



# The Saginaw Serran

Established June 20, 1951

Vol. 1, Issue 4, June 2005

## A Message From Our President by Bill Ruger

Change!

This is the one constant about life. This year it seems like change is greater than ever. We lost our Pope. We lost our Bishop in the past year. We lost our Chaplain. Some of us will lose our longtime pastors this summer. What is going on? How many new challenges do we need at the same time?

Change reminds us of our mortality. Nothing remains constant. We need to look at change as another challenge on the road of life.

With Pope John Paul's death and the election of a new pope, Pope Benedict XVI, the Catholic Church is again faced with challenges in the 21st century. Though many people in the United States and the world want significant changes in the Catholic Church, we must continue to pray that the Church continues to serve its people in the manner that Jesus Christ intended.

We look forward to the June 7th mass and program by Bishop Carlson. I know that we are in good hands and pray that he will have a successful ministry in the Saginaw Diocese. We look forward to working with

him.

We also welcome Fr. Ron Dombrowski as our chaplain. At the same time, we thank Fr. Tom Moore for the many years of service that he gave us. We are lucky to have such dedicated priests in the Saginaw Diocese.

We must be ready to serve others in the same way that Christ did in his short but significant life here on earth. That is the challenge for us and our modern church. We as Serrans must do even more to ensure the strength of our clergy and to promote the justice that this world needs so much. With the international nature of Serra, we have the power to reach beyond national boundaries in order to spread the word of God to all nations.

I am privileged to represent our Serra club at the International Serra Convention in Bangkok, Thailand this year. I know that I will learn a lot about our club's mission and the many opportunities that exist to further the mission of Christ. My wife and I are looking forward to the trip.

Pray for vocations!

Until next time, enjoy the fine upcoming programs offered by our club!

### Serran Retreat...

With the closing of the Saginaw Queen of Angels Retreat House we have an opportunity provided to continue the habit of retreats this year. The Grand Rapids Serra Club is hosting a weekend prayer retreat for vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life. This prayer retreat will be the weekend of July 15-17, 2005, at the Manresa Retreat House in Oakland County. The price is \$175 per person and includes all room and board starting with the Friday evening meal, three Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast. Reservations need to be made before June 15, 2005, with a deposit of \$50 sent to the Grand Rapids Secretary, Pam Szczesny at 3151 S. Ottawa, Grandville, MI 49418. If you have any questions, call her at (616) 893-5235 or e-mail her at FDERLANCE@aol.com. The retreat house address is 1390 Quarton Road in Bloomfield Hills, MI.

### Serra Mission

Our mission 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.

The USA Council of Serra International invites you to visit its website at [www.serrusa.org](http://www.serrusa.org) for valuable and informative information about Serra International.

### Serra Club Honors Youth From Throughout the Diocese by Ray Bartels

The Serra Club honored 38 young parishioners from throughout the Diocese at its Annual Youth Appreciation Luncheon held May 3rd at the Diocesan Center for Ministry. Pictured L-R are honoree Veronica Barerra (St. Mary Cathedral Parish), daughter of Frank



and Lenore Barerra, and Serrans Jean Seman, President Bill Ruger and Event Coordinator Kathy Bronz. Each recipient received a **Certificate of Recognition** and a gift card from Barnes and Noble for their outstanding work in their respective

parishes.

The event is one of many that the Serrans host throughout the year to honor people in our Diocese. Other events include a golf outing in August for priests, a dinner honoring nuns and senior priests and, the club's Annual Christmas Dinner, which hosts Seminarians from our Diocese.

## Twenty-Five Years of Commissioned Lay Ministry by Sr. Jo Gaugier, OP

In 1980, when Bishop Francis F. Reh commissioned nine men and women to serve the Diocese of Saginaw, "Sing a New Song" was the closing hymn.



And indeed it was a new song. Nearly a quarter-century down the road, the Diocese has nearly 600 lay ministers.

These men and women are from every walk of life and educational background, and have dedicated themselves to God's work in this diocese. Each participated in a four-year program of theological and scriptural studies, as well as increasing their attention to spiritual and pastoral practices.

Lay ministers serve in a diverse range of leadership and pastoral roles, from music ministry to the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) to prayer services, to marriage preparation, and beyond. Some also serve as advocates for marriage annulments, or as BeFriendsers, or are involved in grief recovery, adult faith formation, Bible study and prayer groups as facilitators.

