



In Solidarity



The Mission of Serra Clubs

In 1934, four Seattle businessmen began meeting over lunch to discuss their faith. As others began to join the original group, they decided to focus their efforts on promoting vocations to the Catholic Church. They chose a Franciscan Missionary named Father Junipero Serra as their patron and named their organization the Serra Club. Father Serra had founded a string of nine missions in California and converted thousands of Native Americans to the Catholic faith. Father Serra was canonized by Pope Francis in 2015.



Today there are over 20,000 members in 500 clubs in 46 countries, including 200 clubs in the US. There are two Serra Clubs

Goals of a Serra Club

- To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church and to support priests in their sacred ministry.
- To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church.
- To assist members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God's call to holiness.

in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The St. Louis Club was founded in 1943. It has grown to become the largest club in the US and covers nine of the Deaneries in the Archdiocese. The St. Charles Club was started in 1991 to serve the fast growing St. Charles Deanery.

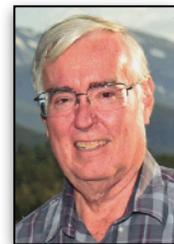
Serra Clubs and the Knights of Columbus



Brother Geoff Waldron is a 4th Degree Knight and President of the St. Charles Serra Club

Geoff writes: "Dear Brothers, the Knights of Columbus is the other primary organization within the Church that helps support vocations. Although it is not their primary mission, many local Knights Councils and Assemblies provide financial and spiritual support to our Diocesan Seminarians. As a Serra Club President, I have experienced firsthand the advantages of collaboration between Serrans and Knights. For seventeen years our Club has sponsored an Appreciation Dinner to support the religious serving in the St. Charles Deanery. The Knights Councils and two Assemblies located in the St. Charles Deanery have generously supported our efforts

by purchasing tickets and encouraging their pastors and chaplains to attend the event. The average attendance is about 350 people from across the deanery including the Seminarians from Deanery parishes. Proceeds from the event help with our vocation promotion efforts as well as providing financial support to our Seminarians.



But with closer coordination we can do much more. Let Saint Serra inspire us to nurture vocations and become missionaries ourselves as we work together for vocations. Whether through prayer, meetings, vocational programs, or personal involvement in school, parish and diocesan activities, let us together accept the challenge of fostering vocations and encouraging spiritual growth."

Prayer for Vocations

*Heavenly Father,
Grant young men the grace and courage to respond generously to your call to the priesthood.
May they joyfully give their lives so that all your people can receive your holy Word and Sacraments.
Bless your priests and their labors with abundant fruitfulness.
Be their comfort, be their joy, be their strength.
Help them live according to your will.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Savior and High Priest.
Amen.*

To our Brother Knights

This newsletter comes to you from the Missouri State Council of the Knights of Columbus and is addressed to all the councils and assemblies in the St. Louis Archdiocese. Our purpose is to bring greater awareness of the good works that the Knights in our Archdiocese are doing in support of our priests and religious and of our seminarians. In doing so, we hope to inspire more good works by the Knights on their behalf.

This issue highlights the programs of the Serra Club in fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We encourage all Knights to support the Serra Club in their efforts.

We also share a vocations story and information about our local Benedictine Abbey, the Abbey of St. Mary and St. Louis.

We thank Deacon Bob Mayo and Brother Geoff Waldron for their contributions to this issue.

‘My heart burned with a passion’

Sharing one Family’s Vocations Story

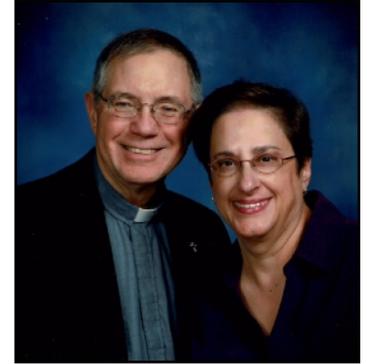
Rev. John W. Mayo was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 2009. At present he is pastor of St. Raphael the Archangel Parish. As told by his father, Deacon Bob Mayo, “John’s lifelong dream was to be a priest. In 2nd grade John began to talk about becoming a priest. This vocation was always on his short list whenever he was asked the question as to what he wanted to be when he grew up. My wife Jean and I kept open the discussion of this



vocation as John discussed it and as he explored the process of becoming a priest. We could readily sense his love and desire to be a priest and to follow Christ’s call. As we see John today, 11 years after his ordination to the priesthood, it is obvious that the fire of God’s call in him to be a priest is still fresh and alive.”

Concerning his own calling, Deacon Bob relates that “in the early 1990’s I began a routine of morning and evening prayer. About the same time Jean and I were asked to serve on a parish

committee which was planning a celebration for one of the parishioners who was being ordained a permanent deacon. A second man in the parish began to study for the diaconate and was later ordained. He was a friend of the family. I recall that my heart burned with a passion to become a deacon whenever I prayed or thought about it.” Bob began to study for the diaconate with Jean and John’s support.



Now, after 19 years of being ordained Bob says, “I still am in awe as to how much God has blessed my ministry. He always repays me far more than my poor efforts deserve”.

Deacon Bob Mayo is a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of St. Louis and a Life Member of the Knights of Columbus. He was ordained in 2001 and is presently serving at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in St. Charles, Missouri. Bob and Jean (Miller) were married in 1977. Both are retired from full-time employment since 2015. John, their only child, was born in 1983.

St. Louis Abbey

For 1500 years, the Order of Saint Benedict has been an important part of our Catholic Church. The first monastery at Subiaco in Italy was established c. 529 and organized on the Rule of St. Benedict, a model for life in community with Christ at its center. The Rule has endured in its influence through the centuries.

We are blessed to have within our Archdiocese the Abbey of St. Mary and St. Louis, which was founded in 1955. The Abbey has a fascinating history that is documented on the [Abbey website](#). St. Louis Priory school opened in 1956 and continues today in its mission to provide a Benedictine, Catholic, college-preparatory education of high excellence. Since 1981, Abbey monks have administered the Parish of St. Anselm. For a beautiful witness to the monastic vocation see [this video: Contagious Joy of the Priesthood](#).



The Rule of St. Benedict has also been a source of inspiration to the laity, especially to those men and women who choose to affiliate themselves to an Abbey as an Oblate. Visit [this site](#) for an introduction.

