



"Always Forward,  
Never Back."

# WAVE

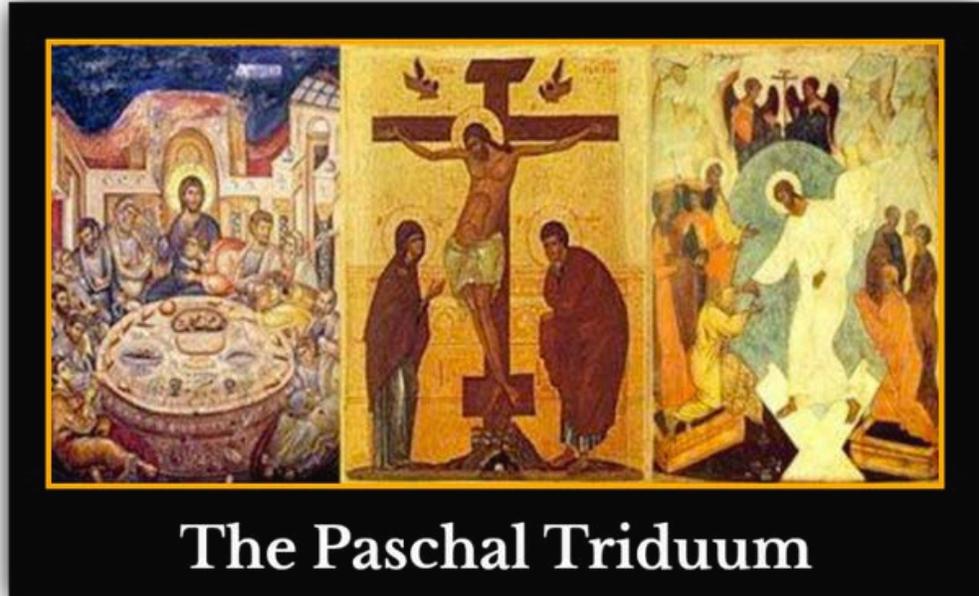


Written to Affirm Vocations in Erie  
The Official Newsletter of the Serra Club of Erie

Serra Club of Erie  
Chaplain & Director of Vocation  
Fr. Scott Jabo

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## Chrism Mass & Holy Week

*The Chrism Mass is tomorrow, Monday, March 30th, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral. Our bishop blesses the three holy oils: the Oil of the Sick (for healing the ill), the Oil of Catechumens (for strengthening those preparing for Baptism), and Sacred Chrism (fragrant, consecrated for Baptism, Confirmation, ordination, and dedicating altars)—all signs of grace uniting our diocese.*

*Then Holy Week unfolds, the most sacred stretch of the year:*

- *Palm Sunday kicks it off with joyful processions, palms waving as we welcome Jesus into Jerusalem—like a parade of hope.*
- *Holy Thursday recalls the Last Supper, where He gave us the Eucharist and washed feet, showing humble love.*
- *Good Friday turns solemn—we venerate the Cross, remembering His sacrifice and our redemption.*
- *Holy Saturday holds quiet vigil, waiting in darkness.*
- *Easter Sunday explodes with light: He is risen! Alleluia!*

*The Serra Club of Erie wishes you and your families a peaceful journey through these days—may they deepen your faith and fill your home with Easter joy!*

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# Upcoming Events



2026				
Event	Date & Time	Speaker	Location	Comments/Notes
<i>Chrism Mass</i>	Monday, March 30, 2026	<i>1:00 PM</i>	St. Peter Cathedral	All Serrans are encouraged to be a part of this Sacred Tradition. All are welcome
April				
<i>Easter</i>	Sunday, April 5, 2026	<i>Easter</i>		
<i>General</i>	Monday, April 6, 2026	Cancelled due to Easter	Erie Club	Cancelled due to Easter
<i>Board</i>	Tuesday, April 21, 2026	<i>Board Meeting Conference Call - Zoom Meeting</i>		
<i>St. Mark's Card Party</i>	Thursday, April 30, 2026	<i>St. Mark's Card Party</i>	St. Mark Gymnasium	Need help Parking and Food distribution
May				
<i>General</i>	Monday, May 4, 2026	<i>Fr. Ben Dagher</i>	Erie Club	
<i>Board</i>	Tuesday, May 19, 2026	<i>Board Meeting Conference Call - Zoom Meeting</i>		
June				
<i>General</i>	Tuesday, June 2, 2026	<i>Installation Dinner</i>	Mary Seat of Wisdom Gannon	Takes place of General Meeting
<i>Board</i>	Tuesday, June 16, 2026	<i>Board Meeting Conference Call - Zoom Meeting</i>		In 2017 this was cancelled due to the Chaplains being at Emmaus and not much going on. Thoughts?
July				
	Tuesday, July 1, 2025	<i>Feast Day of St. Junipero Serra</i>		
<i>General</i>	Monday, July 7, 2025	<i>No Meeting</i>		
<i>Board</i>	Monday, July 21, 2025	<i>Board Meeting Conference Call - Zoom Meeting</i>		

