

SERRA CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

JUNIPERO SERRA | ANSWER THE CALL | SUPPORTING RELIGIOUS

A Message From our President Tom Fasl...



I am beginning to comprehend the meaning of the phrase “new normal”. By the time you receive this latest Serra Club of St Louis newsletter our city, county, state and national leadership will have announced the latest plans to combat the covid 19 pandemic which has changed all of our lives and lifestyles during these past weeks.

Returning to work, worship and outdoor recreation are probably a part of that plan however the “new normal” will have specific obligations and responsibilities that each of us will be expected to adopt and practice.

Speaking of obligations and responsibilities; as your current President I have an obligation to begin the annual transition of leadership for our Serra Club of Saint Louis Board of Directors.

Normally we have a presentation of candidates with a voice vote at one of our lunch meetings. The “new normal” makes that type of election impossible.

Therefore I am using this month’s May newsletter to present to you our candidates for the 2020-2021 Serra Club Board of Directors and ask for your vote of approval.

Candidates for the 2020-2021 Serra Club of Saint Louis Board of Directors are:

Officers

President	Paul Kohl
President Elect.	Paul Goldak
V.P. Programs.	Angie Doerr
V.P. Vocations	Adina Tracy
V.P. Membership.	Jeanne Fluri

V.P. Communications	Tom Fasl [interim]
Secretary	Joseph P Racher Jr
Treasurer	Suzanne Smith
Club Historian.	Robert E Ahrens

Trustees

Maureen Ahrens
Thomas Heeger
Gracemarie R. Miller

How to Vote

We will use the same procedure we use for lunch reservations

Call Maureen Ahrens at 314-353-8444 and vote Yes or No for our slate of candidates.

OR

Send Maureen Ahrens an email at reahrens40@att.net and vote Yes or No for our slate of candidates.

Please vote by or before June 12 2020 : Remember

“Every election is determined by the people who show up.”

—Larry J. Sabato

Mary Queen of Vocations Pray for Us!

SERRA GOLF TOURNAMENT UPDATE

As you have already heard, the Serra Golf Tournament scheduled for May 18th has been CANCELED for this year.

Everyone has worked so hard, but social distancing and all the uncertainty is keeping us from having a great, fun event with all of us together.

This is our Club's only fundraiser, so I am asking for the support of each of you. We need your help to turn this disappointment into a financial success, so that we can actively continue to pursue the Mission of our club to foster vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life.

If you have not already done so, please consider buying raffle tickets or making a cash donation, which is tax deductible. Ask your family, neighbors, and friends to also contribute!!

The Raffle drawing will be held on May 18 as originally scheduled.

Send checks to: Dave Dunlap
Serra Golf
860 Hanley Industrial Ct.
St. Louis, Mo. 63144

Keep praying for strength as we do this together.

Again, thank you,
Bob Ahrens
Golf Committee Chairman

ST. JUNIPERO SERRA-PRAY FOR US

A Vocation Story : Sister Karolyn Nunez



Sister Karolyn Nunez was our Luncheon speaker on February 12, 2020. She shared with us her vocation story becoming a Sister of Saint Francis of the Martyr St George. Sister Karolyn is the oldest of three kids. When she

was three years old, her expectant mother asked her if she wanted a brother or a sister. Sister Karolyn said most assuredly that she wanted one of each. As it turned out her mother had twins, a boy and a girl. Sister Karolyn joked that what she wants, she gets (not really). As it turned out, her sister and she both entered the convent on the same day, Her sister a Dominican and she a Franciscan. Her brother is married, and Sister Karolyn is still waiting for nieces and nephews, and he is her only hope. Still, it is not bad to have two out of three siblings to be religious.

Sister Karolyn's family was not a super Catholic Family. They did not say the Rosary together nor pray before meals unless their grandparents were around. She went to a Public School for 13 years and lived to tell about it. They did go to Mass on Sundays, that was the extent of the Catholicity of her family on the culturally Catholic East Coast. Becoming a religious sister was not something her family ever talked about. There were some sisters at her parish, but since she did not go to the Catholic school, all she knew of them, by reputation was that they were old and angry. She did not want to be like them.

