

El Camino

News from the Serra Club of West Omaha -- June, 2022
serrawestomaha.org
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“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you. . .”.
Jeremiah 1:5



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Meet our new President:

Hugh Spellman: Hugh officially became President of the Serra Club of West Omaha on June 1, 2022. Hugh has been a member of the club since 2010. His home parish is St. Stephen the Martyr.

The information on pages 1-4 is from the June 20th Luncheon Meeting. This gives an up-date of the past years' accomplishments and the goals for the upcoming year.

Please see Page 6 for upcoming events.

Board of Directors Update

*As Reviewed in the Serra Board Assembly
and Club Meeting
June 20, 2022*

2021-2022 Accomplishments of the Serra Club of West Omaha

Theme: “A Year of St. Joseph” and the 2nd Year of implementation of our Strategic Plan

June 2021 - May 2022 Leadership:

President*	Jolene Jefferies
Chaplin (ex officio)	Fr. Frank Baumert, St. Thomas More/St. Joan of Arc
Present Elect*	Hugh Spellman
Secretary*	Mary Ann Casey
Treasurer*	John Fread
VP Events*	Stacey Floersch
VP Vocations*	Judy Huber
VP Membership*	John Lingo
VP Communications*	Deacon Bob Hamilton
El Camino Newsletter	Mary Ann Casey
Historian	OPEN
<u>Trustees***</u>	<u>Karen Stevens***, Jerry Smith**Bob Fell*</u>

*One year term ** Two year term ***Three year Rotation



Congratulations to the Board of Directors for a great year! Special thanks to John Fread, Judy Huber and Bob Fell for their outstanding service on the Board! Judy will be rolling off as as soon we find a replacement for VP of Vocations and Jerry Smith will serve as Treasurer until September 1 but will continue as a Trustee on the Board. Therefore, we are seeking a VP of Vocations, Treasurer, and VP Elect for the Board for 2022-2023. Please contact Hugh Spellman if you are interested in serving on the Board in one of these positions.

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2021-2022 Meetings and Events:

- * 9 First Friday Masses, Followed by breakfast
- * 11 Club Luncheon Meetings with Speakers
- * 6 Mass, Meeting and Mixer Events
 - * St Wenceslaus
 - * St. Thomas More
 - * St. Joseph Springfield
 - * St. Stephen the Martyr
 - * JP II Newman Center
- * 3 Holy Hours with Custom Program and Music
 - * Vocations (with AB Lucas) at St. Margaret Mary (included Meeting and Mixer beforehand)
 - * Priests and Seminarians at St. Roberts (No meeting and Mixer)
 - * Ordinandi & Seminarians at Cathedral (No meeting and Mixer)
- * 12 Board Meetings
- * 1 Board Strategic Planning Meeting
- * 5 Special Events:
 - * Annual Golf and Tennis Outing at The Pines in Valley
 - * Induction Mass & Reception at St. Patrick Gretna
 - * Seminarian Sendoff & Picnic at St. Robert Bellarmine
 - * Rosary, Mass and Brunch Celebrating Women of Consecrated Life at St. Patrick Gretna
 - * Seminarian Christmas Gathering at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

We accomplished many goals while aligning with our Strategic Plan and making great progress:

1. Dues structure was modified in FY 2020-2021; we continued it for FY 2021-2022:
 - * Member Dues --\$50 per quarter (includes lunches and national dues)
 - * Spousal Member Dues -- \$25 per quarter
 - * Under 35 dues \$25 per quarter
 - * Initiation Fee: --\$25 each member (paid only once)
2. 1st Mondays remain as a club luncheon meeting at a new location - German American Club; 3rd Mondays offer an evening Mass, Meeting & Mixer now with a speaker, but in March of 2022 we began alternating every-other-month, with a unique Holy Hour (for vocations. or for Priests & Seminarians, or for Ordinandi & Seminarians). The MMMs and HHs both continue to be effective for parish outreach as well as membership development and bringing on new members.
3. In July 2021, both Serra Clubs donated \$8,506 to Camp Virtus et Veritas with the net proceeds from the annual Golf/Tennis Outing.
4. Started using Sign-Up Genius for RSVPs for meetings and events in July 2021.
5. Implemented the use of "DialMyCalls" text messaging service in July 2021.
6. Set up a SCOWO Master List of Websites with usernames/passwords and now saving documents and photos on our SCOWO Google account and using our SCOWO Gmail account.
7. Inducted 19 new members at Induction Mass/Reception on July 26, 2021, at St. Patrick Gretna. New family oriented format, highest attendance in years; American Heritage Girls and Trail Life Boys troops served. Keynote speaker Fr. Greg Baxter; Fr. Baumert was recognized as Outstanding Chaplain and Jerry Smith as Serran of the Year. All done at the low cost of \$731.
8. Implemented new format for brunch Celebrating Women of Consecrated Life, held at St. Patrick in Gretna in October 2021; family-oriented; special and customized Mass with music for the sisters preceded with a Rosary for Vocations; reception supported by Gretna K o f C, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life Boys troops; sponsorship and ticket income was \$4,340, expenses were \$2,711, net profit of \$1,629.
9. Very successful Annual Appeal in November 2021 that raised \$13,512.00.