## APRIL - NO MEETING

There will **not** be a meeting on Monday, April 7th, due to it being the day after Easter.

Instead, we would love for everyone to attend the Chrism Mass at 1:00 PM at St. Peter Cathedral on Monday, March 31st at 1:00 PM. The Mass is open to the public.

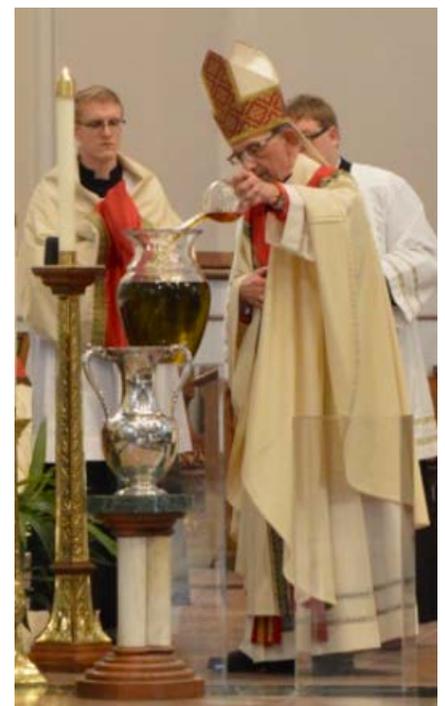


Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

# SAD NEWS



Sad News - Passing of Longtime Member Norman H. Stark, Esq.

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of our longtime member and friend, Norman H. Stark, Esq. Norm was a dedicated member of our club for over 50 years, and his commitment to Serra's mission, his faith, and our community will be deeply missed.

Norm passed away peacefully on March 1, 2026, at home, with his beloved wife Donna by his side. He was 88 years old.

A full obituary was published in the Erie Times-News and is available online at the Burton Quinn Scott Funeral Home website:

<https://www.burtonquinnscott.com/obituaries/norman-stark-esq> (or search for "Norman H. Stark, Esq." on [goerie.com/obituaries](https://www.goerie.com/obituaries)).

The Serra Club has sent flowers and arranged for Masses to be offered in Norm's memory.

Please keep Norm, Donna, and the entire Stark family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May Norm's lifelong example of service, faith, and dedication inspire us all as we continue our work in Serra.

# New Members



*Alice Ferrick Ballentine, Mike Micsky  
and Mike Conley*

## Prayer Partner Birthdays

<b>PRAYER PARTNER</b>	<b>MONTH</b>	<b>DAY</b>
COLLEEN LEATHLEY, OSB	2	21
DIEGO LARA	2	3
BENJAMIN NIEBAUER	2	9
SEAMUS MCCARTHY	3	21
JOSEPH PRESTON	4	25
TYLER SMART	4	2
TYLER NIEBAUER	5	26
MICHAEL GEARY	7	18
JACK ROY	7	4
JENNIFER FRAZER, OSB	8	28
THOMAS OLDENBURG	8	1
DANIEL SHERWOOD	9	25
SAMUEL GHERING	10	8
LUCA LANASA	10	10



# Save the Date

## ST. MARK AUXILIARY ANNUAL CARD PARTY

The St. Mark Seminary Auxiliary's annual Card Party is on

**Thursday, April 30th - 6pm**

**St. Mark's Gymnasium  
429 East Grandview Blvd.**

Doors open at 5pm.

**Admission - \$15.00**



Evening includes a light meal, Grand Prizes, Gift Auction and more.....  
For reservations please call Erin at 814-440-5885 by Friday, April 17.

