



VOCARE

Newsletter of Serra Club of Bay Area
June 2026

May – Serra Club District 10: Clubs Officers installation Mass & Dinner



The Altar at St. Mary Seminary Chapel

Fr. Richard McNellie (Presider) and following is
Seminarian Alex Burns

The District 10 Serra Clubs Officer Installation event in May at the St. Mary Seminary continues to be a Spiritual and Enjoyable Event. Bay Area Serra Club members in attendance were **Bill Clary**, **Rick** and Christine **Ecklecamp**, **Rick** and **Myra Banke**, **Adela Castro**, Elia Arredondo and Margaret and **Frank Bejarano**. Officers bolded.



The BASC members in attendance.



BASC officers in attendance for installation



Dominican novices – Sisters Jacqueline Nguyen and Catherine Truong



Seminarian Alex Burns (2nd year)

May – Bay Area Serra Club attendance at Mary Queen Knights of Columbus Council 8494 Award dinner and presentations

The BASC members in attendance were Bill Clary, Bob and Mary Brezina, and Frank and Margaret Bejarano. Bill Clary was given the KC check for the BASC participating in Service at the annual Fish Fry for Lent. Bless the Knights for their support of Serra Club!

Why Serra?

We continue to remind ourselves about the basics of Serra in our newsletters.

WHAT DO I GET FOR MY DUES?

This is a question many of us have asked ourselves and for the new members knowledge now. The following is an article from the November 2021 issue of “The Serran” magazine.

What Do I Get for My Dues?

by J. Michael Downey, Serra’s USA Council President-Elect

What do I get for my dues?

That depends on the answer to another question: Why did I join Serra? All of the Serrans I know joined because they have a special place in their heart for religious vocations, because they realize that the future of our Church depends on religious vocations—especially priesthood vocations, and because the Serra Mission struck a note with them. While we all see the need in our own parishes and dioceses, we know the need goes beyond to the worldwide Church. Serra appeals to us all because its mission—to foster and support religious vocations in the worldwide church—is a direct and effective response to that need.

Serra International and US Council dues total \$92 per year per Serran (half that for a spouse or under 35 member). That’s \$7.67 per month to accomplish our ongoing worldwide mission.

What do I get for my Serra dues of \$7.67 per month? Speaking personally, I get peace of mind and the satisfaction of knowing that I am supporting one of the most important missions of the worldwide Catholic Church. It is an INVESTMENT in the future of the Catholic Church and the Eucharist!

Serra is both effective and efficient in accomplishing this mission in a way that a single Serra Club, vocations committee or parish vocations ministry simply cannot do. Here are some examples.

At the US Council level

Newman Connection

Serra US started the College Connection for Catholics program (now the Newman Connection) to help keep young Catholics in touch with their faith when they go to college—a time when many vocations are discerned.

SerraSpark.org

At the request of the US Bishops, Serra US developed and maintains the serraspark.org website—a digital “toolbox” for vocations directors (easily adapted to parishes or dioceses) to use in their vocations work. It is offered worldwide at no charge. serraspark.org is also a treasure of vocations tools that Serra clubs, parish vocations ministries and individuals can use to promote vocations.

Serra Meets

Most recently, the Serra US Council has sponsored “Serra Meets” to address the needs of clubs that could not meet during the Pandemic with presentations by top-notch vocations leaders in our country and world.

Seven-Serrans Prayer Teams for All Vocations Directors in the US Insuring that all Vocations Directors are being prayed for by name for one hour each day of the year requires a lot of effort and coordination. One third of Vocations Directors change each year. And covering Vocations Directors in ALL dioceses—even those that do not have a Serra Club—requires coordination with NCDVD and Serra Clubs around the nation.

National Vocations Awareness events programs

Again, at the request of the US Bishops, Serra US has developed programs and resources to celebrate the four vocations awareness events during the year: Priesthood Appreciation Sunday, National Vocation Awareness Week, World Day for Consecrated Life, and World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

IGNITE/Parish Vocations Ministry Training

Parish Vocations Ministry training has been and is being offered to any US diocese that can draw together 5 or more parishes and 3 to 5 members from each parish to start parish vocations ministries. The IGNITE training is free (travel costs covered by Serra US) and conducted by Serra volunteer leaders at no expense to the dioceses.

Awareness/Marketing initiative

Most recently the Serra US Council invested in an Awareness/Marketing initiative to help Catholics ages 50-65 become aware of Serra and our vocations ministry. Messages that resonate with this group of Catholics have been developed and tested, and a new website—joinserra.org—has been created to “drive” Catholics interested in the Serra mission to it so they can explore membership in a club.

