



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

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www.jocoserra.org

Serran Sphere

SERRA AND FOCUS:

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN!

Part II of our series on the mission similarities of Serra and FOCUS. The essay that follows was written in May 2017 by my youngest son, Thomas, who with his wife, Nicole, are members of the Serra Club of Johnson County. Thomas relates his discovery of the first vocation call— that of the call to holiness. For his essay, he was awarded a \$500 FOCUS scholarship that helped defray expenses of his senior year of college at KU.

MICHAEL SKOCH, MD

Thomas Skoch

FOCUS Blog

5/3/2017

It wasn't until this school year that I have felt at peace with myself in terms of living out my faith, and I fully attribute that to learning the model of discipleship that belongs to FOCUS.

I was out to lunch with my brother, JohnMarc, who just so happens to be a FOCUS missionary here at KU this year, one day in the fall semester.

He had been asking me every month or so for nearly a year what I wanted to do in my life to bring people closer to Christ. He'd ask me, "Tom, what are your passions? How are you going to use those to bring people closer to Christ?" Each time he'd ask, I would talk my way around the question and kind of shrug it off. This time, though, we were at Raising Cane's, and, as we sat there and ate, he asked me once again...

"Tom, how are you going to use your passions to bring people to Jesus?" It struck me this time, for some reason or another, a lot harder than it ever did before. I sat there – dumbfounded and speechless – "JohnMarc, I honestly do not know what God is calling me to do in order to bring people to Him," and began to cry into my Box Combo.

JohnMarc began to talk into my distress, as he told me some stories from his 5 year experience as a FOCUS missionary. I'm not exactly sure what it was that he said that did it, but that day at lunch, it clicked. Jesus was asking me to simply live each day in my true identity as a son of God, and that would ultimately lead me to my Vocation. From that moment on, I knew I was to lead a bible study and begin living that out.

I started by inviting a couple of guys that I had known for quite some time to a bible study on Wednesday nights. One invite led to another, and before I knew it, I had 10 guys at my study – a handful of which I had never met. There were Catholics, Protestants, and non-denominational Christians... even non-believers.. I was nervous as I introduced the study series that we would be going over – **The Story of Salvation** (a walkthrough of the covenants between God and figures of the Old Testament). The first study was a blur, and I found myself praying at the end of the night that I impacted one of the men there in a positive way, and that they would all return the next week.

Fast forward a few weeks of study and a talk on campus by Sarah Swafford on "Dating in the 21st Century", when I texted one of the guys, Connor (one of the guys I had never met prior to study), after we met and thanked him for his participation in the study, and he sends me the following response:

See FOCUS p. 6



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Seminarians.....	2
Value Them Both	3,6
Religious Sisters Appreciation Day.....	3
Calendar of Events.....	4

MEETING/EVENT DATES:

- **8/1/2022**—The Master's Cup, Iron Horse Golf Club
- **8/4/2022**—General Monthly Membership Meeting—**CANCELLED**
- **Seminarian Send-off—6:30 PM**, Holy Spirit Church
- **8/22/2022—7:00 PM** JOCO Serra Board Meeting
- **8/28/2022—3:00 PM** Religious Sisters Appreciation Day, St. Patrick Parish

NEW SEMINARIANS FOR 2022—2023

Please join us in welcoming the following young men as seminarians for the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas:

Andrew Boyle graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and has been working for Burns & McDonnell for the past two years. He is from Holy Trinity Parish in Lenexa and will enter into a Spirituality Year at **St. John Vianney Seminary** in Denver.

Jacob Cofer is a recent graduate of Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas, with a degree in Business Accounting. He is heading to St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver for a Spirituality Year. Jacob's home parish is Holy Spirit in Overland Park.

Jarrad Condreay has a Nursing degree from Wichita State University and works as the Chief Nursing Officer at Osawatomie State Hospital. Originally from Wichita, Jarrad now calls Holy Spirit in Overland Park his home parish. He will begin a Spirituality Year at St. John Vianney Seminary in the Fall.

Zachary McGuinness, originally from California, graduated from the University of Kansas in May with a Business Accounting degree. He, too, will be going to St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver for a Spirituality Year. Zachary's parish home is the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center, on the campus of KU in Lawrence, KS.

Landry Weber, parishioner at St. Paul in Olathe, received a Masters Degree in Business Accounting from Kansas State University in May. He will be entering into a Spirituality Year at St. John Vianney in Denver this Fall.

"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God."