### **Donations are also welcome!**

This party is the premier fundraiser for the Seminary each year.  
Also, watch for raffle tickets that will be on sale between Masses at some Churches.

## 2026 Serra Club of Erie Installation Mass & Dinner

**Tuesday, June 2th**

**MASS - 6:00 PM - MARY SEAT OF WISDOM CHURCH AND**

**DINNER - AFTER MASS - 7:00 PM - YEHL ALUMNI ROOM - GANNON UNIVERSITY**

WE WILL AWARD THIS YEARS - OUTSTANDING PRIEST, WOMAN RELIGIOUS,  
DEACON AND LAY PERSON.

THIS EVENT IS WHERE THE CLUB WILL INSTALL THE NEW BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

INVITATIONS WILL SOON BE SENT OUT AND PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO JOIN  
US. IT IS A WONDERFUL EVENT.

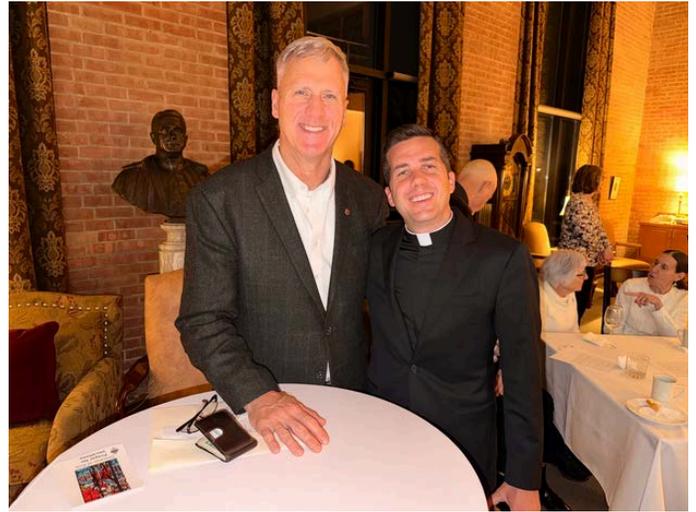
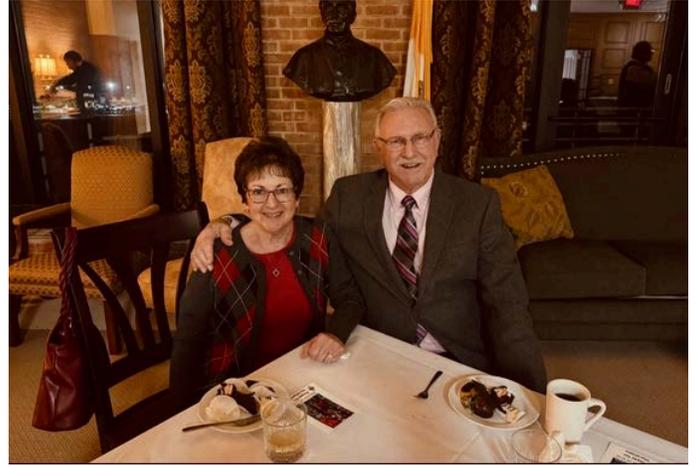
# SEMINARIAN PRAYER AND PARTY

On Wednesday, January 14, 2026, members of the Serra Erie Club joined the St. Mark Seminary community for Evening Prayer in the Seminary Chapel and a Social in the library. It was a wonderful opportunity for Serrans and seminarians to spend the evening together.



courtesy of Serra Club of Erie Website

# SEMINARIAN PRAYER AND PARTY



# Seminarian Life



November 18<sup>th</sup> - the men were delighted to welcome rector of St. Peter Cathedral, Fr. Michael Ferrick. We are grateful for the gift of Fr. Michael's priesthood and all the ways he supports seminary formation.



On November 21st, the Seminarians were grateful to Adrienne Kloecker-Kalivoda from Kloecker Funeral Home for taking time on a Friday night to talk with our seminarians about the importance of ministering to grieving families and never missing an opportunity to evangelize.



It was an honor to welcome John Garvey, Esq. to St. Mark Seminary. Mr. Garvey, a native of Sharon, PA attended St. Mark Seminary High School for one year. He went on to attend Notre Dame and Harvard Law School. He spent many years working in Catholic education, including serving as the 15th president of the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He spoke to the men about his experiences in Catholic education and stressed the importance of Catholic identity in schools.