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10. As of March 2022, due to low turnout, discontinued first Friday Masses and breakfast after Mass.
11. In March 2022 obtained a free Flocknote account provided by Archdiocese of Omaha for email communications to members (will set it up and begin using it by early Fall 2022).
12. In March 2022, set up our own YouTube channel for SCOWO videos (stored on YouTube and used on new SCOWO website).
13. Rolled out Phase I of our new SCOWO website, serrawestomaha.org, March 8, 2022. Includes many new features...Adopt a Seminarian, 31 Club, prayers, online calendar; club history and video, St. Junipero video, meet Fr. Frank video, El Camino newsletter/Serra Int'l news/ Archdiocese news, pay dues/donate on line, register for events, access Serra store, and see the Facebook feed on home page.
14. Hired a professional photographer to take photos of March Holy Hour for Priests and Seminarians at St. Roberts for use on our new website and in our collateral marketing materials.
15. Updated admin account for Facebook; now "owned" by SCOWO; main administrator is our webmaster, Christa Pichler, supported by member Julia Palzer; created new look for Facebook. If you are on Facebook, please join and follow SCOWO (@serrawestomaha) and "like" our posts!
16. In April 2022, developed a new SCOWO brochure, "evergreen" business card (coming soon), and SCOWO logos; now we have our own Club's consistent brand look, and feel matching website.
17. Created a new Canva account for SCOWO (free to non-profits) to create videos and social media graphics for posting to YouTube, Facebook, and SCOWO website.
18. New name tags were ordered in May 2022 with our new SCOWO logo. Name tags prepared and ready for use as of June 20, 2022.
19. In August 2021, granted JPII Newman Center in Omaha \$1,546 for school kick-off activities, and an additional \$10,000 in May 2022 for "new persons' retreat" and matching funds.
20. In May 2022, granted the new Serra Club of Kearney \$500 for start-up support.
21. Initiated discussions with Fr. Eliot Schwer to partner with Veni Young Adult Group; currently in progress with implementation in early Fall 2022.
22. Adopt a Seminarian and 31 club filled with prayer warriors. See our website to sign up!
23. Continuing prayers for Vocations Directors through the Seven Serrans program; for Fr. Andrew Roza of the Archdiocese of Omaha (soon to be Fr. Scott Schilmoeller as of July 1, 2022); Fr. Kyle Manno of the Diocese of Rockford, IL; and Fr. Jason Paraynski of Diocese of Trenton, NJ.
24. Seven new members (to be inducted August 29, 2022) includes Marie Dickey, Faith Cacka, Mary Katherine Helget, Taylor Wiester, Christa Pichler, Kyle Uhing and Ann Menning. Total membership count now at 99.

Financial Report - Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2022

Revenues collected	\$35,927.69
Less Expenses	<u>44,184.91</u>
Expenses over Revenue	\$8,257.22

Cash Balance on May 31, 2022

Checking account at FNB	\$10,613.45
This was the actual FNB balance, not a negative balance of \$2,166.37. Our balance consisted of negative unrestricted \$2,166.37 and positive temporarily restricted for golf and tennis of \$12,779.82)	
Savings account at Capital One	50,408.31
Brokerage account at Edward Jones	<u>200.00</u>
Total Cash on hand	\$61,221.76
Less temporarily restricted funds from recent golf and tennis outing	<u>12,799.82</u>
Unrestricted cash funds on hand	48,441.94

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2022-2023 Goals for the New Fiscal Year

June 2022 - May 2023 Leadership:

President*	Hugh Spellman
Chaplain (ex officio)	Fr. Frank Baumert, St. Thomas More/St. Joan of Arc
President Elect*	OPEN
Secretary*	Mary Ann Casey
Treasurer*	OPEN as of September 1, 2022
VP Events*	Stacey Floersch
VP Programs*	Jill Haln
VP Vocations*	OPEN
VP Membership*	John Lingo
VP Communications*	Deacon Bob Hamilton
El Camino Newsletter	Mary Ann Casey
Historian	OPEN
Trustees***	Jolene Jefferies***, Karen Stevens**, Jerry Smith*

*One Year Term **Two Year Term ***Three Year Rotation

2022-2023 Goals for the New Fiscal Year, the 3rd Year of Implementation of our Strategic Plan

1. Retain current member dues structure; re-evaluate at end of fiscal year due to inflation and increasing budget requirements.
2. Continue 1st Mondays as Club luncheon meetings at German American Club.
3. Continue 3rd Mondays as Mass, Meeting and Mixer events with a speaker, and continue alternating every other month with a specific Holy Hour.
4. Complete the planning of the annual calendar (see handout of meeting and event dates for this year and remember to visit the calendar on our website for ongoing updates).
5. Hosted a successful Golf and Tennis Outing (raised \$16,727; appx \$7,700-\$8,000 profit; donate to Camp V2).
6. Gather annually for a daily Mass to celebrate the feast day of our Patron Saint Junipero Serra on July 1, followed by breakfast at a nearby cafe for Serrans who can attend.
7. Publish an updated Membership Directory in early July 2022 (for last fiscal year) to hand out at July luncheon meeting.
8. Move accounting and financial reporting to QuickBooks ASAP (laptop computer donated by St. Patrick Gretna; desktop software has been purchased; transition currently in process).
9. Fill vacant Board positions (President-Elect, Treasurer, VP Vocations, Historian).
10. Implement a new partnership with Veni Young Adult Group and add the partnership to our website.
11. Increase activity and engagement by our members; set up committees to support Vocations, Programs, Events and Membership.
12. Implement the use of Flocknotes for email communications to members, supporters, and partners of Serra.
13. Develop and implement Outstanding Vocations Committee Award for parishes.
14. Develop and implement a Legacy Giving program.
15. Develop and implement Phase II of website: member login/resources; board login/resources; add Adopt a Priest; add Adopt a Deacon; add Legacy Giving; and Outstanding Vocations Committee Awards program for parishes with application and share best practices.
16. Develop an outreach initiative to parents of seminarians and invite former seminarians to Serra events/activities.
17. Host a "Day of Reflection" to replace the Advent Retreat (Fr. Frank is working on this with Fr. Eliot Schwer with plans to invite the Veni Young adult group.

