

The Saginaw Serran

Where Vocations are Fostered

Established June 20, 1951

June, 2007

"Always forward, never go back" - Fr. Serra

President's Message By Bernie Coppelino



As many Saginaw Serrans already know, my wife Cindy and I spent nine days in Italy in early April. We flew to Europe to visit our daughter Laura, who is studying in France this semester. On our return my friends and co-workers greeted me with all sorts of questions. Most were the usual "trip" questions. (How was the weather? Were there language problems? Do they like Americans?) One question, though, stood out. A co-employee of mine, a non-Catholic whom I consider religious, looked through my pictures of St. Peter's Basilica. He glanced at me and asked, "Did seeing all this grandeur strengthen your faith?"

His question caught me off-guard and has stayed with me. The sights we saw were indeed magnificent. The gold and the marble, the stained glass and the mosaic tile – these were gorgeous works of art. But is that what our faith is based on?

As a Catholic, and a Serran, I have to say to say "No". Our faith is not based on the size of a church building or the beauty of its interior. Rather, our faith is based on the enormity of Christ's sacrifice for us. It shows the beauty of God's plan for His Church.

Few of us have the artistic skill of a Michelangelo or a Bernini. But our work as Serrans is even more important. By encouraging vocations we help ensure the survival and growth of our Church into the next generation and beyond. By learning as much as we can about the tenets of our religion, we help ensure our own salvation. By spreading that knowledge to those we come in contact with, we follow Christ's command to "go ... and make disciples of all nations."

This October we Saginaw Serrans have a special chance to strengthen our own faith and that of other Serrans. Hosting a successful Regional Conference will raise awareness of our Church and our Club. The groundwork for this Conference has already been laid. Please be generous with your time and talents when asked. By working together we will truly live the words of Juniper Serra when it comes to our faith – "Always forward, never go back."

Congratulation to Dr. Robert Vitu By Ray Bartels



We would like to add our congratulation to Dr. Robert Vitu for recently getting the 2007 Michigan State Medical Society Community Service Award in recognition for his work at the Healthy Futures Nasaau Clinic at The Hunger Solution in Saginaw. 'Dr. Vitu is an exemplary role model of a physician giving back to the community,' said Lisa Hadden, director of Healthy Futures, a collaboration that operates several free clinics in the county. Hadden described Vitu as "a gentle, kind soul who loves his volunteer work."

This award is but the most recent that Dr. Vitu has received since his retirement from his practice in 1994. Vitu was Michigan Family Physician of the Year in 1981, while Good Housekeeping Magazine nominated him for American Family Physician of the Year in 1982. He also got the 2003 Spirit of Saint Vincent Award from the St. Mary's Foundation in honor of his career with St. Mary's of Michigan hospital, where he was chief of the medical staff and the family practice department. He also served on the staffs of St. Luke's Hospital and Saginaw General Hospital now combined as Covenant HealthCare.

Conference Update

Planning for the **Great Lakes Regional Conference** (October 18-21) is progressing. Please see the Tentative Schedule of Events included with this Newsletter. Chairman Louis Rapin has done a great job in lining up speakers, planning workshops, masses and special events. The spaghetti dinner held on Thursday, April 26 was a great success, raising more than \$2,000 for the conference. Serra leaders in the Great Lakes Region have received a preview mailing about the conference. A finished brochure will be mailed to more than 2,700 Serrans in mid-June. You can help our cash-flow by registering early. For your convenience a registration form is included with this mailing. Visit www.saginawserraclub.org or call Louie Rapin (781-1878) for more details.

Roger Pasionek Ordained Permanent Deacon (from the Diocesan News site)

Bishop Robert J. Carlson ordained Roger Pasionek as a permanent deacon to serve the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw at 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 26, at Holy Family Parish, 1525 S. Washington Ave., near downtown Saginaw.

Pasionek, a member of the Saginaw Serra Club, will become the second permanent deacon ordained by Bishop Carlson since he became leader of the 11-county Catholic Diocese of Saginaw in 2005.

Born on April 1, 1948 and raised in St. Charles, Pasionek is the oldest of six children born to Ladislaus J. and Betty (Fox) Pasionek. He received the sacraments of baptism, first Eucharist, and confirmation at Immaculate Conception Parish in St. Charles on June 6, 1948; April 29, 1956 and December 8, 1957 (the Feast of the Immaculate Conception), respectively.

Pasionek attended St. Mary Catholic Grade School in St. Charles and St. Charles Community High School, where he graduated in 1962. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in 1970 and returned to St. Charles Community High School, where he taught English from 33 years before retiring in 2003.

He also holds a master's degree in English from Saginaw Valley State University, which he earned in 1989, and a master's degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University in New Orleans, which he earned in 1995.

