



Serra's
College Connection
for Catholics
Program



About Serra's COLLEGE CONNECTION for Catholics

The Purpose

To help High School graduates locate the "Catholic presence" such as Catholic Campus Ministry programs such as Newman Clubs and Catholic outreach programs like FOCUS and St. Paul's Outreach or the closest Catholic parish when they arrive on campus.

The Rationale

A study completed by CARA for the U. S. Bishops concerning Catholic Campus Ministry (November, 2005) confirmed a strong opinion that those who were active in Campus Ministry: attended Mass more often than those who did not participate in Campus Ministry; donated more to their Parishes; became leaders in the Parishes; and were more likely to consider a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life. The obvious conclusion: increasing the number of students participating in Campus Ministry should greatly benefit the Church in many ways.

The Method

Serra Clubs in the United States are being asked to solicit student information from Catholic High Schools and Parishes. This information will allow the preparation of small packets of information about the school's campus ministry programs and facilities (location - time of Services - who's in charge – programs –fellowship, etc.) and furnish those Catholic ministry programs with the names of incoming freshmen. The program will be administered through a **new database on the internet** allowing you to print out the prepared packets easily. NOTE: Clubs just starting with the program may find it easier to work with Catholic High Schools before tackling the parishes since they are more difficult. By furnishing the Campus Minister names and addresses of Catholic students coming to their school, the Campus Minister has an opportunity to send a personal invitation to the student to visit their facility and hopefully participate in a welcoming social, when they arrive on campus. Should we not find an official "Catholic presence"; the student will receive information about a nearby Parish.

Approvals

Serra is working closely with the Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA) and the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers (NFCYM). The program has received the written approval of several Past Chairmen of the Bishops' Committee on Vocations, including Bishop Blasé Cupich, our Episcopal Adviser; Archbishops Eldon Curtiss; and Robert Carlson and Bishop Paul Loverde. Other bishops too numerous to mention have endorsed the program. Please contact us to see if your bishop has endorsed the program or get a draft of a letter to ask your bishop to consider supporting the program.

The program was featured nationally on EWTN's "*Life on the Rock*" and in publications such as the *National Catholic Register*, "trade" magazines or newsletters of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD); **National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC)**; **National Catholic Education Association (NCEA)**; and of course the **CCMA, and NFCYM**.

Our Goals for 2010

This program started as a local program in Ohio about 7 years ago under the direction of Dick Stolly. Dick laid a good foundation and ran the program until his untimely death in June of 2009. Under Dick's direction, it grew into a national program involving approximately 50 clubs with 8,000 graduates in 2009.

With the full approval of the US Council of Serra International, the program is moving ahead under the direction of Judy Cozzens and a steering committee of dedicated Serrans. NET Ministries has agreed to host and administer Serra's College Connection for Catholics. **Our Plan is to significantly expand the Program in 2010 as outlined by the following goals:**

1. Secure a reliable host to run the College Connection for Catholics program. (An agreement was just signed with NET Ministries in St. Paul, MN to handle the administration of the program. See Outline below).
2. Establish a website/database to facilitate easy printing of Campus Ministry Packets and supply the campus ministers with our graduate's names. (We have contracted for this and it will be online in late February 2010.)
3. Develop a group of geographical area representatives to help new clubs and individuals with securing names and eliminating duplication of effort.
4. Double the number of graduates served to 16,000.
5. Increase the number of clubs involved to at least 80. We recommend new clubs make area Catholic high schools their first priority. Once the system is established and proven, it can be expanded to parishes to reach public school students.
6. Obtain many support letters from Archbishops, Bishops and Catholic Groups.
7. Secure publicity for our program in Catholic Media.

