

# SERRA NEWSLETTER

The SERRA Apostolate of Council Bluffs  
August, 2011



Father Mark Toups (right), Director of the ten-week IPF Seminarian Program, spoke with Art Hill (left) during the dinner meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup> and joined him for this picture after his comments to the Serra Apostolate.

## Father Mark Toups, Director of Seminarrians at IPF Speaks To Serrans

Following the Induction of four new members and the installation of the 2011-2012 Officers, Father Mark Toups shared some time and insightful messages with the Serra Apostolate following our dinner on Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.

During his talk Father spoke of the stress of remaining faithful to your commitments while dealing with the pressures of daily life. He compared the pressures of life to the high floodwater that has tested and strained the levees protecting Council Bluffs this summer.

Thank you to Father Toups for making time to spend the evening with us and speak about his personal experience as a priest. The IPF training program will end on Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Opportunities To Serve . . .

- **Clean-Up following the summer Institute For Priestly Formation summer program at Creighton.** Met at 12:30 pm in the Queen of the Apostles parking lot to carpool to Omaha. Help is needed between 1:00 and 3:00 pm on Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. Call Rosie Wallace at 323-8357 if you can help.
- The **Religious Appreciation Dinner** is Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact John Schlautman at 256-3339 if you can help set-up, serve at the tables and or help with the clean-up. What a great opportunity to thank those who have dedicated their lives to the Lord and served our catholic communities so well.

Information is included regarding **the Serra Region IX Fall Conference** to be held in Lincoln, NE **October 14 to 16<sup>th</sup>**.

### Calendar of Activities . . .

Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> . . . at 1:00 pm Clean-Up at the close of the Institute For Priestly Formation at Creighton  
Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> . . . . **First Friday of August**  
Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> . . . . Rosary at 8:10 am, Mass at 8:30 am at Holy Family. Refreshments following.  
Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> . . . . **Serra Dinner Meeting, Planning for the Religious Appreciation Dinner** at Saint Peter's Kotas Hall.  
Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> . . . The Feast of the Assumption  
Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, **Religious Appreciation Dinner** 6:00 pm at Queen of the Apostles Social Hall



**The Feast of the Assumption**, celebrated on August 14<sup>th</sup>, also known as **the Feast of the Dormition** (falling asleep) of Mary, commemorates Mary's assumption into heaven.

**Serra Apostolate of Council Bluffs**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
*July 9, 2011*

On Saturday, June 9, 2011 the Board of the Serra Apostolate of Council Bluffs met at 8:00 am in the dining room of the Mark Versch home in eastern Council Bluffs. The following Board Members were present: President Mark Versch, Lois O'Gara, Monica Scortino, together with the following new officers: Mary Dressel, John Schlautman and Art Hill.

President Versch began the meeting by leading those present in the Serra prayer. He then asked the Board to consider the minutes of the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting as printed and distributed in the July newsletter. Lois O'Gara made Motion, seconded by Monica Scortino, for approval as prepared. Motion carried.

President Versch called the Board's attention to the June Financial Statement which Treasurer Beckman had submitted for inclusion in the newsletter. There was some discussion of recent bills and project expenses.

Vice-President of Programs, Monica Scortino explained that the Holy Family church hall would be available for the July dinner meeting and that Mass would be held at 6:00 pm prior to the start. Versch reported that Father Mark Toups from the Institute For Priestly Formation had agreed to address the members. Scortino explained that the August Dinner Meeting would be held at St. Peter's Kotas Hall. Versch presented the Serra District 9C dues statement which the Board discussed and tabled.

Scortino then distributed a list of meeting dates from September thru June, 2012 and a proposal by Hy-Vee to use their meeting room space on the second Wednesday of each month. After some discussion of the proposal Hill made Motion, seconded by O' Gara to enter into the agreement with Hy-Vee for the period from September, 2011 thru July, 2012. Motion carried unanimously, with the member dinner fee remaining at \$9.00 per meal.

After some discussion, Scortino made Motion to make a \$100 contribution to St. Peter's parish for use of their facilities. Motion seconded by O' Gara and carried by unanimous consent.

Vice-President of Vocations, Lois O'Gara reported that she was having scheduling issues arranging for the Fall Retreat. After some discussion it was suggested that Father Steve Stillmonks be contacted to serve as the facilitator. O'Gara reported the cost of metal yard signs to announce "Priesthood Appreciation Sunday" which will be celebrated October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. After some consideration the board tabled the matter until the next meeting.

Vice-President of Membership Jan McGargill was not able to attend the meeting but the names for individuals to be inducted at the July meeting was discussed.

Versch directed the Boards attention to the following Old Business:

- Celebration of the feast day of Blessed Junipero Serra (recognized on Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>) by those attending the Rosary and Mass on Saturday, July 2 at Holy Family.
- A potential July event with the seminarians from the Des Moines Diocese who are attending the IPF in Omaha.
- The Serra Fall, 2011 Planning Calendar including three dinners in the coming six months (the Religious Appreciation Dinner in August, the local Andrew Dinner on November 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick's and the Bishops Christmas Mass and Dinner in Atlantic on December 18<sup>th</sup> for the seminarians and their families).

The following new business was discussed:

- John Schlautman led discussion of the plans for the Religious Appreciation Dinner to be held Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at Queen of the Apostles worship center of Corpus Christi Parish. John provided a handout showing the list of invitees and the work assignments to be accomplished. Various tasks were discussed and the need for additional members to assist was noted.
- It was reported that John and Judy Lookabill, and other Serrans from St. Patrick's parish, would g host the Andrew Dinner on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting concluded with a reading of the hymn "Oh God, Beyond All Praising". With no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:35 am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark Versch