



**Serra International – USA Council**  
**65 E. Wacker Place, Chicago, IL 60601 888-777-6681**

FROM: Homer Radford, Vice President Vocations  
Judith Cozzens, Chair Vocations Committee

TO: Club Presidents – United States of America Council Serra International

SUBJECT: The COLLEGE CONNECTION Program

Two years ago, The USA Council approved the development of a new Vocations program called College Connection. The program caused such a stir that we were invited to talk about it on the EWTN program “Life on the Rock” watched by millions. Later, a full page article appeared in the National Catholic Register about the program.

In the first year, eight Serra clubs in five dioceses were able to furnish Packets of information to some 2000 students. With some financial help from the Serra International Foundation, the Bishop Britt Fund, and some private donations, we were able to expand the program. This year we had eighteen Serra Clubs involved in eleven states who produced almost 3300 Packets. We also received letters from an additional forty-five clubs who would like to participate for the coming year – maybe your club was one of those. If so, we hope to work with you.

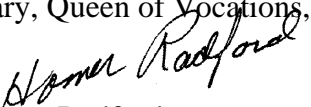
If your club would like to consider participating in the Spring of 2010, you will find it is an exciting program and you will want to begin planning now. The College Connection will bring thanks from the schools or parishes you work with, from parents of the students going off to college, from your bishop, your vocation director and campus ministers.

What we ask of you in the meantime is to insert the attached information with your next club newsletter and ask for two or three Serrans to be responsible for this program. Your newsletter editor can copy the insert right from the enclosures or you can request a Word.doc from [hradford2@comcast.net](mailto:hradford2@comcast.net).

The program is ideal for new members; or for those who will make the personal “marketing approach” by talking with Catholic High School Principals, Diocesan leaders, Parish Youth Ministers, etc. Unless you are in a large Diocese, it will take only a few dedicated individuals to run the program each year. As you read through the insert, you will see the support we will give you should your club wish to be a part of next year’s program.

Thanks very much for considering this favor.

Mary, Queen of Vocations, Pray for Us.

  
Homer Radford  
9601 E. 82nd St.  
Raytown, MO 64138  
816-356-1760  
[hradford2@comcast.net](mailto:hradford2@comcast.net)

# SPECIAL INSERT for NEWSLETTER

During the past year most of our clubs have become aware of the newest USAC Vocation Committee program, *College Connection*. It is designed to help our Catholic high school graduates locate the “Catholic presence” should they choose higher education. You may also have seen *College Connection* explained on EWTN’s broadcast of *Life on the Rock* program live or on DVD, read about it in the *National Catholic Register*, or heard our Episcopal Adviser, Bishop Blasé Cupich talk about it on numerous occasions.

We work closely with the Catholic Campus Ministry Association and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. We especially encourage young adults to join the Catholic Campus Ministry group (often called the Newman Club). These groups are becoming a leading source in the development of vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life and to Catholic Lay leadership. As an example, Texas A&M can count 59 of their Alumni that have entered the Priesthood during the past 9 years! They also had 15 Sisters; 6 Brothers; 31 Deacons; and 34 in formation for various vocations!

Since the *College Connection* program is still new, only 19 of our clubs participated last year (up from 8 the first year). The clubs were located in 11 different states. An additional 45 clubs showed interest in the program, but too late to start it for the year 2008. That is the reason for this article telling as many Serra at Clubs at this time so Serra members may consider participating in 2009. We thank those clubs that participated last year and we encourage them to invite other clubs in their District to work together for the coming year. It is important that planning begin this Fall for the 2009 High School graduates to be served.

Last year, these clubs helped almost 3300 young people locate the Catholic presence at the school of their choice! Is their room for your club to participate? In 2007, we graduated about 1,250,000 Catholic high school students. Of this number, approximately 90% will attend secular or private schools (non-Catholic)!