Questions?

We thank all the members of the Serra Club of West Omaha for your incredible support and for all you do for vocations! If you have any questions about this report or our Strategic Plan, please contact Hugh Spellman, President (husers17@aol.com). 402-990-2469 or Jolene Jefferies, Past President and Trustee (jolenejefferies@gmail.com). 402-521-0717).

SPEAKERS



April 4 - Sharon Doran - Sharon serves as the founding teaching director of Seeking Truth Catholic Bible Study at the invitation of the Omaha Archdiocese. The study serves nearly 500 members weekly in the Omaha metro and has other satellite classes in remote areas as well as programs for individuals' on-line worldwide.

An experienced Bible Study teacher for over twenty years,

Sharon has a passion for scripture that motivates and challenges students to immerse themselves in God's Word and apply His message to everyday life.

She has a Master of Arts degree in Educational Psychology and has taught at both the high school and university levels. She holds a second master's degree in Pastoral Theology with an emphasis in Sacred Scripture from the Augustine Institute in Denver, Colorado. She is a Creighton University certified Spiritual Director and Retreat Director in Ignatian Spirituality and will graduate in December 2022 with a master's degree in Christian Spirituality.

She is frequently invited to speak at church events, Parish missions, city-wide venues, regional seminars, conferences and offer retreats.

She is a contributing author for Homiletic & Pastoral Review as well as the Come and See Series Bible Study Book "Rise and Fall of Ancient Jerusalem" and can also be seen on the EWTN television series of that book as well and several others.

Sharon has had repeated appearances on EWTN'S Choices We Face with Dr. Ralph Martin. She has a regular scripture program on Spirit Catholic radio station and is a commentator on Sacred Scripture as well as having been a guest on the Catholic Answers Live radio program. Seeking Truth podcasts are available and being used by several radio/internet platforms. Sharon has also been a Scripture instructor for the Archdiocese of Omaha Deaconate formation.

Sharon is married to practicing neurosurgeon, Dr. Stephen Doran who was ordained as a Deacon on May 1st, 2021, Steve also serves as the Bioethicist for the Archdiocese of Omaha. Sharon is the mother of five sons, two babies in heaven and 7 grandchildren. She has endured several cancer surgeries, but the blessing has been a deeper walk with Christ and an urgency and joy to share the gospel.

The Doran's are members of St. Margaret Mary's Parish in Omaha NE.

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Chaplains Reflections



April 4 - Fr. Frank was not at the meeting. A meal prayer and prayers for vocations were said, however, there was no reflection.

May 2 - Fr. Frank gave a brief reflection. He referred to the gospel on Palm Sunday when Jesus asked Peter three times "do you love me?". He didn't ask have you been taking leadership classes, or time management classes. Jesus did not ask a lot of questions, he did many miraculous things but only asked to be loved. Everything else can come from that. We need to focus on Jesus to see the dignity of other people.

June 20 - As noted on pages 1- 4, this was a business meeting and there was not a specific reflection. After the business meeting Fr. Frank spoke briefly. Recently he has been busy with the I-80 collar series softball game between the Omaha and Lincoln Archdioceses. Lincoln won (again), however it was a fun outing. He also mentioned he spoke with Fr. Eliot Schwer about the day of recollection. Fr. Schwer would like to get the young group involved. He was excited about this and they are planing a theme of reflection on the Mass, meditating on what we do at Mass, both the Priest and the parishioners. There is a plan at Mass. Things don't just happen. Father is also looking forward to working with Fr. Scott Schilmoeller and hopefully being able to help him with his endeavors as the Director of Vocations.

Fr. Frank thanked Jolene for her work and energy. Hopefully the things we have been working on for the past months will come to fruition.

Father was asked to give an update on the Journey of Faith. He said the biggest thing will be for Priests needing to communicate with their parishes. He mentioned there was a list of moves on-line from the Catholic Voice. The Archbishop has been receiving many complaints about not having a printed Catholic Voice. We need to move into the 21st century. No one particularly likes it, however, the cost of continuing to publish a paper copy is prohibitive. Many of the reporters and other employees are gone, the printing presses are old, etc.

Two Priests have retired and two Priests were ordained on June 4th. Father Kizito and Fr. Gama are both returning to their home countries and one foreign Priest is coming to the Archdiocese. Parish families are being formed and there will be some parishes

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Sharon spoke about the Priesthood. In going through the bible the Priesthood is always there. There is one eternal Priesthood, and that is the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. He is the eternal High Priest. Every Catholic Priest is in the following of Jesus Christ and is never changing, He is the same yesterday, today and always, He is the eternal High Priest in the person of Jesus Christ. This is a very big claim, a very high calling. Zebedee brought her two sons to Jesus and asked him to command that her son's sit one on the right hand on one of the left when they go into the kingdom. Jesus told her she did not know what she was asking. He asked her if they would be able to drink the cup that he would be expected to drink. He said you do not know who will exercise authority over them. Whoever is the greatest, may become the servant. The first could become the slave. Jesus re-enforces this when he washes the feet of the apostles at the last supper on Holy Thursday when he instituted the Holy Eucharist. Jesus came to serve not to be served but to give his life as a ransom. He drank that cup in the garden of Gethsemane. It is a high call to be a Priest. It is for the humblest of the humble. Moses was the humblest man on the face of the earth. In John 19 it says Jesus told the apostles he had washed their feet, now they must go and wash each others feet. St. Augustine saw this as the sacrament of confession, going to wash a lot of peoples feet as a Priest. Jesus is the face of mercy. The Priest also anoints the sick and the dying in the person of Christ. Jesus came to offer his body for the life of the world. Can you carry the cross? Can you pick it up daily and follow me?

