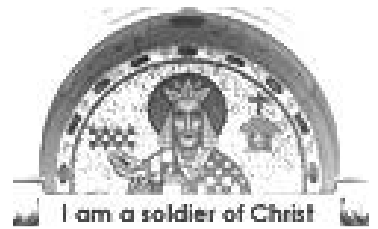




# Serra Club of Saint Charles Deanery

## USA Council, Serra International

### NEWSLETTER



January 25, 2004



# HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2004

**February First Friday** – We will meet on February 6, 2004 for the 8:00 AM mass at Saints Joachim and Ann parish. Breakfast and a short meeting will follow mass at a local restaurant. Please make plans to be there and bring a friend.

**February Meeting** - We will meet on February 28, 2004 for the 8:00 AM mass at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton church. Breakfast will follow mass and will include a short presentation by the pastor Father Kevin Mahoney. Please make plans to join us and bring a friend.

### **The St. Charles Serra Club Cause** – By Rev. Mr. Russ Butler, President

On the front of my desk I have a bumper sticker that reads, "We Love Our Priests". And indeed we do. All of them especially since their number seem to be dwindling. We certainly don't have any idle ones around these days! Maybe God is hearing those in our society who today tell Him to stay out of our schools, and stay away from placing any symbols of Him in public places because they are the loudest voices! Or is He honoring our free will decisions that some 49 percent of us Americans believe that abortion is OK and marriage doesn't have anything to do with religion, etc, etc. **We are extremely worried about these conditions, are you??**

How often have we noticed fellow Catholics acting nonchalant, desensitized, and disinterested about all of this? Even more worrisome! Can we afford to be unconcerned? Not on your spiritual life!

The St. Charles Serra Club is concerned about these numbers. We are not only concerned for the lack of responses to priestly and religious vocations but also for the disastrous attitudes among young people about their vocation to marriage and the single life. Marriage is being grossly degraded daily. **Our lifestyles and culture seem foreign to God and He is bound to honor our free will decisions.** We Catholics, including you, must try to turn this environment back to God.

This is our cause in the fastest growing Catholic Deanery in the entire St. Louis Catholic community and Catholics must respond. Promoting what God wants is the God given responsibility of lay people...the people of God. The St. Charles Serra Club invites you to join in the work. All that's required is a love of your Church, to live within the boundaries of the St. Charles Deanery and be a practicing Catholic in good standing.

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**WE ARE THE SERRA CLUB OF THE ST. CHARLES DEANERY!**  
**YOU could be part of this great organization!**  
**You're invited! Come See for Yourself!**

over

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne "A legacy of love and learning"

**"YOU HAVE BEEN "CALLED"** to become one of us. We work at supporting and promoting vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious life. We think God sees our effort as one aspect of honoring HIS love.

### **How much does religion cost?**

In the book "Personal Vocation: God calls everyone by name" by Germain Grisez and Russell Shaw, the authors, talk about everyone's vocation. "God acts first. A personal vocation comes from Him and is His plan for a person's unique cooperation with Him. But God also gives us the grace to make free commitments to this calling and to live the lives of good deeds He intends. Here is a covenant of love and fidelity between a human person and God, fulfilled on the human side by living out of a personal vocation and on God's side by the final perfecting of the individual with all the blessings of eternal life. That's how much it costs!"

### **WHY ARE WE HERE?**

An elderly parishioner approached her priest after a Sunday service and said "Father, thanks so much for your words. I often pray to God and ask why I am here as you suggested. Why, not a day goes by that I'll walk downstairs at my home and when I get there I find myself saying; Oh God, why am I here?"

In December the Board of Directors approved the "One Hundred Club" as an ongoing source of supplemental funds to the regular bi-annual dues paid by Serra Club members. The purpose is to provide funds to implement or initiate programs which will publicize our goals throughout the many parishes of the Deanery. The "one hundred" refers to the request for a one hundred dollar annual donation.

Operating effectively takes people. We need more to join us and help. Some fifty members now hold St. Charles Serra Club cards. We need one hundred fifty to cover the many parishes and the geographic area of the deanery. A substantial amount of our dues go to support the National Organization. We therefore must find ways to fund our printing supplies, mailing costs, and the large number of copies required to distribute information throughout the Deanery.

All Serrans are urged to distribute the One Hundred Club Applications and solicit new members who they believe will support vocations. Every Serran is also asked to consider membership in this club.

Requests for the membership brochures have already been mailed to all members and to all parishes. Each parish has been asked to take a membership. Many have already signed on to support Deanery Vocation programs.

The Serra Club belongs to the laity in the Deanery. It will succeed or fail according to the support provided by the laity.

As the priest told the elderly parishioner, pray often to God and ask Him why you are here. But don't be forgetful. Remember **HE** is the answer!

#### **For Information:**

**Call Rev. Mr. Don Schiffman V. P. Membership  
636 240-3554 email - [dons614@prodigy.net](mailto:dons614@prodigy.net)**

**Please pray daily for an increase in  
Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and  
Religious life.**

#### **PRAYER FOR THE PERSERVERANCE OF VOCATIONS**

O God, You have constituted Your only begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of Your majesty and the salvation of mankind. Grant that those whom He has chosen ministers and dispensers of His mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received.

#### **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, Blessed Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase in 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