



# SERRA CLUB OF DAVENPORT

780 W. Central Park Ave.  
Davenport, IA 52804

*Pray for vocations*

Volume 42

February Newsletter

Number 13

**EX OFFICIO:** Bishop Martin Amos    **CHAPLAIN:** Fr. Thom 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:** Mary Hittner    **TREASURER:** John Stratman

**TRUSTEES:** Charles Missel, John Miller, Sandra Frericks, John Stratman, Mary Hittner

**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.*

### Mass and Breakfast: 1st Friday, February 7, 2014

Rosary  
6:40 a.m.  
Mass:

Rosary for our Bishop's intentions & Serra's prayers  
Leader of the Rosary: John Stratman  
7:00 a.m.  
Celebrant: Bishop Amos  
Reader: Peg Beaudry

Monthly Newsletter	If you have any information or suggestions you would like to have in the newsletter, please email me at <a href="mailto:pajbeaudry@hotmail.com">pajbeaudry@hotmail.com</a> . Thank you!
Fr. Thom Hennen Director of Vocations	<p>Dear Serrans,</p> <p>I hope this finds you well and warm. The cold and wintery weather hasn't slowed down the Office of Vocations one bit. January was a busy month as I went to Mundelein Seminary to complete the final week of a nine week training program (spread out over three years) in Spiritual Direction.</p> <p>The following week I accompanied young people from across the Diocese to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life.</p> <p>The weekend following that we held a Quest Retreat for twenty-three eighth and ninth graders from across the Diocese at St. Mary's in Riverside. We have not had the numbers to get a Quest Retreat off the ground for that last several years, so we were ecstatic to have such a good turn out and hope that these young people will be open to future retreat (and discernment) opportunities in the years to come.</p> <p>As always, I am keeping busy on the religious education circuit as well. As of right now I know of one young man applying for the seminary for the Diocese and am hopeful that we will have at</p>

	<p>least one or two more emerge this winter/spring. Of course, only time will tell and this work is ultimately in God's hands.</p> <p>Please pray for these young men and for all who may be discerning a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life.</p> <p>There will be a "Project Andrew Dinner" at St. Ambrose University on Feb. 12. Please encourage a young man from your parish to attend, or ask your pastor or parochial vicar to consider accompanying a young man to this. For more information contact me at 563-888-4255 or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:hennen@davenportdiocese.org">hennen@davenportdiocese.org</a>.</p> <p>Lastly, this Sunday, Feb. 2 is dedicated as the World Day for Consecrated Life. Say "thank you" to the religious brothers and sisters serving in our parishes and pray for more to respond to this beautiful calling.</p> <p>God bless and keep up the prayers! Fr. Thom</p>
Serra	Each Serra member is asked to submit names of five perspective new members.
Articles from the Catholic Messenger	<p>1/9/14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "<u>Rachel's Vineyard: a healing experience</u>" by Father Corey Close. Father Close served as spiritual director on a Rachel's Vineyard retreat, a tremendously powerful and beautiful retreat to help bring hope and healing to men and women who have been wounded by abortion. It is a national ministry with branches throughout the country. Father Close received training and preparation for the retreat by meeting with Kris Caspari who runs the Iowa branch of the ministry. Father Close also met with his spiritual director to receive confession and went into the retreat with a ready heart. The retreat is a three-day affair, with retreatants arriving on Friday evening and leaving on Sunday afternoon. There are many powerful exercises called "Living Scriptures" which are essentially adaptations of the Ignatian form of Lectio Divina. In short, this is where a Scripture passage is read, and then another re-reads the passage, but this time provides many more details, such as the sounds you would have heard, the smells, the sights, the hot breeze on your face, etc., all to put you into the scene. This exercise, a tried and true Ignatian model of prayer, has worked for over 400 years. In the middle of the retreat, the retreatants got to tell their stories, which were tremendously powerful. Many times, when tragedies happen in our lives, a simple telling of our story can be one of the most healing moments we can have. This is really where I believe the group bonded. Finally, at the end of the retreat, the retreatants named their children in a beautiful ceremony, and then gave them to God in an act of entrustment, knowing that they are in his hands. The whole experience was one of the most powerful that Father Close has been a part of as a priest and he thanks God that he was there. Being with the retreatants and the team that put on the retreat was a powerful, life changing experience and one of the most affirming moments Father has had in his priesthood to date. The retreat is a safe place with strict confidentiality and a beautiful place of healing, hope and redemption.</li> <li>• "<u>Deacon Bill Olson of Grinnell dies</u>". Deacon Bill Olson, 66, died Dec. 29 at Grinnell Regional Medical Center. On Feb. 27, 1971, he married Debra Manatt at St. Mary Church in Iowa City. On June 2, 1984, he was ordained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Davenport by Bishop Gerald O'Keefe at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport. Since his ordination, Deacon Olson has served at St. Mary Parish in Grinnell. Other formal ministry assignments included Diocesan Social Action</li> </ul>

Commission, Global Solidarity Partnership subcommittee of the commission and Diocesan Council for Conciliation. Outside the parish he served on the Home Health Care Advisory Board of Grinnell Regional Medical Center, Board of Directors of Poweshiek County Habitat for Humanity and Lourdes Volunteers North America. He incorporated Birthright of Grinnell, Inc., and served on the Board of Directors of the Iowa Catholic Conference. He was a member of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and a board member of the National Lawyers Association. Deacon Olson was a self-employed attorney at Charnetski, Olson and Lacina, LLP, since 1981.