The Priesthood is in the order of a very mysterious person - Melchizedek. He goes way back to Genesis 14. You will see Melchizedek always with bread and wine. He is the King in the 14th chapter and brings out bread and wine and blesses Abraham. The greater in the bible always blesses the lesser, so he is greater than Father Abraham. Abraham gave Melchizedek 1/10th of everything. This is pretty important as Abraham knows Melchizedek is greater than himself and he accepts his blessing. Priest, Prophet and King. The first Priest in the bible is Adam. There has to be communion with the trinity. Adam and Eve had communion with God. They were able to live in his own blessed life in full communion in the garden. There were two trees in the middle of the garden, the tree of life and the tree of knowledge and evil. God told Adam before Eve was created "do not eat from that tree"- the tree of life was Jesus Christ. Adam was the King of all creation, then God gave him a Queen and brought her to Adam. All Adam had to do was be in the garden. Eve went out one day and the serpent came to her and asked here "did God say that you could not eat from any of the trees in the garden?". Eve said "all but this one". The serpent said "you will not die". So the woman listened to the serpent and she ate and so did her husband. Now we have a fallen King and Queen who are no longer in communion with God. Now the curse comes. Adam would have to work, Eve would experience the pain of child birth. They were fully equal and in communion with God but now Adam would rule over Eve.

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that will not have a Sunday Mass. There are some beautiful churches that may set empty. Many of the rural Priests are being assigned an additional parish. There will be another meeting in Fremont in September to see how things are going and what needs to be done. By the end of the calendar year plans need to be in place and approved by the Archbishop. Father said people will need to realize that things can't remain the same. We have become "spoiled" and need to be thankful for what we have. We need to be the voice to support our Priests. We need to work and pray so as not to lose the Priests we have. In Western Nebraska there are parishes where Masses are said once a month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 4 No meeting - Holiday**
- July 13 Board Meeting - Mary Our Queen Office (Conf. Room)**
- July 18 Luncheon Meeting - German American Home**
Speakers: Seminarians Steve Mahoney and Matthew Pohlman
- Aug. 1 Luncheon Meeting - German American Home -**
Speaker: Paula Bastian - "Little Way"
- Aug. 7 Seminarian Send-off Picnic and ball game**
- Aug. 10 Board Meeting - Mary Our Queen Office (Conf. Room)**
- Aug 29 West Omaha Serra Induction and Reception - St Patrick - Gretna (with Archbishop Lucas)**
- Sept. 5 No Meeting - Labor Day Holiday**
- Sept. 14 Board Meeting - Mary Our Queen Office (Conf. Room)**
- Sept. 26 Holy Hour with Archbishop Lucas- Christ the King**
- Oct. 15 Brunch for Women of Consecrated Life -Location TBA**



St. Junipero Serra Pray for us.

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This is not what God intended. Now animals would have to die in atonement for sin. They were also asked to leave the garden. They had sin on their souls.

They had everything they wanted, why didn't they listen to God. This was the first exit from God. They clung to each other. Eve conceived and bore Cain and later Abel was born. Now they were procreators with God. Abel teaches his sons to offer sacrifices to God. Cain offers fruits and vegetables from the earth while Abel offers some of the first from his flock of lambs. God liked the lambs better because of the innocent blood. Cain became enraged with Abel and killed him. This was the first murder in the bible. We were created to live forever but due to the devil's involvement, death entered into the world. God asked Cain what he had done and he answered "am I my brothers keeper?". God said your brother's blood is calling me from the ground. Cain is cursed because of this and banished from the land to the east of Eden. He is a fugitive and he wanders and is no longer in communion with God. He is afraid to go off alone, but our Lord told him no one would kill him. Adam and Eve have lost two sons. The innocent blood of Abel cries out from the earth. Jesus shed his blood for all of us. His blood speaks of better times.

Adam and Eve conceived Seth and he became the next Priest. Sin has taken away the direct communion that man once had with God. Jesus created Satan and he is the ruler of the underworld. Judgement is upon the world and the ruler of this world cannot be cast out. Satan becomes the ruler of the world in all of the passages. Sin has taken away the direct communication they had with God. A black chasm had developed. Satan is on one side of the world and judgement is on the other side. Satan brings rulers and he is right there with us. Even today turn on the TV, there is a chasm between good and bad. We need to bridge that gap. Jesus is the eternal high Priest and he is the only truth we have today that can get us back to the faith in the tree of life. This was God's plan all along, to get back to the trinity.

The next Priest is Noah. Noah found favor with the Lord. Everyone was laughing when he said he was going to build an ark. By the time they realized "old" Noah was right they could no longer get on the ark and they all perished. God puts a bow in the sky and Noah offers sacrifices. Noah will become a gardner. He will build a new creation. His first crop is grapes and he ferments them and overindulges, through the temptation of satan. The new creation has already fallen. The Priesthood needs to atone again.

