



**Serra Club of the Atchison Region  
Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2020  
6:30 PM – Virtual Meeting**

**Club Members Present at Meeting:**

Bob Albers  
Matt and Megan Fassero  
Mark and Penni Reed  
Dan and Lucy Schletzbaum  
Dennis and Jean Larkin  
Father Matthew Habiger  
Rick and Terri Baker  
Mark and Theresa Jirak and family  
Nancy Gibson, Dist. Governor

**I. Rosary for Vocations - Joyful Mysteries:** Led by members

**II. President's Comments:**

Mark introduced Nancy Gibson, District Governor. Nancy gave us a brief background of her involvement with Serra. The challenge of chartering new clubs and new members without in person meetings was discussed. Nancy said that even with this challenge, there are clubs that have added members as well as a new club to be chartered in Oklahoma City.

**Chaplain's Comments:**

Father Matthew shared that there are 6 young men currently attending a 5 day retreat for vocations at the Abbey.

Sister Mary Ellen could not attend tonight's meeting as she was taking part in a pray hour for the President and Pennsylvania this evening.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Bob Albers stated that since the last report, a check in the amount of \$25.00 for last month's speaker was written leaving a current balance of \$1,953.40. Dues will be due in January 2021. Matt Fassero motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Lucy Schletzbaum seconded, motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Pizza Party for Priests:**

Terri Baker organized the pizza party, which was much appreciated by the priests and brothers. Penni read a thank you note from Abbot James expressing their appreciation. The group thanked Terri for organizing the pizza party for the event.

### **Magnificat Dinner:**

Megan Fassero reported that the Magnificat Dinner was held on November 11th with 40-50 college women in attendance plus 10 - 12 religious sisters whom they invited from five different communities. Terri Baker and Megan organized and set up the event. Megan thanked everyone who provided food and helped with the dinner. It was a great evening enjoyed by all who attended. Megan mentioned that more than enough food was provided and next year we should remind those contributing that they need only bring a portion of what is needed. The Sisters were thrilled to take the leftovers to share with their communities. Thank you to Terri and Megan for organizing and working at this event.

### **Other opportunities to support religious vocations?**

Mark Reed inquired if there was something we could do for those working toward the Diaconate. Dan said that may be difficult as there are only 3 locally, with most of the candidates being from KC. He would think about it and let us know. Mark suggested maybe donating money to offset gas expenses for travel.

Dan asked for prayers for a member who recently opted out. He cited the challenges of having a young family and the time necessary to pursue the diaconate as his reason for leaving. Dan asked for our thoughts and prayers for this young man and his family.

## **NEW BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Serra District Council Meeting with Archbishop Naumann - December 9 on Zoom**

Nancy reported that this annual meeting is generally provided for all club Presidents, President Elects and District Governors but since it will be a virtual meeting this year, any Serra member is welcome to attend. There is a business meeting from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. All clubs are asked for a report of what was accomplished in the current year. Archbishop Naumann and other priests will join the group at 11:00 AM to provide direction for goals for the upcoming year. In the past, Archbishop Naumann visited the KC Club for lunch.

Nancy informed the club of a new program, "Looking Forward, Never Back" beginning on December 12th and continuing on the second Saturday of each month. This meeting will be online and begin at 11:00 AM. There will be a high impact keynote speaker and meetings will be formatted as a club meeting. Mark will send out the invitation to club members when he receives it.

Nancy noted that the Serraus.org website is being updated with a new section added for prospective new members. Mark will add the link to our local club website.

Mark brought up the Newsletter contest. Nancy said that the winner is generally announced and awarded at the Serra Rally which has been cancelled this year and is not sure when the winner will be announced. This contest was dropped for a period of time but was started again three years ago. Mark suggested that we look into beginning a Newsletter for this club.

### **Support our Seminarians (S.O.S.) Event - Friday, January 29, 2021 - Virtual**

**This will be the last S.O.S. dinner.** Please let Mark know if you would like to participate. Megan Fassero suggested that we contribute \$50.00 toward the event as we did last year. Matt Fassero made the motion to support the event with a \$50.00 contribution, Jean Larkin seconded, motion carried.

Mark said there are 3 raffles that will take place that evening. He will send out the information he has for the raffle for that event.

### **Future Meeting Plans**

Next month will be a parish vocation night on Monday December 21st at 6:30 PM. Megan suggested a speaker from the Mary's House group. This is a spiritual home for women who are discerning religious life that is operated by sisters from Christ the King and the Bavarian Sisters. Megan will invite a Sister from one of these orders to speak at this event. This will be a virtual meeting and Megan will put the word out early to attract more families to attend.

### **Next Serra Business Meeting - January 18th, 2020**

**February and April Meetings** - Matt and Megan Fassero will line up speakers for those meetings. Mark Reed suggested that we look into having meetings at the Abbey where WiFi is available in the event we are not able to meet in person by that time.

### **Other Business:**

**Vocation Prayer Contest** - Mark will follow up with Jeanne Rhiza to see if she is interested in organizing again this year. *Bob Albers said that this contest is usually underway at this time and announced at the January meeting, but since missals are not being used and after mass prayers are not being said, the contest was not held this year.*

**Serra Essay Contest and Winners** - Bob Albers said that the Serra vocations essay contest will begin when classes resume in January.

Nancy offered that she thinks we are doing a great job and even groups as small as ours do so much for vocations in our area and to continue to work to increase our membership. Mark welcomed Nancy to attend our meetings any time.

### **Prayers Offered:**

- Anyone suffering with health issues, especially COVID related illness.
- Seminarians at Kenrick as there has been an outbreak of COVID recently
- Keep all seminarians in our prayers for their health and to stay COVID free
- For all priests as this is a hard time to keep our congregations together
- For Pope Francis and Bishops for strength and courage
- For those who have passed away this past year

The meeting was closed at 7:42 PM with the prayer for vocations.

Respectfully submitted by Penni Reed