



The Serra Club of Saginaw, Michigan

The Saginaw Serran

Where Vocations are Fostered

Vol. 3, Issue 2, December, 2006

Established June 20, 1951

A Message from Our President By Bernie Coppolino

The 2006 midterm elections are history. No doubt many of us are thinking, "Thank God for that!" No more yard signs, no more computer-



ized telephone calls and no more negative TV ads. However, having worked on a few campaigns over the years, I suggest that we Serrans might be able to learn

a thing or two from the political process as we strive to meet the goals of Serra.

Every politician knows that potential voters only vote for candidates that they know about. Similarly, potential Serra members will only join Serra if they know about it.

Membership is a primary concern of our club. Membership Vice President Kathy Bronz is aggressively going after new members, but she needs our help. Every time you mention Serra to a potential member, every time you talk positively about the Serran experience you increase the chances that our Club will survive and flourish.

Every successful campaign has workers who attend meetings and learn about the campaign. Similarly, our twice-monthly Serra meetings inform us about club activities, foster fellowship between members and teach us through our guest speakers. To those members that we have not seen in a while, drop in – we would love to see you.

Candidates do not elect themselves. Every campaign uses strategies to get out the vote and elect its candidate. Similarly, new priests, nuns and religious are not going to fall out of the sky. We Serrans have several strategies in our campaign to

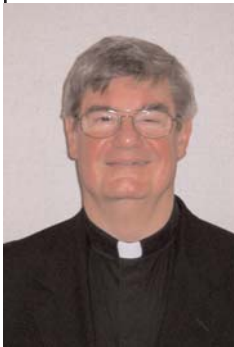
increase vocations. These include prayer (such as our twice monthly Rosary), the Youth Appreciation Dinner, and the Bishop's Seminarian Dinner. Keep it up – the number of Saginaw seminarians has increased each of the last two years.

Campaigns sometimes bring in special speakers to motivate the workers and encourage their efforts. We will be doing the same in October when we host the Regional Convention. Louis Rapin is putting together a crackerjack convention that will educate and inspire. As workers and/or attendees, let all Serrans pitch in to make this event a highlight of our long club history.

We get a break from political campaigns until 2008. But Serra gets no such break in its efforts to increase vocations. Each of us in the Serran initiation ceremony pledged to do our best to help our Church with this most pressing of concerns. Let us continue to meet that pledge to our fullest.

Chaplain's Message By Fr. Ron Dombrowski

Can you believe it, it is almost Advent. Where has the time gone? Many of us are still trying to get our autumn jobs done before the snow flies or we go out into the woods for our buck. Whatever it is, we know that time is short.



Advent is a season in the

Church when we prepare spiritually for the coming of the Lord. As men and women of faith, how are we planning to prepare? Are we ready to set aside time for prayer each day for the next four weeks and make this a priority in our lives? Just think, a chance for us to talk to the Lord one-to-one and then let the Lord speak to us.

In our hurried-up world and lifestyle, it seems that many times when it comes to prayer, we do all the talking and as soon as we do our talking (prayer) with the Lord, we hurry on to another activity. Many times we sub-consciously tell ourselves "I have so many things to do! When am I

going to get all of them done? How am I going to get my prayer time in?" At times we forget that all that we have comes from God, and if it were not for God's goodness and generosity we would have nothing.

Many times we forget that prayer is a two party conversation -- God and us. The best time for prayer is the best time for us. Some of us are morning people and some are night people. We have to decide when it is best for each of us to spend prayer time with the Lord.

May everyone have a blessed and holy Advent.

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

Bishop Updates Serra**By Tracy Knaub**

With two new transitional deacons and nine new seminarians, Bishop Robert J. Carlson remains enthusiastic about vocations in our diocese.

The bishop spoke to Serra club members at their Nov. 21 meeting, explaining the progress he's made in finding men to train for the priesthood for the Saginaw Diocese.

