weeks, most students will join the organizations they belong to for their college years.

The obvious conclusion: Increasing the number of students participating in campus ministry should greatly benefit the Church in many ways. We believe if students get an invitation to a Catholic event early, they are more likely to attend. If young people have a friend to go to Mass and Catholic events with, they are more likely to go. Therefore, we want one of the first organizations they join to be Catholic and some of their "best" friends to be Catholic.

Because increasing the number of incoming freshmen participating in Campus Ministry or the nearest parish as soon as possible is important, the College Connection for Catholics (CCC) was developed. **It is a simple concept.** We want to connect each incoming student with the college campus ministry programs (Newman Club, St. Paul's Outreach, FOCUS) on his/her campus and connect the college campus ministers with the incoming freshmen.

A simple procedure:

- **Solicit** high school graduate's name, address and college selection & location
- **Enter** this data into the collegeconnectionforcatholics.org website or contact Administrator for assistance
- **Print from website and deliver** campus ministry packet to student
- Database automatically forwards information to campus ministers

We know:

- Catholic young people are losing their faith in college
- We have a chance to make a difference.
- **We want YOU to be part of the solution to WHY SERRA'S COLLEGE CONNECTION FOR CATHOLICS IS SO IMPORTANT.**

For further information please contact one of the following:

CCC Administrator: admin@collegeconnectionforcatholics.org or 651-450-6833 x44

College Connection for Catholics Chair: jcozzens@msn.com or cell: 303-941-3965

ATTENTION: PARENTS OF SENIORS

College Connection for Catholics

The College Connection for Catholics (CCC) Program, conducted by the Serra Clubs throughout the United States, is helping Catholic high school graduates locate the Catholic Campus Ministry or nearest Catholic Church when they arrive on Campus. This program has been endorsed by many bishops across our country and is an answer to the United States Council of Catholic Bishops goal to increase campus ministry contact. Research shows that freshmen in college join the organizations they will belong to during the first few weeks. It is important that campus ministry connect with students as they arrive on campus.

The members of Serra Clubs are prepared to help administer the College Connection for Catholics Program. They have a website called collegeconnectionforcatholics.org where your high school senior’s information can be entered. Through the website, packets of information about the Catholic campus ministry programs or the nearest parish for the college or university of your students’ choice can be printed out for your student. This packet can then be given or mailed to each student. The CCC website will also furnish the Campus Minister or pastor with the names and addresses of Catholic freshmen, so they will be able to send a personal invitation to the student to visit their facility and hopefully participate in a “welcoming social.” This will give new students the opportunity to learn about the campus ministry program, to become familiar with the Mass schedules, Catholic activities and to meet other Catholic students. When they arrive at college, their “Faith Family” will be there to welcome and assist them. Should CCC not find an official “Catholic presence” at the university, the student will receive information about a nearby Catholic Parish or a Catholic campus ministry at a nearby college.

CCC has a strong privacy policy and a secure website. The information you provide for CCC will be used for the sole purpose of inviting students to visit the campus ministry or nearby Catholic parish when they arrive on campus. It will not be given to anyone other than to a campus minister or pastor and staff.

Our school has decided to participate in the College Connection for Catholics program. We have worked to help our students succeed in life through a rigorous academic curriculum and a strong foundation for their spiritual life. This program will help our seniors continue to develop their spiritual life and grow in their Catholic faith while attending college. If you do NOT want your student included in this program, please contact _____

***By phone: _____
or email: _____.***

If you have questions about College Connection for Catholics program you can get more information at collegeconnectionforcatholics.org or by calling _____