



The Serra Club of Johnson County
Region 9 District 12-2 Central Club 949

September 2021
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Serran Sphere

SEMINARIAN SEND-OFF!

The summer is winding down, soon the beauty of fall will unfold. The seminarians had a great send off on August 3rd, after which they embarked on a 7-day pilgrimage to Pennsylvania, Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. Accompanied by Archbishop Naumann, Fr. Dan Morris, and Kelly Kmiecik, the group took in several historic (both national and Church history) sites around the four-state area.

A tour and holy hour (led by Deacon Andrew Gaffney) launched the pilgrim travels at the Basilica Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary in Baltimore. Mount St. Mary's Seminary (Emmitsburg), the oldest seminary in the U.S. where relics of Blessed Stanley Rother were venerated, along with the U.S. Naval Academy (Annapolis) were also Maryland tour highlights. Philadelphia stops included the Shrine of St. John Neumann, 4th Archbishop of Philadelphia and founder of the Parochial School system in the U.S., along with the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul where St. Katharine Drexel is entombed. In New Haven, CT, pilgrims visited the Knights of Columbus Headquarters, and St. Mary's Church (where, in the church basement, Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney founded of the K of C). Stockbridge, MA, was the site of a visit to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy. New York sites included the shrine of the North American Martyrs and the shrine of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, both in Auriesville.

A few photos follow later in the newsletter. Pilgrims returned tired and inspired after a great retreat, all now at respective seminaries, ready to begin a new year of studies.

God bless our seminarians and their formators!

RELIGIOUS SISTERS' APPRECIATION DAY

We hope you've registered to join a celebration of the great women religious who serve the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and the Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph in Missouri. Sisters from 29 religious orders will be honored. Sponsored by Serra Clubs of the Greater Kansas City area and Atchison, KS, this event will happen at Savior Pastoral Center, 12601 Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, KS. It begins at 3:00 PM and conclude at 6:00 PM. Our Appreciation Day is a "thank you" to all the Sisters for what they do (and have done!) for our community. Invitations have been sent vial U.S. mail and email. If you have questions, please contact Gene Schreiner at SerraReg@gmail.com or 913-236-8219.



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MEETING DATES:

- 9/2/2021—Thursday, General Membership Meeting @ Curé of Ars
- 9/3/2021—Friday, Holy Hour for Vocations @ Holy Spirit Church
- 9/20/2021—Monday, Board Meeting @ Cornerstone Co.
- 10/1/2021—Friday, Holy Hour for Vocations @ Holy Spirit Church



Benjamin Reinhart
Theology II

MEET A SEMINARIAN

Describing himself as "an older vocation," Benjamin Reinhart discovered his call after a 16-year journey through college. Graduating from Washburn University in Topeka, KS, in 2014 after finishing a degree in Human Services with emphasis in Addiction Counseling, he worked for a couple of years as a Licensed Addiction Counselor before he entered seminary the first time in 2015. "After completing my Pre-Theology studies at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, CT," Reinhart mused, "I took some time out of seminary to discern religious life." In 2019, he reapplied with the Archdiocese of

Kansas City and began studies at St. John Vianney in Denver. He will be entering Theology II in the Fall.

Benjamin is one of two children born to Diane and James Reinhart. He graduated from Chatfield High School in Littleton, CO in May of 1997. His home parish is St. Mary/St. Anthony in Kansas City, KS. "My pastor is Fr. Peter Jaramillo. He is a good friend and a wonderful priest. He continually inspires me to give more," Reinhart confessed. Benjamin has known the pain of loss. "My father has gone on to his eternal reward," Reinhart reflected, adding, "and

"I wish to be Christ's heart in the world, learning to love as He loved."

- Benjamin Reinhart

WEBSITE UPDATE

Construction is under way with the help of **Nonprofit Websites**, a national company with more than 20 years' experience websites for nonprofits.

Mark your calendar and be sure to attend the September 2 meeting to catch a preview of our new website!

NEW LOOK

The newsletter takes on a new look this month.

"Serran Sphere" describes the nature of the newsletter: all things Serran. If you are inspired to write for the newsletter, let's talk!

Please email comments/ideas for newsletter development to contact@jocoserra.org, or call or text 402-462-0305.

my brother died, so now it is just me and my mother."