Outline of the services provided by the National Evangelization Team (NET) Ministries

NET will administer our program and supply us with office space, phone and computer for College Connection for Catholics. They will supervise and train the person working on the program. NET will prepare the campus ministry packets stored on the website and update these files annually, allowing Serrans to print prepared campus ministry packets from the website. NET will download our Excel files into the database so we do not have to enter each name. They will print campus ministry packets for \$1 each if a club cannot print their own from the website. Printing the packets will be easy with the new database so we are encouraging clubs to do their own. Net will send all the H.S. grads names and information to the college campus ministry programs where they will attend college or to a nearby Catholic Church (if no campus ministry) and follow up with a sampling of the colleges involved.

Suggestions for **ACTIVATING** the “**COLLEGE CONNECTION for CATHOLICS**” Program

STEP #1 – SELECTING THE CONTACT PERSON(S)

The key word to activating the *College Connection for Catholics* program is “connection” itself. You must connect with the right person(s) if the program is to succeed with the Catholic high schools or the parishes you serve. A letter of support from your bishop can help make this contact more fruitful, but is not necessary. Those Clubs that participated in the past learned that the initial contact can make or break the future of the program, in your area. If the Pastor or Principal likes what you are offering and knows you are willing to help him make it happen, it will be easy to spread the program to other Catholic schools and/or parishes. **It is good to let the high school know that some schools are using this program to show parents their commitment to helping their students stay connected to their faith.** (See **Addendum 1**: Providence Academy Article)

Your club “connector” needs to be committed to the program. Some clubs are finding that new members are very good at this – they don’t have to be long time Serrans. If they are comfortable in explaining the merits of the program, people are usually welcomed by church leaders who want to see them active in the church. See **Addendum 2**, the Leaven article on a parent whose children lost faith in college; he is a new Serran who is out to change this for others.

STEP #2 – MAKING THE CONTACTS

Arrange for meetings with the Principal and Campus Youth Minister of your Catholic High School(s) and/or the Pastor of the parishes you normally serve. Explain the program to them. Make copies of the Brief Explanation on page 2 so you can leave it with them. For High School Principals, show a copy of the attached article that appeared in the NCEA newsletter (**Addendum 3**: National Catholic Education Assoc.) and the press release from Providence Academy in Plymouth, Minnesota (**Addendum 1**).

Leave them a copy of the Excel Student Enrollment Form example and Addendum 4. Please go over these documents **thoroughly** as following the directions will accelerate the return of campus ministry packets and minimize the number of students who will not receive a packet due to incomplete information. Suggest the school post the Enrollment Form Example AND Addendum 4 near where data will be entered for quick reference to the instructions and abbreviations. Always use abbreviations for processing uniformity. Advise them a copy of the blank Enrollment Form will be emailed to them as soon as they make the decision to participate. If they participated in the past ask them to delete the old Enrollment Form.

The latest version of the ACTIVATION KIT, EXCEL STUDENT ENROLLMENT FORM AND EXAMPLE and OTHER APPLICABLE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS can be downloaded from the Serra US Website (http://www.serraus.org/serra_usa/serra_connect.htm) or you can email CCC@NETUSA.org and ask them to email the files/materials to you.

Review the **PRIVACY POLICY** language with them. Campus Ministers will keep their information in strict privacy. This same privacy policy is followed with student names from Parish Youth Ministers. (We have had very little problem with the wording once it is explained – our attorneys are comfortable with this form.) Most Catholic schools have had parents sign a form that allows them to promote the Catholic faith with their students. Our program would come under this mission statement and often requires no further approval.

NOTE: 1. You will sometimes encounter schools that may be reluctant to ask students for their information this early (March-April). We have found however that the vast majority of students have already decided on their school. If we can get their information early, it will really help in getting the student packets in their hands prior to graduation. As for the students who have not yet decided, the high school can send you their information later. **The later entries should be on a separate Enrollment Form (marked 2nd entry) so there is no unnecessary duplication of packets.** You can explain that timing is very important if the school or parish wishes to give the information packets to the students prior to graduation. We will make every effort to return the campus ministry packets to meet this deadline.