Their participation in these and many other programs ensures that parishioner's needs are met.

Most of the lay ministers donate their work (they are reimbursed for some expenses), although about 40 have found part-time or full-time staff positions at their parishes. More than 20 have earned master's degrees in pastoral ministry. In July, Joan LaPointe - a member of the first class commissioned in 1980 - becomes Pastoral Administrator of St. Casimir and St George parishes in Saginaw.

In his 1989 exhortation on the laity, Pope John Paul II reminds us that lay ministry is a vocation that springs from our baptism.

His Holiness wrote: "It is no exaggeration to say that the entire existence of the lay faithful has as its purpose to lead a person to a knowledge of the radical newness of the Christian life that comes from baptism, so that this knowledge can help that person live the responsibilities which arise from that vocation received from God."

**Note: Sr. Gaugier has been the Director of the Lay Minister program in the Diocese for the past 21 years.**

## From Our Chaplain by Father Ron Dombrowski

When you think of the word vocation what do you think of? Most people immediately think of vowed religious life or the priesthood. But we could say that there are four major vocations in life: married life, single life, vowed religious life and the priesthood. We need all of these to live in society and to live in the Church, and each one of us is called by God to one of these vocations. We need good parents in family life who share each other's love as husband and wife with their children and build up the human race and the Church. We need parents who will teach their children about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and about the Church and what it means to each and every one of us.



In the Baptism Rite we are told that parents must make it their constant care to bring their children up in the practices of the faith and to see that the Divine Life which God gives them is kept safe from the poison of sin and grows always stronger in faith. This is all parents' primary responsibility.

The single life also is a vocation in the Church and society. It is a calling to be one with the Lord and to help parents, whenever possible, to raise their children to be loving and kind to all God's people.

The vowed religious life is a special calling where one makes a commitment to live the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience by being faithful to this call and give service to the Church and to the people of God.

The ministerial priesthood is God's calling to take on the role of shepherd and leader in the Church. Those who are ordained to Priesthood take vows of chastity and obedience. It is the role of the priest to celebrate the Eucharist, the Sacraments, to preach and teach God's Word in order to help parents educate their children in the ways of the faith by word and example.

In all of these major life vocations, all of us take on the role of teacher and leader in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for He commanded us, "Go out into the world and spread the Good News." Do we take the time to do that in today's world, or do we leave it up to someone else? Thinking to ourselves, "They have more time," or "They can do a better job than I can," is an excuse. We are all called to spread the Gospel. Once again, we should ask ourselves, "Am I living my vocation to the best of my ability? Am I doing my job in spreading the Gospel? Am I giving it my all? Am I living my faith? Am I doing my best?" We have to remember that some day Our Lord will hold us accountable for how we lived out our Baptismal commitment and our stewardship.

## **The Continuing Story of the Sisters of St. Clare...**

We are contemplative sisters, Poor Clare Nuns, also known as Sisters of St. Clare. We live on Shattuck Road in Saginaw Township, not far from the Diocesan Center. Like all Christians, we try to live out the gospel of



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

Jesus Christ. However, 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.

We depend on alms as our major support; however, we do projects that help support us and are also a spiritual benefit to others. We have created Fragrant Anointing Oil as a means to help Christians pray with others. People use this to bless someone in need, to touch and soothe a friend in the hospital. Our funeral cards are created to console those grieving a death. We designed and created Bishop Untener's memorial card. We design sympathy cards to affirm our faith in eternal life. The Diocesan offices send our sympathy card to all families who have loved ones buried in our Catholic cemeteries telling of our prayers for the deceased. Our Christmas cards share the joy of the Season.

In 2004 there were more than 20,000 Poor Clares living in nearly 80 countries throughout the world. Each

monastery is completely autonomous, though all are linked by the charism of Gospel Poverty, Obedience and Chastity that Saint Clare of Assisi bequeathed to us over 750 years ago.

During each fall we visit three parishes in our Diocese to introduce ourselves and ask for support through alms and purchase of our products, especially the Christmas cards. We have visited 49 parishes in our 13 years in Saginaw.