A year ago, a dozen men had signed on to seminary studies. Two of them left following their summer parish assignments, the bishop said.

"That's not surprising. National statistics show that only 40 percent complete the program among younger seminarians," he explained.

To qualify for recruitment, the men must have completed at least their sophomore year of college. They begin by studying theology and spend each summer at a parish.

"They usually work in youth

ministry or religious education, and help out as a pastoral associate doing visits at the hospital or to homebound parishioners," the bishop said.

"They live in the rectory, and get a sense of the routine. There's a certain amount of isolation living the priestly lifestyle, and this gives them a chance to experience it," he added.

The bishop said he has yet to ordain a priest who has decided to leave his ministry.

"There are no guarantees, of course, but I won't ordain someone if I don't think they'll make it," the bishop said.

In detailing the variety of courses seminarians take at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, the bishop stated that he requires them to take more spirituality courses than is required.

"I don't think any of the seminarians have an adequate spirituality curriculum," he explained.

One of the reasons a stronger spirituality background is important is that many young people don't have

the same depth of Catholic formation as elder generations, the bishop said.

"When I was growing up, you did three things on Saturday – you took a bath, you went to Confession and you made sure you were at dinner at 6 p.m.," he recalled. "Even after Vatican II. If I would have told my Irish mother that the Pope said we didn't have to go every week, she would have said, 'Well, he's wrong.'"

Unfortunately, two of the local orders of religious women – the Missionary Sisters and the Sisters of St. Clare – have not had the same luck in recruiting new members.

However, the Sisters of Mercy in Alma are "growing exponentially," according to the bishop.

That order offers life in community, a clear charism and mission on how to better the Church, a strong prayer life and significant religious dress, which is what most women looking toward vocations say that they want, the bishop explained.

Conference Update**By Louis Rapin**

Organizational work continues on our Serra Regional Conference, which takes place Oct. 18-21 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bay City.

We have confirmed our speakers and we will complete the schedule in January. Panel discussions, workshops and leadership meetings are included in the program. Special events include a dinner and

show at the Delta College Planetarium, and two tours -- one to Frankenmuth and one to Midland. The Frankenmuth tour will include a visit to Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, and, if time permits, shopping in downtown.

The Midland tour will stop at the studio and home of Alden B. Dow and a visit to the Midland County Historical Museum and Bradley House. At one time, Bradley House served as the rectory for St. Bridget Parish in Midland. We are considering

a golf outing on Friday, but those plans are on hold at this time. We are preparing a letter with information about the conference to send to club presidents, district governors, and the USA Council.

Our next committee meeting is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, December 7, at St. John Vianney parish. All committee chairpersons are expected to attend. We humbly ask for your continued prayers for our club and for the success of this conference.

An Open Letter from Andy Booms

To echo Mary's Magnificat, "My soul proclaims the glory of the Lord." I rejoice in the gift of my vocation, born here in this parish. Your presence here today is just one of the many blessings I have received on the road towards ordination. I treasure your love and companionship. I hope you all look forward to sharing in the culmination of my journey when I am ordained a priest next June 8 in the Cathedral of St. Mary in Saginaw.

Were it not for the persistence

and sustaining graces of our living God, I would not be sharing this day with you. I am most thankful for the many times that Jesus has reached out to me through all of you here. I must give special thanks to my family for their nurturing support and love during my whole life and especially in these 5 years since I have been in formation. I thank Bishop Carlson for having confidence in my ability to serve the Church in Saginaw and for seeing through to maturity the seeds that were planted by Bishop Ken Untener, of happy memory, and Fr.

Tom Moore, OSFS, my former director of formation. I also thank Bishop Carlson for agreeing to celebrate this sacrament in the presence of my friends and family here in Harbor Beach. I am also grateful to the Knights of Columbus who have offered both brotherhood and financial sponsorship. Lastly but not least I thank all those who had a hand in preparing the liturgy and to those who contributed their talents to leading us in prayer and song.