2. Although Catholic High Schools are usually our first priority, you might consider the parish plan adopted by several clubs. Read about this approach in **Addendum 5**. Also read about implementation of “A Diocesan Plan” in **Addendum 6**.

STEP #3 – SET THE DATES

If the school or parish would like to participate in the program, you will need to set some dates. In an absolute best case scenario it will take two weeks to prepare and print the Packets. Factors determining how long it will take are: 1. how difficult it is to obtain the Packet information on a particular school; 2. who will be doing the printing and how soon they can get on it; 3. volume of student list submitted at a given time; 4. mailing/shipping time. If they wish to have the packets prior to graduation, they need to furnish the dates to you within the required working time. If a graduation date is not possible because of time, agree on a date that will work best for all.

NOTE: Many schools and parishes have a breakfast or lunch to honor graduates. They often invite parents to attend. This is a good time get names or distribute the packets to the students and/or the parents, who will encourage the students to participate.

STEP #4 – WHO WILL PREPARE THE PACKETS?

Once you have received the names of the students, you can enter the student’s information in the Serra’s College Connection for Catholics website (Not available until March 1, 2010) or send an Excel File to NET (CCC@NETUSA.org). After data is entered, you will be reminded by email to return to the site as soon as the packets are ready to print. Should you desire the *College Connection for Catholics* staff to print the packets for you, the charge is \$1 per packet. A package of all the packets will be mailed to you. Discounts are allowed for clubs having more than 500 packets printed and should be negotiated with the NET administrator.

STEP #5 – DELIVERY OF THE PACKETS

Most important - the completed packets should be delivered to the person(s) who furnished the information – on or before the agreed date so that the delivery to the students will take place. Make sure the delivery gets to the right person and is not left on someone’s desk.

We want to keep a good relationship with the schools/parishes for the future. If it becomes necessary to mail the student’s packets and they had not prepared for this, your Club may wish to cover the costs of mailing. They will remember that “good will” gesture. By the way, Parish Contact Teams or vocation committees are good for delivery purposes to the parishes.

STEP #6 – NOTIFY THE CAMPUS MINISTER

A list of all students attending each college will be sent by NET to the Campus Ministers or local parishes. It is best when the Campus Minister receives the student names and home address by July 1st, so they have time to send letters of invitation to the students before they arrive on campus.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

It is important to let your area rep know who you are contacting and what schools/parishes you are working with to avoid duplication. If you do not know who this is, please contact Judy Cozzens. (jcozzens@msn.com). Some clubs are working on this program with other clubs in their district. A few are attempting to develop the program for their entire Diocese. You should also notify your District Governor before launching your own program. Approval of the program by the (Arch) Bishop is really a key to the success. Other key persons include the Diocesan Director of Vocations, the Director of Parish Youth Ministry, the Superintendent of Schools and your area rep for CCC. Agreement at this level could make your effort easier. As you know, a number of our Bishops already have given their written support of the CCC program. If your bishop would like to write a letter supporting the program, Judy will furnish you with a draft copy.

TO GET STARTED

Let us know who your Contact person will be (**Name, address, e-mail, phone, position in club**) We will also need to know if you wish to print the packets – or arrange to have them printed by the NET staff. They can be printed in black and white. If you will be working with another club or clubs, let us know that as well. If you have questions, we will help you. Remember – it's not too early to plan your program. Spring is just around the corner.

You can receive a contact list of area representatives from the Serra US website or by contacting Judy or Bill.

If you need to know who your area rep is or you have questions, contact:

National Coordinator of Area Reps: Bill McHale at 913-341-7704 or wemchale@aol.com

Chair College Connections for Catholics: Judy Cozzens 303-941-3965 jcozzens@msn.com

ADDENDUM 1

Providence Academy Encourages Their Graduating Students to Continue to Grow in Their Faith Through the *College Connection for Catholics* Program

The spiritual formation of each child is central to the mission of Providence Academy. As a private Roman Catholic School, Providence Academy strives to enhance the spiritual life of every student through both formal religious education and by fostering a faith-filled environment. Providence Academy offers a quality academic experience within the Catholic tradition.

