



780 W. Central Park Ave.
Davenport, IA 52804

SERRA CLUB OF DAVENPORT

DECEMBER 2015

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.*

LEADERSHIP

- Ex Officio** Bishop Martin Amos
- Chaplain** Fr. Thomas Hennen
- President** Bill Barrett
- V.P. Programs** Jim Tiedje
- V.P. Membership** Dr. Larry Huber
John Neuberger
- V.P. Vocations** Charles Missel
- V.P. Communications** Peg Beaudry
- Secretary** Peg Beaudry
- Treasurer** John Stratman
- Trustees** Charles Missel
John Miller
Sandra Frericks
John Stratman

Letter from Bill Barrett, President

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all!

The church is starting a new year and we will be soon as well. Thank you to those who were able to join us for our Thanksgiving celebration. Thank you for your vocations.

We have had a great year in helping supporting our seminarians and we need your continued dedication.

Please keep your eyes open for future recruits to God's vineyard.

May God Bless you and your family this Holy Season.

Bill Barrett,
President, Serra Club of Davenport

Letter from Fr. Thom Hennen, Director of Vocations

Dear Serrans,

In this time of Thanksgiving we are grateful to God for the many blessings He has poured out on our diocese. We are grateful for the fourteen seminarians we currently have in formation and for several possible candidates who are already expressing strong interest for next year. We are grateful for our many priests, deacons, and religious sisters and we ask God's blessing on their ministries. We are grateful for many holy marriages, for our families and also for single people who dedicate themselves to serving Christ in the midst of the world. We are grateful for a country in which the government does not dictate how many may enter seminary or religious life or who may be ordained. There is much for which we can and should offer Eucharist ("Thanksgiving") to God. I hope and pray you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and that you have a blessed Advent as we watch with joyful expectation for the coming of Christ.

God bless,
Fr. Thom

P.S. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our November gathering. Thanks for your presence, your prayers and your support!

FIRST FRIDAY MASS - DEC. 4, 2015

Rosary for our Bishop's intentions & Serra Club's prayers: 6:40 a.m.

Leader of the Rosary: John Stratman

Mass: 7:00 a.m.
Celebrant: Bishop Martin Amos
Reader: Peg Beaudry

Advent Meditations for Vocations

- Take the time to remember and keep close in prayer all those men and women who have given up everything to follow Christ and serve others this Christmas season instead of being with their own families. Simply adding this intention to family Advent prayer would be an easy way to recognize the beauty of their vocation to support them.
- As we prepare for Christmas with prayer and sacrifice, we ask the Holy Spirit to apply our devotions to the birth of new vocations to the religious life. “Evangelization takes place in obedience to the missionary mandate of Jesus: ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you’ (Mt 28:19-20). In these verses we see how the risen Christ sent his followers to preach the Gospel in every time and place, so that faith in him might spread to every corner of the earth.” - Pope Francis
- “A vocation is a fruit that ripens in a well cultivated field of mutual love that becomes mutual service, in the context of an authentic ecclesial life. No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love.” - Pope Francis
- “Therefore every vocation, even within the variety of paths, always requires an exodus from oneself in order to center one’s life on Christ and on his Gospel. Both in married life and in the forms of religious consecration, as well as in priestly life, we must surmount the ways of thinking and acting that do not conform to the will of God.” -Pope Francis
- “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
- “Today too, Jesus lives and walks along the paths of ordinary life in order to draw near to everyone, beginning with the least, and to heal us of our infirmities and illnesses. I turn now to those who are well disposed to listen to the voice of Christ that rings out in the Church and to understand what their own vocation is. I invite you to listen to and follow Jesus and to allow yourselves to be transformed ... by his words...” - Pope Francis
- “We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for small things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideals! ... The more we unite ourselves to Jesus through prayer, Sacred Scripture, the Eucharist, the Sacraments celebrated and lived in the Church and in fraternity, the more there will grow in us the joy of cooperating with God in the service of the Kingdom of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. And the harvest will be plentiful, proportionate to the grace we have meekly welcomed into our lives.” - Pope Francis

CATHOLIC MESSENGER NEWS

- Humility of Mary Housing seeks volunteers: <http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2015/11/hmhi-warehouse-seeks-volunteers/>
- School tuition orgs make Catholic education more affordable: <http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2015/11/school-tuition-organizations-help-make-catholic-education-more-affordable/>
- Priest from Ghana enjoys serving Iowa parishes: <http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2015/11/priest-from-ghana-enjoys-serving-iowa-parishes/>
- Iowans rally against hunger: <http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2015/11/iowans-rally-against-hunger-in-u-s-and-the-world/>

SAVE THE DATE

Board Meeting

December 15, St. Vincent’s, 7PM

Ordination Anniversaries– December

Steve Witt, 12/15/12;

Ed Fitzpatrick, 12/18/70;

Robert Shortall, 12/27/74