Pasionek has served as a pastoral associate at Holy Family Parish for the past three years and is a member of the Diocesan Worship Commission. He will be assigned to Holy Family Parish.

2007 Youth Appreciation Day by Kathy Bronz

Our annual Youth Appreciation Luncheon was held on May 15 at the Center for Ministry. Forty youth were nominated this year by their pastors and youth ministers from parishes in Saginaw County. Each of the nominees was recognized with a certificate of appreciation and a gift card to Barnes and Noble. Not all the youth who were to be honored were able to attend due to final exams and other testing that was taking place. For those who did join us with their families we were grateful. These young men and women are our future leaders and we need to be especially thankful for them and those who have nurtured, and will continue to nurture them. We also need to pray that they will discern what it is God is calling them to do.



A list of the awardees is on our website at <http://www.saginawserraclub.org/page6.html>.

Bishop Announces Pastoral Assignments

Father James Bessert is appointed rector of St. Mary Cathedral in Saginaw, effective July 17, 2007. Father Bessert previously served as pastor at St. Brigid of Kildare Parish in Midland. He also will continue in his role as director of the diocesan Office of Liturgy.

Deacon Andrew Booms is appointed associate pastor at St. James Parish in Bay City following his Ordination to the Priesthood set for June 8, 2007. He also will serve in the Religion Department at All Saints Central High School in Bay City.

Deacon José Cabrera is appointed associate pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Midland following his Ordination to the Priesthood set for June 8, 2007.

Father William Taylor is granted senior priest status, effective July 17, 2007. Father Taylor previously served as pastor at Holy Family Parish in Saginaw.

Father Ronald Wagner is appointed as pastor at Holy Family Parish in Saginaw and diocesan Vicar for Priests, effective July 17, 2007. Father Wagner previously served as rector of St. Mary Cathedral in Saginaw.

Serra Member List

George Ayotte	684-3447	Dick McKinley	799-3839
Edgar Balcueva, M.D.	793-5662	John McGraw	792-8115
Ray Bartels	790-1224	Kate Miller	790-2878
Dave Beyerlein	790-7328	John and Marian Moll	642-2727
Kathy Bronz	792-2890	Ernie Muscott	792-0536
Michael Burch	282-4799	Kathy Myles	791-3806
Bernie Coppolino	791-6126	Gerald Parent	667-0524
Fr. Ron Dombrowski	753-2497	Roger Pasioneck	799-9170
James Drinan	793-1770	Louis Rapin	781-1878
Frank Drinan	799-4115	Bud Richter	792-5571
Carl Gohm	793-2855	Bill and Janet Ruger	792-6473
Ken Grembowski	799-7285	Dave Schaeffer	792-1914
Bill Irish	792-0627	Cyril Schultz, Jr.	792-9284
Tracy Knaub	793-5735	Scott Seamon	793-6814
Pat Koenig	751-4447	Jean Seman	792-2011
John Kunitser	792-5453	Mary Catherine Siers	792-1334
Len LeFevre	793-7490	Hank Slachta	790-311
Bridget Looby	239-6733	Stan Sobol	695-5340
Robert Looby	799-3500	Jerry Talbot	792-4130
Joe Marshall, M.D.	790-0275	Robert Vitu, M.D.	799-1236
Dick McKinley	799-3839	Sharon Wahl	799-2925

Program Schedule thru September

Date	Program	Presenter/Location
June 5	"Little Books"	Catherine Haven – Center for Ministry
June 19	Charter Night (Invitations will be sent)	Swan Valley B.C.
July 3	Mass	St. Josaphat Church
July 17	Internal Meeting	St. Josaphat Church
August 8	Golf Outing	Swan Valley Golf Course
September 4	"Why I Became a Theologian"	Dr. Ed Hogan - Center for Ministry
September 18	"Catholic Federal and Its Role in Our Community"	Bridget Looby - Center for Ministry

Please contact Jean Seman at 792-2011 if you have a suggestion for a program.

All meetings, unless otherwise notified, are held at the Center for Ministry and start at noon. The Rosary is said in the chapel at 11:30. Board meetings are held at 12:15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the office of Yeo and Yeo, 3023 Davenport.

A Vocation Prayer

O Virgin Mary, we commend to you those who seek to follow your Son as priests, brothers, sisters, and deacons. You know the difficulties, struggles, and obstacles they face. Assist them to utter their "yes" to the divine call as you did at the invitation of the Angel. Draw them near to your heart so they may understand with you the joy and beauty that waits when the Lord calls them into His intimacy. Make them witnesses of His love. Enable them to inspire the Church with their holiness. May your all-powerful intercession touch the hearts of many that they may respond to the Lord's call. Repeat to them in the depths of their hearts what to say to the waiters at Cana: "Do whatever Jesus asks." John Paul II

The **Saginaw Serran** is published in March, June, September and December and is edited by Ruth Sawyers. We welcome your suggestions for improving our communications. Please contact Jean Seman (790-2011) or Ray Bartels (790-1224) with your comments. We encourage you to visit our website at www.saginawserraclub.org for information about Serra.