When asked to identify his favorite scripture verse, Reinhart said, "My favorite scripture verse is hard to pin down as there are so many verses that give me inspiration. There are three that come to mind at this time." He began with Luke 12:49: *I have come to set the world on fire and how I wish it was already ablaze.* "This is the job of every Christian, but I feel called to be one of the people who ignites the love of God in the hearts of His people," he added.

"I also feel a particular affinity to Isaiah 45:3: *And I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness— secret riches. I will do this so you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, the one who calls you by name,*" he stated continuing, "I love this verse because I am one of those treasures out of darkness. Jesus says that those who have been forgiven much, love much and I find this to be true for me."

The third verse that comes to mind for Benjamin is Mark 16:17: *And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they*

will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover. Benjamin's inspiration in this verse lies in realizing that the Gospel message contains the power of God, which is wonder-working power, and His Spirit, which has been given to us, is full of power to confirm the proclamation of the Gospel.

"I feel called to become a priest because people need to be guided through the narrow gate and encouraged along the difficult path that leads to everlasting life," he reflected. "I desire to be a priest so that I may be God's mediator on earth – bring Him the prayers, sufferings, and joys of his people, and bringing them His love, grace, and mercy. I wish to be Christ's heart in the world, learning to love as He loved. I wish to lay down my life so that His life may be fully lived in me."

Benjamin knows he has a heart for the poor, those in prison, and "the anawim" – God's little ones who have intellectual, developmental, and other physical or emotional challenges. His favorite part of his summer assignment was being able to serve and participate in the ICARE community. "Hopefully, God is preparing my heart for ministry that will include various aspects of these special communities and anyone else that God's sends me to," Reinhart observed.



Pilgrims at the Shrine of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

SEMINARIANS ON PILGRIMAGE

“It was a very spiritual pilgrimage,” observed George Rhodes, Theology III seminarian at Kenrick-Glennon, adding his impression that the opportunity for fraternity with fellow seminarians and Archbishop Naumann was also important and much appreciated. The journey through New England focused on the lives of American saints.

“The experience brought the saints very close to home and made them very real,” Rhodes reflected. He was particularly moved by the Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville, NY. “St. Isaac Jogues really stood out to me and has become a new personal patron.” Rhodes observed the hand of God in bringing about the birth of St. Kateri Tekakwitha in the same village where the martyrdom of the French Jesuits occurred; she was born just ten years after St. Isaac Jogues’ death. “It is very hallowed ground.”

Colm Larkin, Theology III seminarian at St. John Vianney, echoed Rhodes’ sentiment about the Shrine of the North American Martyrs. “I just had this sense that it was a holy place. It was so quiet and serene, but somewhere on those grounds are the bones of a few saints.” Larkin indicated that his favorite site was the Shrine of St. John Neumann. “It was amazing to celebrate Mass on the altar with his (incompact) body displayed beneath it.” Neumann was the 4th bishop of Philadelphia and founded the nation’s first Catholic school system.

Tim Skoch, Theology III seminarian at St. John Vianney, was particularly moved by the National Shrine of Divine Mercy at Stockbridge, MA. “I felt the charisma of radical availability being lived out by the community,” Skoch commented, describing the Congregation of Mar-

ian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception (MIC), promoters of the message of Divine Mercy in America. “I was moved to consoling tears during the community’s daily recitation of Divine Mercy Chaplet,” Skoch confessed.

Theology I seminarian, Will Sutherland, found the visit to the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton most gratifying. “It was amazing to see the buildings and grounds where she lived, prayed, and worked in Emmitsburg, MD.” He added, “We were able to see the original Stations of the Cross from her chapel. They are beautiful Stations, and it was amazing that I was able to see the same pieces of art with which she prayed.”

Benjamin Reinhart, whose story appears opposite, has an interest in art and architecture. For Reinhart, the best parts of the trip were the beautiful churches. One of his chance encounters was with sacred artist, Paul Ernesto. “As a fan of sacred art, it was great to meet a man who is attempting to bring art back,” Reinhart observed. Reinhart quoted Ernesto, “When beauty (art) and the church separate, both suffer.”

Unexpected blessings came through people, like Mr. Ernesto, met by the seminarians. Rhodes spoke about the group’s encounter with a woman at the Shrine of St. John Neumann in Philadelphia, who shared her joy with the group by covering the cost of group purchases at the gift shop.

