



**Serra Club of the Atchison Region  
Meeting Minutes  
August 17, 2020  
6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting**

**Club Members Present at Meeting:**

Bob and Betty Albers  
Sister Mary Ellen Auffert  
Matt and Megan Fassero  
Mark and Penni Reed  
Dan and Lucy Schletzbaum  
Dennis and Jean Larkin

The meeting was opened with the Serra Prayer for Vocations.

**Chaplain's Comments** - Fr. Matthew Habiger was not present at the meeting but asked Mark Reed to let members know that weekend masses have been added at the Abbey to allow for the returning students to attend mass. Parishioners are asked to attend St. Benedict's masses when possible and keep the Abbey masses available for students.

**Treasurer's Report** - Bob Albers stated that we have a very positive report as there has been little spending because of the lack of gatherings and events. Expenditures include USA Serra dues - \$189.00 and \$275.00 to file the IRS report. Bob reported that the club has collected over \$1,000.00 in dues leaving a balance of \$2,562.90 as of July 28, 2020. Additional expenses include the Serra International Dues of a little over \$400.00 which will be due this fall.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Annual Fall Picnic to Honor Religious** - Mark Reed spoke with Abbot James from the Abbey and Sister Mary Ellen from the Mount about the possibility of having the annual fall picnic to honor the religious community. It was determined that this would not be a possibility this fall due to Covid-19. The event will be moved to the spring of 2021 (future date and time to be determined).

**Update from Sr. Mary Ellen** - Sister Mary Ellen shared that the Sisters of the Mount are still quarantined. She asked for our prayers for them during this difficult time.

She also reported that Alissa who has been with them for 2 years will be entering the Marian Sisters in September. Sr. Clare informed Sr. Mary Ellen that two of their postulants became Sisters on August 15th. Taylor Hawkins is now Sister Benedicta and Kristi Le is now Sister Joy. Both young women attended Benedictine College. Megan Fassero shared that she thought that there was an additional Benedictine student that is working on debt reduction so she can enter the Marian Sisters.

Mark Reed reported that there were no postulants entering the Abbey this fall, but there have been a few young men showing interest and discerning the vocation.

**Praying for Directors of Vocations** - Mark Reed received an email from Judy Cozzens requesting the name of the Abbey Vocations Director and that local Serrans commit to praying one hour each week for the Abbey and the Mount's vocation directors - especially as they face additional challenges during the pandemic.

Mark Reed informed the group that Brother Levin is now the Abbey's Prior and continues the role of Abbey Vocations Director, Fr. Jay is now the sub-prior and Fr. Gabriel is now working in the Advancement office with Mark.

**Future Meeting Plans** - It was decided to continue with meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month. Weather permitting, we can meet outside with a plan for an indoor backup location.

- September's meeting will be a social gathering at St. Joseph Church. Members are asked to bring their own lawn chair, beverage and snack.
- October will be a speaker meeting beginning with Mass. Sister Mary Ellen suggested a speaker that Matt and Megan will follow up with and they will also confirm a location.

**Serra Essay Contest and Winners** - Bob Albers said that the Serra Essay submissions have been judged and awards will be sent to the schools this fall to be delivered to the winners.

**Vocation Prayer Contest** - Mark will follow up with Jeanne Rhiza to see if she is interested in organizing again this year.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Magnificat Group** - Megan is the sponsor for this group and reported that this women's discerning group will continue to meet. They are still working out the guidelines they will have for the meetings. We also need to figure out the annual Italian dinner Serra hosts once they know how their meeting will work this year.

**Rosary for Vocations** - Mark Reed asked if anyone would be interested in praying a rosary for vocations once a month until the Saturday Vocations Night is resumed. It was suggested that the rosary could be said prior to the beginning of the Serra Club meetings.

**Next Meeting** - September 21st, 6:00 PM - social gathering at the St. Joseph parking lot. We will gather to pray a Rosary for vocations at 6:00 PM and the social will immediately follow. If the weather doesn't allow for an outside meeting, it will be in the church basement. Members are asked to bring a mask, lawn chair, personal snack and beverage - social distancing will be followed.

Sister Mary Ellen asked for prayers for Fr Matthew as he is scheduled for tests for medical issues.

The meeting was closed with the Prayer for the Perseverance of Vocations.

Respectfully submitted by Penni Reed, Secretary.