



The / SERRAN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Serra Club of Lincoln
Volume 2022, Issue No. 4

F O U R T H Q U A R T E R

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Calendar of Events

Oct

- 7 First Friday – Meeting at the John XXIII Center and Lunch: Rosary 11:40 a.m.; Mass 12 noon
- 8 Serra International Regional Conference at Our Lady of Snows
- 21 Third Friday – Meeting at the John XXIII Center Lunch: 12 noon. Speaker-TBA
- 23 Sister's Appreciation Dinner at St Peter's

Nov

- 4 First Friday Meeting at the John the XXIII Center and Lunch: Rosary 11:40 a.m.; Mass 12 noon
- 18 Third Friday Meeting at the John XXIII Center Lunch: 12 noon. Speaker-TBA
- 18 Serran Appreciation Dinner at St Gregory the Great Seminary

Dec

- 2 First Friday Meeting at the John the XXIII Center and Lunch: Rosary 11:40 a.m.; Mass 12 noon.
- 16 Third Friday Meeting at the John the XXIII Center Lunch: 12 noon. Retired Priests Appreciation

Letter from President Jim Wathen

Hello Fellow Serrans:

First, I have some exciting news! I am thrilled to share that I was just contacted today by Madonna Hospitals. Construction is progressing to the point where they are willing to talk with us about having The Serra Club to begin having our meetings there beginning in January 2023. The construction contractor is the key – meeting the current schedule for finishing the conference room where we will meet. Soon, I will be able to speak with the Catering group and Fr Steele, Madonna's Catholic chaplain and Lincoln diocese priest, to make our arrangements. Please pray that all goes well with their project!

Thank everyone for your extra effort to reserve a seat for lunches at John XXIII. That culture is very important to get the correct count for food. We appreciate everyone's patience as we are transitioning.

We also want you and any guests to feel welcome. So, we are forming a Host committee to make sure the room is set and that all can get in and out within the hour schedule. So, if you are still deliberating, reserve a seat to our First Friday meeting on October 7, 2023, when the invitation comes.

The 2023 Regional Conference Planning Committee is doing a great job! We are moving quickly as we have very capable, experienced members mixed with some who are new to Serra since we sponsored the meeting 11

years ago. The theme next year will be “**Fostering the Encounter**” which our Serra Club will be hosting in Lincoln on September 8-10, 2023! There will be 3 keynote addresses, 9 breakout sessions, 2 dinners, 3 Masses, 4 tour options (seminaries and convents). You will want to save those dates! It will primarily be held at the Newman Center along with tour locations.

Recruitment is a priority this year! John Kuchta, Lincoln Membership Chair, is forming a committee with representatives from each Lincoln parish. If you are interested, he can get you involved. However, it is not left up to the committee to identify potential Serrans. All of us need to identify solid Catholic men that would benefit being Serrans or who will help us fulfill our mission to foster and support vocations. Then, ask them to join (or ask John to make contact). We have a goal of 15 new members (10 under 35).

I hope all of you pray daily for our priests, religious, seminarians and those discerning a vocation. If you don't have the Serra prayers (that are printed on the back of our name tags). They are the PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE OF VOCATIONS and the SERRAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS. Many of our Serrans have them memorized. If you don't have access to them, please let me know.

Lastly, I hope you are committing to sponsorship of a seminarian. Lincoln diocese is very blessed to have 28 seminarians (7 new this year)! That is rare. Please don't let us get complacent. We need to support these men no matter whether God is truly calling them or if they are just learning their faith while discerning. We need to become their sponsor, communicate with them, and pray for them. You could have a lifetime influence and if they become a priest, that is for eternity.

I continue to be very grateful for all Serrans and the cause we represent. Most especially, I appreciate the Serrans of Lincoln – all of you. We are making a difference. Please keep up the prayers and support. As our patron, Saint Junipero Serra said, “Always Forward Never Back!” as he was evangelizing many years ago. Let's ask Saint Junipero Serra to *continually* Pray for Us. And may God bless all Serra families.

Mary, Mother of Vocations, Pray for Us
St Junipero Serra, Pray for Us
St. John Vianney, Pray for Us

Bill Graeve has updated the Sponsor list.

