

SERRA NEWSLETTER

The SERRA Apostolate of Council Bluffs
September, 2011



Father Chris Fontanini (Saint Peter's parish, Defiance and Saint Joseph's parish, Earling) made it to the buffet line just ahead of Father Kirby. Everyone enjoyed rib-eye steaks and all the fixins.

Clergy Appreciation Dinner Provides Opportunity To Thank Area Servants

On Wednesday, August 17th the Serra Club hosted area priests, deacons and nuns to a rib-eye steak dinner in the Great Hall at Corpus Christi parish. The event was held to provide a quiet time for the clergy to visit amongst themselves and for the Serrans to express gratitude for the blessings they bring to our lives. Twelve Serrans and friends, under the direction of John Schlautman, served a summertime picnic dinner of steaks, potato salad, barbeque baked beans and rolls to more than twenty attendees. See photo of Serrans and helpers at right.

Deadline Approaching To Register For the District IX Fall Conference "Witness Awakens Vocations"

For a weekend of faith-filled inspiration make plans now to attend the 2011 Serra Region IX Fall Conference in Lincoln, NE, Friday, October 14th to Sunday, October 16. The Serra Club of Lincoln has prepared an agenda filled with entertainment and ideas for individual and club growth.

Late Saturday afternoon participants will be bused to Saint Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, NE for mass and the banquet.

Cardinal Edward Egan, Archbishop Emeritus of New York, will provide the Invocation Address during the Saturday luncheon.

The event will be held at the Embassy Suite Hotel at 1040 P Street in Lincoln. Questions regarding registration can be directed to Chris Bedient at chris.bedient@ubt.com



Calendar of Activities . . .

Friday, September 2nd . . . **First Friday of September**

Saturday, September 3rd Rosary at 8:10 am, Mass At 8:30 am at Holy Family. Refreshments and Board Meeting following.

Wednesday, September 14th **Serra Dinner Meeting**, at Hy-Vee, on West Broadway, 6:00pm

Friday, October 14th to October 16th . . . **Serra Region 9 Fall Convention** in Lincoln, NE

Saturday, October 29th, Sunday, October 30 . . . **Priesthood Appreciation Sunday**

Thursday, November 10th . . Andrew Dinner at St. Patrick's at 6:00 pm

Five Serrans Participate In Clean-Up At The Conclusion of the Summer Institute For Priestly Formation At Creighton

Rosie Wallace helped recruit five Serrans who assisted in the final clean-up and restoration of Swanson Hall at the conclusion of the Institute For Priestly Formation on Thursday, August 4th.

Serrans helped retrieve icons and other wall art from the nine floor dormitory, cleaned refrigerators helped store IPF materials.

Reminder: Beginning on September 14th, Monthly Serra Dinner Meetings Will Be Held at 6:00 pm in the upper Meeting Room at Hy-Vee at 2323 West Broadway in Council Bluffs

Serra Apostolate of Council Bluffs
Board Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2011

On Wednesday, August 3, 2011 the Board of the Serra Apostolate of Council Bluffs met at 6:00 pm in the dining room of the Lois O’Gara residence in eastern Council Bluffs. The following Board Members were present: President Mark Versch, Lois O’Gara, Mary Dressel, Rita Hughes and Art Hill.

President Versch began the meeting by leading those present in a prayer. He then asked the Board to consider the minutes of the July 9th meeting as printed and distributed in the August newsletter. Art Hill made Motion, seconded by Rita Hughes, 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 and the need to prepare a membership directory. Hill made Motion to suspend all further payments to Serra international and the United States Council until an updated record of all membership is made, anticipated to require approximately 60 days. Motion seconded by O’Gara and carried by unanimous consent.

In the absence of Vice-President of Programs, Monica Scortino, Versch explained that the August Dinner would be held at St. Peter’s Kotas Hall and that the meeting would be used to make final plans for the upcoming Religious Appreciation Dinner. It was also mentioned that the September meeting on the 14th and the October meeting on the 12th would be held at Hy-Vee at 2323 West Broadway.

Vice-President of Vocations, Lois O’Gara reported that the final arrangements for the Fall Retreat have not yet been made, but should be in place within a week. An effort is being made to request that Father Steve Stillmonks serve as the facilitator. There was also further discussion of having yard signs made to announce “Priesthood Appreciation Sunday” which will be celebrated October 29th and 30th, but this matter was tabled until the next meeting

No new names were submitted for consideration for membership.

Versch directed the Boards attention to the following Old Business:

- 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 11th at St. Patrick’s and the Bishops Christmas Mass and Dinner in Atlantic on December 18th for the seminarians and their families) should be distributed in the near future.
- The tax statement should be filed by the Treasurer with the USAC office in the near future.

The following new business was discussed:

- The upcoming Religious Appreciation Dinner to be held at Queen of the Apostles on Wednesday, August 17th hosted by John Schlautman.
- The Andrew Dinner to be held on Thursday, November 10th at St. Patrick’s hosted by John and Judy Lookabill.
- The Bishop’s Christmas Dinner for the seminarians and their families to be held in Atlantic on Sunday, December 18th. A host has not be identified for this event.
- There was some discussion of a potential fund-raiser event to be held during the Advent season.

The meeting concluded with the Serra prayer for vocations. With no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Versch

To Foster Vocations To the Priesthood and Consecrated Religious Life . . .

Pray . . . Invite . . . Encourage . . . Affirm.