Getting to know fellow seminarians also proved to be a source of unexpected blessings. Quipped Sutherland, “I did not expect to throw frisbees with Alex Rickert, Daniel Schmitt, Jeremy Dold, and Brian Jacobson at the Mall in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Nevertheless, it was a great time!”

Another, and uniformly notable blessing described by all who contributed to this story, was the relationship the group developed with their bus driver, “Sarge,” as in “Sargent.” A former Marine, Sarge daily greeted the group with, “Hoorah!” to which the group enthusiastically responded in like manner. According to Fr. Dan Morris, “the relationship that unfolded with our bus driver was the most impactful, to the point where he and his wife expect to visit Kansas City to attend both ordinations this coming May!”

The seminarians interviewed expressed on behalf of the entire group, their thanks to the Serra Club and to everyone who supports the Vocations Office of the Archdiocese. “We are very grateful to benefactors who make experiences like this possible,” Rhodes concluded.

**SERRA CLUB
OF JOHNSON COUNTY**

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Agenda	Location
August 29 Sunday	Religious Sisters' Appreciation Day 3PM – 6PM	Savior of the World Pastoral Center 12601 Parallel Pkwy Kansas City, KS
September 2 Thursday	General Membership Meeting	Fr. Burak Room Curé of Ars Overland Park, KS
September 3 Friday	Holy Hour for Vocations	Holy Spirit Church Overland Park
September 20 Monday	C.O.R.E. Priests Appreciation Day Golf Tournament & Dinner	Nicklaus Golf Club at Lions Gate 14225 Dearborn St. Overland Park, KS
September 20 Monday	Board Meeting 6:30 PM	Cornerstone Cos. 4400 College Blvd. Suite 350 Overland Park, KD
October 1 Friday	Holy Hour for Vocations	Holy Spirit Church Overland Park
October 7-10	Serra International Conven- tion	Palmer House Hilton Chicago, IL
October 7 Thursday	General Membership Meeting (Mass/Initiation of new mem- bers)	Fr. Burak Room Curé of Ars Overland Park, KS
October 16 Saturday	Bishop Ward High School Homeward Bound Auction	Ward High School Kansas City, KS



*Pilgrims outside the Church of St. Mary's
New Haven, CT
Site of the founding of the Knights of Columbus*



Holy Hour led by Deacon Andrew Gaffney
Basilica Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary
Baltimore, MD



Holy Hour led by Deacon Sudeep Kandagala
Jesuit North American Martyrs Shrine
Auriesville, NY

SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAYS

September/October

Michael Santamarina—Oct. 6

Will Sutherland—Oct. 29

Mark your calendar with Seminarian Birthdays and pray for the seminarian's intention.

CORRECTION:

The August newsletter list of returning seminarians failed to include **Aaron Waldeck**, who is completing a Pastoral Year at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Kansas City, KS.

The editor apologizes for this omission and promises to treat you to lunch or dinner, Aaron, when we can work it out!

Serrans, please keep Aaron in your prayers during his Pastoral Year experience.

“Faith lifts the staggering soul on one side, Hope supports it on the other. Experience says it must be, and Love says let it be.” ~ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, first native born American saint of the Catholic Church



Praying the Stations of the Cross
Shrine of Divine Mercy
Stockbridge, MA



Imitating the Great!



Moment of contemplation—Ravine of Martyrdom
Shrine of North American Martyrs
Auriesville, NY



That's a wrap!

SERRA CLUB OF JOHNSON COUNTY

The mission of the Serra Club of Johnson County is to pray for and support vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

Membership is open to lay Catholics inspired to join the mission of prayer and support for vocations.

Invite friends to email a note of interest in joining the Club to: contact@jocoserra.org

The club will soon launch a new website. Stay tuned for this exciting development!

LOOKING AHEAD OCTOBER MEETING NEW MEMBER INITIATION

- Mark your calendars now for the October General Membership meeting slated for Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6:30 PM at Curé of Ars Church, 9401 Mission Road, in Leawood.
- The evening will begin with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the Church, during which new member initiation will occur.
- A general membership meeting will follow in the Fr. Burak Room at the Church.
- A portion of the meeting's agenda will include a preview of the Serra Club's new website.
- **Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6:30 PM—Curé of Ars**

Prayer is the basis of Serra.

We pray like everything depends on God and work like everything depends on us!

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