Continued on pg. 3

An Interview with Nate Harburg

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

God first gave me a strong desire to become a priest my senior year at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. I walked into a gym without



much desire to be a priest; a few minutes later, I walked out of the gym with a strong desire to be a priest.

This gym was hosting a vocations fair, where I met many religious and diocesan priests who stressed the desperate need for more laborers in the vineyard and encouraged me to consider the priesthood. My first year of seminary has truly strengthened this desire.

Who was most influential in your decision?

Jesus, of course, strongly worked through a variety of people to nudge me toward the seminary: my mom, who when I was a “wee li’l boy” told me of the worldwide priest shortage and challenged me to consider the priesthood. Later, Fr. Richard Lobert, my teacher at Fr. Gabriel Richard H.S., and Fr. Ed Fride, my pastor at Christ the King parish encouraged me to consider the priesthood, and St. John Vianney, who said as a boy, “if I were to become a priest, I could lead many souls to heaven.” Shortly after I met Bishop Carlson, who certainly

influenced my decision, the Holy Spirit convinced me in surprising and unforeseen ways to apply to seminary.

What surprised you most about seminary life?

Most of the classes were interesting and tolerably challenging, not boring and super-difficult. I wasn’t expecting the presence of so many charismatic teachers, a fact I’m very happy about. One of our professors runs a fantastic charismatic prayer group at the seminary.

What would surprise others about seminary life?

There are many great works of mercy to do with other seminarians, such as prayer at a nearby abortion mill, tutoring, working with the poor, etc. Surprisingly, there is plenty of free time for prayer and study! People also might be surprised to discover seminarians from around the globe.

What other occupation would you consider if you weren’t going into the priesthood?

Any occupation involving the promotion of one or more of the following: the pro-life movement, charismatic renewal, youth ministry or perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

Do you have a favorite prayer or Biblical verse?

My favorite bible verse is, “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?” (Luke 11:13). We all need to beg the Father for a “release of the Spirit” to stir up and activate the gifts we received in baptism and confirmation! My favorite prayer is the one Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen composed to help stop abortion. He encouraged individuals to pray the following daily prayer for a period of

nine months: “Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of [baby’s name] the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.”

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

My Rosary, my PocketPC, which contains the Bible and the Liturgy of the Hours, and my prayer journal.

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

I love to go to Eucharistic Adoration; hang out with my six siblings; do pro-life work; attend prayer meetings; dive deep into the Catholic “blogosphere” (especially the blog, *The Curt Jester*); watch superhero movies; play praise and worship on the guitar; compose piano music; and talk with friends.

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

I enjoy pro-life ministry, youth ministry, and praying with others, especially using charismatic gifts to aid the sick.

What do you look forward to most following your ordination?

I most look forward to offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. After that, I look forward to preaching about John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body,” about the good news about Eucharistic Adoration; Jesus is truly present for us in the tabernacle. And about charismatic renewal, Mary, the Mother of God, and the pro-life movement.

Editor’s note: Nate Harburg grew up in Ann Arbor where he graduated from Fr. Gabriel Richard High School. He attended Ave Maria College in Ypsilanti and graduated from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. He is the oldest of seven children, with four brothers and two sisters. His parents live in Ann Arbor. Nate belongs to Christ the King Parish in Ann Arbor, an officially approved charismatic church.

Booms

We are a Eucharistic people and it is now my commission to serve in a special way at this banquet of the Lord. In these coming months as I prepare for my service as a priest I ask that you all pray for me that I

might be given the grace to be a worthy minister of God’s presence. I pray that I can come to live out the call I have been given and become a true servant to each person in search of God. Most especially pray, as our opening song says, “that I may have

the grace to let you be my servant too.”

