

PARISH PLAN 2012

USA Council of Serra International
College Connection for Catholics (CCC)



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 a parish approach to obtaining the names, addresses, colleges and locations for high school graduates. It includes the following:

- A generic letter to share with your parish priest (for electronic copy, send email to (jcozzens@msn.com or admin@collegeconnectionforcatholics.org)
- Short article: *Why Serra's College Connection for Catholics Program Is So Important*
- Ideas for the telephone script used to gather information
- 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. Please call on the phone or contact by email.

For further information or for an implementation guide 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



Learn more at WWW.COLLEGECONNECTIONFORCATHOLICS.ORG

Dear Father,

Thank you for striving to enhance the spiritual life of your parish family. Our Serra clubs love our priests and work to support you. We are grateful for your vocation.

We know you are concerned about the future of your young parishioners and we 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 ministers. 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 their first few weeks on campus. Recent studies show that only 15% of college freshmen find or connect to the Catholic Campus Ministry or 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 volunteer service. Studies show that students involved in campus ministry are more likely to graduate from college.

In order to solicit the needed information about the colleges your parishioners will be attending, someone in the parish or from our club will call the parents and tell them about the College Connection for Catholics program and **ask permission** to have their high school senior participate. Most parents are happy to provide the caller with the information. This has been a very positive outreach for parishes.

You can assist by providing a list of possible senior students and their phone numbers. This list can be assembled from the list of eighth grade graduates from 4 years ago, a past Confirmation class, your parish youth group leader, or your parish data base of 17 and 18 year olds.

CCC has a strong privacy policy and a secure website (collegeconnectionforcatholics.org). 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. At the website a parishioner or a Serran can enter student information, 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,

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
- It is important to have information by June 20th.

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.**

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www.collegeconnectionforcatholics.org

Ideas for your Script for College Connection for Catholics Calls

1. Hello, this is _____ calling for _____ parish. (You can use Father's name here if he wants.)
2. I am calling about the College Connection for Catholics program. Will (*name of student*) graduate this year?
3. If he/she is going to college, we would like **your permission** to send them a packet about the Catholic Campus Ministry programs on their college campus.
4. I need the name of their college and the city and state **where it is located**.
5. We will also let the campus minister know they are coming so they might get invited to an activity when they first arrive on campus.
6. _____ Parish and the Serra Club of _____ are working together to keep our kids connected to their faith. Serra is a Catholic Club that supports vocations and is named after Father Serra who founded many missions in California which later became the current cities from San Diego to San Francisco.

Please obtain: Senior's name, address, college selection and college location. Cell phone and email are also helpful if they are comfortable with providing it. Many colleges have the same name or initials so the location is very important. Thanks for your help.

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