



The Saginaw Serran

Established June 20, 1951

A Message From Our President by Bill Ruger

Time is passing! Are we using it wisely?

This is a question that I continuously ask of myself. I hope that this year brings better answers for me to this question.

We have been anxiously awaiting a new Shepherd for the diocese and now have a new leader for our diocese in Bishop Robert Carlson. He has been a strong supporter of the Serra Club in the past. I am looking forward to working with him in the future and hopefully increasing the call to the priesthood and other religious vocations in our diocese.

With the poster distributed to the parishes in the diocese, we can now begin our cluster calls to offer support to the parish staffs regarding vocation promotion. With the decline of priests, this is one important mission that we are being called to serve. Let us do all we can to do our part.

We continue to have a wonderful agenda set up for the coming quarter. Let us all go out and promote new membership so that we can make our club strong and further foster vocations for our diocese. As lay persons, we serve the church in furthering the message of Christ's Gospel.

We have many opportunities this year to participate in Serra Club functions. There is the International Convention in Thailand in June, a Serran retreat near Pontiac in July and the Great Lakes Regional Convention in Ohio in September. More will be published on these in future issues of this newsletter. If there are any questions regarding any of these, please feel free to call me or any board member.

I hope that, as I reflect on this year in December, that I can answer truthfully that I have give of my time wisely in meeting my obligation to the Serra Club and to my life as a Catholic in this Universal

Why I am a Serran (A Journey of Faith) by Dick McKinley

I was baptized by a Diocese of Toledo, OH Priest at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in 1931.

I attended St. Mary's Parochial School in Fulton, NY during my early elementary education. My teachers were Dominican Nuns from White Plains, NY.

I finished my elementary education at St. Theresa's Parochial School in Albany, NY where I was taught by Mercy Nuns from that city.

I graduated from Christian Brothers Academy High School in Albany, NY and those Christian Brothers were from Barrytown, NY.

My first year of college was at St. Bernadine of Siena College, a Franciscan institution in Loudenville, NY

Continuing on, I graduated from the University of Detroit, a Jesuit institution.

Jane and I were married at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Midland, MI. Father Camil Klos, a Priest from the Saginaw Diocese performed the ceremony. John Sarge was an altar boy at our wedding. Today he is a Priest in the Saginaw Diocese and the Pastor of St. Casimer and St. George parishes in Saginaw.

All nine of our children received their early elementary education at Guardian Angels School in Clawson, MI. They were taught by the the Adrian Dominicans of which Jo Gaugier, O.P. is a member. She is our Diocesan Director of Church Ministries and Lay Formation in

Saginaw.

All nine of our children graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas Parochial School and were taught by the Bernardine Nuns from Farmington Hills, MI.

We have been members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish since 1968 and the Franciscan Priests ministered to Jane's spiritual needs until her death in 2003.

As a Serran I fervently pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. I will continue to pray for all priests, nuns and brothers for my remaining life.

2004/05 Officers and Trustees

Bill Ruger	President
Dick McKinley	President Elect
Tom Biven	Past President
Vacant	VP Programs
Kathy Bronz	VP Vocations
Clement Richter	VP Membership
Ray Bartels	VP Communications
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David Beyerlein	Treasurer
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Kate Miller	Trustee
Sharon Wahl	Trustee
Fr. Thomas Moore	Chaplain

What Does the Saginaw Serra Club Do, Anyway? by Ray Bartels

First, let me begin by saying who we are. The Saginaw Serran Club is a group of catholic lay women and men, founded in 1951, who are dedicated to serving the Catholic Church by working to promote vocations within The Church.

The Mission of the Saginaw Serra Club is to "foster and affirm vocations to the ministerial priesthood and vowed religious life in the Saginaw Diocese, and through this ministry enrich and develop our members' common Catholic faith."

Here is a brief profile of The Saginaw Serra club:

- We currently have 42 members
- We meet regularly throughout the year, usually twice each month on the first and third Tuesday
- We are governed by a Board of Directors consisting of 13 members

- We host several special events throughout the year including the following:

An **Appreciation Dinner** for youth, and their parents, from throughout the diocese to show our appreciation to them for the work they do in their respective parishes.

An **Annual Golf Outing** with priests and seminarians.

Our **Annual Charter Night dinner** held to honor and install new officers and trustees.

Our **Annual Christmas Dinner** to share with our members and guests the "Spirit of Christmas." We encourage you to contact The Serra Club if you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about The Saginaw Serra Club. Please contact Bud Richter at 989-792-5571 or email him at budcjrigh@aol.com.