There was a song that really sticks with Sister Karolyn from her childhood, "Here I am Lord". When she hears that song today it takes her back to when she sang this song as a little girl and really, really meaning it. This was like giving the Lord permission to come into her life. As she grew older, she realized that the Jesus she talked to at night before bed was the Jesus she received in Communion. She came to realize that Jesus was truly present in the Eucharist. That gave way to a real deepening in her relationship with Our Lord, and an openness and willingness to do what the Lord wanted of her. When she walked home from her Public-School, she would stop at her Parish Church, which was on the way, and spend some time in silence and quiet. When she got bored in the classroom, she would pray the Rosary on her fingers. No one knew what she was doing, and she

was able to find an inner peace even in the Public-School setting.

She always got involved with her Parish youth group, being first to sign up for events. Her friends knew this and as a Sophomore in High School, she took a job career inventory. It came back saying that she should be in a Religious Ministry, Theater/drama or Education. Her friends teased her that she would be a nun who plays guitar and drove a fifteen-passenger van for a Catholic High School. This was their idea, and every time they told her this, she would shoot idea down as not going to happen. She realized though that she was trying to convince herself too, that this was not going to happen. She had no image on what it would look like to be a Sister. She could picture herself as a mother buckling her kids into a minivan but could not picture herself as a Sister. When she closed her eyes though to picture herself as a Sister, something happened in her heart that did not happen when she closed her eyes and imagined being a mother. Sister Karolyn tried hard to make the concept of marriage and family work in her life, but she realized that that was like putting a square peg into a round hole, it does not work. She was stuck and felt broken.

When she decided to stop fighting and said Lord maybe you actually do know what is best for me and maybe there are happy sisters out there, and I will let you guide me, then things started to go more smoothly. Upon High School graduation, she followed her heart to Franciscan University. When she stepped foot on campus, something there moved in her and she felt an explosion in her heart. She belonged there. At Franciscan University she met two groups of people that would change her life forever. She met two Catholic boys and she met sisters under the age of 60 who smiled and wore cute shoes. She dated one of the Catholic boys and really thought she would marry him. (cont. pg. 3)

Serra Club of St. Louis
Chaplain
Father Brian Fallon
Director of Vocations(314)768.1888

Officers for 2019-2020

President - Tom Fasl
President Elect - Paul Kohl
V.P. Programs - Angie Doerr
V.P. Vocations - Susan Burke
V.P. Membership - Jeanne Fluri
V.P. Communications - Paul Goldak
Secretary - Joe Racher
Treasurer - Suzanne Smith
Club Historian - Robert E. Ahrens
Trustees - Lauren Fogarty,
Barbara Racher, Earl Zesch
Past President Trustees - JoAnn Muenks,
George Kerry, Bruce Bange
Newsletter Editor- Elise Rich
314-605-5293
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Maureen Ahrens
Ph. 314-353-8444
e-mail reahrens40@att.net
Newsletter E-mail -
stlserran@icloud.com
Serra Club of St. Louis Website
www.serrastl.org
District Governor - Bob Helmsing
Serra International
70 East Lake St. Ste 1210
Chicago IL 60601
1-800-488-4008



Sister Karolyn Nunez, *continued*

He was everything she could imagine in a perfect husband and father. But even in that relationship there still was a restlessness there. She told Jesus that if this relationship does not work out, I think I am supposed to enter the convent. They knew each other for 4 years but dated seriously for 3 months. She followed him to an isolated area of Tennessee. They realized that they both were made for something different and they let each other go their separate ways.

Now, she found herself halfway across the country in Paris Tennessee, in the middle of nowhere, working for a church as a youth minister. With a limited budget, she had no TV, not even with an antenna, and there were few people her age in the area. She found herself with a lot of quiet time. Quiet time gives you two options, you can run away and distract yourself or you can lean in. She decided to lean in and turned her loneliness into solitude. She told the lord, it is me and You, what do you want to teach me. She knew she was there for a reason. She loved her job as the Parish Youth Minister and worked for a fantastic pastor who was like a spiritual father to her. He was the strongly influenced her to embrace her solitude to discern God's Love and design for her life. In this silence and solitude, she saw the shape of her heart. She saw that marriage and family was too small for her, that her heart was too big. With the people of the parish young and old, she saw herself as a Spiritual Mother.