Abraham is called. God says he will protect him. "I will curse those who curse you." He is a Priest, Prophet and King. He will intercede on behalf of everyone. In Genesis 22 God sends Abraham to sacrifice his son. Abraham started a fire and when his son asked where the lamb was Abraham said "the Lord will provide the sacrifice". When Abraham is about to kill Isaac God tells him to stop. There is a ram caught in a thicket which is used for the sacrifice. This foretells that Jesus will be the perfect Lamb of God.

At Mass we still call on Abraham and Melchizedek in the first eucharist prayer. The Priest is calling down the Holy Spirit over the bread and wine. The Holy Spirit comes down and gift is offered back to God. We come to Mass to offer glory just as we are. We are part of the Mass. St. Paul said to offer ourselves as a whole sacrifice to God. We trust God for everything that is out of our control and any challenges or hardships. We invite him into our lives and ask him to help us in our struggles. We ask to be formed into our full self and to put on Christ. Then, we are dismissed to do something for God. We need to announce the gospel of the Lord and get back into full communion.

Jesus is the new son of David. He multiplied 5 loaves and 2 fishes and when the left overs were gathered up there were 12 baskets. The people realized this was Jesus. He told the Pharisees that the sabbath was made for man, man was not made for the sabbath. It was the Lord's day David was a prophet in the order of Melchizedek. David was given a sword. He killed Goliath with a stone, but used the sword to cut off his head. David was the head crusher, like Mary who crushed the head of Satan. David listened to God's word and trusted. The sword and the bread. The sword is the word of God. Ignorance of Christ means you do not know the word. David was equipped. He had the sword and the bread, he had the Mass. On the road to Amais when the apostles were talking about all of the things that had happened and they did not know Jesus was the man walking with them. They recognized him in the breaking of the bread. They had been listening to his word followed by the Eucharist. The same thing happens every time we go to Mass - the true presence.

The word will get us through anything. It starts with a valid Priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek. Jesus is the Eternal High Priest. He brings us all back to full communion.

We need to pray for vocations - no Priest - no Eucharist, no confession. Sharon's son is currently in a Franciscan order and she asked us to pray for him. There are many orders and all work for us. Satan loves to bring down Priests, marriages and families.



May 1 - Sister Stephanie Matcha has been an integral part of the homeless population at the Siena Francis House Shelter for over 30 years. She worked as a manager, case manager, and activities director throughout these years. She watched the shelter grow from serving 15 women at the Siena House and 30 men at the Francis House in the early 1980's to its present occupancy of 150 beds for women and 350 beds for men. Although recently retired she continues to volunteer her services at the shelter and participates in

the Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MAACH) agency that coordinates services for all Human Service Agencies in the Omaha Metro Area. For her work with the homeless for the past 45 years in the Metro Area she has received the Good Neighbor Award from the Knights of Aksharben and World Herald, the MACCH Servant Leadership Award, and the Horace Award for Outstanding Service to the Community. Sister Stephanie has been a vowed religious of the Notre Dame Sisters for 58 years and has also had careers as a Secondary Education Teacher, Omaha Archdiocese Permanent Diaconate Associate Director, Boys Town Crisis Counselor, and Coordinator of Ministries at Mary Our Queen Parish in Omaha.

Sister Stephanie began her talk with a prayer. She said her vocation began in the 1950's when she joined the Sisters of Norte Dame, a group rooted in a community of faith and service, they took care of the poor. She was taught by Norte Dame sisters. That was the beginning of her career. In 1956 her goal was to be a missionary. She was all signed up to join the Columbian Sisters along with a couple of her friends. About that time several of the sisters were murdered in the Congo and her dad didn't want her to go to a far away land. The Norte Dame sisters asked her to join, She studied biology and wanted to be a social worker or a nurse. She was placed into teaching and started working with permanent deacons when they started in 1970. That was missionary work as no one knew what a Deacon was. Because she was raised in a family where she felt her home was a homeless shelter - her dad was always bringing people home - he bought some property and they took care of the needy. She realized giving back was a part of her life as a missionary. She felt she was called to help the less fortunate. She had been given so much. At Christmas during her grade school years her family would entertain the orphans at St. Joseph's Orphanage. They had a family band. They were also taught to give back. As the years went on in her religious life she felt called to work with the very poor in the inner city. She was called to go to the Sienna Francis House. In 1980 there was just one house. They housed 15 men, 15 women and there were 12 staff members. The Francis house was on 19th and Cumings.

Those who stayed at the house were mostly Cuban refugees. She felt that was really "missionary" work. The shelter continued to add buildings, in 1994, 2005 and 2008 they gained experience with the homeless. There were three things to be considered; 1) God was in charge, 2) the work will continue because it is God's work and 3) Prayers. She said it is like when we pray for vocations we need to realize that what we give to God is given back to us. She said when she was first working at the Francis House a homeless person came in asking for a blanket. One of her helpers said they only had enough blankets for those who were at the house. She said to give the man a blanket and within a couple of hours she received a call from one of the churches saying they had a blanket drive and had a stack of blankets for the Francis House. This kind of thing happens all the time. God is in control.

Currently they have a new shelter for both men and women. They have room for 450 people, serving over 1,000 meals a day. God is still in control.

