



The Saginaw Serran

Where Vocations are Fostered

Vol. 3, Issue 1, September, 2006

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Looking Forward

By Bernie Coppolino

I am both humbled and honored that you have selected me as President of the Saginaw Serra Club for 2006-07. As a relative "youngster" compared to most of the membership, I am keenly aware of the fine job done by my predecessors. With God's help and your assistance, I intend to continue their work and promote the aims and values in which we Serrans believe.

One of the Club's main goals for this year will be preparing for the Serra Regional Convention in October 2007. Louis Rapin - our chairman for this project - has already done a large amount of groundwork for the convention, which will be held at the Double Tree Inn in Bay City. I urge all Serrans to give Louis whatever assistance possible so we can make this an event to be proud of. Additionally, if you have the time, consider attending this year's convention at St. Mary's College in South Bend, Ind., in

October. This is a gorgeous setting as well as a great chance to meet Serrans from other states and find out what is new with the organization.

Both internal and external growth is vital to keeping Serra a positive force for vocations. Kathy Bronz is heading up recruitment efforts this year for the Saginaw club. At the same time, all of us can be recruiters. As Bishop Carlson mentioned when he first addressed us, many potential seminarians remain "potential" simply because they never have been asked! The same principal applies to potential Serra members - they will never join unless we make an attempt. We are continuing our efforts to form a Serra Club in Midland. Bishop Carlson recently has sent us names of several potential members from two of Midland's three parishes. Stay tuned for further developments.

The number of our Saginaw Diocesan seminarians continues to grow. Though not all seminarians will eventually become priests, it is great to see that the numbers in the

pipeline are increasing. This increase is happening at the same time we have been doing our monthly Rosaries for an increase in vocations. To those who attend those sessions, and to all Serrans who pray for vocations in their own ways - keep up the good work! Our prayers are being answered.

One last thought: Several years ago, during a family vacation in Washington, D.C., we toured the U.S. Capital and walked by statues of famous people donated by the various states. My daughter found a statue of Junipero Serra, donated by the state of California. It showed a modest looking man, not physically imposing at all, but leaning forward as if in a hurry to get going. We all know the success that Fr. Serra had in establishing the Spanish missions in California and bringing Christianity to that part of the New World. Let us pray that God imparts some of that strength to our efforts this year, so that we can continue to make our Serra Club the best it can be.

Looking Back

By Bill Ruger

I would like to thank the Saginaw Serra Club for giving me the opportunity of leading them for the past two years. We have had a lot of



challenges and many wonderful opportunities to further our faith life during this time. I appreciate all the efforts that the board members made to provide quality programs throughout this time.

Looking back, we had a great challenge with the death of our diocesan leader, Bishop Ken Untener. He so willingly attended an annual meet-

ing to give us the "State of the Diocese." He was an extremely talented man who left us with a legacy of his many seasonal books which are popular throughout the world.

We also lost our wonderful Pope John Paul II. The world watched and waited in anticipation for the selection of our new Pope, Benedict XVI.

In spring 2005, we attempted a parish cluster program. We distributed posters to the parishes in the diocese and began our cluster calls to offer support to the parish staffs regarding vocation promotion.

We were excited when Bishop Robert Carlson was appointed in 2005. He has always been an avid supporter of the Serra Club and we looked forward to his involvement..

Due to restructuring in the

Diocese, our chaplain, Fr. Tom Moore, moved on to another post after providing many years of excellent service to our club. We were blessed with the assignment of Fr. Ron Dombrowski as our new chaplain. We are lucky to have such dedicated priests in the Saginaw Diocese.

I was privileged to represent our Serra club at the International Serra Convention in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2005. The theme of the Convention was "Be Not Afraid." My wife and I learned a lot about our club's mission and the many opportunities that exist to further the mission of Christ. We were pleased to see the vibrancy of the church and the Serra Club around the world.

Continued on p. 2

Why I Am a Serran**By David A. Beyerlein**

When I ask myself this question, my initial response is "I don't know." There is no ready response.



Clearly I would have to give this some thought.

When I was first asked -- no invited -- to attend a meeting, I did so with a sense of obligation and more than a little dread. I

had a busy enough schedule with family, career, religious and social activities. How could I fit in another activity that would benefit someone else? But I had committed to go to

one meeting; and now was the time to get it over with.

