

SERRA - THE BEGINNING

During the fall and winter of 1934 in Seattle Washington, four Catholic laymen, P. Daniel Rooney, Richard B. Ward, Harold E. Haberly and Leo F. Sharkey had been meeting informally. They recognized the need for an association which would further the cause of Catholicism through lasting friendships among Catholic men. Of these men, Dan Rooney was a former neighbor of ours, raised in the thumb near Mayville before moving west.

Joined by several of their friends, these men formed the first Serra Club of Seattle on February 27, 1935 under the auspices and with the approval of the Most Reverend Gerald Shaughnessy, the Bishop of Seattle.

John J. Janette, an early member of the Seattle Club and later founder of the Serra Club of Chicago, proposed the work of fostering vocations and assisting in the education of young men for the priesthood. On June 12, 1935, the original purpose of the Seattle Club was enlarged to include this work.

John F. Bray, also one of the charter members of the Seattle Club, proposed the name of "Serra" since the founders desired to adopt the name of some prominent figure, truly Catholic and saintly in character and American in background who had been interested in western missionary work. The name selected was that of the "Apostle of California", Fr. Junipero Serra, the Spanish Franciscan who founded "El Camino Real" – the celebrated missions from San Diego to San Gabriel including Los Angeles and San Francisco as well as San Carlos Borromeo at Monteray where Father Serra lies buried.

During the first four years, new clubs were formed in Spokane, Portland, Tacoma and San Francisco under the leadership and direction of the members of the Seattle Club. It then became evident that the movement needed unified direction and coordination of their programs.

On July 2, 1938, delegates from the five clubs, meeting in Seattle, voted to form Serra International, adopting as their common goals the original aims and purposes of the Serra Club of Seattle. Bishop Shaughnessy of Seattle became the first Chaplain and served until 1946.

Eighteen clubs were added through the World War II period. In 1946, after the international headquarters was established in Chicago, Serra International had the good fortune of having Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago accept the invitation to serve as Episcopal Advisor. It was Cardinal Stritch who later set a third goal – to have the Serra Clubs be universities in Catholic principles.

Serra International began to grow. It spread in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, England, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, South America and Italy. Serra is formally recognized by the Holy See as the global lay apostolate for vocations in the Catholic Church.

The Serra Club enters a diocese only with the approval and support of the Ordinary and works in cooperation with him.

Clement P. Quinn revised by William L. Ruger

SERRA CLUB OF SAGINAW

Its Organization and Officers

During its growth, Serra Clubs were established in Grand Rapids and Muskegon, Michigan.

In 1950, Dr. James V. Dwan of Saginaw visited Muskegon and saw their club in action. Later in the year several members of the Muskegon Serra Club came to Saginaw a number of times and met with groups of men who were invited to meet them and learn about the work of Serra.

Enough interest was generated among these men to form a local Serra Club and a club was organized in Saginaw. Officers were elected and the formation of such a club was approved by Most Rev. Stephen S. Wosnicki Bishop of Saginaw and he appointed Rev. Thomas R. Horton as Chaplain of the Club.

Application for a charter from Serra International, Inc. was made. Regular meetings were held on January 19, 1951, February 2, February 16, March 2, March 16, April 6, April 20, May 4, May 18, June 1, and the meeting scheduled for June 15 was postponed until June 20, 1951 on which day Serra International, Inc. awarded a Charter to the Serra Club of Saginaw.

The bulletins of each meeting held by the club were sent to each member and have been preserved to tell the story of the Serra Club of Saginaw since the first meeting on January 19, 1951.

The club has an annual Youth Appreciation Day, golf outing for priests and religious, a charter celebration anniversary dinner, Christmas party, seminarian education fund raising dinner and many other events each year.

Most of the events are held at the Center for Ministry at the Diocese of Saginaw. The club is open to both men and women of the Catholic faith.

