

# The Saginaw Serran

Where Vocations are Fostered

Vol. 2, Issue 4, June, 2006

Established June 20, 1951

## President's Message

By Bill Ruger

I guess I'm not an optimist. My goal for the Bishop Robert Carlson Seminarian Endowment Fund benefit dinner was very modest. I expressed



my opinion to Ray Bartels who had a rosier outlook. I can eat crow. Ray was correct and I was wrong. Many wonderful people went out of their way to

make this occasion successful. Thanks to the many supporters that

attended and displayed their support for this important endeavor. Our club members reached out to make this a truly eventful evening.

A secondary benefit was derived from this effort. We had five potential new members at our first meeting after the dinner. The Serra Club received great exposure and we displayed our support for the promotion of vocations in our diocese. I expect that we'll continue to reap other benefits.

We need to carry the momentum gained from this inaugural event into our future. We already are in the process of planning the second dinner. We welcome feedback from the event and suggestions for improving it for next year. Give your ideas to any

member of the board.

In the same light, we hope to have everyone involved in some way in the planning of the Serra Regional Convention here in the Tri-Cities in 2007. It will take a lot of different talents to make this a memorable and effective convention.

With the onset of summer, we hope to renew ourselves for another year of fellowship and drive toward the Serra goals. Our programs again are planned to further our knowledge of our faith community. We hope that all members will make the effort to attend all of our functions if possible.

Continue to pray for our priests and religious. They need our prayers as they continue to shepherd their flocks.

## Club Honors 34 Youth from Diocese

By Ray Bartels

More than 100 people gathered May 2 at the Center for Ministry to honor 34 young men and women for their work within their parishes and in the community. A special thanks to Kathy Bronz, Sharon Wahl and Kathy Myles for organizing this event. A special thanks to Fr. Ron Wagner and Amy Bartels, from St. Mary Cathedral, for helping out with the program on short notice. You can find a list of the honorees by visiting our website at: [www.saginawserraclub.org](http://www.saginawserraclub.org)

## Saginaw Serra to Host 2007 Convention

By Louis Rapin

The Saginaw Serra Club Board and membership gave the go ahead to begin plans to host the 2007 Regional Conference for regions 6 and 7 on October 18-21. The conference will be held at The DoubleTree Hotel in Bay City. Chairman Louis Rapin encourages Serrans to get involved early. "There are many committees that need to be put into place to insure that we have a successful

event", Rapin said.

This year's conference is set for October 27-28 on the campuses of St. Mary College and Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. Featured speakers include Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, President Emeritus of Notre Dame and Fr. Glenn Kohman, Chaplain of the Fort Wayne Serra Club.

Club members are encouraged to attend this conference to gain Serra knowledge and sense of mission and to learn how a conference is put together.

**From Our Chaplain****By Fr. Ron Dombrowski**

Ah! The wonderful days of summer will be with us very soon. Summer is usually a time for us to kick back and enjoy the wonders that God has given to us. Maybe a time for our family, maybe a time to go golfing, or fishing, or water skiing, or maybe gardening, or fixing up those things around the house that never gets



done. Summer can be a time to think about and count all our blessings and how we have shared, or maybe not shared, God's blessings with others.

There are many simple ways we can share our blessings. I am sure that every parish has a wish list of needs that never get done and need some extra help in the summer. There are always those little things that need to be done, just as with our own homes. Or perhaps there is a need for extra ministers because the usual ministers go on vacations.

Or maybe you could volunteer to

help to build the diocese-sponsored house for Habitat for Humanity. You don't need to be a professional to help. Again, there are always many things to be done. There is always the East Side Soup Kitchen. They serve many meals a day and can always use our help. The list can go on and on. I hope you get the picture.

God has given each one of us many gifts. What am I doing with the particular gifts I received? Someday, we all will have to give an account to God as to our stewardship. What grade would I give myself this summer?

**Why I am a Serran****By Mary Catherine Siers**

Scripture tells us that God loves us very deeply. How we spread God's love or how we show God's love within us to others, can become our vocation in life. How do we answer God's call and how do we pray to help others answer God's call? I believe that one of the answers is to become a member of The Serra Club. Praying regularly for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, honoring our youth in their parish communities, educating the public about the Serra Club and supporting our seminarians on their journey is part of what Serra Club does best. The Serra Club of Saginaw has been part of my family's life for over 50 years. My Dad, Joseph Faler, became one of the founding members of The Serra Club of Saginaw. Along his journey he was club president and district governor.