1/16/14:

- “Making Priests Happy” by Father Thom Hennen. Father describes a short article entitled “Five Ways to Make Your Priest Miserable”, with a brief synopsis:
  1. Complain – especially about minutiae and anonymously
  2. Gossip – best masked as “prayer requests”
  3. Hoard your time, talent and treasure – after all helping to make the parish better would rob you of the opportunity to complain
  4. Forget he is a person – priests are “Catholic machines” with no family, friends or outside interests, let alone the need to eat, sleep, or relax (especially since they only work for a few hours on the weekend)
  5. Neglect praying for him – keep busy doing numbers 1 – 4 and you won’t have the desire or time to pray for him anyway. The article concluded by stating that in doing these things not only would you make your priest miserable, but you would effectively discourage any young men from ever wanting to take his place.Father Hennen counters this with the following five New Year’s resolutions that he would like us to consider.
  1. Make sure your priest has what he needs – by no means should priests live extravagantly, but like anyone else they will be more effective in their work if some of their basic human needs are met,  
Priests do need to eat, but often with a full day at the office and evening meetings they do not have much time (or energy) to prepare something. Sadly, many priests opt for the fast food solution. In the long term, this makes for unhealthy priests and priests who look like they could stand to miss a few meals. Consider occasionally preparing a simple, healthy and freezable meal for your priest, or after a long evening meeting simply ask if he has had a chance to get supper.  
As to the priest’s living situation, again, simplicity is fine, but often people figure that anything is good enough for Father. Having traveled the diocese extensively in the last two year and half years as vocations director, I have seen a lot of rectories. Most of them are more than adequate. But next time you’re in a rectory with 40 year old carpet, broken down furniture, plumbing problems and drafty windows, ask yourself: would you or your family live there? Is this a place where your priest can be refreshed and restored so that he can better serve the people, or is it a stressful and depressing environment?
  2. Be respectful of your priest’s time – priests love it when people make appointments (insofar as possible) rather than simply “dropping in”. Making appointments (or at least calling ahead) assures that the priest will have time to really sit down and listen to you and that he won’t be “blindsided”.
  3. Keep the lines of communication open – you can raise concerns and disagree, but do so openly and charitably. Most priests are very open to listening to ideas, suggestions, complaints and concerns, but they are more willing to act on them if they know they are coming from someone who loves them and has the best interest of the parish in mind. All too often priests find out about a concern that could easily have been addressed only after the damage has been done. Priests are not mind readers, so share your mind.
  4. Encourage your priests with the occasional “thank you” or sincere compliment is most welcome and will go a long way to encourage future positive performance.
  5. Lastly, pray for your priests. Recognize that, like you, they are not perfect. They

have their good days and their bad days; they are sinners trying to be saints. They need your prayers if they are to be holy priests after the heart of Jesus Christ. Consider taking up one or more of these suggestions, or at least try to avoid those things that you know make life unnecessarily difficult for your priest. As a result, the Church will be better served and may be we'll even encourage a few more to think about this beautiful life that is the priesthood.

1/23/14

- “Msgr. Mottet Receives Award” -The Power of One Award Committee selected Msgr. Marvin Mottet, a retired priest of the Diocese of Davenport, to receive its Power of One Award. Msgr. Mottet accepted the award Jan. 18 at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., during A Community Celebration and Musical Tribute to Honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. “The selection of Monsignor Marvin Mottet was unanimous among the Power of One Award committee members. He has used much of his life to uplift and empower others,” said Eric Rowell, assistant director of admission & diversity outreach at Augustana. A graduate of St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Msgr. Mottet has dedicated his life to promoting civil rights and equal opportunities for all people. Ordained to the priesthood in 1956, then-Father Mottet helped form the Catholic Interracial Council to address racial discrimination and segregation in Davenport. In the summer of 1963, as a prelude to the March on Washington, he assisted in gathering 2,000 marchers in similar fashion to a rally in Davenport. This march and rally played an important role in convincing Iowa’s legislature to pass a Fair Employment Practices Act in the fall of 1963. In 1969 Fr. Mottet opened the Social Action Department for the Diocese of Davenport to address the causes of poverty and create institutional change. He helped launch Quad Cities Interfaith and Interfaith Housing to address poverty locally. He helped form the St. Martin de Porres Society supporting a food pantry and clothing ministry, and served as one of the campaign leaders for the African American Museum of Iowa in Cedar Rapids. In November, Msgr. Mottet was recognized by the Davenport Civil Rights Commission, NAACP, LULAC, and other local organizations for his work in advancing civil rights.

1/30/14

- Deacon Schmitt gave generously. Deacon John Schmitt, Jr., 81, of Low Moor, died Jan. 22 at Mercy Medical Center – North Campus in Clinton. On June 4, 1988, he was ordained a permanent deacon at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport. He served as deacon at the Church of the Visitation from 1988 until retiring in 2007. His diaconal service included prison ministry, nursing home prayer services, Eucharistic minister at Mercy Medical Center and visiting the homebound with the Eucharist. In addition to being a deacon, Deacon Schmitt was a volunteer with Mercy Auxiliary, delivered Meals on Wheels, served on the Low Moor City Council from 2012-13 and participated in the Honor Flight in 2013. Survivors include his wife, Sue, of Low Moor; four daughters; three sons, 17 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Father Sheedy to be pastor of Solon Parish. Bishop Martin Amos has announced that Father Tim Sheedy, 64, will become the pastor of St. Mary Parish in Solon. The assignment is effective July 1. Fr. Sheedy currently serves as pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Bettendorf. On June 12, 1976, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Gerald O’Keefe at St. Mary of the Visitation Church in Ottumwa.

<p><b>February Priest Ordination</b></p>	<p>Bishop-Emeritus Wm. Franklin 2/4/56</p>
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