Recently, Providence Academy college counselor, Sarah Hogan, contacted the United States Council of Serra International, an organization that works to promote religious vocations, to inquire about helping her students become involved in the College Connection for Catholics Program. Serra's program is designed to connect incoming college freshmen with the Catholic presence on or near their campus with the goal of helping students stay active in their faith into young adulthood. Mrs. Hogan heard about this unique program and wanted to encourage her students' participation. A Serra Club member works with the school to gather information needed to implement the program. The College Connection for Catholics Committee of the Serra Club finds out where a student will be going to college and arranges for the Catholic students to receive a congratulatory note and provides specifics about the Catholic presence at their college. Next they give the names of incoming students to the Catholic campus minister, St Paul's Outreach, FOCUS missionaries (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), and/or nearest parish at the appropriate college and ask them to invite these students to participate in their activities on campus.

Providence Academy, located in Plymouth, Minnesota, understands the importance of helping their students succeed in life through a rigorous academic curriculum and a strong foundation for their spiritual life. A core knowledge approach to learning begins with an important question: what specific, factual knowledge does a young person need to know in order to succeed in his or her own personal, professional and spiritual life?

The United States Council of Serra International salutes Providence Academy for taking the initiative to help their students succeed after high school. Serra encourages more schools to work for this goal. Together, Serra and Catholic Schools can help young Catholics stay connected in their faith. Serra Clubs offer the same program for Catholic high school graduates through parishes. You can contact Serra about this service by sending an email to jcozzens@msn.com.

ADDENDUM 2

Program helps college Catholics stay connected to their faith

By Kara Hansen
Leaven staff

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — After sending three children through Catholic grade school and high school, Bill McHale was more than a little surprised to learn that each of his children, one by one, stopped practicing their faith once they left for college.

Dismayed, McHale started talking to other parents of college-age children and quickly discovered he was not alone. Ultimately, his participation in his local Serra Club, an organization that helps foster vocations, encouraged him to do something about it.

“In talking with other members of the Serra Club, I realized many other families had similar situations and that’s what got me really committed to the College Connection program,” said McHale, a member of the Serra Club of Kansas City, Kan., and a parishioner at Holy Cross Parish in Overland Park.

The College Connection program was created by Serra International and is being implemented in the archdiocese for the first time this year through local Serra Clubs like McHale’s. It is designed to connect incoming college freshmen with the Catholic presence on or near their campus, in the hope that, by making that initial connection, each student will be more likely to continue practicing his or her faith throughout college and into young adulthood. “Each student’s name will go to the Newman Center, Catholic campus center, or closest Catholic church to the student’s college, so they can get in touch with the kids as they arrive,” explained McHale. To get the program off the ground, McHale and other members of archdiocesan Serra Clubs have coordinated with Catholic high schools to obtain the names of their graduating seniors and their college of choice.

Then, members of the Serra Club will contact the various Catholic campus centers, ministry programs, or Catholic parishes to give staff there the names and contact information of the respective incoming freshmen. Students are, in turn, given written information on the Catholic presence at their college of choice, courtesy of the Serra Club. “We are hopefully reaching all the [college-bound] students in the Catholic high schools in our archdiocese this year, which is approximately 850 graduating seniors,” said McHale.

What’s at stake in this attempt by the College Connection program to keep college kids practicing their faith is staggering. According to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., if campus ministries reached just 10 percent more of the nearly five million Catholic college students across the United States and kept them active in their faith, it would add approximately 500,000 practicing Catholics to dioceses across the country.

ADDENDUM 2 (Continued)

It is no surprise, then, that College Connection has garnered the immediate support of Catholic school administrators in the archdiocese.

“I think the College Connection program is a great program,” said Kathy O’Hara, superintendent of archdiocesan schools. “Young people between the ages of 18 and 22 are still very impressionable and vulnerable and need to continue to mature in their faith. As a parent of now-grown children, I know firsthand the value of encouraging young adults to practice their faith at this time in their lives.”