She still has a sense of gratitude for the work she has done over the past 50 years. She feels she has had many vocations. She said they try to make the people feel "my name is not homeless". Their needs are being met, but they also need to be shown dignity and love. Birthdays are celebrated and they are called by name. They need to be given some sense of importance. She is proud of our city and Metro area because the Omaha area has the least amount of unsheltered homeless in the US - four years in a row. The government does a count every year in January to check out how many people are in shelters. There are lots of homeless shelters in our area. The biggest problem is mental health. There are not enough mental health clinics. There is no place for them to go. They are either in a shelter or in prison. 40% of homeless people are mentally ill. Addiction programs and many other programs are available. The Deacons helped out a lot when St. Stephen's was built. That is where the name came from, St. Stephen is patron of Deacons.

She is grateful for the donations they receive, - food, clothing, etc. as well as cash donations. Some young people come to help to fulfill service hours, etc. There are also some sisters from Slovakia who have been helping out and they are so grateful for their help.

Why are people homeless? There are many reasons - poverty, mental illness, health conditions, felons, sex offenders.

Solutions - build houses and try to get them situated in a home. There is a project which was just recently approved to build "little houses" for the homeless. This is in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity. People will be able to apply for loans. Most of them are

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on disability and that is about the only money they have. Housing for them is where their friends are. It is more than housing - it is fellowship with those they know.

Nebraska is ranked 46th in all states that do not provide for mental illness. There is no place for people to go except for a few group homes. We have all known someone with mental illness, however, there are very few places that offer help. Iowa does have some homes. Casino money goes toward helping the mentally ill.

We need to acknowledge Christ in the homeless. What you give, God will return. We should encourage the homeless to call 211 and that will connect them with shelters. We tend to feel they should get a job. The problem is about 40% of the homeless have no chance of finding a job. At the end of Sister's talk Father Frank led us in a prayer for the homeless.

June 20 - Bill Stull presided over the induction of Board Members for the up-coming year. The gavel and president's pin were passed from Jolene to Hugh. Bill asked all Serrans to re-dedicate themselves to the work we are doing. Fr. Frank asked God's blessing on the new officers and their work. Jolene was presented a plaque for her two-years as President.

Bill Stull spoke briefly and was happy to report the Kearney Serra Club is doing well and gaining new members. They started with 20 members and are now up to 35. He reported the Grand Island diocese has a total of 38 Priests and 14 of them are on loan from India.



SCOWO Officers 2022-2023

Left to Right Deacon Bill Hamilton, Jerry Smith, Karen Stevens, John Lingo, Hugh Spellman, Jolene Jefferies, Mary Ann Casey, Fr. Frank Baumert and Judy Huber. Absent: Stacey Floersch and Jill Hain.



Jolene Jefferies received a plaque for her two years of service as President of the Serra Club of West Omaha.

Mass, Meeting and Mixer- JP II



April 18th - Fr. Padraic Stack is the Associate Pastor of St. Patrick's in Elkhorn, NE. He started his career with an architecture firm in Omaha where God provided him with an opportunity to work on the structural design of a Catholic Church. This assignment led to deeper questions about the faith, and he was received into the Catholic Church in 2010. Through much discernment and spiritual direction, he found himself being drawn toward the vocation of the priesthood and he entered seminary in 2012. On June 2, 2018, Fr. Stack was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Omaha. He served his first three years of priesthood as the Associate Pastor at St. Stephen the Martyr in Omaha before being moved to his current assignment. This is a high calling, Priests are going to be persecuted. See our Lord with the crown of thorns.

Father said we are in the Octave of Easter - A good time to reflect on vocations. Our Lord is drawing us closer through the heart of Jesus.

Father Stack said he was basically raised in no faith. His parents lived in Utica, NY His dad was working on his doctorate and his mom was taking care of the home and him and his brother. His parents did not have a whole lot. When he was about a year and a half old his dad got a job at Texas A&M. At that point they had no faith whatsoever.

When he was about 7 they moved to Massachusetts and between his first and second year of high school they moved to Hastings, NE. That was a shock. He did not make friends easily. There was not a lot going on in Hastings. The only thing to do was to party. Father said he is a perfectionist and an introvert - not a good combination. He said he still puts a lot of pressure on himself, he feels he must do things perfectly. He was a good student academically and he was a good athlete. There were two churches in the area where they lived in Hastings. His parents visited both of them but declined to join.

When he went off to college at UNL he didn't have to hide things anymore. He had more freedom. His pressure release was to party. When he was under pressure, drinking was his way out. He was working toward dual degrees in civil engineering and architecture. The intensity made his anxiety go up. He had no idea what it took to become a beloved son. Nothing was ever good enough. He made it through with good grades. At the end of college he had an engineering degree and a degree in architecture. He wanted to build buildings and be involved in the architecture of the buildings. In the College of Architecture every year they would bring in a slew of firms from the area who would set up short interviews. He filled out the papers for the interviews, but was nervous and interviewing with 10 or 15 firms stressed him out and he was headed for the bars. One of the firms he had talked with invited him to come for a longer interview. They told him he could work using both of his degrees and offered him an internship. This was in 2008 which was not a great time in the economy. Shortly after being hired things began to crash and he stayed with the company as many people were laid off. He was "cheap labor" and was able to keep his job and he was asked to stay with the company after he graduated. They mainly built schools, K-12, and churches.

