



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

July 2022
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www.jocoserra.org

Serran Sphere

SERRA AND FOCUS:

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN!

Not long ago, I had the chance to have breakfast with two individuals, among thousands, whose lives are forever changed because of FOCUS. During that conversation, one of the men looked at me and said, “Every FOCUS alum ought to be a Serra Club member!” This triggered the development of this first of a four-part series on the spiritual connection between FOCUS and SERRA.

FOCUS: Fellowship of Catholic University Students

MICHAEL SKOCH, MD

Meet my friends, Matt Kemnitz and Dave Trotter (photo at right.) Matt and Dave serve as FOCUS Directors of Philanthropy. They get to talk to people about FOCUS and why supporting FOCUS is the thing to do.



Dave is known as a “lifer.” He was a FOCUS missionary and now works for the mission. Matt joined FOCUS about 15 months ago, after working alongside FOCUS for years while in other roles. He helped bring the first FOCUS team to KU’s St. Lawrence Center in 2009 while he was on Staff at there.

FOCUS is an acronym: Fellowship of Catholic University Students. Its mission statement is simple: To know Christ Jesus and fulfill His Great Commission. Its purpose not so simple: Launching College Students into Lifelong Catholic Mission. Statistics tell us the task is daunting. **Dynamic Catholic** states that 85% of Catholic young adults stop practicing their faith in college (most of them within their first year of leaving home).

We met in Westport at 8:30 on a Saturday morning. I directed them to a coffee shop that, I thought was on Westport Road. Turns out the shop I expected wasn’t, but we landed in a nearby First Watch. The conversation was brisk, to say the least. We talk more about statistics. FOCUS began at Benedictine College in Atchison, KS, in 1998, with two missionaries. Founded by Curtis Martin, the mission was established to address a generation in crisis – of identity, of purpose, and of belief. Today, FOCUS exists on 203 college campuses in the U.S. and 6 campuses in Austria, England, Ireland, and Germany. There are 24,337 students involved in 4559 weekly bible studies around the world; 1,035 FOCUS alumni are pursuing religious vocations. Since 2004, 12,000+ students and missionaries have served on 700+ mission trips to five continents.



Dave Trotter, with FOCUS alumni (all priests): Fr. Mark Bernhard, Fr. Lee Brokaw, and Fr. Adam Cesarek.

Among the most phenomenal of all stats: in 2020, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops surveyed men in priestly formation and found that **one in every four seminarians** in the United States identified a FOCUS influence in their vocation discernment.

Women entering religious life also increasingly report the influence of

See FOCUS p. 5



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pitching for Priests.....	2
Calendar of Events.....	4
Value Them Both	5
Master’s Cup	5

MEETING/EVENT DATES:

- **7/7/2022**—General Monthly Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM, **Curé of Ars Church**
- **7/25/2022**—JOCO Serra Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, **Holy Spirit Church**
- **8/1/2022**—The Master’s Cup, Iron Horse Golf Club
- **8/4/2022**—General Monthly Membership Meeting—**CANCELLED**



A beautiful, balmy, late-spring evening provided the backdrop for the 8th Annual Pitching for Priests event at Legends Field on Friday evening, June 10, 2022. With a crowd estimated at 3000 on hand for the event, festivities began with a tailgate at 4:00 pm. The “I-435 Series,” resumed with the visitors from the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS, taking first swings and establishing an early lead which they never relinquished.

Despite the consistent ArchKCK lead, fans of both teams remained enthusiastic in support of their priests and deacons. Parish members of individual players could be spotted and heard in the crowd when their pastor got a hit or made a good defensive play. Some were wearing jerseys identical to that of their pastor.

By the middle of the 4th inning, storm clouds gathered in the northwest and a first weather caution canceled an impromptu mid-inning youth run around the field. The crowd joined a rousing rendition of “Take Me out to the Ballgame” instead!

The photo above was taken at the top of the 5th inning. Play was interrupted by lightening and an eventual cloud-burst at the middle of the fifth with ArchKCK leading by a dozen runs. The crowd headed for cover under the stadium roof. Many waited out the brief weather disturbance.

Undaunted, players and those fans who braved the weather interruption (some fans got soaked heading for their cars . . .) enjoyed the game’s conclusion as play resumed within 30 minutes.

The clergy of ArchKCK won the game 28-17, tying the I-435 series at 4 games each. A first experience at the annual event for this author will become a staple of summer fun in the future.



SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAYS

July/August

Matthias Saiki July 10

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.

Join us Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 6:30 PM—Curé of Ars for the Monthly General Membership meeting.

Our guest speaker will be Brad Grabs, Founder and Executive Director of The Learning Club of Kansas City, Kansas.