There is already a program in place at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Overland Park to help graduating seniors get connected with campus ministry programs at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University, said president Bill Ford. But he is glad of this new program, nonetheless. “We think the College Connection will enhance our efforts at the two largest Kansas Regents universities,” said Ford. “Since we already have this program in place at KU and K-State, their work with our graduates at other public universities will provide a broader outreach.”

O’Hara said that while many Catholic parishes already assist and encourage their college students to get involved at their Catholic campus centers while in college, the College Connection program could help fill in any gaps and expand efforts currently underway.

“The Serra Club program will assist those parishes that may not have the capacity to take on this type of project,” she said. McHale said even though the program is starting with the archdiocesan Catholic schools, it is meant to encompass all high school Catholic seniors in the archdiocese who are graduating — regardless of whether they attend public, private, or Catholic schools.

“We would like to do one program through the Catholic high schools and one program with the public schools through the parishes,” said McHale. “We’re concentrating on making contact with all the students in the Catholic high schools this year and getting them the information on campus for their respective Catholic ministries.”

But McHale recognizes that reaching the public school students, through the parishes, will be more difficult.

“We’re targeting a few parishes to start the effort with the public school students, since that is where the majority of the students come from — approximately 70 percent.” But a large-scale effort will have to wait. As for McHale, two of his three children are once again practicing their Catholic faith, and he has high hopes for the third. But he hopes that the College Connection program will help spare other parents the worry he has known — and keep upcoming generations of Catholics faithful to the Gospel their whole life long.

Any parish that is interested in getting involved in the College Connection program should contact Bill McHale, via e-mail: wemchale@aol.com. A local Serra Club member will follow up to discuss how to get started.

ADDENDUM 3

Taken from National Catholic Education *E-NEWS* 2/8/2008

College Connection for Catholics Program

Help your high school graduates stay “connected” to their faith when they enter college, especially secular or private non-Catholic schools. The College Connection program, (started by the Serra International United States Council) prepares packets of information for recent Catholic high school graduates to help them find the “Catholic presence” at their higher education institution. With the permission of the student, the College Connection program shares the student information with their school’s Campus Minister, who would then keep the student informed about Catholic spiritual, recreational and social activities and facilities on campus. For more information, please contact [Judy](#) Cozzens from the United States Council of Serra International at 303-941-3965 or jcozzens@msn.com (The contact was updated.)

ADDENDUM 4

Serra's COLLEGE CONNECTION for Catholics

Why do we need to stress the importance of entering the Main Campus or Branch Location?

This is the information that the High Schools most often fail to provide. It probably happens because everyone at the school knows where the student is going to and it just seems a little redundant.

But the person preparing the Packet doesn't know that and one of two things will probably happen: 1. The student will not get a Packet; 2. The student will get a Packet for the wrong campus. This will not be good for the students.

The following information from pages 11 and 13 are typical of the 18 pages on the [utexas COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY](#) website. Page 11 lists 6 Schools that have the same name but are located in different states and 3 schools that have multiple branches. Page 13 has 4 Schools with the same name located in 4 different states and 3 Schools that have multiple branches. Only schools located within the continental United States were included in these statistics

There are also many other schools that have very similar names. You can click on the following website to view the entire College/University listings: www.utexas.edu/world/univ/alpha/

Please utilize this information and use your best efforts to convince the High School Contact that we need the accurate College name and location information.