This year, in honor of the 750th anniversary of the life and charism of St. Clare of Assisi, our Federation of Poor Clare monasteries has released a book entitled "*Wrapped in Joy; Franciscan Poor Clare Sisters Share Special Stories,*" which is available on the Internet at our web site: [www.rc.net/saginaw/srsclare/wrappedinjoy.html](http://www.rc.net/saginaw/srsclare/wrappedinjoy.html).

We hope to sell enough copies to cover the costs, then give the books to college libraries and campus ministry programs. Hopefully, if someone ever wonders whether God is real and how He speaks to the human heart, our book will help because we share our experience of God.

There are 91 stories from Poor Clare Nuns telling down-to-earth accounts of how each one came to the realization that she was called to give herself to God and to God's people.

People wonder how in the world a woman could ever end up in that kind of life. Maybe God was asking a bit too much. The contemplative life seems so different and unusual and so personally restricting. But each sister gives her account of truly gentle nature of Our Lord. God invites, but does not demand.

The sisters, who share their their stories, are from the U.S., Canada, England, Korea, and Guatemala; no two backgrounds are alike. Some worked in the professional world as a teacher, a nurse, or counselor--when they felt the touch of God. Some of the sisters joined us when they were young; others as older women. But in every case, the core of the stories is the mystery of how God moves in the human heart and how that heart recognizes the Lord's voice and responds with "Yes."

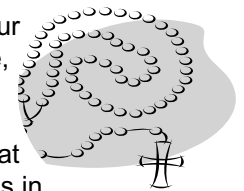
## **Rosary Vicariate of the Month by Dick McKinley**

Since January 2001, Saginaw Serrans have prayed the Rosary one half-hour prior to our noon meetings. We petition our Blessed Mother for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, remembering parishes within a Vicariate each month.

Kathy Bronz, Gerald Parent and I lead the Rosary at our pre-meeting sessions.

Bernie Coppolino sends a letter to each parish in a particular Vicariate, advising them that we are praying the Rosary for their group for the following month. We invite parishioners to join us in praying for vocations at church or as a family in their homes.

We understand some members cannot join us for the Rosary before our meetings. The club can provide you with a monthly Vicariate guide, which is valid through 2012. You can use this to determine which group to remember if you say a private Rosary for vocations.



**MEMBER LIST**

George Ayotte	684-3447
Edgar Balcueva	793-5692
Ray Bartels	790-1224
Dave Beyerlein	790-7328
Tom Bivens	752-8560
Jerry Breen	793-5337
Kathy Bronz	792-2890
Bernie Coppelino	791-6126
Fr. Ron Dombrowski	753-2497
James Drinan	793-1770
Frank Drinan	799-4115
Carl Gohm	793-2855
Ken Grembowski	799-7285
Dennis Grimaldi	799-5572
Angelo Guerriero	792-1268
Bud Irish	792-2157
Bill Irish	792-0627
Tracy Knaub	793-5735
John Kunitzer	792-5453
Len LeFevre	793-7490
Robert Looby	799-3500
Terry Manwell	799-4060
Dick McKinley	799-3839
Kate Miller	790-2878
Kathy Myles	791-3806
Ernie Muscott	792-0536
Gerald Parent	667-0524
Dick Powell	781-9305
Louis Rapin	781-1878
Bud Richter	792-5571
Bill Ruger	792-6473
Janet Ruger	792-6473
Dave Schaeffer	792-1914
Scott Seamon	793-6814
Jean Seman	792-2011
Mary Siers	792-1334
Hank Slachta	799-3111
Stan Sobol	793-4720
Jerry Talbot	792-4130
Bob Vitu	799-1236
Sharon Wahl	799-2925
Marty Wilson	790-2727

*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](http://www.serrus.org) for up-to-date information on Serra and other great information.*

The Saginaw Serran is published four times each year in March, June, September and December. Please submit articles at least two weeks prior to publishing date. For question or comments please contact Ray Bartels at 989-790-1224 or email at raybartels@charter.net.

**District 15 Spring Leadership****Conference by Ray Bartels**

The 2005 Serran District 15 Spring Leadership Conference was held in Lansing on April 9 at St. Mary Cathedral. The event was attended by about 30 representatives from all four Michigan clubs. District Governor John Osterhart presided over a well-planned and very educational meeting. The Saginaw contingent was led by President Bill Ruger and included Janet Ruger, Jean Seman, Dick McKinley, Kathy Bronz and Ray Bartels.