At the Serra International level

New Club Charter

Starting new clubs abroad is a special challenge requiring time, effort, and money. Yet, in this past year we started three new clubs abroad—Ago in Nigeria, Kasese in Uganda, and St. Louis in Thailand. And we just chartered a new club in Italy!

The Annual Serra International Convention

overhead expenses, to keep both organizations operating at a breakeven level yet accomplishing the desired results.

Staffing

In 1997 there were 12 full-time paid employees between the two organizations. At present total staffing for Serra International and the US Council consists of the Executive Director (John Liston), three full-timers and one part-timer. The three staff members

Our dues help keep registration fees reasonable while putting on a very inspirational and spiritual event attracting Serrans from across the world.

Publish The Serran magazine quarterly The Serran is internally produced with first rate articles from around the world related to our vocations mission.

The Four Official Languages of Serra

The translation and interpretation expertise in Spanish, Portuguese and Italian as well as English to share vocations ideas, programs, and materials worldwide.

Maintain the serrainternational.org website

Communications Support

Subscribe to and use programs like Go To Meeting, Zoom, Constant Contact and international conference call facilities to enhance communications.

So, are our dues being used effectively to accomplish the Serra mission? The answer I think is a resounding “Yes!”

But are they being used efficiently? Again, the answer is a re- sounding “Yes!”

No Dues Increase for at Least a Decade Serra international dues have not increased since 2011 and US Council dues have not increased since 2006. During that time, membership has declined in both Serra International and the US Council. Expenses have been reduced by a consolidation of two offices into one, which included reductions in office staff and consist of one focusing on communications/website/magazine, one focusing on membership and one focusing on administration and translation/interpretation (al- though all handle many other du- ties). These folks are the only ones in Serra International and the Serra US Council paid a salary for their work. All the rest are volunteers.

Convention/Meeting Planning

The Chicago staff handles most of the details and nitty-gritty planning for the SI Convention, the US Rally, Serra International board meetings and US Council board meetings.

Supporting Volunteers and Clubs

The staff is an invaluable resource to the leadership volunteers and clubs. Without their support behind the scenes, the leadership webinars, club officer training, President's Roundtable, Serra Meets, bi-weekly email communications, The Serran magazine, bi-monthly committee conference calls and website updates simply could not happen. They do yeomen's work for the Serra mission!

Bishop Thomas Daly, our USA Council Episcopal Advisor, told us recently that Serra has one of the best and most important missions in the Catholic Church. Our dues are an INVESTMENT in that mission.

Mike Downey President-Elect, Serra's USA Council mike.downey@downey.com

Promoting & Supporting Vocations

Serra Promotion And Resource Kit (SPARK) is brought to you by the U.S. Council of Serra International. SPARK is a free online collection of best-practices tools in religious vocations ministry—as curated from parishes, dioceses, and religious orders around North America.

Created by a group of experienced laypeople with a longstanding devotion to the Roman Catholic Church, SPARK covers everything from discernment retreat agendas to vocations talks to using social media in vocations promotion...and much more.

Whether you're recruiting potential priests, sisters, deacons, nuns, or brothers, you can find a helping hand right here. Nearly two dozen topics are covered.

We continue our brief look at each of those tools. For a more in-depth look, go to serraus.org and select the Serra SPARK tab.

Responding to God's Call to Holiness

For the month of June, it is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This year Pope Leo XIV has focused the World and especially the USA to be consecrated to the Sacred Heart. Please check your parish bulletin to know how your parish Pastor will celebrate the Consecration event which includes a Mass. My Grandfather (deceased) and my Father (deceased) carried a Special Love and Devotion to the Sacred Heart. I now carry the Sacred Heart medal my grandfather purchased in the 1940's. He passed the SH Medal on to my Father. I received the SH medal at Dad's passing. I plan to forward this medal to my Son who I hope will carry forward to his Son (MY Grandson)!

Pope Leo has also given us the Sacred Heart Novena for our praying from June 3 to June 11th (Feast Day of the Sacred Heart). I am attaching the internet Link for you to use as you see fit. Just begin the Novena for 9 straight days as Jesus knows what is in your Heart and your desire to Pray the Novena to HIM for our continuing Love and Protection in the daily BATTLE we face to gain everlasting life with the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit! All Praise to the Holy Trinity – One God!!

Link: <https://www.usccb.org/novena-sacred-heart-jesus#tab--day-1-heart-of-jesus-aflame-with-love-for-us>

**Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my Trust in YOU!
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have Mercy on me.**

St. Junipero Serra, Pray for us.

**Blessings,
Frank B.**