1 Corinthians 4:1

Keegan Colbern, from Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Topeka, is a recent homeschool graduate. He is entering his first year of seminary at Cardinal Glennon Seminary College in St. Louis, MO.

Jimmy Mendoza, from Holy Spirit parish in Overland Park, graduated from St. James Academy in 2021 and recently completed his first year of college at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA. He will enter his first year of seminary at Cardinal Glennon Seminary College in St. Louis, MO.

Joseph Punswick, also from Holy Spirit parish in Overland Park, is a recent St. James Academy graduate. He is entering his first year of seminary at Cardinal Glennon Seminary College in St. Louis, MO.

Juan Vasquez, from Christ the King Parish in Kansas City, graduated from Bishop Ward High School in May. He is entering his first year of seminary at Cardinal Glennon Seminary College in St. Louis, MO.

Bob Rooney, is from St. Joseph's parish in Shawnee, KS. Bob has been an attorney for a number of years and will be attending Pope John XXIII National Seminary outside of Boston, MA.

Please begin to include these men in your regular prayers for seminarians. We will get to know them in the months (and years!) to come.

O Father, raise up among Christians abundant and holy vocations to the priesthood, who keep the faith alive and guard the blessed memory of Your Son Jesus through the preaching of his word and the administration of the Sacraments, with which You continually renew Your faithful. Grant us holy ministers of Your altar, who are careful and fervent guardians of the Eucharist, the sacrament of the supreme gift of Christ for the redemption of the world. Call ministers of Your mercy, who, through the sacrament of Reconciliation, spread the joy of Your forgiveness. Grant, O Father, that the Church may welcome with joy the numerous inspirations of the Spirit of Your Son and, docile to His teachings, may she care for vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life. Sustain the Bishops, priests, and deacons, consecrated men, and women, and all the baptized in Christ, so that they may faithfully fulfill their mission at the service of the Gospel. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen. Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray for us.

*Pope Benedict XVI
Prayer for Vocations*

I write this as a family physician with more than 30 years' health care experience that includes the privilege of delivering nearly 1,000 babies and managing obstetrical complications including miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy.

It has been alleged by the abortion industry and assumed by ill-informed critics that passage of Value Them Both (VTB) will increase suffering and death among women enduring either of two potential pregnancy complications: miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy. This is not true.

Abortion – as promoted by the abortion industry – has no place (and has never had any place) in the management of either miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy. Opponents of Value Them Both (VTB) twist the truth, with the twist resting squarely on more than one use of the word, "abortion."

Miscarriage describes a pregnancy that is already lost when the condition is diagnosed. The medical diagnosis terms for miscarriage include "spontaneous abortion" and "incomplete abortion." There are other possible diagnoses for miscarriage, but these are by far the two most common. Here, the word "abortion" refers to a baby that has died of natural causes. "Ectopic pregnancy" describes an abnormal pregnancy, implanted somewhere outside the uterus, that can become a medical emergency. Medical care for women suffering these pregnancy complications has nothing to do with the procedure used in an abortion clinic to end a pregnancy in which the baby is very much alive.

To deny women care for miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy is tantamount to medical malpractice. Denial of care in such cases is not an end point of VTB. Anyone who claims otherwise is not being truthful, due either to misunderstanding the medical terms as I have described them or willful intent to deceive.

Further highlighting misunderstanding in discussions about health care, abortion, and Value Them Both, some women who experience a miscarriage require a surgical procedure to restore stability to the reproductive system when nature, itself, does not do so. The procedure is known as a "D&C," and is almost identical to the procedure used to perform an abortion in an abortion clinic. The only difference is that, in the case of miscarriage, the baby has already died, and the purpose of the procedure is to restore stability to a woman's reproductive system. In the case of an abortion in an abortion clinic, the baby is alive, and the purpose of the procedure is to end the baby's life. This clinical "overlap," for lack of a better word, allows opponents of VTB to further confuse anyone without basic medical understanding about the use of medical terms and the procedures described by those terms.

Abortion, in the context understood widely by the public and promoted by the abortion industry, is not part of the management of ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage. Denial of healthcare to women is not a tenet of VTB.

SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAYS

August/September

Dcn. George Rhodes . . Aug 8

Brian Jacobson Aug 9

Benjamin Reinhardt Aug 21

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

Religious Sister's Appreciation Day — August 28

This year's event will return to St. Patrick's Parish Center, 1086 N 94th Street - few blocks east of I-435 on State Avenue, Kansas City, KS.

