

The Saginaw Serran

Where Vocations are Fostered

Established June 20, 1951

September 2007

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

Dear Faithful Serrans,

First, I wish to thank you for your generous support and prayers as we continue to cultivate a culture of vocations in the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw. Your efforts to carry out your mission of promoting vocations have been a blessing to our local church.



I am pleased to share with you that there are 24 men discerning God's call to the priesthood as Saginaw seminarians this fall. The blessings of the Holy Spirit continue to fall upon our diocese, inspiring generous men to say, "Yes," to the Lord's gentle knocking on the doors of their hearts.

I am also excited to say that we recently have opened the St. John Vianney Formation House so that our seminarians might have a place to live in faithful brotherhood while they continue in their discernment and formation. We have also been successful in hosting *Operation Andrew Dinners*, *Come and See* weekend trips to Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit and vocation retreats at the Center for Ministry as ways to offer young men of our diocese a prayer-centered experiences for discernment.

Of course, we also continue to be blessed with the fruits of our marriage ministries, generous religious communities and wonderful lay ministry formation programs that all work build up the body of Christ in our local church.

I am continually encouraged by the work and prayers of Saginaw's Serrans. I pray to that you are encouraged by the work of the Holy Spirit in our diocese. I look forward being with you for your organization's 2007 Regional Conference in Bay City this coming October 18 to 21. This event is sure to provide wonderful experiences as Serrans from six states come together in our diocese to grow in their mission to support a culture of vocations. The Church is truly blessed by the works of Serra International.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson
Bishop of Saginaw

[A Letter from Sr. Molly Neville. SNJM](#)

WELCOME to the Great Lakes Conference of Serrans USA 2007. Everything is ready! This is one conference you will NOT WANT TO MISS. Dynamic presenters, prayerful liturgies, social activities and abundant ideas and resources for Vocations education and outreach await you and your local Serran group. See you there!



My name is Sr. Molly Neville SNJM and I am privileged to join you Oct. 19 in Bay City, Michigan. As a presenter and vocations enthusiast I bring with me the "spirit" of Blessed Junipero Serra from our Carmel Mission where he lived, died and is buried. I look forward to meeting you, praying and learning together, listening to vocations stories, exploring vocations successes and challenges and just relaxing together.

For the past 16 years I have served as Vocations Director in California – seven years for my Holy Names religious community and eight years as Diocesan Vocations Director (Monterey). I plan to share home-grown vocations' stories, experiences of vocations ministry on the local and national level and reflections on the beliefs, attitudes and spiritual hungers of young adults today. In addition, creative strategies I have discovered that fan into flame the gifts of God for the mission and ministry of Jesus in our Church.

[A Letter from Fr. Jay Scott Newman](#)

Four priests and two women religious in seven years from one medium-sized congregation in the South? This is, at least, counterintuitive, but that is precisely what we have experienced at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Greenville, South Carolina. What could possibly account for these vocations?



St. Mary's is located in the Buckle of the Bible Belt, less than five miles from the campus of Bob Jones University, a part of the world in which many Protestants still regard Catholicism as a pagan cult pretending to be a Christian Church. In such an environment those who are casual, cultural, or cafeteria Catholics very quickly become either ex-Catholics or evangelical Catholics—the name we give to the shape of life for those who move from being Church members by convention to Christian disciples by conviction. Confronted by the challenge of our Protestant neighbors, there is no room here for spiritual mediocrity, doctrinal confusion, uncertain commitments, or a lukewarm interior life among Catholics, and this challenge becomes an invitation to accept the Gospel as a complete, coherent, comprehensive Way of Life—the power of God unto salvation for all believe.

One consequence of this conscious acceptance of the Gospel as the supernatural gift of God by divine revelation in Christ is the surrender of everything in our lives to the Lord Jesus through the obedience of faith. In this environment, then, our people understand that sacrificial love and the radical gift of self are essential parts of following Christ and that the priesthood and religious life are normal expressions of Christian faith and life. Our young men and women then easily grasp that consecrated life is not for spiritual heroes or for the superhuman among us. Rather, the choice to become a priest or a religious is a normal, everyday manifestation of the life of grace in the Church, and all Catholics should regard it as such. Yes, renunciation of many kinds is required, but authentic Christian living requires renunciation of all the baptized, and so the young man or woman who leaves home, family, career, and self-direction for the service of Christ and His Church is simply responding to the call of the Lord Jesus first received at Baptism: Follow me.

Fr Jay Scott Newman
Pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church
Greenville, South Carolina

[President's Message](#) By Bernie Coppolino

As Catholics we believe that our Heavenly Father listens to us when we in pray. As a Serran, let me suggest three things we can pray for as we head into the fall season:

Under the leadership of Bishop Robert Carlson, the Saginaw Diocese now has over twenty seminarians.



