Greetings!

We are about half way through Lent, I pray your Lenten actions are what you were striving for.

Please keep all our religious in your prayers. And especially those with new assignments and those retiring.

Thank you all for your vocations.

God Bless,

Bill Barrett
President, Serra Club of Davenport

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Letter from Fr. Thom Hennen, Director of Vocations

Dear Serrans,

From Feb. 18-24 I had the opportunity to visit our seminarians studying at the North American College in Rome. It is currently the largest American seminary with nearly 250 men studying from about 100 dioceses in the United States, Canada and even a handful from Australia. While it is my alma mater, I have always tried to be impartial. We have many excellent seminaries on “this side of the pond” too, but it’s hard for me not to have a special place in my heart for the NAC. It certainly offers a unique experience of the Universal Church. I am happy to report that our two men there, Scott Foley and John Lamansky, are doing very well. They are looking forward to coming home this summer to do parish internships somewhere in the diocese. I have now been to all of the seminaries we use as a diocese at least once this year. Of course, I don’t go to Rome every year, but try to keep up with guys by phone and e-mail.

In other news, we continue to get application materials in for a number prospective candidates. Please pray for the good discernment of our Seminarian Admissions Board as we begin to look at these applications.

Know of my prayers for you and your efforts and may you have a blessed Lent, Holy Week, and Easter!

In Christ,
Fr. Thom


**Catholic Messenger News**

- Mercy in Motion: [http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2016/02/diocese-to-put-mercy-into-motion/](http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2016/02/diocese-to-put-mercy-into-motion/)
- Snow doesn’t stop pro-lifers: [http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2016/02/snow-doesnt-stop-these-pro-lifers/](http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2016/02/snow-doesnt-stop-these-pro-lifers/)
- Young adults improve internet outreach: [http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2016/02/24044/](http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2016/02/24044/)
- Snow doesn’t stop Rite of Election: [http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2016/02/snow-doesnt-stop-rite-of-election/](http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2016/02/snow-doesnt-stop-rite-of-election/)
- Retirements and Assignments: [http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2016/02/4-priests-to-retire-10-receive-new-assignments/](http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2016/02/4-priests-to-retire-10-receive-new-assignments/)

**Serra Club Regional Convention—June 30-July 3, 2016**

This year’s Regional Convention will be held in St. Louis, MO, June 30 through July 3rd. We will get more information to you as it comes available, but in the meantime, mark your calendars! Below are a couple pictures from the 2015 Convention in Des Moines, and for the digital users, a link to a video summary of the convention.  

Serra Club Region IX 2015 Convention Video

**Save the Date**

Board Meeting

March 15, St. Vincent’s, 7PM

Ordination Anniversaries—March

None