About a year after he graduated he had a low time. He was still going to parties and drinking himself to sleep. He knew something needed to change. He had everything but he was miserable. He was told things would work out but everything was falling apart. About that time his immediate boss got a design for Holy Spirit Catholic Church and he was asked to start working on the design of a church. He knew nothing about churches, "what was a reservation chapel?". He knew one person from Lincoln and he was a singer in a metal band. He felt everything was stacking up against him. They started riding back and forth to work together. He kept thinking "there had to be something else". He felt his bosses were a lot happier than he was. He wanted something more than he had. He was asked to be his friends child's god father. This opened up a whole new area of faith. His friend was a fallen away Catholic. Things started to change and that same friend became his RCIA sponsor. Once he was connected with the truth he was devouring Catholic radio and knew that he needed structure. He entered the Catholic church in 2010. In one fell swoop his vices were gone. The alcohol, etc. was an escape. He received an incredible amount of grace and was open because of the joy and the peace. Someone told him about a retreat - CEC - a new way to pray. He had only been a Catholic for two weeks when he went on the retreat. Someone told him he might have a vocation. He started going to daily Mass at St. Stephen the Martyr. (Things have come full circle, now he an Assistant Pastor at St. Stephens). All of this time the prayers helped him to be brave enough. A year to the date of coming into the church he was on another retreat. Someone shared a poem regarding a person who had committed suicide and he thought "it could have been me". He couldn't quite understand how he got to that place. The Lord had spoken in his heart and he felt the Lord had saved his life. Prior to this he had lived only for himself. Two years after he became Catholic he entered the seminary. He said he had a

Continued from page 10

great formation and was able to lay down his life for the Lord on June 2, 2018. He said there are always various people in your life who are very helpful. Some you know about and some you don't. His uncle had been praying for him as were his co-workers and the people who were at the daily Masses he attended. His uncle came to his baptism as well as to both of his ordinations.

We can foster vocations in many ways. Prayer is invaluable. We can also encourage and support along the way. He is very grateful for the Serra Club. He enjoyed it when members came to visit and always knew someone was praying for him. He loves the Priesthood.

He spent six years in seminary after having spent 8 years in college. He said his parents were shocked about him becoming a Priest. They came into the church 2 months before his ordination, His father is a sacristan at his parish. They live in Manhattan, KS. and his dad works at K-State.

Fr. Dan spoke briefly. The Newman Center has had a good year. Four students were baptized at the Easter vigil. They are near capacity. The year started with 158 students and now there 155. Three young men have been accepted into seminary and there is a possibility of 2 more. The Newman Center is filled with joyful young men and women. It is almost graduation time which is always bittersweet. Fr. Roza will be assigned to St. Vincent de Paul and Fr. Scott Schilmoeller will be taking over as Vocations Director.



Check Presentation at JP II - 5-5-22



Holy Hour for Ordinandi & Seminarians
St. Cecilia's Cathedral
May 16, 2022



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention August, 2022

Remember the West Omaha Serra Club when you update your will. Estate planning is an easy way to make a lasting donation.

The Holy Father's universal prayer intention for August is: "That sports may be an opportunity for friendly encounters between peoples and may contribute to peace in the world".



Priestly Ordination - June 4, 2022
Rev. Minh Tran, Archbishop Lucas and Rev. Brett Jamrog

Deceased Priests and Deacons of the Archdiocese of Omaha

DATE	NAME	YEAR
July 1	Rev. Paul J. Fangman	2010
2	Rev. T. H. Albert Walbum	1903
	Msgr. Edward Gleeson	1954
3	Msgr. Henry Schoof	1933
	Msgr. Joseph B. Falke	1959
4	Most Rev. James M. O'Gorman	1874
	Deacon Ben Toscano	1993
7	Deacon Tom Valasek	2012
	Deacon Edwin F. Osterhaus	2020
8	Rev. Joseph F. Lane	1980
	Deacon Richard Jizba	2019
	Rev. James F. Schwertley	2020
11	Msgr. Bernard H. Lordemann	1960
12	Most Rev. Gerald T. Bergan	1972
	Msgr. Anthony S. Kluthe	1974
14	Rev. Francis Szczepuchowski	1939
15	Rev. Timothy F. O'Callaghan	1937
	Deacon Jim Brich	2015
16	Rev. Walter F. Flynn	1966
18	Rev. Casmir Renner	1924
	Rev. Raymond Ireland S.J.	1964
	Rev. Adrian J. Van Veen	1980
19	Rev. Michael F. Gluba	1958
	Deacon Robert Shoemaker	1998
21	Rev. Fred Uhing	1892
	Msgr. Michael Quinn	1970
23	Deacon Bob Flesch	2018
26	Deacon George Buglewicz	1997
27	Rev. Ernest R. Halemba	1982

DATE	NAME	YEAR
July 27	Rev. Robert J. Smith	2015
28	Rev. Michael Barrett	1918
Aug. 2	Rev. August A. Ziesel	1964
3	Deacon Reinold ter Kuile	2015
6	Rev. Clement Beyersdorfer	1953
	Rev. John A. Kunkel	1956
	Rev. John P. Downey	1996
	Rev. John E. Vernon	2008
	Rev. Michael P. Conley	2019
7	Rev. Duane W. Lukes	1998
8	Rev. Anthony Birnbach	1941
	Rev. Joseph Rose	1960
	Rev. George Mikulski	1963
	Rev. John J. O'Brien	1985
	Rev. Thomas Allen, O.S.B	1989
11	Rev. James F. Buschelman	1986
12	Rev. Edward J. Hunkeler	2011
16	Deacon Bob Baker	1995
17	Rev. Daniel B. Leary	1956
	Rev. Michael Stagno	1960
18	Rev. Ferdinand Krings	1936
	Rev. Francis X. Renner	1950
	Deacon Carl Perrin	2014
19	Msgr. Bernard A. Sinne	1961
20	Rev. Carl J. Peter	1991
21	Rev. William C. Kleffman	1997
	Msgr. Richard A. Wolbach	2020
23	Rev. Clement Stratmann	1942
25	Msgr. Charles Strassberger	1969
	Msgr. Robert P. Burns	1976
26	Rev. Joseph P. Myers	1988

