

# SERRA CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

JUNIPERO SERRA | ANSWER THE CALL | SUPPORTING RELIGIOUS

## Serra Club of St. Louis

Chaplain  
Father Brian Fallon  
Director of Vocations(314)768.1888

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## A Message From our President Paul Kohl...

I hope everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving and that you were able to share the celebration with family and friends, even if it wasn't in the same form as previous years.

There will be no luncheon in December because of the St. Louis County shutdown. However, we are planning one luncheon each in January and February. More details will follow. It will depend on the status of Covid at that time.

The Christmas Mass and Dinner with the Archbishop is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>. This is an annual festive event which is always looked forward to. It will be in a different form this year, but should still be a very enjoyable event. Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Rozanski at the Cathedral with dinner following at the St. Louis Women's Club.

A special thanks to Angie Doerr for her work scheduling luncheons and arranging the Christmas Mass and Dinner.

Judging of the Sophomore Essay Contest will begin soon. Please consider giving time to judge these wonderful essays. Details of the judging process are still being worked out. Thanks to Adina Tracy and Jeanne Fluri for their work in managing the essay contest in these trying times.

Thanksgiving cards were sent to the Kenrick-Glennon Seminary faculty, administration and staff. The cards shared that the Serra Club members are praying for them and appreciate the many things they do for the Seminarians.

I highly recommend the annual Advent Novena in preparation for Christmas presented by the Seminary. It will be live streamed directly from the Seminary's Chapel of St. Joseph each evening at 7:00 PM, from December 9<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. The seminarians will lead each evening with prayer, hymns, scripture, and an Advent reflection. Please check the schedule for the novena and livestream information at: <https://kenrick.edu/novena/>



## Prayers for Our Vocation Directors

Thank you to all Serran's who signed up to pray for Fr. Fallon and Fr. Voltz on a certain day of the week. Example: Mass, Rosary, Holy Hour, etc. If you have questions, call Jeanne Fluri 314-822-2055.

# Brother Dominic,

## St Albert the Great Dominican Province

Brother Dominic is a second year aspirant as a Dominican Brother studying here in St Louis. Brother Dominic shared his vocation story with us. Brother Dominic was born and raised in Bedford Indiana. He was actually born into a Baptist Family and his father was a deacon of his Baptist congregation. However his parents wanted to send their children to a Parochial School. He was in Kindergarten and his brother was in fourth grade and they would come home with questions that came out of their religion class on topics like the Eucharist. His parents thought: "what have they gotten themselves into." Trying to understand what their children were being taught in religion they started to look into the Catholic teachings, his father even read Scott Hahn's book "Rome Sweet Home". For his dad, it was the teaching on the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. His dad told himself that if this is Jesus in the Eucharist, than this whole Catholic thing is real. His father went to his mom and told her that this whole Catholic thing is real and that we need to investigate this more. His mom told his dad that she figured that out a month ago. Where were you? That started the conversion process to the Catholic Faith for his entire family, even his grandparents. From that moment on they were involved. Involvement was the key. His dad was involved in RCIA and was also on the Parish Council and helped with Parish finances. His mom was in the Choir and played the piano. And Dominic was an Altar server for 12 years. Through all of this involvement, he really did not awaken to the reality of his Faith until his last year in high school, when he was part of the Archdiocese Youth Council for Indianapolis. As part of the Youth Council he was involved in planning the National Catholic Youth Conference. This is where 10,000 youth gathered in Lucas Oil stadium where the Colts play. The space is filled. It is magnificent to see the unity of the body of Christ so present and so young gathered together for this Youth event. It reminded Dominic that he is not alone, that wherever he would go, he will find the joy of the Catholic Church because we are so ingrained in fabric of our country. So when he went off to College he sought out the vibrant Catholic experience. At Indiana University in Bloomington, he was introduced to the Dominicans at the Catholic Neumann Center. The Dominicans introduced him to the life of prayer, the life of Community, of study and of preaching. Even then he was not thinking of a religious life. He envisioned himself marrying a nice Catholic Girl. That was not the Lord planned. Being quite active in the Neumann Center, the Dominicans life of service became ingrained in his way of life. He was on the



President of the Neumann Center, he was on the Parish Council, and he was Grand Knight of his Knights of Columbus College Council. He was basically running from one meeting to another. After a year, his Spiritual Director told Dominic to take a break. So Dominic decided to take a break halfway around the Globe and went to Australia for six months. There he runs into Dominicans in the parish right next where he was living. They told him that Dominic was a great name, have you ever thought of becoming a Dominican. Being out of his normal routines of his active Neumann Center life back home and being alone in another country generated a kind of silence and contemplative moment where the Lord decided to nudge him. It is in those moments when the natural rhythms of our life is disrupted that we hear the Lord. The Lord inspired him to go on a Discernment Weekend with the Dominicans of Australians and New Zealand. It was there that Dominic felt the first spark of his vocation calling to become a Dominican. It was not in the Neumann Center, it was not in the daily activities where he thought he would figure it out. In that world he was caught up in his own daily life and his own plans. Outside of that the Lord was able to hit him over the head with a Spiritual Blank to the face and said that He has a better one for you. After that weekend Dominic messaged the Vocation Director to set up the next Covincy. He signed up and went to Meet with Dominicans in St Louis and immediately fell in Love with the Community. Thus began his path that he is on now to become a Dominican

### Check it out!

Here is Brother Dominic's whole talk!

<https://www.facebook.com/serrastl/videos/821257498641531>

# December Vocation News

By Adina Tracy

The **Sophomore Vocation Essay Contest** has been in full swing! To date, we have received 100+ emailed entries, a new option this year. Many are heartfelt and insightful in regards to our timely topic: "During this strange time of Pandemic, how has God communicated His love to you?"

