

# Serra Club of Indianapolis – 1st Quarter 2017 Newsletter

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## Upcoming Events – (Put on your calendar)

### April

- 7 – Mass for Vocations** at St Phillip Neri at 8:30 AM
- 17 – Five Year Strategic Plan** Dinner at 5:30 Meeting 6:00 PM Cathedral High School, Baker Room in Student Life Center
- 18 – Essay Contest Winner Luncheon** at noon at Fatima Retreat House
- 24 – Cookout with Seminarians at Bishop Brute College Seminary**, Starts with prayer service at 5:15 PM
- 29 – Spring Leadership Conference**, 8 AM – 1:30 PM at St Lawrence Catholic Church, Lafayette IN

### May

- 5 – Mass for Vocations**, 6:30 PM, at St John the Evangelist
- 15 – Five Year Strategic Plan** Dinner at 5:30 Meeting 6:00 PM Cathedral High School, Baker Room in Student Life Center
- 22 – Club Dinner Meeting**, 6 PM, at Fatima Retreat House. Matthew Faley will discuss the young adult & campus ministry in the Archdiocese.

### June

- Date TBD – Mass for Vocations**
- 19– Five Year Strategic Plan** Dinner at 5:30 Meeting 6:00 PM Cathedral High School, Baker Room in Student Life Center
- 20-22 – Bishop Brute Days** summer camp for high school boys.

**Date TBD – Club Dinner Meeting**

## Club Events in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2017

### **Mass for Vocations – January 6**

11 Serrans and guests braved 4 degree weather to attend a 7:30 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Greenwood. Msgr Mark Svarczkopf welcomed the Serra Club members and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade school class. Concelebrating, Fr Mike Keucher preached about baptism and told the unusual vocation story of St Andre Bessette, a Canadian who became a Holy Cross Brother. After Mass, Serrans enjoyed a social gathering with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and priests and a few parishioners.

### **Dinner Meeting – January 16**

32 Serrans and 4 guests enjoyed a very nice meal at Fatima Retreat House and heard an excellent presentation by Fr Jim Farrell who talked about Mary's appearance to the children at Fatima (this is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary) and that Mary's message to the children is still current – the need for prayer and penance for the salvation of souls.

### **Board of Trustees Meeting – January 18**

An ad hoc committee was formed to review ways to improve relationships with religious orders in the Archdiocese. Poinsettias were delivered to club members who have not been able to regularly attend club functions. Christopher and Monica Foye were approved as new members. Board agreed that contact information of club officers will be available to the public on the club website; information on all other members will be password protected.

### **Mass for Vocations – February 3, 2017**

19 Serrans and guests attended an all school Mass at St Monica celebrated by newly ordained Fr Kyle Rodden, who told the students to ask God how He wants them to love and what His plans are for them. Mike Kirk explained the history and role of the Serra Club and encouraged participation in the current vocations essay contest. Mike advised the

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students that they will someday get a call to serve God and the Church and that they should not turn away from this call. Special recognition was made to Sr Theresa Clare Carr, S.P., who came as a guest and is retiring after many years as a teacher at Nativity and will be moving to St Mary-of-the-Woods at the end of February. A very pleasant social gathering of Serrans, guests, parishioners, and Fr Rodden was held following the Mass.

### **Board of Trustees Meeting – Feb 15**

After several years of separation, board members agreed to re-join the Serra USA Council. Decision was made to provide \$1800 to the Archdiocese to support the Race for Vocations.

### **Dinner Meeting – February 20**

36 attendees heard very different vocation stories from 2 newly ordained Archdiocesan priests, Frs James Brockmeier and Matt Tucci. Fr Brockmeier attended Catholic Schools in Covington, KY and was interested in serving the church. This led him to Marian to become a religion teacher or youth minister and eventually to Saint Meinrad and the priesthood. Fr Tucci was born prematurely at 26 weeks, weighing only 2 pounds, 4 oz. He spent 3 months in the hospital, surviving a day at a time. His family moved several times while raising their children. He did not attend Catholic Schools, but the family was always active in their parish. When he went to Purdue, he encountered a real test of his faith, but eventually found his vocation and attended Saint Meinrad, Pontifical North American College, and Pontifical Gregorian College.

### **Mass for Vocations – March 3**

19 Serrans and guests attended a school Mass for vocations at St Lawrence. Pastor, Fr Tom Schliessmann was the celebrant. After Mass, a nice social gathering was held with Serrans, Fr Tom, and a few parishioners including 3 fifth grade boys who indicated they were considering the priesthood and Wilbert Martin, a long time vocations supporter at St Lawrence. Fr Tom, who has an aerospace engineering degree from Purdue,

shared his vocation experience, thanked the Serra Club for our efforts, and gave attendees prayer books.

### **Board of Trustees Meeting – March 15**

Decision made to not have a Membership Drive in 2017; a Club Dinner Meeting will be scheduled in June. Club members are encouraged to invite potential new members to club events. Steve and Anne Wessel and Dick and Zoe Cannon were approved as new members. Plans are being made to conduct strategic planning for the club and development of a 5 Year Plan.

### **Dinner Meeting – March 27**

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year that Fr Eric Augenstein, Director of Vocations for the Indianapolis Archdiocese, has given a report on the status of vocations in the Archdiocese. After 7 ordinations to the priesthood last June and 7 seminarians who discerned out of the seminary, there are only 15 remaining. Fr Eric had very positive comments for this group of 15. One, Jeff Dufresne, will be ordained to the transitional diaconate in April and is scheduled for ordination to the priesthood in June 2018. There will be none ordained this June. Fr Eric is excited that there are 12 young men in the application process to enter the seminary. This is a relatively large number of applicants.

Fr Eric and the Office of Vocations are actively working to create vocation advocates in every parish in the Archdiocese and focusing on a priestly presence at 4 college campuses, IU – Bloomington, Butler, DePauw, and IUPUI.

Fr Eric commented that every seminarian acknowledges that their decision to consider a religious vocation was due to the example of or invitation by a priest. Consequently, the Office of Vocations will be providing promotional materials and encouraging priests in the Archdiocese to promote vocations.

Fr Eric told the 36 attendees that he was very appreciative to have the support of the Serra Club.

<p><b>Remember to pray each day for an increase in Religious Vocations in our Archdiocese.</b></p>
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