This is an amazing number when one considers the small number of new priests over the past few years. However, there are sure to be bumps and detours for many of these men on their way to priesthood. Let us pray that God gives them the wisdom to discern their true vocations and the strength of will to persevere to their final goal.

Saginaw Nouvel Catholic Central High School has a new principal – Paul Fallon. He is an energetic administrator with a proven track record, and has been commissioned by the Bishop to make Nouvel one of the fifty best American Catholic high schools. One of his goals is to increase the student body's awareness of religious vocations. The more that our young people know about such vocations, the more likely they are to consider them. Let us pray to God that Paul Fallon meets success in his new job.

The Regional Conference is fast approaching. The weekend of October 19-21 will bring Serrans together in Bay City for fellowship and enrichment. Louis Rapin and the Committee have done yeomen's work in putting this together. Let us pray that God rewards their efforts with success. Also, if you have not sent in your registration forms and checks, get them in ASAP. As God often says to those who pray – "The Lord helps those who help themselves."

2007 Golf Outing by Frank Drinan

Fathers Tom Sutton and Rick Filary, along with John Kunitzer and John McGraw overcame 90 plus temperatures and high humidity to shoot a sparkling 63 to win the annual Serra Club golf scramble for the priests of our Diocese at Swan Valley Golf Club on August 8th. Fifteen priests and eleven Serrans played in the event.

Serran Eddie Balcueva won one of the long drive contests in addition to being closest to the pin on the sixth hole, and thus took home the most golf balls.

Despite the warm weather, everyone seemed to enjoy the golf and the excellent lunch that preceded the competition.

Long time observers also noted that 92-year-old Father Michael Wolf was the oldest person ever to play in the scramble.

Many thanks for the continued generosity of Len and Gerry LeFevre.

Program Schedule through November

Date	Program	Presenter/Location
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
October 2	Mass	Center for Ministry
October 18-21	Regional Conference	Bay City, Michigan
November 6	Internal Planning meeting	Center for Ministry
November 20	Bishop Robert J. Carlson	Center for Ministry

Please contact Bill Ruger at 792-6473 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 on the second Tuesday of each month at the office of Yeo and Yeo, 3023 Davenport and begin at 12:15 p.m.

Serra Member List

George Ayotte	684-3447	John Kunitzer	792-5453	Janet Ruger	792-6473
Edgar Balcueva	793-5662	Len LeFevre	793-7490	Dave Schaeffer	792-1914
Ray Bartels	790-1224	Bridget Looby	239-6733	Cyril Schultz, Jr.	792-9284
Dave Beyerlein	790-7328	Robert Looby	799-3500	Scott Seamon	793-6814
Kathy Bronz	792-2890	Joe Marshall	790-0275	Jean Seman	792-2011
Michael Burch	282-4799	Dick McKinley	799-3839	Mary Siers	792-1334
Bernie Coppolino	791-6126	John McGraw	792-8115	Hank Slachta	799-3111
Fr. Ron Dombrowski	753-2497	John Moll	642-2727	Stan Sobol	791-8088
James Drinan	793-1770	Marian Moll	642-2727	Jerry Talbot	792-4130
Frank Drinan	799-4115	Ernie Muscott	792-0536	Robert Vitu	799-1236
Carl Gohm	793-2855	Kathy Myles	791-3806	Sharon Wahl	799-2925
Ken Grembowski	799-7285	Roger Pasioneck	799-9170		
Bill Irish	792-0627	Louis Rapin	781-1878		
Tracy Knaub	793-5735	Bud Richter	792-5571		
Pat Koenig	751-4447	Bill Ruger	792-6473		

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

We are on the web at www.saginawserraclub.org

For the latest News from the Saginaw Diocese, visit www.saginaw.org/blog



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)

Revised 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 Breakfast and lunch on your own 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. - Leadership meetings at DoubleTree Hotel. 4:30 p.m. - Leave for 5 p.m. 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	7:10 a.m. - Rosary and prayer at DoubleTree Hotel 7:45 a.m. – Buffet breakfast. Speaker, Sr. Molly Neville, SNJM 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Workshops* Noon – Buffet lunch at DoubleTree Hotel. 2 p.m. – General Session – Speaker Sr. Molly Neville SNJM 2:30 to 3:40 p.m. – Workshops* 3:45 p.m. – Free time. 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. 9:30 a.m. Leave for 10 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church. 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 for club presidents will feature Tom Walsh, chairperson of the National Leadership Development Committee of USAC. Another session for club chaplains 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.**