



780 W. Central Park Ave.
Davenport, IA 52804

SERRA CLUB OF DAVENPORT

MARCH 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.*

Letter from Bill Barrett, President

Greetings!

Thank you all for your support of religious vocations. We pray that you are experiencing a valuable Lenten season. Lent provides us with the opportunity to become closer to God. We are always looking for new members who might be able to support our current programs and perhaps initiate some new programs, as well. If you might know of anyone who might be interested in joining our Serra Club, please let us know. We would love to welcome new members to help us support our priests, religious and deacons.

In 2017, the Newman Connection received the names of 70,000 Catholic students who are attending college. This is a great program, which was started by the Serrans and is currently run by the Newman Centers. We all should be aware of opportunities to ASK a person who has the qualifications to consider a religious vocation.

Serra will be having their International Convention in Nashville from June 27th through July 1st. We would love to have you join us. It would be fun to meet our counterparts from around the world!

God bless,
Bill Barrett, President
Serra Club of Davenport

LEADERSHIP

Ex Officio	Bishop Thomas Zinkula
Chaplain	Fr. Thomas Hennen
President	Bill Barrett
V.P. Programs	Jim Tiedje Thom Hart
V.P. Membership	Dr. Larry Huber Bill McAfoos
V.P. Vocations	Charles Missel Donna Golden
V.P. Communications	Deb McAfoos
Secretary	Peg Beaudry
Treasurer	John Stratman
Trustees	Charles Missel John Miller Sandra Frericks John Stratman

Letter from Fr. Thom Hennen, Director of Vocations

Dear Serrans,

Every year when we begin Lent, it seems like we do *exactly the opposite* of what Jesus commands us to do in the Gospel for Ash Wednesday. We are told not to “blow a trumpet” as we give alms, but we have very public campaigns for greater charitable giving during this season. We are told not to pray in public places to be seen, and instead to go to our inner room to pray to our Father in secret, but we gather in our churches in far greater numbers than usual on Ash Wednesday (even though it is not a Sunday or holy day of obligation). We are told to be mindful of our appearance and to wash our faces, so as not to appear to be fasting, but we smudge our foreheads with ashes! Are we just hypocrites?

As I told those who were present for my Ash Wednesday Masses in my homily, that depends on each and every one of us individually. We are only hypocrites if these “externals” remain external, if the purpose of these things is never integrated into our lives. Then, indeed, as Jesus reminds us, we have already received our reward.

Rather than settle for the paltry prize of human respect this Lent, why don't we really “go for the gold” by internalizing these practices – giving, praying, sacrificing when no one but God is looking. Consider making an anonymous gift to support vocations this Lent. Offer some hidden, but heartfelt prayers for a greater flowering of vocations in our diocese. Offer up some little sacrifice for someone out there who is discerning the call.

Thanks, as always for your prayers and support. May you have a blessed Lent and a joyous Easter!

In Christ,
Fr. Thom

FIRST FRIDAY MASS OUR LADY OF THE RIVER

First Friday Masses will be moving parish to parish.

March 2nd will be at 8:00 AM Mass at

Our Lady of the River
28200 226th Street Place
LeClaire, Iowa

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS # 3

from USCCB.org

Loving and Generous God,
It is You who call us by name
And ask us to follow You.
Help us to grow in the Love
And Service of our Church
As we experience it today.

Give us the energy and courage
Of Your Spirit
To shape its future.

Grant us the faith-filled leaders
Who will embrace Christ's Mission
Of love and justice.

Bless the Diocese of Davenport
By raising up dedicated and generous leaders
From our families and friends
Who will serve Your people as Sisters,
Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us to know You better
And open our hearts
To hear Your call.

We ask this through our Lord. Amen.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

There are no ordination anniversaries this month.
Please take this time to pray for all vocations,
especially those sending in their applications for seminary!

SAVE THE DATE

Business Meeting
March 21st at 7pm

Upcoming First Fridays
Friday, April 6th
St. Mary's in Wilton, Iowa