At that point in life she decided that she needed to act, so she reached out to the Franciscan Sisters. Her spirituality was most in tune with that of the Franciscans. She touched and smelled and sniffed out God's love and mercy in her life much like St Francis. Franciscan Spirituality is rooted in the Eucharist, in the places of the Incarnation where Jesus comes to meet us in the midst of our mess. She knew her own mess and she knew how much she needed Jesus in her life.

She chose the Franciscan Community whose Charism was "Making the merciful love of Christ visible." This is rooted in St Johns gospel Chapter 19 verse 37 "We shall look upon the one whom we have pierced. We shall look upon Christ Crucified and receive the love of the Sacred Heart and make it visible to those we encounter." This drew Sister Karolyn to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She went to the Franciscan Convent in Alton and talked to the Mother Superior, telling her that she thought she was a good fit for the community since she had extensive teaching experience. Mother Superior told her that becoming a Franciscan may require that she would never

teach again, it is not what you do, it is who you are, it is about the charism and spirituality. Mother Superior told her that she may send her back to school to become a nurse. Sister Karolyn said she was not suited for nursing and Mother Superior's reply was that until she could accept who she was and what was expected of her, that she would not be able to accept her into the Franciscan Order. She left that day angry, but she gave God permission to change her heart.

After a couple of months, her life seemed to crumble, and she knew God was telling her to change her heart and accept the Charism he intended for her. So, she went back to the Mother Superior and told her that she would do whatever was needed of her even if it meant going back to school to become a nurse. Mother Superior accepted her, and she started her novitiate that next Fall. When she entered that Fall, the Mother Superior assigned her Apostolate and she was to teach Kindergarten and First Grade Religion. They both had tears in their eyes because they both new how hard it was for her to commit to giving up teaching to become a religious sister. It was an Abraham moment for her, Are you willing to give up even this thing that you love, are you willing to go up to the top of the Mountain and lay down these gifts that I have given to you, will you return them to me and see what I can do with them. She has been in the teaching apostolate her whole time as a Franciscan Sister until recently when she was assigned as the order's Vocation Director.

Need a face mask?

Serrans, a fellow Serran has been sewing cloth masks for local charities. They have indicated they may be able to also make some for fellow members and their spouses in need of a mask to go to the grocery store etc. If in need of a mask, please email suz_m_smith@hotmail.com with your name, address, zip and number of masks being requested. When able to deliver, they will place the mask in your mailbox and then email you that it is there. No payment is expected or accepted.

Prayers For Priest

1. Rev. Hogan, David
2. Rev. Holbrook, James
3. Very Rev. Holtmann, Christopher
4. Rev. Holway, Craig
5. Rev. Hopmeir, Ronald
6. Rev. Hopping, John Paul
7. Rev. Houser, Michael J
8. Rev. Huber, Larry
9. Rev. Hughes, John Jay
10. Rev. Jiang, Joseph
11. Rev. Johnson, John
12. Rev. Msgr. Jovanovic, Robert
13. Rev. Kallarackal, Lijo Stephen
14. Rev. Kastenholz, Nicholas
15. Rev. Kasznel, Richard
16. Rev. Kavanagh, Daniel J
17. Rev. Keenoy, John
18. Rev. Keller, Thomas
19. Rev. Kempf, Joseph
20. Rev. Kempf, William G
21. Rev. Msgr. Kennedy, John
22. Rev. Kerber, John
23. Rev. Kester, William
24. Rev. Kirchhoefer, Thomas
25. Rev. Kirsch, Gregory G.
26. Rev. Kleba, Gerald
27. Rev. Klump, Gregory
28. Rev. Msgr. Knight, Jeffrey
29. Rev. Knight, Robert
30. Rev. Knoll, Urban
31. Rev. Koch, Donald

Spiritual Works

As a Serran Family, we remember our Serra Club members and friends who have gone before us with the sign of faith. We pray they are now celebrating with Our Lord in heaven. We remember in prayer: Glenn Mertens, Dorothy Tracy, mother-in-law of Adina Tracy, Walter "Bud" Leonard, Bob Wiedemann- Jeanne Fluri's father, Whitey Schneller
 We also pray for those who are ill, especially, Dottie Borgmeyer, Gloria Schwarz, Evelyn Keller, Karen Taylor and her husband John.