From Our Chaplain by Father Tom Moore

As we prepare for Lent and get into the holy season we're given for our reflection on the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time the Beatitudes. Nine straightforward statements that sum up the invitation of Jesus on how we are to live if we truly want to be really happy in this world. They are worth remembering.

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. (Matthew 5: 12a).

There they are. Simple and clear. It's worth-

while taking some time to reflect on them and see if my day to day life is reflected in them. I came across a part of a homily that Bishop Ken gave reflecting on the Beatitudes. As was his gift he was able to say briefly how these words of Jesus apply to us personally.



"The nice thing about the beatitudes is that they describe the kind of person we're meant to be, which is to say, we're made that way. Like the deer is meant to run in the woods, we're meant to be merciful. Now you can tie a deer up, but the deer wouldn't be happy. Because these beatitudes describe what we're made to be, and that is the key to happiness.

I have a suggestion. At the beginning of the day, think of how you would like to be characterized after you die - just a couple of words - but that express the kind of person you would truly like to be. Then live the day that way.

Think about it...a couple of words you'd want on your tombstone. Then live a day that way. Live every day that way."

Who are the Sisters of St. Clare?

We, the Sisters of Clare, are contemplatives who were founded by St. Clare of Assisi, a contemporary of St. Francis of Assisi. We began our community in Saginaw in 1991 at the invitation of Bishop Ken Untener. In the spirit of St. Clare, we focus on God, the people and intentions of this diocese. Our home is on Shattuck Rd, near Center Rd. An inscription, "Pax et Bonum" (Peace and All That is Good) is inscribed beside our entrance. Inside, we invite guests to our chapel to rest with God.



Laurene Burns (sitting), Dianne Doughty (left), Bernadone Reining (center), and Laura hammer (right)

The contemplative life is a unique expression of the Christian life. Like all Christians, we try to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ. A contemplative chooses to set aside family, career, travel, desire for security, and much more for a solitary life within a community. Logic cannot explain the desire to spend one's day in prayer and constant search for God's presence. This can only be a "call" or "vocation" from God.

What do contemplatives do? Contemplative life focuses on three things. First, community prayer, principally the Liturgy of the Hours, said at different times throughout the day. Second is our community. Third, we work for the daily livelihood of the community and of the poor.

We gather for prayer five times daily. In the morning, we pray the Liturgy of the Hours, followed by Eucharist. The day's labor follows. At midday, we return to prayer, enjoy lunch and have some free time. During evening, we again gather to pray the psalms, share a meal and complete the day by catching the news or engaging in some other form of recreation. We end our day with Centering Prayer.

Community life for Poor Clare means sisterhood. We strive to create a home where charity can flourish by throwing in our lot with other sisters. Each sister must be a team player; her life is not her own. She is called to move away

gradually from self-absorption, and learn to love the common good of all. People in other walks of life face struggle, balancing self-interest with the care and service of children, spouse, aging parents, or co-workers. Within community, individual needs and wants are discussed in light of the common will of the community expressed in its traditions and communal decisions. From the outside, community life appears to be peaceful and tranquil. Inside, we too experience it as a milieu in which day-by-day interactions provide challenge as well as companionship.

Above all, we depend upon God whom we meet daily as the Other; in the phone calls of people seeking prayer; listening to the anguish of someone in a failed marriage; walking with those grieving a death; hearing news of an unbreakable addiction that grips a niece or a cousin. We share in the sorrows of the human heart - bruised, broken, crushed and betrayed - and bring the suffering ones with us to prayer. It never is just someone else's issue, someone else's cross to shoulder alone, someone else's problem to handle without assistance.

Sharing with the poor and needy is part of our way of life. We live on alms and depend on others for help. In the gifts of food and donations, we see the face of God. From that which we receive, we give back whatever and whenever we can.

In the next issue of *The Saginaw Serran* we will continue the story with how we support ourselves, how big we are and how we make ourselves known. For more information on the Sisters of St. Clare visit our website at www.rc.net/saginaw/srsclare/.

Sr. Liz Picken presents program on Church History

by Bernie Coppolino



preaching, baptizing, the eucharist, and defending truth. The Second Quadrant saw the Church become 'Catholic',

"The more things change, the more they remain the same." That could have been the theme of Sr. Liz Picken's presentation at the February 2nd General Meeting. Sr. Liz showed how Catholic Church history could be divided into four 500 year long Quadrants. In the First Quadrant the Church took shape, concentrating on

with uniform practices. In the Third Quadrant the Church confronted splits with the Eastern Churches and Protestantism. The Fourth Quadrant saw the breakup of old ways of thinking and the rise of science, liberalism and modernism. Sr. Liz stated that as the Church reaches the end of the Fourth Quadrant, its emphasis are those values espoused in the First Quadrant.