Many family dinners included priests and the opportunity to hear about vocations to the priesthood and how these men answered God's call. Msgr. Thomas Horton and Father Bart Kestell OFMCap became "members" of our family. The Serra International Conventions became our family's yearly vacation. We gathered with other Serrans from around the country and shared meetings and activities that increased my knowledge of my Catholic faith and vocations to the priesthood and religious life. I was present in Rome when the decision was made to include women as members of local Serra Clubs. I met many wonderful families through Serran events. In fact one of the families became my in-laws; my father-in-law was Clarence Siers who was a founding member of the Saginaw Serra Club and also Treasurer of Serra Club International. I enjoyed meeting many priests and religious who

were very excited about their faith and showed it. I was privileged to hear and meet many wonderful speakers including Pope John Paul 11, Bishop Fulton Sheen and Fr. Kenneth Roberts to name a few. I remember gathering as families /Serrans at some of the most beautiful churches and basilicas in the world, including the major basilicas of Rome to an outdoor mass at Arlington National Cemetery.

All these events in my young life led me to consider a vocation to the Sisters of Mercy in Farmington Hills, MI. I was in formation for three years and found that God had other plans for me. I became a Serran to continue to provide a support for priests and religious and the individuals that are discerning God's call to serve. And to continue the Serran tradition in my family.

**Serra Benefit Nets \$12,000****By Tracy Knaub**

Speaking to more than 250 people, Serra International President Dennis Leiber came right to the point.

"If you are from Saginaw and aren't a Serran, why not?" Leiber asked the crowd at the Serra Club of Saginaw's First Annual Bishop Robert J. Carlson Seminarian Endowment Fund dinner. "Don't you love your Bishop?"

The audience laughed in response, but their efforts were no joke.

Bishop Carlson announced that the event, held March 22 at the Center for Ministry, had raised more than \$5,000 through ticket sales and donations.

By the end of the night, however, the total had jumped to \$12,000, thanks

to attendees who pledged more money after presentations from Leiber and Carlson.

Leiber pointed out that Serra International has clubs in 44 countries and continues to expand throughout the world.

"The Serra world is as big as I've told you, and as small as a family," said Leiber, a Grand Rapids circuit judge who joined Serra 31 years ago.

Leiber said the key to promoting Serra's goal of fostering and promoting vocations is to "assist members to recognize in their own lives God's call to holiness."

Bishop Carlson unveiled the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' new seminarian recruitment video entitled "Fishers of Men."

He also introduced the audience to nine of the 14 seminarians now studying for priesthood in the Diocese of Saginaw.

Each year of seminary education costs between \$25,000 and \$26,000, the bishop said.

"God has blessed us richly, which is going to make us poorly," he joked.

Carlson urged the crowd to make vocations part of their everyday life through prayer and promotion.

"You encourage vocations through prayer and through activity," he explained. "And I've never met anyone who isn't pleased that someone asked them to do something great for the Lord."

## **An Interview with Andy Booms**

### **When did you realize you had a vocation to the priesthood?**

I knew for sure after I started my pastoral year at St. Mary's Cathedral. I had not been so happy for a very



long time, and I knew then that I was called to be a priest. I've had many rich opportunities in these last 4 years, not all of my choosing, but each experience has only ended up

reinforcing my conviction that priesthood is what I am made for.

### **Who was most influential in your decision?**

There are so many people who played a role. My parents and my grandma; Sr. Eileen Houlihan, IHM, who was the pastoral associate at my home parish in Harbor Beach; Fr. Tom McNamera who was a boyhood pastor; Fr. Tom Moore and Bishop Ken Untener, not to mention God. I don't think I would be where I am today had I not encountered each of these people.

### **What surprised you most about seminary life?**

I have studied theology under two models of formation now. My first 3 years I lived in a rectory and commuted to Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. I now live and attend classes at Mundelein Seminary. The two schools take different approaches to seminary, but they are both committed to the same goal, preparing excellent ministers for the Church. My first experience was often not what others thought of when they heard I was in seminary, so when I came to Mundelein I was expecting a pretty rigid and tight schedule, with little freedom of choice. The truth is you are in charge of your own time.

### **What would surprise others about seminary life?**

I guess it is the ordinariness of our lives. We're not isolated or living like monks. We're a group of guys, and the saying 'boys will be boys' applies to us.

### **What other occupation would you consider if you weren't going into the priesthood?**

Well I used to work in the computer field, but that was not the perfect fit. So I would explore areas like nursing or pharmacy. I need human contact, but I like having some time alone too. I'm at the place in my formation where I am as sure as I can ever be that I don't need an alternate plan anymore. I'm going to be a priest, and I hope once or twice God can use my dedication to help another person in their struggle to live life with faith.

### **Do you have a favorite prayer or Biblical verse?**

My favorite passage in the Bible is hard to narrow down. If pushed I guess I would pick 1 John 1:1-4 "What we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you". I also really like the prayer attributed to Fr. Solanus Casey, OFM, Cap. It goes like this:

Life is to live and life is to give and talent is to use for good if you choose. Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks – then the doing of your work shall be no miracle but you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself...at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God. But everyone needs someone – knowing that somewhere someone is thinking of you

### **There's a fire in your home, and you can only grab three things as you leave. What would you take?**

Can we assume that my cell phone and wallet are in my pocket? Then the first item would be my laptop -- it has almost all of my important information and addresses and since I use a digital camera, my pictures

too. Then I would grab my Diocese of Saginaw paperweight, it was given to me by Bishop Untener and helps me remember the diocese and the people I hope to serve one day. Finally, I would take my iPod, It's a luxury item, but you have to relax somehow. In reality that is five items not counting the clothes I would be wearing,

### **What do you like to do if you have free time?**

I really like to get outside. I love to hike and bike. Someday I hope to have time and space to have my own garden too. I grew up on a farm and connecting with the dirt really helps me work out a lot of stress.