Reprint on some of the Colleges and Universities with the same Name or with Branch Locations. These excerpts were taken from Page 11 of the UTEXAS website on College/University listings

Pennsylvania State University System (PA)

- [Abington](#)
- [Altoona](#)
- [Beaver](#)
- [Berks](#)
- [Brandywine](#)
- [College of Medicine](#)
- [Dickinson School of Law](#)
- [DuBois](#)
- [Erie, The Behrend College](#)
- [Fayette, The Eberly Campus](#)
- [Great Valley School of Graduate Professional Studies](#)
- [Greater Allegheny](#)
- [Harrisburg](#)
- [Hazleton](#)
- [Lehigh Valley](#)
- [Mont Alto](#)
- [New Kensington](#)
- [Pennsylvania College of Technology](#)
- [Schuylkill](#)
- [Shenango](#)
- [University Park](#) (main campus)
- [Wilkes-Barre](#)
- [Worthington Scranton](#)
- York

ADDENDUM 4 (Continued)

[Robert Morris College](#) (IL)

[Robert Morris College](#) (PA)

[Rocky Mountain College](#) (MT)

[Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design](#) (CO)

Rutgers University (NJ)

- [Camden](#)
- [New Brunswick/Piscataway](#)
- Newark

[Saint Augustine College](#) (IL)

[Saint Augustine's College](#) (NC)

Saint John's College

- [Annapolis](#) (MD)
- [Santa Fe](#) (NM)
- [Saint John's College](#) (IL)

[Saint John's University](#) (MN)

[Saint John's University](#) (NY)

[Saint Joseph College](#) (CT)

[Saint Joseph's College](#) (IN)

[Saint Joseph's College](#) (ME)

[Saint Joseph's College](#) (NY)

Excerpts from Page 13 of the UTEXAS Website on College & University listings.

[Trinity College](#) (CT)

[Trinity College of Florida](#) (FL)

[Trinity University](#) (DC)

[Trinity University](#) (TX)

[Trinity University](#) (TX)

[Troy University](#) (AL)

- [Dothan campus](#)
- [Montgomery campus](#)

[Union College](#) (KY)

[Union College](#) (NE)

[Union College](#) (NY)

[Union College](#) (NY)

[Southern Illinois University System](#) (IL)

- [Carbondale](#)
- [Edwardsville](#)

[Southern University System](#) (LA)

- [Baton Rouge](#)
- [New Orleans](#)

[Southwestern College](#) (AZ)

[Southwestern College](#) (KS)

[Southwestern College](#) (NM)

ADDENDUM 5

Serra's College Connection for Catholics Parish Approach

I decided I wanted to help the seniors in high school from my own parish and spread the good news of Serra.

Here is what I did.

First you have to get the names of the young people in your parish that are graduating this year. I have done this in different ways.

One Way: I contacted the youth leader and she gave me some names of high school seniors. I looked up their parents in the family directory for the parish. The confirmation list from a few years ago can be used (most parishes confirm a certain age group). The list of graduates from 8th grade in your parish school from 4 years ago is also a good starting place.

Second Way: I got the names of all 17 and 18 year old individuals from the parish database. When I used this approach some of the parents I called helped me identify which students were seniors to cut down on calls.

Third Way: One could set up a table after Mass and ask people to stop. This announcement would need to be made from the altar as the parish bulletin has had very little response. (Twenty different bulletins brought in 2 responses.)

After getting the names-----

1. I called parents and told them how my Serra Club (explaining what Serra was) had a special program to help make a Catholic connection for their student going off to college. The parents were thrilled and provided me with the information I needed to fill out the College Connection Form. If I talked to a student, I asked them if they were 18 so I knew they could legally give me permission.
2. I always asked them if they knew of any other Catholic high school seniors. This way I picked up a few more names and telephone numbers.
3. I talked to the daily Mass crowd that meets for coffee and they gave me a few more names.
4. I received a very positive reaction from the parents and even from a couple of young people I talked to. One young man told me it was so nice to know someone was watching out for him.
5. With the new database this year, after obtaining this information I would go to the website and enter in the data for my seniors. The database will tell me to come back in about 7 -10 days and print the packets for each graduate. The packets will all be done and this will be a simple task. If I do not want to print the packets, I can email or mail the info to our College Connection for Catholics administrator and he will print the packets for me for \$1 a piece. They will then return all the packets to me and I will mail or distribute them to the high school grads.