Before leaving for Christmas break, some of the seminarians had the opportunity to go ice skating together at the Flo Fabrizio Ice Center.



On Thursday, December 18, Bishop Lawrence Persico hosted the seminarians and priests involved in seminary formation at his residence for an Advent gathering. Thank you, Bishop, for your hospitality and for your continued promotion and support of seminary formation.



Some of the Seminarians, Fr. Scott and Fr. David at the Pro-Life Breakfast at the Bayfront Convention Center

# Seminarian Life



The men were delighted to welcome Fr. Luke Dagher, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Peace, for Mass, dinner, and Evening Prayer. We are grateful for Fr. Luke's ministry and continued support of St. Mark Seminary.



On Friday, January 23, 2026 some of the St. Mark seminarians traveled to Washington D.C. for the annual March for Life with members of Gannon's Students for Life and Erie's People for Life. Please pray that life at every stage will be protected.



The men of St. Mark Seminary had the privilege of joining the great group of volunteers from Our Lady of Peace and serving Sunday Supper for the Lord, hosted every week by the First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant. We served pizza, salad, and dessert to over 100 guests.



"Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return."  
The men of St. Mark Seminary burn last year's palms in preparation for Ash Wednesday.



To commence the holy season of Lent, the St. Mark seminarians spent this past weekend at the Abbey of the Genesee in Piffard, NY for a weekend of recollection. Let's keep one another in prayer as we travel through this holy season.



Several of the men from St. Mark Seminary traveled to Guatemala for their alternative spring break service trip. They will spend the week at Mission San Lucas, learning about the culture and helping with construction projects. Please keep them in your prayers.

# Seminarian Life



On the feast of St. Patrick, we were delighted to welcome Fr. Joe Tokasz, of the Diocese of Buffalo, for Mass and dinner. We are blessed to have two seminarians from the Diocese of Buffalo at St. Mark Seminary.



On March 18, faculty members from Gannon University's Philosophy and Theology department joined us for Evening Prayer and dinner. We are grateful for all the ways they assist with the intellectual formation of the seminarians.



In honor of St. Joseph seminarians joined parishioners at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday for their 73rd annual communion breakfast. Fr. Luke Dagher, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Peace, was the speaker.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

*Matt Hersch has created a wonderful Events Calander that you can view and print out - click on the link below.*

[Serra Club of Erie Events Calendar](#)

INVITE SOMEONE YOU KNOW TO OUR NEXT SERRA GENERAL MEETING WHO MAY HAVE THE SAME PASSION AS YOU FOR VOCATIONS.

**VOCATIONS NEED OUR HELP TO PROMOTE AND PRAY FOR MORE VOCATIONS. PRAY ON IT!!**

## Pray for Priest Calendar

This is the link to the Pray for Priest Calendar on the Diocese website:

<https://www.eriercd.org/images/pdf/pfp.pdf>

# Four Virtues to Lean on as Serrans

By Dr. Anne Roat, Serra US President  
*courtesy of Serra International Website*  
04/05/2025



When I was a teacher, one of the classes that I taught every few years was on St. Francis de Sales' book, *Introduction to the Devout Life*. It is a type of primer for lay people on how to live. So, I want to draw from the wisdom of this Doctor of the Church and apply it to us as Serrans.

One of the chapters in St. Francis' book entitled *Various Instructions for Elevating the Soul to God by Prayer and the Sacraments* is devoted to prayer. As Serrans we are called to grow in holiness and this call cannot be accomplished without prayer. Prayer can be described as a lifting up of our heart and mind to God— a conversation with God—or even a surge of emotion. Serrans must be people of prayer to fulfill the call of being a leader for vocations.

You should each have a copy of *Serrans Called to Holiness: Handbook for our Spiritual Life and our Mission of Fostering Vocations*. First issued in 2014, and then revised in 2023, the book is a spiritual exercise written especially for Serrans. It contains many prayers and devotions that most Serrans are already doing, and those pious practices are important to help us grow in holiness and be fruitful in the Serra apostolate for vocations.

