

# 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

### Officers for 2020-2021

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 - Philip Blaxton  
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District Governor - Bob Helmsing  
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## A Message From our President Paul Kohl...



I hope everyone had a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year, even though many celebrations may have been somewhat smaller than previous years. After struggling through 2020, I am sure we are all hoping for and looking forward to a more normal 2021.

As a token of our appreciation for the work that the Seminary and the Vocation Office do in fostering vocations, our Serra club gave Christmas gifts to those involved with the Vocation Office.

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend our annual Christmas Mass and dinner with Archbishop Rozanski. Even with the Covid restrictions, I believe everyone had a very enjoyable time. During dinner, thanks to the hard work of our Club members in 2020, especially without our Golf Tournament, we were able to present a check for \$38,200 to Archbishop Rozanski to support the financial needs of individual seminarians. After dinner, Archbishop Rozanski presented an Advent Reflection in the spirit of the season. Thanks to Angie Doerr for her hard work in making the arrangements, to Jeanne Fluri for her assistance, and to Rick Mulligan for his help in putting together the invitations.

Now that St. Louis County has begun to allow restaurants to reopen, we are planning on having at least one luncheon per month with the first one taking place on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, at Sunset 44 in Kirkwood. The luncheon will begin with a Rosary at 11:30 and the guest speaker will be Monsignor Henry Breier, Rector of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. Those attending will be required to sign a St. Louis County contact tracing form.

Your Serra Board will continue to look for ways to safely resume our normal activities.

St. Junipero Serra, Pray for Us  
Mary, Queen of Vocations, Pray for Us

Paul

## Masses for Deceased Serrans .... *By Suzanne Smith*

As Serra Club member we are to have a Mass offered for fellow members when they pass away. Three Serrans: Marietta Riehemann (husband Richard Riehemann 16 Briarbrook Trail, Des Peres, MO 63131), Leo Seiffert (wife Mary Lu Seiffert 12335 West Bend Drive #146, St. Louis, MO 63126), Robert Stoverink (son Jim Stoverink 766 Whispering Forest Dr, Ballwin, MO 63021) passed away during November and December

## Archbishop Rozanski's Homily, Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception December 7

By Joe Racher

What a joy it is to be with you this evening as we celebrate this wonderful solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. There is a very poignant story from the life of Saint John Paul II. It goes all the way back to his childhood. His mother died when he was very young, and he acutely felt that loss of his mother. His father took the young Karol Wojtyla to the shrine of Our Lady of Calvaria on top of a mountain in Poland outside of Krakow. They went to the altar of the Virgin Mary and Karol's father said to him, "son she is now your mother." All through his life we know that Saint John Paul had a very deep devotion to the blessed Virgin Mary. One of course that is part of the people and culture of Poland. But I think one that was greatly influenced by the words of his father after the death of Karol's mother. Mary teaches us so much in Salvation history. We know that she was preserved from the stain of original sin at the moment of her conception. So wonderful and marvelous was the mission that God had for her in life, that the stain of original sin would not touch her. And yet, having been given that privilege, we see that Mary's life, although very favored by God, was



not one in which we would call by our human standards a life of ease. It was certainly a life that had its share of suffering.

We hear in the gospel this evening the Annunciation when the Angel

Gabriel appears to Mary to give to her the news that she would be the Mother of the Savior. Mary's response, characteristic of her humble nature, "behold the handmaid of the Lord be it done to me according to your word." Words of acceptance, perhaps not knowing what lay ahead for her, but recognizing the message from God. Mary was ready to accept whatever mission God gave to her. Certainly, in Mary's life she knew the different sufferings that come to us as human beings. She was a widow; she watched her only son be horribly crucified and she knew that she was all alone at that point in the world. But yet, throughout Mary's life we

see the consistency of her discipleship following her Son to Calvary, burying Him in the tomb and at last, greeting the news of His Resurrection. We know that Mary has a crucial role in Salvation history. If she did not say yes, the Savior would not have come. If she did not accede to Gabriel's asking her to be the mother of the Savior, where would that leave us. Mary teaches us many lessons. Perhaps she did not understand fully the role that she was to play in Salvation history but yet she accepted the words of the Angel Gabriel. And in fact, throughout her life, we see not just one yes to God but yes to God in so many different ways. A yes to God in accepting the sufferings that she had the painful losses that occurred in her life. A willingness to accept that with God's will was for her she would accomplish it in the world.



Mary teaches each one of us who are tainted by original sin that we also play an important role in Salvation history. For through Mary the world welcomes our Savior, our Redeemer. Through us and through our witness we are called to show the world that Mary's Son makes a huge difference in our lives. And because of that, we seek to make a difference in the lives of others. Jesus calls us to be his witnesses to that saving redemption that He has brought to us. He calls us, like Mary, to discern God's will in our lives. And to be able to humbly, yet courageously, live that will of God that He calls us to live and to be. So, as we celebrate Mary's Immaculate Conception. We thank God for the favor that He bestowed on Mary, preserving her from the stain of original sin. Preparing her to be a worthy Mother for his son and through Mary's son calling each one of us to be faithful disciples here on earth so that we may know our role in Salvation history and may lead others to Jesus as Mary also did in her life.