All religious sisters in the surrounding area are invited to a fun afternoon of bingo, togetherness and BBQ. Serra club members from sponsoring clubs, as well as the Bishops of both the Kansas City-St. Joseph and Kansas City, KS Dioceses are also invited to join the fun.

The key purpose is to celebrate the fantastic contributions of religious sisters to the Church and the community. For many of the participants, this provides a means to renew old friendships and make new friends. Begun by the Kansas City, KS Serra Club, this activity is now jointly sponsored by the three Serra Clubs of Greater Kansas City, and the Atchison, KS, Serra Club.

The day begins with a social gathering at 3:00 PM, and includes a Jack Stack BBQ meal served at 5:00 PM. The event will conclude by 6:00 PM.

The Serra Club of Kansas City, KS, is coordinating registrations, which are due by August 19, 2022. Check the JOCO Serra website calendar where you can learn more about the event. A donation of \$20 for single tickets and \$35 for couples' tickets is suggested.

The necessary registration form appears on the next page of this newsletter. Print and complete the registration form. Mail your completed registration form and your donation to Gene Schreiner at the address found at the bottom of the registration form

This is a great event, providing an opportunity to meet members of area religious communities and say thanks for the great work they do in addition to the great witness they provide in today's society.

Don't miss the Religious Sister's Appreciation Day, Sunday, August 28, 2022, at St. Patrick Parish Center in Kansas City, KS.

You will be glad you joined in the fun!

Religious Sisters

Appreciation

Day!

Sunday, August 28

3 PM—6 PM

St. Patrick Church, KCKS

See Website calendar for details!

RELIGIOUS SISTERS' APPRECIATION DAY 2022

Where: St. Patrick's Parish Center
1086 N 94th Street - few blocks east of I435 on State Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66112

When: Sunday August 28, 2022
3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

We are asking each Serran in the KC Metro Area who attends to bring a dessert and/or send a financial donation which will be distributed to the Sisters. Suggested amounts are:

Serran	Up to \$ 30	Silver Level	\$ 100
Sponsor a Sister	\$ 60	Gold Level	\$ 250
Sponsor 2 Sisters	\$ 120	Platinum Level	\$ 500
		Lifetime Sponsor	\$ 1,000 or More

Please plan to attend and mail your completed reservation and tax deductible donation check prior to August 19th.

If you have any questions contact Gene Schreiner at 913-236-8219.

----- Cut and Return this portion with your check -----

Serran(s) _____

Spouse of Serran or one Guest _____

Serra Club Name _____

e-mail _____

Mobil Phone No. (for text confirmation) _____

Cost \$20.00 a person / \$35.00 a couple for Dinner

Number Attending Dinner: _____ Donation \$ _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

I cannot attend the dinner but enclosed is my tax deductible donation of \$ _____

Make your check payable to "Serra Club of KC in Kansas" for the Jack Stack BBQ dinner with free drinks and/or tax deductible donation and mail to:

Gene Schreiner
6501 Outlook Dr.
Mission, KS 66202
SerraReg@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SERRA CLUB
OF JOHNSON COUNTY**

**2022-23
Officers**

President
John Weber

President Elect
Dale Romme

**Immediate Past
President**
Doug Leibbrandt

Secretary
Judy Rielley

Treasurer
Chuck Lillis

Vice Presidents

Vocations

Membership
Joane Wilkerson

Programs
Larry Ryan

Communications
Michael Skoch

Trustees
Len Chmelka
Ray Zielinski
George Len

District Governor
John Caton



On Tuesday, August 2

Date	Agenda	Location
August 1 Monday	The Master's Cup Golf Tournament 8:00 AM	Ironhorse Golf Club Leawood, KS
August 2 Tuesday	First Tuesday Holy Hour For Vocations 6:00 PM	Curé of Ars Church Leawood, KS
August 4 Thursday	JOCO Serra General Membership Monthly Meeting 6:30 PM	MEETING CANCELLED (We will host the virtual Ro- sary—check the website calen- dar)
August 4 Thursday	JOCO Serra Rosary For Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual Rosary Luminous Mysteries Zoom link—Website Calendar
August 5 Friday	First Friday Holy Hour For Vocations 11 AM	Holy Spirit Church Overland Park, KS
August 10 Wednesday	Seminarian Send Off Mass/Dinner 6:30 PM	Holy Spirit Parish Overland Park, KS
August 11 Thursday	JOCO Serra Rosary For Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual Rosary Luminous Mysteries Zoom link—Website Calendar
August 18 Thursday	JOCO Serra Rosary For Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual Rosary Luminous Mysteries Zoom link—Website Calendar
August 22 Monday	JOCO Board Meeting 7:00 PM	Holy Spirit Church St. Isadore Room
August 25 Thursday	JOCO Serra Rosary For Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual Rosary Luminous Mysteries Zoom link—Website Calendar
August 28 Sunday	Religious Sisters Appreciation Day 3:00—6:00 PM	St. Patrick Church, KCKS Parish Hall
September 1 Thursday	JOCO Serra General Membership Monthly Meeting 6:30 PM	Cure of Ars Church Leawood, KS
September 2 Friday	First Friday Holy Hour For Vocations 11:00 AM	Holy Spirit Church Overland Park, KS