Charter Members of Serra Club of Saginaw

Dr. James V. Dwan
Dr. John A. McCarthy
Dr. Joseph P. Markey
William J. Wolf
Dr. R. F. Beberovich
Frank Borsenik
Roland J. Donison
James V. Finkbeiner
Arthur Hanley
Edward H. Lunt
Henry E. Naogely Jr.
A. C. Storey

Dr. Robert U. Flynn
Clement P. Quinn
Anthony F. Brogger
Alfred J. Sabourin
A. J. Brisbois
Dr. Robert Bucklin
Joseph E. Faler
John T. Garey
Clement C. Lenhart
Robert H. Mooney
William J. Schill
Arthur R. Treanor

CLUB PRESIDENTS

1951	Dr. James V. Dwan	1981	Gary Niederstadt
1952	Clement P. Quinn	1982	Dan Dambro
1953	John T. Garey	1983	Richard Irish
1954	Arthur T. Hanley	1984	John Kunitzer
1955	Winthrop E. Daily Jr.	1985	Robert Witchger
1956	Dr. Robert Bucklin	1986	Dr. Joseph Marshall
1957	Dr. Edward F. Kickham	1987	Gerald Talbot
1958	James J. Shinnors	1988	Carl Gohm
1959	Dr. John A. McCarty	1989	Carl Gohm
1960	Bernard F. Foster	1990	Stephen Grzesiak
1961	Joseph F. McKenna	1991	Hank Slachta
1962	Clarence S. Siers	1992	Vince DeAgostino
1963	Joseph E. Faler	1993	Terry Duperon
1964	Dr. Kenneth A. Jacques	1994	Steve Jaksa
1965	John D. Malone	1995	Terry R. Manwell
1966	Dr. Robert W. McGowan	1996	Frank Drinan
1967	Aarol W. Irish	1997	Ray Bartels
1968	Joseph F. McIntyre	1998	Ray Bartels
1969	Louis L. Rapin	1999	Richard McKinley
1970	Thomas W. Cline	2000	Richard McKinley
1971	Dr. James C. Dwan	2001	Kathy Bronz
1972	Dr. Melvin J. Anderson	2002	Kathy Bronz
1973	Dr. Frank C. Rugani	2003	Tom Bivens
1974	Jack Harden	2004	William Ruger
1975	Roy Reid	2005	William Ruger
1976	James Drinan	2006	Bernard Coppolino
1977	Rick Catalino	2007	Bernard Coppolino
1978	Aarol W. Irish	2008	Emma Jean Seman
1979	Richard Wolohan	2009	Emma Jean Seman
1980	William Flynn	2010	Cyril Schultz Jr.

Club Chaplains

Rev. Thomas R. Horton

Rev. John Troester

Rev. James G. Heller

Rich Meyette

Rev. Thomas Sutton

Fr. Patrick O'Connor

Fr. Thomas Moore

Fr. Ronald Dombrowski

Fr. Nicholas Coffaro

Fr. Robert DeLand (Serra Club of Bay City)

Year**District Governor of District 15 from Saginaw**

1950-1960	Joseph E. Faler
1965-1966	Winthrop E. Dailey, Jr.
1973-1974	Dr. James Dwan
1977-1978	Clarence S. Siers
1983-1984	Gary Niederstat
1984-1985	Dan Dambro
1986-1989	Richard Irish
1990-1991	Gerald Talbot
1997-1998	Gerald J. Parent
2004-2005	Richard McKinley
2008-2009	Louis Rapin

Year**International Trustee**

1979-1984	Clarence Siers
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Annual Events

Member Luncheon Meetings – twice per month
 Quarterly Masses
 Rosaries for Vocations
 Seminarian Education Fundraising Dinner
 Youth Appreciation Dinner
 Charter Night
 Clergy Golf Outing
 Christmas Party

For more information on the Serra Club of Saginaw see its web site at saginawserra.org. Information regarding current officers, roster of members, contact information and meetings are included on this web site.

60th Anniversary Committee

William Ruger	Emma Jean Seman
Cyril Schultz, Jr.	Ray Kellmurray
John Moll	Marian Moll
Louis Rapin	Robert Guldenzoph
Paul Seman	Andrew LaFramboise