## SERRA CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2020



The Serra Club of St Louis was truly blessed to gather for our Annual Christmas Party on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Our evening started with Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski in the celebration of the Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception at the Cathedral Basilica.

Our cantor was our Serra member Scott Kennebeck, the organist was Benton Blassingame. Tom Fasl, our immediate past President, was our Altar Server and our current President Paul Kohl was our Lector. A special thanks goes to Monsignor Breier rector of the Basilica for allowing us to use the Majestic Cathedral for the Celebration of Mass and his assistance as the Master of Ceremonies to the Archbishop. Father Eddie Volz, the assistant Vocation Director was the concelebrant with Archbishop Rozanski.

We are truly blest to have Archbishop Rozanski preside at Mass. His spiritual message was extremely inspirational to all of us as Serrans.

This event was one of the first interactions we have had with Archbishop Rozanski and we are very blessed to have him as our Archbishop. Here is the link to the livestream of this Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception: <https://cathedralstl.org/liturgy-sacraments/livestream>. Once you have gotten to the Livestream links, advance through the archived masses to the Serra Mass on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, a transcript of Archbishop Rozanski's homily is included in this newsletter.

After Mass, we celebrated the Advent season at the Women's Club of St Louis with our traditional Dinner Gathering. We had up to 65 Serrans and guests at this event, a little off from our usual attendance of 90. The Women's Club set us up with a nice setting in the upstairs meeting room where we were able to adequately social distance and enjoy the evening at our assigned tables with piano entertainment by Mark Reynoso. Both Archbishop Rozanski and our Vocation Director Father Brian Fallon made the rounds and visited each table to greet and share the evening with each Serran.

Given the constraints of the Pandemic Restrictions, the evening turned out to be as enjoyable as any Christmas event in the past. We look forward to our next events in less restrictive times.

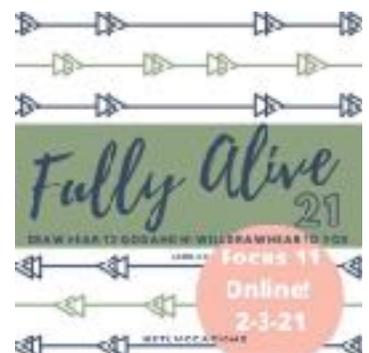
## January Vocations Update

*By Adina Tracy*

Thank you to the Serrans who helped promote the high school essay contest. We've had an overwhelming response to this years theme: During this strange time of pandemic, how has God shown His love to you? Hundreds of essays have been received. Due to challenges related to Covid, mail service being slow, and then with preparing for Christmas, the essays will be judged in January. If you are interested in helping to read and judge, please email [adinalt@aol.com](mailto:adinalt@aol.com).

Catholic Schools Week:  
January 31 - February 6

Focus 11:  
The annual middle school conference will be online this year.



## Prayers For Priest

1. Prost, Rev. Charles E. , C.M.
2. Schneebeck, Rev. Paul (Otto) , C.M.
3. Thiess, Rev. Daniel , C.M.
4. Van Dorpe, Very Rev. Raymond , C.M.
5. Williams, Rev. Joseph S., C.M
6. Murphy, Rev. Edward , C.M.
7. Croak, Rev. Thomas E., C.M.
8. Gagnepain, Rev. John F., C.M.
9. Gallagher, Rev. Edward , C.M.
10. Goertz, Br. Harvey , C.M.
11. Goodman, Br. David P., C.M.
12. Grace, Rev. Thomas , C.M.
13. Hartenbach, Rev. William E., C.M.
14. Hermann, Br. Richard , C.M.
15. Hernandez, Deacon Arnold , C.M.
16. Hinni, Rev. Thomas R., C.M.
17. Housey, Rev. Walter L., C.M.
18. Joyce, Rev. Michael P., C.M.
19. Juneman, Br. Thomas , C.M.
20. Keigher, Br. Leo J., C.M.
21. Mangogna, Br. John Joseph, C.M.
22. Menard, Rev. Godden , C.M.
23. Nguyen, Rev. Binh Van A., C.M.
24. Opferman, Br. Timothy J., C.M.
25. Poole, Rev. Richard Stafford, C.M.
26. Ramson, Rev. Ronald W., C.M.
27. Reisinger, Rev. Walter , C.M.
28. Rhinehart, Rev. William R., C.M.
29. Richardson, Rev. John , C.M.
30. Shelby, Rev. Charles F., C.M.
31. Shine, Rev. John V., C.M.

## January Birthdays

Katie Brennan 1	John O'Rourke 18
Sheila McDonough 1	Skip Knopf 19
Marge Boveri 3	Dale Isaac 20
Zip Rzeppa 8	Tom Fasl 21
Marianne Burkemper 9	Linda Patterson 25
Helen Schulz 12	Pat Amato Kreienkamp 26
Leslie Powers 13	Len Dino 30
John Walsh 13	

## Events

### Wed Jan 27th:

Rosary, Lunch and Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

at Sunset 44 Bistro and Banquet,

118 W. Adams Ave, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

Speaker: Reverend Monsignor Henry J. Breier, Pastor of Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

## 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:

Robert Stoverink, 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:..*

*By: Jeanne Fluri*

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. or  
314-822-2055