The conference began at 8:30 a.m. and consisted of presentations on various topics ranging from leadership to a program on the upcoming International Convention in Bangkok, Thailand by Judge Dennis Leiber, Serra's incoming International President from Grand Rapids.

Our members presented topics including Programs (Kathy Bronz), Serra International Foundation (Dick McKinley), and Communications (Ray Bartels).

A highlight of the Conference was a Mass at 12 noon followed by a nice luncheon. The meeting concluded at 2:30 p.m.

**2004/05 Officers and Trustees**

Bill Ruger	President
Kate Miller	President Elect
Tom Biven	Past President
Jean Seman	VP Programs
Kathy Bronz	VP Vocations
Clement Richter	VP Membership
Ray Bartels	VP Communications
Bernie Coppelino	Secretary
David Beyerlein	Treasurer
Edgar Balcueva	Trustee
Scott Seamon	Trustee
Sharon Wahl	Trustee
Fr. Ron Dombrowski	Chaplain

**PRAYER LIST**

Jerry Breen  
Angelo Guerriero

**Condolences...**

Our condolences are extended to the family of James Dwan who passed away on May 9th. Jim was a loyal member of Serra for nearly 50 years, having joined in January, 1956. His faithful commitment to Serra will be greatly missed

Expressions of sympathy may be made by contributing to Nouvel Catholic Central.

## **The Serra Club of Saginaw**

The Center for Ministry  
5802 Weineke  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-797-6607



### **Father Junipero Serra (1713-1784)**

He was born Miguel Jose Serra at Petra on the Spanish Island of Mallorca, Spain. At the age of 16 he traveled to Palma, the capital of Mallorca, and entered the service of the Catholic Church, the Order of St. Francis of Assisi and took a new first name, Junipero. Serra stood just 5 feet, 2 inches tall. He received a doctorate in philosophy at the University of Luliana in Palma and taught at the Convent of San Francisco in Palma.

In 1750, Serra volunteered to serve the Franciscan missions in the new world and left Cadiz, Spain and sailed for Vera Cruz, Mexico, at the age of 36. He traveled by foot to Mexico City to dedicate his mission vocation at the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He spent 17 years in missionary work in the Sierra Gorda in the present area of north-central Mexico.

When the Franciscans were asked to take over the missions from the Jesuits in Baja California in 1767, these remote facilities became Father Serra's responsibility. In 1769, he set off on an expedition with Gaspar de Portola to found missions at San Diego and Monterey, to establish the Spanish right to California and convert the indians to Christianity. He would spend the rest of his life in Alta California.

When Father Serra founded the first of California's missions in San Diego, he was 56 years old. He had asthma and a chronic sore on his leg that troubled him for the rest of his life. Serra himself established nine missions, with a total of twenty-one missions eventually being established along the El Camino Real, from San Diego to Sonoma, a distance of 700 miles. On August 28, 1784, at the age of 70 and after traveling 24,000 miles, Father Junipero Serra died at Mission San Carlos Borromeo and is buried there under the sanctuary floor.

## **Calendar of Programs and Events...**

**June 7**            **Bishop Carlson**            **11:30 a.m.**  
**Mass and Installation of new**  
**members, Center for Ministry**

**June 14**            **Board Meeting**

**June 21**            **Charter Night at Swan Valley (a**  
**special flyer will be mailed)**

**July 5**             **Fr. Ron Dombrowski, Mass at St.**  
**Josaphat Parish, 469 Shattuck Rd..**  
**Noon**

**July 12**            **Board Meeting**

**July 19**            **Music in Liturgy at St. Stephen**  
**Parish, Noon.**

**August 3**            **Golf Outing at Swan Valley (a special**  
**flyer will be mailed)**

**August 9**            **Board Meeting**

**August 16**          **Deacon Russ Detwiller speaking on**  
**Jail Ministry, Center for Ministry,**  
**Noon.**

**Please note the location change of several of our**  
**programs.**

**Board meetings are held at the office of Yeo and Yeo,**  
**3023 Davenport Ave.**  
**If you have a suggestion for a program please contact**  
**Jean Seman at 792-2011.**