Take a quick look at the other page of this insert and see what others think about this program. Bishops, Campus Ministers, Catholic High Schools leaders and Serra Clubs encourage and support the continuation and expansion of the College Connection Program. Serra Club leaders tell us that this program has energized their club and drawn new members to join Serra.

The *College Connection* program will be included at the Regional Conventions and at the Governors’ Planning Conference in 2010 – but you don’t have to wait for the instruction kit. If you are interested and want to know more about the program, just call or e-mail the Chicago office and ask for the *College Connection Kit* and it will be sent to you and your Club President - or both.

Call 1-888-777-6631, or e-mail – [www.serraus.org](http://www.serraus.org) or go to the [serraus.org](http://serraus.org) webpage and click on the “[serraus Vocations Activities](#)” link for *College Connection*.

Homer Radford, [hradford@comcast.net](mailto:hhradford@comcast.net)  
VP Vocations, USA Council of Serra International  
Judy Cozzens, [jcozzens@msn.org](mailto:jcozzens@msn.org)  
the College Connection for Catholics, Chair

## **EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS OF SUPPORT:**

**“It is clear that you and your collaborators (Catholic Campus Ministry Association and National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry) have worked hard to put this program together and it promises to be very helpful . . . I fully support your efforts and prayers for the successful implementation of *College Connection*.”**

**Most Rev. Blasé Cupich, Bishop of Rapid City, Past Chairman Bishops’ Committee on Vocations (10-17-06)**

***“Our Catholic College students need support in connecting with Catholic communities on or near their campuses. Catholic campus ministries offer a rich venue for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life to surface and flourish provided they are nurtured. Serra’s College Connection has the potential to reach many young people in our nation with the Lord’s call to follow him in his continuing ministry to people.”***

**Most Rev. Eldon F. Curtiss, Archbishop of Omaha, Past Episcopal Adviser Serra International (1-10-07)**

**“I believe that your program (*College Connection*) will be helpful in our vocation efforts and will provide wonderful opportunities for young people to discern the call of God in their lives”.**

**Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson, Bishop of Saginaw. Author of “*Future Full of Hope*” Vocation plan (1-10-07)**

***“At a large state university like ours (University of Toledo) getting names of Catholic students coming each year from Serra Clubs in our Diocese (Toledo) is “like gold in our pockets”. It is of great help in our ministry. I am hopeful that other Serra clubs will pick this up and make a similar effort to assist campus ministers in their area. These students are the future leaders of society and of our church”.***

**Rev. James J. Bacik, Ph.D. Pastor, Authored “*Empowered by the Spirit*”, Campus Ministry document (8-10-06)**

**“At a meeting of Serra in Chicago in 2003, I was asked to talk about campus ministry and how your organization (Serra) might help with the higher education ministry to college students. The *College Connection* program seems to be a major step in that direction.”**

**Michael Galligan-Stierle, Ph.D. Secretary for Higher Education and Campus Ministry-USCCB (9-11-2006)**

***“In the U.S. Bishops’ 1997 Document “A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry” the first goal is “to call young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.” The second goal challenges the church know “to draw young people to responsible participation to the life work and mission of the faith community.” This College Connection, will certainly respond to both goals.***

**Robert McCarty, Executive Director, National Federation Catholic Youth Ministers (9-6-06)**

**“This is a note of appreciation to you and your fellow Serrans for your wonderful contribution to our ministry. The list of incoming Catholic Freshmen has been a tremendous assistance in identifying those we wish to reach out to. With your help, we have been able to register more than 1,200 Catholic students here at IU”**

**Fr. Stan Drongowski, O.P. Director of Campus Ministry – Indiana University (9-16-08)**

**AND MORE . . .**

**Other positive letters received from three Bishops, eleven Campus Ministers, many Catholic High Schools and Serra Clubs during the past two years to encourage and support the continuation and expansion of the College Connection Program. Serra Club leaders tell us that this program has energized their club and drawn new members to join Serra.**