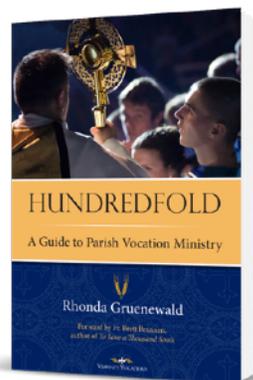
We are still collecting additional entries that have been mailed to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and hope to begin reading them in the coming weeks. Due to Covid restrictions, we are unable to utilize the seminary boardroom and want to be mindful about gathering in a large group to read and judge the entries. We are still deciding how to best facilitate this, but hope to have the winners announced sometime in January. Please pray for our ongoing efforts in making this a successful endeavor as it has always been in the past!

## Thanksgiving Cards

Suzanne Smith graciously sent appreciation cards with notes to the administrators, faculty, sisters and staff at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. Please keep them in your daily prayers as they do the important work of forming our future priests. And thank you Suzanne!!

## Serrans Adopt a Parish Program

Serrans are a direct resource for a parish to assist the pastor, priests, and/or vocation committee with promoting Vocation Ministry at the parish level. Please check-in with your assigned parish to see how you may be of assistance even (or especially!) during this unusual time.



Book recommendation:

Hundredfold by Rhonda Gruenewald includes a step-by-step guide for 67 activities that will help a parish create a vocation-friendly environment.

## Resource for Serrans: Vocations Today Weekly Podcast

"This podcast is all about vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life, and marriage. You will hear uplifting news stories, great interviews with sisters, brothers, priests, seminarians and married couples and tips to promote vocations in your family and parish! **Subscribe today on all your typical podcast platforms (such as iTunes) by searching for Vocations Today!** Let's build up the Church together!" ~ Vocation Ministry

## Looking for vocation-related gifts this Christmas season?

Vocation Ministry's shop has some sweet gifts for children and a few for adults as well.

<https://vocationministry.com/shop/>

Or check out the Serra Club International E-Store for Serra branded items and gift ideas!

<https://www.vianneyvocations.com/serra-club/>

## Reminder:



Join our Kenrick-Glennon Seminarians for the annual Advent Novena in preparation for Christmas, Live Streamed directly from the seminary's Chapel of St. Joseph for nine consecutive evenings of prayer and worship. The seminarians will lead each evening with prayer, hymns, scripture, and an Advent reflection.

Live on YouTube and Facebook Live

## Prayers For Priest

1. Kriegshauser, Rev. Laurence , O.S.B.
2. Lenk, Rev. Dominic , O.S.B.
3. Mazuski, Rev. Edward , O.S.B.
4. McCusker, Rev. John , O.S.B.
5. Mohrman, Gregory , O.S.B.
6. O'Donnell, Br. Philip , O.S.B.
7. Roslevich, Br. Sixtus , O.S.B.
8. Senay, Rev. Andrew , O.S.B.
9. Sienkiewicz, Br. Basil , O.S.B.
10. Soto, Rev. Athanasius , O.S.B.
11. Wetta, Rev. Augustine , O.S.B.
12. Wright, Rev. Ralph , O.S.B.
13. Allin, Rev. Benedict , O.S.B.
14. Dowling, Rev. Finbarr , O.S.B.
15. McDermott, Rev. Aidan , O.S.B.
16. Fehrenbach, Br. Michael , F.S.C.
17. Kavanagh, Ms. Sherri
18. Schatz, Br. Larry , F.S.C
19. Diep, Rev. Joseph Tran, CMF
20. Phan-Uy, Br. John , CMF
21. Tran, Br. Michael Tuan, CMF
22. Truong, Br. Anthony , CMF
23. Berning, Br. Dave W., C.M.
24. Brockland, Rev. Robert J., C.M.
25. Busieka, Rev. George , C.M.
26. Clark, Rev. John F., C.M.
27. Coury, Rev. Philip , C.M.
28. Hoye, Rev. Ronald J., C.M.
29. Kearns, Rev. Daniel P., C.M.
30. Kettelberger, Rev. John , C.M.
31. McCracken, Rev. Kevin , C.M.

## December Birthdays

Kim Morgan 1	James A. Miller 13
Philip Blaxton 3	Barb Racher 14
Joan Hannegan 3	Donald Schlappizzi 19
Joan Nowak 6	Joe Racher 20
John Gorman 9	Earl Zesch 25
Mary Ann Siegel 11	Dr. Paula Bohr 27
Robert Ahrens 13	

## Events

### **Monday, December 7th**

#### **Christmas Mass and Dinner**

6:00 pm Mass at Cathedral Basilica celebrated by Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski

7:00 pm Hor d'voeurs and Dinner at The Woman's Club - see invitation to RSVP

## 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:

Marietta Riehemann, Marie Klein, Mary Fitzgerald (former Serran), Elmer Borgmeyer, 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, Judy Maurer, Dottie Borgmeyer, Mary Espenschied ,Gloria Schwarz, Evelyn Keller, Karen Taylor and her husband John.

### *Serrans Please Consider..*

All the Serra International Clubs are being asked to step up our prayers for our Vocation Directors- namely, Fr. Brian Fallon and Fr. Eddie Voltz!

You may choose any day of the week Sunday through Saturday and decide what prayers you will offer each week on that day.

For example: I am taking Saturdays and will offer my Mass and Rosary.

I passed around a sign up sheet at our last two meetings in October, but not every one could attend, but want to extend this prayerful opportunity to all our Serrans.

If you want to participate, you can email or call me. [jeannefluri@gmsil.com](mailto:jeannefluri@gmsil.com) or 314-822-2055