VOTE August 2, 2022. Mark it on your calendar. Take 5 of your friends with you to the voting precinct and, if you vote for nothing else, vote **YES** on the **Value Them Both** amendment. What the amendment **WILL** do:

- Restore to the people of Kansas, through their elected representatives, the opportunity to manage the abortion industry, limiting its destruction, and re-establishing abortion clinic safety and cleanliness;
- Prohibit taxpayer funding of abortion;
- Restore the ability to establish abortion safeguards and save lives



What the Value Them Both amendment **will NOT** do:

- Eliminate abortion in Kansas (would that we could be so fortunate!)
- Cripple the life of any woman, regardless the circumstances of her life.

Without VTB, Kansas is poised to become the abortion capital of the Great Plains. In response to the vocational call to holiness, please exercise your civic responsibility. Vote! And consider a “YES” to life!

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FOCUS (cont. from p. 1)

“I love talking about God and life in general. That’s not something I ever did before. For the first time in my life, I feel like I have genuine faith in myself and in God.”

Connor had shared during study that night that he had just recently ended a broken relationship with a girl before he started coming to bible study. After week 6, a study about King David and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Connor made his first Confession since being confirmed Catholic 4 years ago - he now regularly receives the sacrament, and attends mass.

He didn’t miss a study the entire semester – there were 9.



January came around, and Connor, along with 3 other guys from the study (one of them a Lutheran named Brad) signed up to go on the SEEK conference in San Antonio! This conference brought about an abundance of fruit, as Brad attended confession with a priest, and the 4 men came back to Lawrence with aspirations of bringing study into one of the fraternities – Pi Kappa Phi – here on campus so that we could “reach more souls,” as they said.

We advertised bible study to our friends during the last few weeks of Winter break that preceded the Spring semester. The result of this brought about a total of 25 men attending the first study of the Spring Semester (!!!) . There were men there of all kinds of backgrounds – Greek, non-Greek, in-state, out-of-state, Freshmen-Senior, Catholics to non-believers – as we began another FOCUS series calling “Living the Gospel: Seven Daily Habits of Highly Effective Catholics.”

Midway through this semester, I asked Connor to coffee one night, as I planned to present the Gospel to him – I thought I was nervous when I was first leading study. I used the Ultimate Relationship booklet and we walked through it together, and he ultimately invited Jesus to be at the center of his life. I called my brother JohnMarc immediately after and exclaimed, “I have my first disciple! It feels like I just had my first kiss again!” – but really.

I now have 2 disciples as a result of the bible study.

The Holy Spirit was working before my eyes through the weeks, as we covered topics ranging from daily prayer, to receiving the sacraments, and being open to the Holy Spirit. Now, with just a week before Finals week, we’ve concluded our series for the semester, and an average of about 16 men showed up consistently to each of the 11 bible studies. Connor helped me lead the last 4 studies, and I am currently working on getting him to a point where he can lead study on his own as he sticks around here next semester, and I move on to the Medical Center in Kansas City.

Editor’s note: stay tuned for Part III – Living out the Mission after the college FOCUS experience – by a 10-year FOCUS veteran and current Serra Club member, JohnMarc Skoch.

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There will be NO AUGUST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING on August 4, 2022. This is due to multiple events happening in early August including [The Master’s Cup Golf event](#), Monday, August 1, 2022; and the [Seminarian Send-Off](#) on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at Holy Spirit parish.

Join us for the THURSDAY NIGHT ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS on August 4, 2022, at 7:30 PM. We meditate on the Luminous Mysteries. Let us pray for all seminarians, and especially the new seminarians for 2022–2023! See page 3 for details.