God bless you all,

Andy Booms

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

December 5	"Our Lady of Guadalupe" - Josie Mendoza
December 19	Christmas Party
January 2	Mass
January 15	"Saginaw Area Catholic Schools" - Oscar Mendoza
February 7	2nd Annual Bishop's Dinner at the Center for Ministry
February 20	"Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma" - Sr. Judith
March 6	"Little Books" - Catherine Haven
March 20	"Partnership Center" - Georgann Hemker

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.

**Transitional Deacons Ordained**

Bishop Robert J. Carlson (center) ordained two diocesan seminarians, Jose Maria Cabrera-Bustamante (left) and Andy Booms (right), as transitional deacons on November 25 and 26 as part of their preparation for ordination to the priesthood in June.

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

A Message from Jose Maria Cabrera-Bustamante

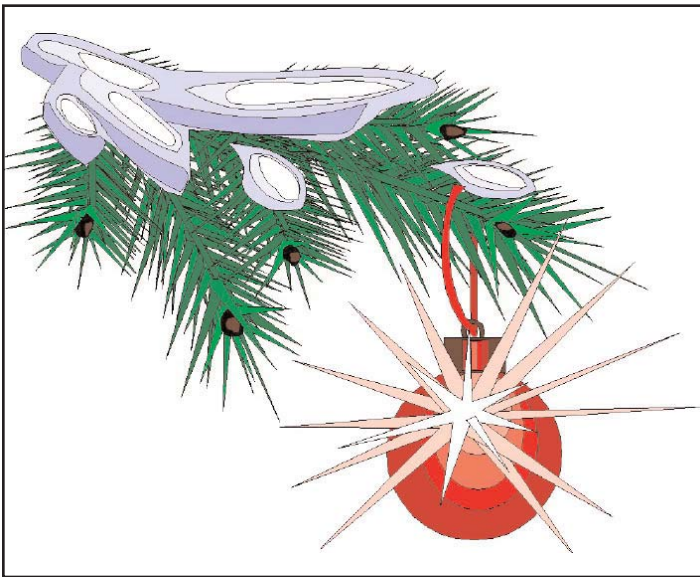
I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart for your immeasurable love.

You have guided me from my mother's womb until today. I thank you for the family you have given me, the home where I learned to love you. I thank you for all my friends for they share the journey of life with me. I thank you for your Church, the Universal Church that has walked with me in the journey of faith. In particular I thank you for the Church in Saginaw which has adopted me for your service. For every person who has been part of my for-

mation, I thank you Lord; you have shown your loving hand to me through all of them. I also thank you Lord for my sponsors; Lord, reward their generosity. I thank you Lord for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and all those who have made this Diaconate ordination possible, remember their dedication Lord. For my Bishop and all his successors that we may always build up your kingdom, I thank you Lord. For every person who has formed me according to your will, I thank you Lord. There are so many things for which I feel grateful, Lord. Here I am in your presence, now as your servant. One again "I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart." (Psalm 138: 1a)

The Serra Club of Saginaw

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



MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Serra Club of Saginaw, MI

4440 Winfield
Saginaw, MI

Phone/Fax: 989-790-1224

Email: bartels1040@charter.net

Website: www.saginawserraclub.org

PRESS RELEASE

The 2nd Annual Bishop Robert J. Carlson Dinner for the Benefit of Seminarians

The Serra Club of Saginaw will host the second annual Bishop's Dinner for the Benefit of Seminarians on Wednesday, February 7, at the Center for Ministry, 5802 Weiss, in Saginaw.

The event will feature Bishop Robert J. Carlson and Fr. Patrick M. Jankowiak, pastor of St. Cecilia Church in Clare, as guest speakers.

"This event will focus on the need for religious vocations in our Church and in our Diocese, and the important role Serra plays in the effort to realize more vocations," said Club President Bernie Coppelino.

A social hour is set for 6 p.m., followed by dinner and speakers at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person. Call Jean Seman at 989-792-2011 for tickets.

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