Note: One single Mom cried when I called her. She said she is struggling to raise her two sons in the faith and this is the first time the church has reached out to her. Think of the good these phone calls can do in letting others know we care and we are willing to serve them.

Please feel free to contact me if I can help you do this. This is easy to do so if you like sharing good news and making a few phone calls, it is very REWARDING!

Judy Cozzens 303-941-3965 jcozzens@msn.com

ADDENDUM 6

A Diocesan Plan

During their college years, some students will deepen their Catholic faith, others will stray from it. Many freshmen entering college do not get connected to the Catholic Campus Ministry, Newman Center, outreach programs like FOCUS or St. Paul's Outreach or the nearest Catholic parish. The U.S. Council of Serra International has developed a program to help these young adults learn about the campus Catholic faith community before they launch their college career. The *College Connection for Catholics* (CCC) program has been piloted over the past 6 years to serve this need in many dioceses and has the endorsement of many bishops and the CCMA, a national network of Catholic campus ministers.

With the approval of the Bishop and cooperation of Catholic High School leadership and parish Pastors and the parish youth ministers, Serra Clubs will underwrite the cost and provide the volunteers to implement the program. The goal is to connect all graduating high school students with the Catholic Campus Ministries or Catholic Parishes nearest the college or university they will attend next fall.

First step: Gather information from the CCC Steering Committee chaired by Judy Cozzens through the USAC Website. Seek approval of the Bishop and get a signed letter of support. Then make a presentation to the Catholic High School principals and parish pastors to share the program and gain their support to implement College Connection for Catholics (CCC). Judy will provide you with a draft letter for the bishop if needed (jcozzens@msn.com).

Second Step: After the approval process, each principal and pastor will receive the name of your Club's College Connection for Catholics Committee member assigned as their primary contact. In February or early March, this individual will meet with the principal or pastor and their staff to plan the implementation phase of the program. School and parish personnel will seek written permission of students and/or parents, to include students in the program.

Third Step: The staff will create a list (preferably on our Excel form) containing the name of the students, mailing addresses and the college/university (including location) they will attend. This information will be kept confidential throughout the program. Matching the students with the Catholic campus ministry and preparing the personalized CCC packets can be done easily on the College Connection for Catholics website. The USA Council has entered an agreement with National Evangelism Team (NET Ministries) to provide an administrator to assist you. Additional information on this service is available from the CCC Area Representative. We ask that the College Connection Excel list be given to the Serran as early as possible in April. If a student's telephone number is supplied, individual follow-up will be provided for students who have not confirmed their college choice by the date the Excel file is sent.

Fourth Step: The Serrans may enter the student information into the College Connection for Catholics website, or use the Excel spread sheet provided. If a spread sheet is used, the Serran will email it to our administrator (CCC@NETUSA.org) with NET Ministries. The College Connection for Catholics administrator will enter it into the website. The CCC website contains two databases, one to match the student to the packet for his college, and the other to match his name to the campus ministries or closest parish at that college. A personalized CCC packet, unique to the school they are planning to attend, will be printed for each student from the website by the Serran. The packets will be mailed or delivered to the high school or parish for presentation to the participating student in early May. The process for distribution will be determined by the staff.

Final Step: The College Connection for Catholics Committee will provide the name and mailing address of students to each Catholic Campus Ministry or Catholic parish community. The campus minister will extend a welcome and send information to each student about the Catholic community, Mass schedule, and activities offered to encourage their continued faith development.

Review and Evaluation: Serrans are encouraged to seek input from pastors, principals and their staffs about ways to improve the Serra College Connection for Catholics Program. This should be done before the CCC Committee meeting in July, so improvements can be made for the next year.

Additional information and questions can be directed to Judy Cozzens, Chair; College Connection for Catholics, USA Council of Serra International

Cell phone: 303-941-3965 Email: jcozzens@msn.com