Calendar

Serra Club Lunch Meetings are canceled for the month of May.

Wednesday, May 13th 11:30 a.m. Club Conference Call Rosary

Wednesday, May 27th 11:30 a.m. Club Conference Call Rosary

June 17 - The Installation of New Serran Members and Officers is Wednesday, 6 pm Mass at St. Clement followed by a dinner at Greenbriar Hills Country Club.

This Serra Club "Conference call Rosary"

This Serra Club "Conference call Rosary" will take place 11:30a.m. on Wednesday, May 13th and Wednesday, May 27th.

Here is how it works –

1. A few minutes before 11:30 a.m. , please dial into the conference call bridge. The telephone number for the bridge for our club conference call is 1-978-990-5000. Access code 689934#
2. At 11:30 a.m., we will introduce the Rosary.
3. If there is a lot of background noise in your house (such as a barking dog, or television), we ask you to mute your telephone.

Welcome New Serrans

Sue Ebanues Sponsor: Suzanne Smith and was Anita Mulligan's best friend Parish: Mary, Queen of Peace

Dr. Dale Doerr Sponsor: Angie Doerr, wife Parish: St. Clement of Rome

May Birthdays

Janis Busch 1

Helen Gelhot 4

Eileen Wohlert 5

Alinda Power 7

Jeanne Fluri 9

Donna Freihaut 12

Dave Wilmot 12

Martie Aboussie 13

Bart Angeli 13

Beth Kalb 13

Laurie Merli 13

Paul Knese 15

Paul Kohl 15

Kathy Schreiber 15

John Wilmsen 17

Mary Espenschied 18

Cathleen Kolthoff 23

Suzanne Smith 24

Evelyn Keller 26

Ron Aylward 30

Don Schreiber 31

Vocation News

By Susan Burke

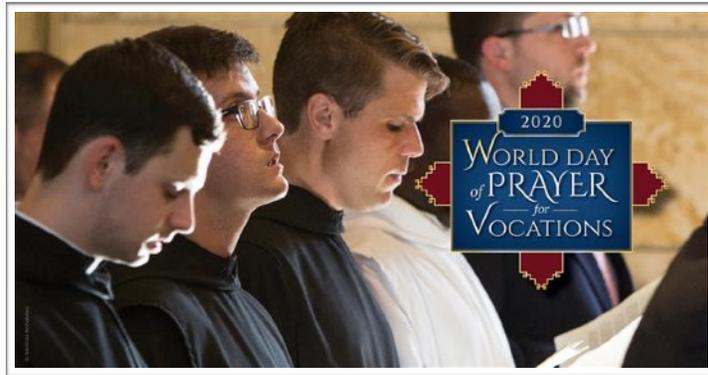
Serrans Adopt a Parish

The **May** suggestion is ...

*Offer Serra Club support to include Vocation Ministry in their school and PSR's curriculum this coming Fall (Traveling Vocation Chalice, Queen of Vocation bookmarks for each classroom, or with a Vocation Prayer during each morning's announcements)

*In this month of May, Mary's month, consider adding an additional rosary to your weekly prayers. See the link below for examples of Rosaries fro Vocations.

<https://serrapark.org/spark-vocation-tools/12-rosaries-for-vocations/>



PROMOTE VOCATIONS

Even when Mass is cancelled, God is still calling.
When youth groups can't meet, God is still calling.
When Catholic schools are closed, God is still calling.
When college students are stuck at home, God is still calling.
In the hardest, strangest times, God is still calling.

During this pandemic, God is still calling young people to the priesthood and religious life.
How can you help them hear the call?

Here are five ways to celebrate
World Day of Prayer for Vocations on May 3rd.

Newman Connection

This program encourages graduating high school students to join the Newman Center and campus ministry on their college campus or in the military.

Newman Connection's Prayer for the Graduates

Loving Father, give our students strength, courage and presence of mind as they embark on their new endeavors. Free them from fleeting distractions, and help them seek you with open hearts. College students find your Newman Center or Catholic campus ministry at newmanconnection.com

Ways to Keep Your Serra Club Thriving During Self-Isolation and Social Distancing

Provided by Serra Club, USA Council

Keep in Touch with Priests and Religious

- On a regular basis, send physical greeting cards, letters, gift cards and care packages and cards to priests, seminarians, sisters, retired priests, and others in formation.
- Stay in touch with priests by phone.
- Reach out to priests serving in rural or remote communities.
- Consider sending a fun, uplifting video with message of support and gratitude to your priests and religious.
- Send a personal letter of support to your bishop (e-mail not recommended).
- Send special letters of support to those who are scheduled to be ordained as deacons and priests this year.