DATE	NAME	YEAR
Aug.27	Rev. John V. Wallace	1917
29	Rev. Julius Rothkegel	1914
	Deacon Jerry Rettenmaier	2002
	Msgr. Robert P. Hupp	2003
	Rev. Clifford J. Stevens	2020
30	Rev. Daniel F. Reifenrath	1984
31	Rev. Andrew Judge	1901
	Rev. William J. Hettinger	1991
	Rev. Edgar J. Wortman	2007
Sept. 2	Rev. John S. Broz	1919
	Rev. Daniel E. Galas	2008
4	Rev. Robert H. Duffy	1958
	Deacon Al Ebsen	1990
	Msgr. Francis J. Hulsman	1997
	Rev. J. Kenneth Carl	2001
5	Deacon Carl Miller	2013
6	Msgr. Joseph Bosheck	1965
7	Deacon Leo Zimmer	1984
	Rev. Stanislaus Golik	2009
9	Rev. Joseph Chundelak	1918
	Msgr. Herman J. Kaup	1981
12	Rev. Peter C. Gannon	1934
	Deacon Richard McNeil	2015
13	Rev. Louis J. Demers	1989
15	Rev. Michael Byrne	1942
	Rev. Roger F. Hayes	1958
	Msgr. John A. Flynn	1997
16	Rev. Leo Frank Mainzer	1939
18	Rev. John J. Flood	1902
	Rev. Anthony Folta	1937
20	Rev. Hugh F. Gately	1971
	Rev. Peter F. Burke	1980
	Deacon John Schoberg	1992
	Rev. Jerome H. Dickes	2008
21	Rev. William Klein	1974
22	Rev. John J. O'Sullivan	1937
	Rev. Stanislaus J. Zukowski	1962
23	Deacon Daniel Mendick	2000

DATE	NAME	YEAR
Sept. 24	Rev. Patrick Brophy	1924
	Rev. Vaclav Kovar	1998
25	Rev. Jeremiah J. O'Callaghan	1906
	Rev. Stephen L. Dowd	1940
26	Rev. Aloysius L. Brucker	1944
	Rev. Gentil Vermuellen	1955
	Rev. Paul J. Schwaab	1999
	Rev. John O. McCaslin	2020
27	Rev. Patrick Moran	1939
30	Deacon William Barnes	2019

Please keep Dan McQuillan, son of Jim McQuillan in your prayers.
Dan passed away on June 14, 2022.



St. Charles Borromeo Patron of Seminarians
Pray for our Seminarians.

Note: Bios of seminarians will continue in the
September Newsletter.

SERRA CLUB OF WEST OMAHA

Objectives

We are an organization of Catholic lay men and women who work to foster and promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life of the Catholic Church and to develop an appreciation of the priesthood and of all religious vocations in the Catholic Church. We also strive to further Catholicism by encouraging members in fellowship and education to fulfill their Christian vocation to service.

Activities

- ... Financial support for seminarians and novices.
- ... Assistance to Archdiocesan Vocation Office.
- ... Encourage attendance at the Serra District and International conventions.
- ... Appreciation Event for women of Consecrated Life
- ... Summer picnic for Seminarians and their families along with priests.
- ... Pre-ordination dinner for seminarians and priests.
- ... Chair Archbishop's Committee for Lay Vocations.
- ... Golf & Tennis Outing and Dinner for Archdiocesan priests, brothers and seminarians.
- ... New Member Induction Mass and Reception.
- ... E-mails, letter writing and cards to seminarians.
- ... Support for parish vocations committees.
- ... Organize "31" Clubs in Archdiocesan parishes
- ... Development and maintenance of West Omaha Serra Membership Directory.
- ... Development and maintenance of West Omaha Serra Website.
- ... Seminarian Christmas Dinner.
- ... Work with JP II Newman Center
- ... Seminary Visits.

History

The Serra Club of Omaha was chartered on October 7, 1951. By 1987 the Club had grown to more than 100 members and, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, established a second club in the West Omaha area. The Serra Club of West Omaha received its charter from Serra International on February 11, 1988 with 31 members.

SERRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 2022 - May 2023

President*	Hugh Spellman	402-990-2469
Chaplain	Fr. Frank Baumert	402-677-1565
President Elect.*	OPEN	
Secretary*	Mary Ann Casey	402-203-7400
Treasurer*	Open as of Sept. 1, 2022	
VP Events*	Stacey Floersch	402-212-3348
VP Programs*	Jill Hain	402-405-5147
VP Vocations*	OPEN	
VP Membership*	John Lingo	402-290-4670
VP Communications*	Deacon Bob Hamilton`	402-699-4063
El Camino Newsletter	Mary Ann Casey	402-203-7400
Historian*	OPEN	
Trustee***	Jolene Jefferies***	402-521-0717
Trustee**	Karen Stevens**	402-639-7198
Trustee*	Jerry Smith*	402-996-0847

*One Year Term **Two Year Term ***Three Year Term

God is always calling men to the priesthood, religious life and the Permanent Diaconate, and women to religious life. Helping them to hear that call is the most important role that you can play.