Other members warmly greeted me and patiently explained the club's activities, the twice-a-month meetings and the mission of the Serra Club ... to foster and affirm vocations.

Did that mean that I needed to go out and find someone to enter the religious life? Well, not exactly. But it did mean that I would support and encourage though prayer those who have been called to the religious life.

I felt obligated to attend the first few luncheon meetings. Hopefully they would be short so I could get back to the office. But after awhile, I began to look forward to the Tuesday sessions, where I could get away from the turmoil at work and relax with a dedicated group of Christian men and women. Returning after attending a luncheon mass still gives me a sense of calm and helps

me tackle the rest of the day's problems.

The "special activities?" Well, that includes our annual golf outing with the priests of the Diocese. Did you ever spend five hours golfing with a bunch of priests? What an afternoon delight that is. I'm convinced that more men and women would answer the call to religious life if only they could spend an afternoon on the golf course with a bunch of priests being themselves. I have always looked up to priests with a sense of awe, and I still do. But now I call many of these men my friends. I guess this Serran thing wasn't so bad after all.

Ten years ago, I started the Serran journey thinking my efforts were going to benefit someone else. As it turns out, I am the one who is benefiting. Why am I a Serran? Why would I not be a Serran?!

Ruger**Continued from p. 1**

Last spring, we held our first fundraising dinner for the support of diocesan seminarian education and raised approximately \$12,000. We hope that this will be the first of many successful annual events by our club. We have a committee planning the next dinner for February 7.

Our club has continued to offer many excellent programs thanks to the efforts of many members. The programs have ranged from the description of some diocesan services to an analysis on articles pertinent to the Catholic faith, such as the excellent presentation by Saginaw Valley State University professor Thomas Renna on the controversial novel "The DaVinci Code." These sessions fulfill our objective of increasing our knowl-

edge of our faith. We continue to have our quarterly club masses and the regular rosaries for the parishes of the diocese.

We concentrate on the objective of spreading the good news of our club to others in order to expand our membership. The excellent publicity that our Vice President of Communications Ray Bartels has established has increased the visibility of the Saginaw Serra Club. We need to further support his efforts verbally with fellow parishioners and other Catholic contacts.

We committed to hosting the 2007 Regional Serra Convention in late September. We expect about 125 people to attend. We have an excellent committee led by Louis Rapin to develop this program. This will be the first time in more than 35 years that the Saginaw Serra Club

has held a regional convention.

We continue to support the international Serra community by providing members to serve on various committees and attend regional conventions. We also have participated in district training programs for new officers.

We are currently working on creating a Midland Serra Club. Dick McKinley and Kathy Bronz are leading this effort.

We have had three members of our club honored with 50-year membership awards in the past two years. Many others have been recognized for lesser years of involvement. Our club continues to be strong and vibrant. With the new leadership, I have optimism for the continued success and growth of the Saginaw Serra Club.

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

Happy moments, praise God.

Difficult moments, seek God.

Quiet moments, worship God.

Painful moments, trust God.

Every moment, thank God.

Visit us at www.saginawserraclub.org

Diocesan Update

**By Mark Graveline, Associate
Vocations Director**

I was asked to share with you a glimpse of the exciting times brew-



ing in the vocations world of our diocese. The Holy Spirit is definitely at work in Saginaw!

Take the week of August 14 for example ...

August 15, six seminarians received the Rite of Candidacy during a Holy Day Mass at St. Stan's in Bay City.

August 16, the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma welcomed five newly perpetually professed sisters. The day before, six young women made their first professions.

August 20, Aloysius Oliver became the first permanent deacon ordained in the diocese in 25 years. Pictures and other information from his ordination can be seen at www.saginaw.org.

All that in one week! Plus, there is still more to come ...

God willing, two seminarians will be ordained transitional deacons in November and ordained to the priesthood in June. A diocesan Eucharistic Congress also is being planned for the weekend of the

Corpus Christi feast day. Mark your calendars because you won't want to miss out!

Another vocations-oriented event that promises to be a great time is the up-coming Bishop's Charity Golf Classic – a banquet and auction at the Bay Valley Inn in Bay City on September 12 and a golf scramble and luncheon at the Swan Valley Golf Club in Saginaw on September 13.