In the guidelines for doing the Serran Spiritual Exercises each Serran is asked to commit to one hour of prayer each day, every day. Daily Mass attendance is encouraged, and frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist is of utmost importance. Praying the Liturgy of the Hours should also be part of the prayer for Serrans because it is the prayer that all priests and religious pray daily in union with the whole church. Eucharistic Adoration is really a necessity, and Serrans are asked to visit and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament daily. Confession, it is noted should be made at least once a month. All Serrans are encouraged to fast for the intention of the Serra apostolate for vocations and sanctification of our priests.

Another part of the St. Francis' book deals with *Instructions of the Practice of Virtue*. There are several virtues in this section that can be helpful to us as Serrans.

## Faith

As Serrans we have faith in our mission. As leaders in vocation work, Serrans must be familiar with the mission and vision of our organization. We promote and affirm vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life and thereby grow in our own holiness. Our goal (from the Strategic Plan) is simple—to foster a culture of vocations to the ministerial priesthood among parishes, schools, and families.

We are blessed to have a succinct and easy to understand mission. Remind yourself and others about it constantly. It is good to remember the example of Saint Junipero Serra as a man who demonstrated the virtue of faith. His motto “always forward” provides a valuable lesson on what it means to use your faith to lead you to the goal. Often, we face temptation to whine, complain, or blame. Those of us in vocation work even face the demon of discouragement. “Always forward” calls us to move past stewing and complaining and instead to have faith in our mission.

## Courage

The second virtue we Serrans need to embrace is the virtue of courage. We need to be courageous in sharing ideas and getting others to believe in them. Every organization needs a vision, but even more importantly they need people who have the courage to communicate that vision.

Read about St. Junipero Serran and discover his story. Share the insights you gain from studying his life. Communicate both our mission and the work of our patron. When was the last time you invited someone to become a Serran and work for vocations? Be courageous in sharing about our ministry!

### **Perseverance**

Another important virtue for a Serran is perseverance. We know that we need Jesus, we need the Eucharist, and we need priests to give us Jesus in the Eucharist. If this is true then we need to plan for the future. Leaders for vocations should be aware of the current statistics surrounding vocations both nationally and in your own diocese. How many seminarians do you have? How many men were ordained this year? What are the current trends of men entering formation? You can obtain up to date statistics each year on the CARA website site or from the USCCB. If vocations are our business, then we need to know the numbers.

Remember that the role of a leader for vocations is to actively seek out vocations. But to do that we need a plan. It is our responsibility to have a personal plan for promoting vocations and for our local clubs to take time each year to thoughtfully develop our calendar of events. Building a culture of vocations takes effort.

### **Generosity**

The last virtue I want to mention is generosity. One of the most important characteristics a Serran can display is a generous spirit. Our passion and zeal should reach others and inspire them to feel the same. We can help those around us to become invested in our mission. Remember that if we do not believe in our mission then we will not be able to encourage others to work toward it. Serrans are inherently positive people, and we can help others draw strength from our steadfast optimism.

Pope Francis reminded us so eloquently of our generosity during his audience with the participants at the 75th Convention of Serra International in Rome.

“The Serra Club helps foster this beautiful vocation of being laity who are friends to priests. Friends who know how to accompany and sustain them in faith, in fidelity to prayer and apostolic commitment. Friends who share the wonder of a vocation, the courage of a definitive decision, the joy and fatigue of ministry. Friends who can offer priests support and regard their generous efforts and human failings with understanding and tender love. In this way you are to priests like the home of Bethany, where Jesus entrusted his weariness to Martha and Mary, and thanks to their care was able to find rest and refreshment.

Serrans need to be leaders for vocations. We can start by dedicating that one hour a day to prayer and asking God to send us holy vocations.

Have faith in the mission of Serra—memorize it, share it with others, be sure that you are always working to further that mission. Courageously communicate what we as Serrans do—tell your friends and family so that they understand our apostolate. Persevere in planning for the future of our organization. Finally, maintain your generous spirit for our vocation work—become a supporter of every priest you meet. Serra needs you to step up—be that leader for vocations.

Please do think about what I just finished telling you. Serra needs men and women who are willing to be invested in working for vocations. Each of you have seen the statistics, read the rationales behind them, and know what that means for our Holy Mother Church. We need holy priests, and it is up to each of us as Serrans to become those leaders for vocations. In the words of our patron, St. Junipero Serra —“always forward, never turn back!”