The presentation was an abbreviation of a Church History prepared by Sr. Liz and Bishop Untener in 2003. The full version, which is worth looking at, can be found at the Diocesan website at ww.churchofsaginaw.org/church-history.

MEMBER LIST

George Ayotte	684-3447
Edgar Balcueva	793-5692
Ray Bartels	790-1224
James Bell	642-5679
Dave Beyerlein	790-7328
Tom Bivens	752-8560
Jerry Breen	793-5337
Kathy Bronz	792-2890
Bernie Coppolino	791-6126
James Drinan	793-1770
Frank Drinan	799-4115
James Dwan	793-6326
Carl Gohm	793-2855
Ken Grembowski	799-7285
Dennis Grimaldi	799-5572
Angelo Guerriero	792-1268
Bud Irish	792-2157
Bill Irish	792-0627
John Kunitzer	792-5453
Len LeFevre	793-7490
Robert Looby	799-3500
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Dick McKinley	799-3839
Kate Miller	790-2878
Fr. Tom Moore	797-6661
Ernie Muscott	792-0536
Gerald Parent	667-0524
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Bud Richter	792-5571
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Dave Schaeffer	792-1914
Scott Seamon	793-6814
Jean Seman	792-2011
Mary Siers	792-1334
Hank Slachta	799-3111
Stan Sobol	793-4720
Ann Szymanowski	797-3678
Jerry Talbot	792-4130
Bob Vitu	799-1236
Sharon Wahl	799-2925
Marty Wilson	790-2727

Vocation Awareness Day at NCC*by Bill Ruger*

On January 11th I served as the panel moderator for NCC's student body assembly for Vocation Awareness Day. The panel consisted of Sr. Jane Marie Lebiezinski, CSSF of St. Francis Home in Saginaw, Brother Francis Boylan, Executive Director of Holy Children's Services (formerly Boysville), Fr. Craig Albrecht, pastor of Merrill Sacred Heart and NCC Chaplain, Fr. Bob Konopa, OFM of St. Thomas Aquinas Church and Tony Osentowski, seminarian currently assigned at Saginaw St. Mary Cathedral.

The panel began with each of the members explaining why they chose their respective vocation, how long it took for their studies and who influenced them in their choice of their vocation, also are they happy in their vocation and what was the hardest part in pursuing their chosen vocation?

This was followed by a question and answer period from the students. The panelists each commented that this was a very nice gathering and expressed to the students the importance of promoting Christ's message to others, no matter what vocation we pursue.

Vocation...

Each one of us has some kind of vocation. We are all called by God to a share in His life and in His Kingdom. Each one of us is called to a special place in the Kingdom. If we find that place we will be happy.

from Mornings with Thomas Merton: 120 Daily Readings

Program Schedule

March 1	Fr. Bob Deland, "Repairing the Image of the Priest"
March 8	Board Meeting
March 15	Bishop's Press Conference
April 5	Mass
April 12	Board Meeting
April 19	Ron Szewczyk, NCC Principal State of Nouvel C.C.
May 3	Youth Appreciation Luncheon
May 10	Board Meeting
May 17	Internal Program

Please note that all meetings are held at the Center for Ministry, unless otherwise notified, and begin at 12 noon. The Rosary is offered in the Chapel at 11:30. If you have suggestions for programs contact Bill Ruger at .757-3658.

Do you know someone who would like to know more about Serra? Call Bud at 989-792-5571, or email him at budcjrigh@aol.com

The USA Council of Serra International invites you to visit its website at www.serrus.org for up-to-date information on Serra and other great information.

The Serra Club of Saginaw

The Center for Ministry
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Padre Serra says...

Do you consider yourself an informed Catholic?

Think hard. How do you perceive the meaning of Christ, the nature of the Church and the Church's relationship to the world? When is the last time you read, discussed or listened to Scripture, ethics, Church history, spirituality or doctrine, other than at Mass?

Heavy? Not very. While you don't need to do the course work leading to a master's degree in theology, you should learn enough to be very informed Catholics. You should have some beliefs on these perceptions based upon your reading, your study and your dialogue with other Catholics.

In *The Responsible Person in Society*, Fr. John Pawlikowski, OSM, a professor of Social Ethics, asks the reader: "What sets apart the moral vision of Christians in general and of Catholics in particular? Who is the Christian, according to this moral tradition? What kind of person is the Christian called to become? How are the principles of Catholic and Christian moral theology applicable in daily life and to specific dilemmas and conflict situations?"

Submitted by Kathy Bronz