Hear about the mission of The Learning Club and the great work being done there.



A collage of photos (top) include at-bats for three ArchKCK clergy, and a glimpse of the great crowd on hand for the event. Above left, Sister Maria Dolores of the Eucharistic Heart holds up a big-head image of her pastor, Fr. Nick Blaha. Above right, Archbishop Naumann steps in as a pinch hitter in the top of the 5th inning, connecting on a 2-RBI single just over the opposing shortstop's reach, padding the ArchKCK lead over the clergy from Kansas City/St. Joseph MO.

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



Date	Agenda	Location
July 1 Friday	First Friday Holy Hour For Vocations 11:00 AM	Holy Spirit Church Overland Park, KS
July 5 Tuesday	First Tuesday Holy Hour For Vocation 6 PM	Curé of Ars
July 7 Thursday	JOCO Serra General Membership Monthly Meeting 6:30 PM	Curé of Ars
July 14 Thursday	JOCO Serra Rosary For Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual Rosary Luminous Mysteries Zoom link—Website Calendar
July 21 Thursday	JOCO Serra Rosary For Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual Rosary Luminous Mysteries Zoom link—Website Calendar
July 25 Monday	JOCO Serra Board Meeting 7:00 PM	Holy Spirit Church St. Isadore Room Overland Park, KS
July 28 Thursday	JOCO Serra Rosary For Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual Rosary Luminous Mysteries Zoom link—Website Calendar
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	CANCELLED
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

FOCUS on their vocational discernment. In August 2019, eleven women with varied backgrounds professed first vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life as Sisters of Life in New York. Of these eleven women, four related FOCUS influence in their vocation. (Photo right)



Prior editions of Serran Sphere have featured local young men and women who reported the same: **little sister Oliviana** (Little Sisters of the Lamb, Serran Sphere, Vol. 2, Issue 11, November 2021); **Deacon Colm Larkin** (Serran Sphere, Vol. 3, Issue 1, January 2022); **Sister M. Maris Stella Larkin** (Franciscan Sisters of the Martyr St. George, Serran Sphere, Vol. 3, Issue 4, April 2022); and **Seminarian Dan Mauro** (Serran Sphere, Vol 3, Issue 5, May 2022).

On hearing the statistics, an inspiration came to me: FOCUS and Serra are a match made in Heaven!

Our breakfast conversation turned to the topic of Serra and the similarities of the missions of both organizations: to foster relationship with Jesus Christ in response to the vocational call to holiness and spread the invitation of Jesus to intimate relationship with Him, walking with those who – for many reasons – may be hesitant to step into the unknown. Dave and Matt acknowledged the obvious. Dave commented, “Every FOCUS alum ought to be a Serran!” Serra membership is a natural segue into life-long living out the mission to which we are called. If you know a FOCUS missionary or a FOCUS alum, talk with them about Serra and the common missions we share. Invite them into Serra membership!

Serran Sphere will continue this series next month with part two of “FOCUS and Serra: a match made in Heaven!” – the story of a current Serran who, as a college student, was challenged in his faith by a FOCUS missionary.

VALUE THEM BOTH VALUE THEM BOTH VALUE THEM BOTH

AUGUST 2, 2022



VALUE THEM BOTH

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 safeguards and save lives

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

- Eliminate abortion in Kansas (would that we could be so fortunate!)

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!

MASTER’S CUP MASTER’S CUP MASTER’S CUP

AUGUST 1, 2022

Don’t forget the **Master’s Cup** slated for **Monday, August 1, 2022**. Check out our website [The Master's Cup \(jocoserra.org\)](http://The Master's Cup (jocoserra.org)) for details. It is not too late to sign up for golf, for lunch, for golf AND lunch, or to sponsor the event. All proceeds go to the Heart to Heart Scholarship Fund, established by Don and Janice Arth, through the Catholic Foundation of Northeast Kansas. Monies are used to help defray expenses for men and women discerning vocations to the priesthood and religious life.



The day’s events kick-off with registration at 7:00 AM with player check-in, and a shotgun start at 0830 AM.

At 12:00 PM, gather in the Vista 154 dining room at the club for lunch and a program featuring father/son duo, Stan and Landry Weber, and their witness to living out the Catholic faith in a busy, sports-oriented family. Landry is a graduate of K-State and former Wildcat football quarterback, and will be entering the seminary for the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas, in the fall.

Go to the website and make a gift to help seminarians. Then join the fun at The Master’s Cup, Monday, August 1, 2022.

You won’t want to miss this event!



**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:
admin@jocoserra.org

SERRAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for Your church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever, and ever. Amen.

Prayer is the basis of Serra.

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



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