Please prayerfully consider sponsoring a seminarian or 2.

We need 2 Serran sponsors for every Seminarian. We have several to go. See the list of Seminarians in this newsletter.

Please email your **sponsor choice(s)** to Bill Graeve at: Bill-Graeve@cdolinc.net

Responsibilities of Sponsoring a Seminarian

Thank you for sponsoring a seminarian. It is a blessing and an honor to have this privilege, truly one of the best benefits of being a Serran. Sponsoring can take many forms, and while there is no right or wrong way to do it, we have compiled ways in which Serrans can show their support to the seminarians.

- First, let them know that you are sponsoring them – provide them your contact information. Make it a point to have regular contact with them.
- The most important thing you can do is continually pray for them.

On the first Friday of every month there is a Holy Hour for Vocations at the Pink Sisters beginning at 7:15pm. In June, July, and August the Seminarians lead the singing. A great opportunity to pray for vocations, and meet your seminarian during the summer months.

For first year seminarians, a big day for them is Cassock Sunday in October. When they first enter St. Gregory's they wear the black suit, black tie combination. Then on Cassock Sunday they can begin wearing clerical attire like the rest of the seminarians. There is a special Mass and reception that day to recognize them. This is a great way to welcome them to the Seminary.

In early December, St. Gregory's hosts an Advent lessons and carols program open to all the public.

Recognizing them on their birthday with a card, email, text or call is a great way to stay in contact

Inviting them to your house for dinner or taking them out to eat

Sending them a card at Christmas and Easter

Have your children or grandchildren make them cards, draw pictures, etc. It brighten their day when they receive personalized mail.

Attending the Seminarian/Parent dinner that takes place in early August. This is the one opportunity to meet them and their parents.

Attending graduation at St. Gregory's

Attending a Holy Week service at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ. The seminarians are always present at these sacred liturgies, along with the Bishop.

Attending the Deacon and Priests Ordinations, and helping the Serra Club, which hosts a reception in the Cathedral basement after the Ordinations.

Bill Graeve

MEMORIES of 3rd Quarter 2022

July 18 Priests Golf Outing and Dinner



Serrans Keith May and John Miller with Fr Tony Bedient.



Msgr Mark Huber and Fr Jeff Eickhoff at Hidden Valley Golf Course.

Leadership Camp 2022



Emeritus Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz celebrated the Sacred Holy Mass at the Leadership Camp on July 22.

Seminarian Parents Appreciation Dinner



On July 31st at the Cornhusker Hotel the parents of our Seminarians were recognized at a dinner.



July Newly Ordained Priests Reception



Serrans Bill Graeve, Ron Lee, Jim Wathen and priests Fr Dominic Winter (Cristo Rey) Fr Christian Schwenka (St Teresa-Lincoln) Fr Schukei (St Mary-David City) Not Pictured: Fr Liam o'Shea-Creal (St Michael's-Hastings)

August 6th Reception for Final Vows of Marian Sister Megan Theresa



L to R: Serrans Rick Haden, Bob Bedient, Paul Liess, Sean Quigley and Mike Foley. Reception on August 6th at Cathedral.

August Speaker Fr. Jim Moran



On Friday August 19, Fr Jim Moran explained the work he is doing in Rome.

September Speaker Msgr Thomas Fucinaro



On September 16 at the John the XXIII Center, Msgr Thomas Fucinaro explained the work he did at the Vatican in Rome. Now he is the Pastor the Cathedral of the Risen Christ.

New Norfolk Serra Club



September 29 Ordination of Matthew Schilmoeller in Rome



L to R: Fr Brian Kane, Matthew Schilmoeller,
Bishop Conley and Fr Robert Matya.

Congratulations

Rev. Mr. Matthew Schilmoeller on your ordination to the diaconate at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica! A day of great blessing for the Diocese of Lincoln! Fr Matya

Save the Dates:

- **October 23**
**Sister's Appreciation
Dinner served by
Serrans at St Peter's**
- **November 18**
**St Gregory the Great
Seminary Appreciation
Dinner for Serrans**
- **September 8-10, 2023**
**Serra District 9—
Central Region
Conference**

SERRAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen



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