We're on the web at www.saginawserraclub.org



The Serra Club of Saginaw

Regions 6 and 7 Annual Convention

October 18 - 21, 2007

Bay City, Michigan

“Immediately they left their nets and followed him.” (Mt. 4-20)

Tentative Schedule

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Thursday, October 18 | Registration at DoubleTree Hotel from 1 to 5 p.m.
6:15 p.m. – Leave for Dinner and Show at Delta Planetarium |
| Friday, October 19 | Registration continues at DoubleTree Hotel
7:15 a.m. - Rosary and prayer at DoubleTree Hotel
8:35 a.m. – Board buses at DoubleTree for trips to Frankenmuth and Midland.
8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Golf at Bay Valley Golf Course
3 p.m. - Membership meetings at DoubleTree Hotel.
4:45 p.m. - Buses leave for Mass at St. James. Bishop Daniel E. Flores, S.T.D., celebrant
6:30 p.m. - Social hour and buffet dinner at DoubleTree, cash bar.
Speaker, Fr. Jay Scott Newman. |
| Saturday, October 20 | 7 a.m. - Rosary and prayer at DoubleTree Hotel
7:30 a.m. - Continental breakfast. Speaker, Sr. Molly Neville
9:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Workshops*
Noon – Lunch at DoubleTree Hotel.
2 p.m. – General session
5:45 p.m. – Dinner and program. Speaker, Fr. Joseph Fessio, S.J. |
| Sunday, October 21 | 7:45 to 9 a.m. – Continental breakfast at DoubleTree Hotel.
10 a.m. – Buses leave for Mass at St. James. Bishop Robert J. Carlson, celebrant.
Conference ends, have a safe trip home. |
- **Workshops and leadership meetings are planned to zero in on topics such as membership, programs, vocations, and communications. A special session is planned for club presidents and will feature Tom Walsh, chairman of the National Leadership Development Committee of USAC. Another session is designed for club chaplains and will focus on their role as it relates to the Serra mission. In short, we think these sessions will include something for everyone and are sure you will leave with information that you can put into action in your club.**

Serra Club of Saginaw

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EARLY REGISTRATION

Registration Form for Regions 6-7 Conference ♦ October 18-21, 2007 ♦ Bay City, Michigan

- Serra Member Spouse Serra Club President District Governor USA Council Officer/Staff Vacation Director Order Present Inside of Order
 Spouse / Member Deacon Serra Club Chaplain Regional Director Serra International Officer Deacon Present Religious Outside of Order

Name of your Serra Club _____ Region (6 or 7) _____ Telephone Number _____ E-Mail Address _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ (Judge) _____ First Name of Spouse _____ (Judge) _____ Zip Code _____

Street Address _____ P.O. Box (if applicable) _____ City _____ State _____

REGISTRATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

Registration Fee	\$10.00	x	_____	= \$ _____
* Registration fee will be \$25.00 after September 23, 2007*				
Spouse Registration Fee	\$10.00	x	_____	= \$ _____
Plunstanian, Dinner, and Show	\$20.00	x	_____	= \$ _____
Frankenmuth Tour	\$20.00	x	_____	= \$ _____
Mulanid Tour	\$25.00	x	_____	= \$ _____
Golf Outing	\$45.00	x	_____	= \$ _____
Personal Donation	_____	x	_____	= \$ _____
TOTAL \$				

SPECIAL NEEDS:

TRAVEL INFORMATION:

- I will be arriving by air
 Airport: _____ (MPS or File (Backup))
 Airline: _____
 Date of Arrival: _____ Time: _____
 Date of Departure: _____ Time: _____
 (Transportation will be provided to and from airport)
 I will be arriving by Charter Bus Other: _____

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Reservations have been made at: _____
 District/Inn: _____ Quality Inn _____ Bay Valley Resort _____



Please make checks payable to "Serra Regions 6-7 Conference"
 My check is enclosed _____ I am unable to attend but have enclosed my donation toward the success of the conference.

Send Self-Addressed envelope and mail to:
 Serra Regions 6-7 Conference
 c/o Jean Sorman
 2828 Wynn Street
 Saginaw, Michigan 48602
 Telephone: (989) 750-2078

For Office Use Only
 Registration # _____ Treasurer: _____
 Chairman: _____ Registration: _____

"Immediately they left their nets and followed Him." Matt 4:20