



780 W. Central Park Ave.
Davenport, IA 52804

SERRA CLUB OF DAVENPORT

APRIL 2018

MISSION STATEMENT: *To foster and affirm vocations to the Ministerial Priesthood and vowed religious life in the USA and through this ministry, further our members' common Catholic faith.*

Guest Columnist: Colleen Darland, Office of Vocations Secretary

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Dear Serrans,

Lent is ending, and soon the time for rejoicing will be upon us. How did your Lenten season go? Did you keep all your proposed observances? Did you at least pick yourself up when you found you missed a day? Or did you just give up part of the way through? No matter which circumstance describes your Lent, I hope you grew. I hope you found even one little nugget of spiritual growth or conviction during your Lenten observances. I feel that sometimes, when we set standards for ourselves, and we then fall short, even for just one day, the devil uses that opportunity to tempt us away from our convictions. And this happens outside of Lenten season as well! It happens to everyone, whether they are discerning a vocation, or just deciding to sit on the couch rather than go for a walk. The blessed part about it is: God is patient. Those discerning priesthood or any vocation path may take years to act on an inclination that has been with them since their youth or young adulthood. God will patiently wait for us to turn back to him, just as we in the Office of Vocations wait for potential candidates to discern that this is the right time for them to enter seminary formation.

It's a journey of discernment for the candidate, the candidate-turned-seminarian, the seminarian-turned-deacon, the bishop, the vocation director, the formators, even up to the moment of priestly ordination. We also rely on the laity of our Church to be supportive of the discernment process. Part of the process leads to a man leaving seminary formation, if only for a time, or perhaps forever. Obviously, we hope to be able to rejoice with a man on his ordination day, just as we do a bride and groom on their wedding day, but sometimes God has other plans. It makes it all the more fulfilling to celebrate as many ordinations as we do, knowing that the man, his bishop, formators and vocation director have all reached this point of discernment: that the Church cannot do without this man to serve her. Just as Christ served us, his Church, by laying down his life on that Good Friday so many centuries ago, we take up the life He laid down. And we must carry it to all the world as He commanded all of us: priests, bishops, cardinals, popes, deacons, sisters, brothers, and lay people. May we all celebrate this Easter season with joy and take up the mission of sharing Christ with the world and to bring others to their true vocations.

Thank you for your prayers and support, and have a blessed Holy Week and a joyous Easter season!

Colleen Darland

FIRST FRIDAY MASS

April 6th, 2018 at 8am

St. Mary's
701 East 3rd Street
Wilton, Iowa 52778

Letter from Bill Barrett, President of the Serra Club

Greetings and thank you for your Vocation! On Sunday, we look forward to the Resurrection of Our Lord, which gives us all hope. We pray that we have all grown in God's graces during this Lenten season. Please continue to pray for our current shepherds and for new priests to lead the flocks.

Wishing you and your families a joyous Easter!

Bill Barrett, President
Serra Club of Davenport

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY AT SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL
SUNDAY, APRIL 8TH, 2-4PM**

In a vision to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in 1935, the Lord revealed a powerful prayer that He wanted everyone to say, The Chaplet of Divine Mercy. He promised great mercy at the hour of death to those who would recite it. It can be said at any time, but our Lord specifically requested that a novena be prayed nine days before the Feast of Mercy, which is the first Sunday after Easter. It is also especially appropriate to say the chaplet during the 3 o'clock hour, recalling the time of our Lord's death.

On Sunday, April 8th, from 2-4 pm, an observance of Divine Mercy Sunday will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral. There will be beautiful music, Adoration, and recitation of the rosary. At 3 o'clock, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed. There will be limited confessions during this time. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

If you are not familiar with this prayer, it is easy to follow and there has typically been printed materials to follow along. While praying, be certain to include the intentions of loved ones who have passed, including the clergy and religious of our diocese.

Perhaps you might consider attending this very beautiful and reverent time of prayer in honor of our Lord's request and in thanksgiving of his Divine Mercy. We have so much for which to be thankful!

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES-

Please take this time to pray for all vocations!
There are no anniversaries this month.

SAVE THE DATE

Business Meeting—April 18th at 7pm

Ordination Liturgy: June 30th, 10:00 AM
Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport

Upcoming First Fridays-
May at St. Paul the Apostle

August Picnic Save the Date: August 5th, 2018