Keep in Touch with Fellow Serrans

- Set up a Club platform in Zoom or GoToMeeting so members can see each other. Note: The person who has the platform must be able to help other club members with the program so that the members can be assisted in joining the meetings.
- Continue monthly contacts with members by phone calls, newsletter.
- Divide officers to call Serrans to see how they are doing.

Holiness and Prayer Activities

- Consecrate your club to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- Continue adoration if your diocese has a location that is currently open.
- Encourage members to attend Holy Hour on-line.
- Encourage members to join the Serra International monthly Rosary for Vocations, the last Saturday of every month.
- Do a stay at home catechesis for the club once a month. There are lesson plans available. Meet weekly.
- Pray the rosary for Vocation Directors.
- Invite Serrans to pray the Novena for Vocations during the pandemic.
- Call your club chaplain and ask for spiritual direction and inspiration. Ask him to send out regular prayers and meditations.
- Send Spiritual Bouquet to the Bishop, priests, seminarians, religious.

Serran Vocation Activities (Tentative based on the COVID-19 status)

Please mark your calendar and plan to participate in Serra's Vocation program activities

Vocation Committee Meetings

3:00 Vocation Office @ Kenrick-Glennon

May 20, 2020 (CANCELLED)

July 15, 2020

June 17, 2020

August 19, 20

6th Grade Vocation Essay Contest

Due to the cancellation of all Parochial in school classes for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, Congratulatory Letters, Certificates, and Cash Awards were sent to the winning students and teachers by mail this year. We hope that Serra will be able to present the awards for the 2020-2021 contests in person next year.

Please enjoy reading 2 more of the winning essays!

Topic: “Tell Us A Story About Someone Who Helped You Grow In Your Catholic Faith”

**2nd Place Boys
Connor Coady
St. Francis of Assisi School**

Ever since I was little, my mom reminded me that “Saying you are Catholic is not the same as living Catholic.” I did not understand what she meant at first, but now I have grown to appreciate its meaning and try to live Catholic every day.

Saying I am Catholic is not enough. To truly live my faith, I needed to learn about what being Catholic really means, love Jesus, ask for help and help others. My mom provides me with opportunities in all of these areas. She was the first person to give me a rosary which I still use today. My mom gave me the gift of a Catholic education so that I can learn and grow in my faith. We participate in the sacraments together and pray every night. She gives to others by volunteering at school, Junior Achievement, and St. Louis Area Foodbank. Because of her example, I buy presents with my own money for the “adopt a family” program every year, volunteer at the Fish Fry, pick up trash around my neighborhood and contribute at animal shelters. Whenever I am faced with a difficult situation, my mom helps me think through the problem by considering what Jesus would want me to do.

Overall, my mom is a wonderful person who helps others and is kind to everyone she sees. She has provided my guidance in all these areas. Thanks Mom for all you have done for me and my Catholic faith.

**2nd Place Girls
Amelia Morgan (daughter of Serran Kim Morgan)
Holy Infant School**

Preparations for the evening handbell concert were well under way as I briskly moved about the house. My sister, Rachel, asked if I wanted to go to Mass with her. This was a common question from my sister. In the past I was annoyed, but I came to realize that Rachel is not like any of my other sisters. She loves me so much that she takes me to Confession and Mass on her own time. Rachel always spends as much time with me as she can because she knows how important family time is. She asks if I want to play board games or go on walks with her. Rachel is not like any other big sister I know because she likes to be in my life. Rachel is my role model because of her honesty and kindness. She always tells my mom where she is going to be and who she is going to be with. I think that is very noble because many people these days are not so openly honest, but Rachel still is. One year Rachel even devoted herself to discerning her vocation to the religious life. These are the things Rachel did, not because she had to, but because she wanted me and my whole family to be closer to Jesus. Because of Rachel’s example, I want to have a deeper relationship with Jesus our Lord.