### **Is there a particular type of ministry you are drawn to, such as mission work or visiting the sick?**

I come alive during liturgy. Living in the spirit of full, active and conscious participation in praise of God overwhelms me really.

### **What do you look forward to most following your ordination?**

I think it is being able to preside at liturgy. I come alive and experience God's presence in the prayers and the ritual, and I hope to be able to help others find that same presence in the rich tradition that has been handed to us over the centuries.

**Editor's Note:** Andy Booms, 28, a native of the Diocese of Saginaw grew up near the small town of Port Hope. His home parish is Our Lady of Lake Huron, Harbor Beach. Andrew attended SVSU and after graduating in 1999 moved to Shelby Township before leaving his job at Electronic Data Systems and beginning formation with a pastoral year at St. Mary Cathedral in Saginaw. He studied for three years at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, IL and is now enrolled at Mundelein Seminary. He will complete his studies and be ordained for the Diocese of Saginaw in June 2007. You may email him at [adbooms@ctu.edu](mailto:adbooms@ctu.edu).

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Jerry Breen	793-5337
Kathy Bronz	792-2890
Bernie Coppolino	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
Bill Irish	792-0627
Tracy Knaub	793-5735
Patricia Koenig	751-4447
John Kunitzer	792-5453
Len LeFevre	793-7490
Robert Looby	799-3500
Terry Manwell	799-4060
Joe Marshall	790-0275
Dick McKinley	799-3839
John McGraw	792-8115
Kate Miller	790-2878
Ernie Muscott	792-0536
Kathy Myles	791-3806
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 Catherine Siers	792-1334
Hank Slachta	799-3111
Stan Sobol	695-5340
Jerry Talbot	792-4130
Bob Vitu	799-1236
Sharon Wahl	799-2925
Marty Wilson	790-2727

**Members approve 2006-07 Officers**

At the May 16th meeting the membership approved the following officers and trustees for the upcoming year. They will be inducted at our Charter Night on June 20.:

President	Bernie Coppolino
Past President	Bill Ruger
President Elect	Dick McKinley
Secretary	Frank Drinan
V.P. Membership	Kathy Bronz
V.P. Vocations	Kathy Myles
V.P. Communication	Ray Bartels
Trustee	Sharon Wahl
Trustee	Kate Miller
Trustee	Scott Seamon

**Program Schedule**

June 6	Sr. Corrine Weiss, SJ - "Mission Reflection"
June 20	Charter Night - Swan Valley Banquet Center
July 4	<b>No program</b>
July 18	Mass with Fr. Ron Dombrowski
August 1	Golf Outing
August 15	Internal meeting
September 5	Sr. Marietta Fritz, SNDdeN - "Emmaus House - Help is Here"
September 19	Fr. Steve Gavit - "Keeping Busy Youth Ministry and Parish Ministry"
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All meetings (except board sessions) are held at noon at the Center for Ministry. The Rosary is said at 11:30 a.m. Our Board of Trustees meets at 12:15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Yeo and Yeo, 3023 Davenport..

**Prayer List**

Jerry Breen  
Fr. John Ederer  
Angelo Guerriero  
Fr. Gerald F. Kukla  
Fr. Richard M. Filary

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of:**

Fr. Jeffrey J. Donner  
Fr. Richard E. VanMullekon  
Sr. Rose Ellen Dzwielesk  
Aarol (Bud) Irish

**Do you know someone who would like to know more about Serra? Call Kathy Bronz at 792-2890, or email her at [kathybronz@aol.com](mailto:kathybronz@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](mailto:raybartels@charter.net).

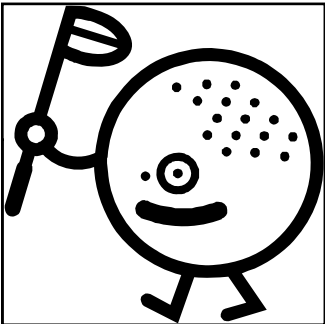
**Serra Mission**

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.serraus.org](http://www.serraus.org) for valuable and informative information about Serra International.

**The Serra Club of Saginaw**

The Center for Ministry  
5802 Weiss Rd.  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-797-6607



***Annual Golf Outing August 1***

Make plans now to attend our annual golf outing with priests from our Diocese. This always popular event will be held on August 1 at the Swan Valley Country Club. The event begins with lunch at noon, followed by a round of golf and topped off with a social hour as soon as everyone finishes

Please come for lunch even if you do not plan to golf. Call Frank Drinan at 799-4115 for more details.