Space is limited but reservations for either or both events will continue to be accepted as long as there is room. More information is available online at www.saginaw.org/

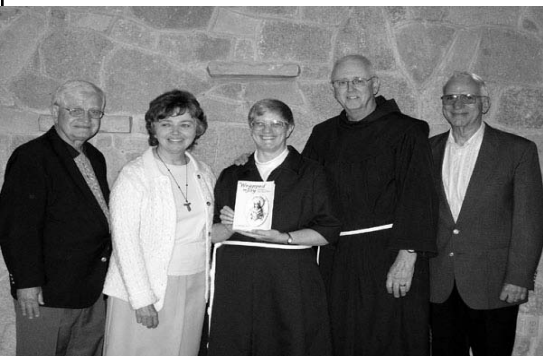
As I said earlier, the Holy Spirit certainly continues to be at work in the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw. It's an exciting time for vocations and an exciting time to celebrate our faith!

Membership Drive Announced

The membership committee headed by Kathy Bronz has announced a goal to increase membership by 20 percent (8 new members). To accomplish this goal the committee has set forth a series of steps that includes guest meetings in November and March. Kathy is asking that each member provide her at least one name. More details will follow in the near future. In the meantime, call Kathy at 792-5086 for more information.

Sisters of St. Clare Receive Grant

By Dick McKinley



From L-R: Dick McKinley, Sr. Diane Doughty, OSC, Sr. Doris Gerke, OSC, Fr. Jim VanVerst, OFM and Bill Ruger.

Fr. Jim VanVerst and Sr. Doris Gerke visited Saginaw recently from Cincinnati to receive a check from Serra USA in the amount of \$2,000.

The Saginaw Serra Club, in cooperation with the Serra US Council, and its Bishop Britt Foundation, arranged the grant to the Sisters of St. Clare to help defray the cost of publication of their book, "Wrapped in Joy." The book, published in 2004, offers compelling stories of women who have given their lives to God and Jesus through belonging to the Order of the Poor Sisters of St. Clare, hoping to encourage other women to consider religious vocations. It is available from the Sisters of St. Clare website at www.rc.net/saginaw/srsclare/ or by calling 989-797-0593

2006 Priest Golf Outing a Great Success

Perfect weather graced the annual Serra golf outing for the priests of the Diocese of Saginaw on August 9th at Swan Valley Golf & Country Club. Thirteen priests and 11 Serrans played in an 18-hole scramble in which each of the six teams finished under par.

The winning team of Frs. Rick Filary and Joe Griffin and Serrans Bill Irish and Stan Sobol turned in a fine score of 6 under par and 2 of its members, Fr. Griffin, and Sobol won the longest drive contest.

The Serra Club also hosted five seminarians at the luncheon preceding the golf.

We're on the Web at www.saginawserraclub.org

Serra 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
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

Program Schedule

September 5	“Emmaus House - Help is Here” Sr. Marietta Fritz, SNDdeN
September 19	“Keeping Busy, Youth and Parish Ministry” - Fr. Steve Gavit
October 3	Mass with Fr. Ron Dombrowski
October 17	“Faith Life at Nouvel” - Mary Speaker
November 7	Internal meeting
November 21	“State of the Diocese” - Bishop Robert J. Carlson
December 5	“Our Lady of Guadalupe” - Josie Mendoza
December 19	Christmas Party

All meetings (except board sessions) are held at noon at the Center for Ministry. The Rosary is recited 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.

Saginaw Serra Club Receives Newsletter Award

For the second consecutive year The Saginaw Serra Club has received the **“Outstanding USA Council Newsletter Award”** for Region 6. (See certificate on cover page). Region 6 includes lower Michigan, Ohio and W. Virginia and has 31 clubs. John Osterhart, Past District Governor, received the award on the behalf of our club at the International Convention in Spokane, WA on July 1. In a letter to Past President Bill Ruger, Osterhart stated, “The Saginaw Serra Club has done such an outstanding job of advancing its newsletter quality and of utilizing technology to provide virtually unlimited availability via e-mail and on your website, that it is hard to imagine a newsletter more deserving of this award.”

Want to know more about our seminarians? The Diocesan website has a page that gives you information on each of our seminarians, The website is located at: www.saginaw.org/seminarians

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

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 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.

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 for valuable and informative information about Serra International.

The Serra Club of Saginaw

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