Serra International
US Council
Vocations Committee
US Vocations Committee of Serra International

The role of the US Vocations Committee of Serra International is to support and assist our Bishops and Vocation Directors in their vocation activities by promoting a culture of vocations in each parish and with Catholic families.

• This is accomplished with local pastoral authority.
  • By advocating the establishment of vocation ministries and activities in all parishes of each diocese within the US and
  • By encouraging parishes to involve each family and ministry individually and collaboratively in vocation awareness activities and discernment founded on prayer.
OUR GOAL

To help you build a culture of Vocations in Your Dioceses and Parishes!
Form, Maintain, and Sustain Parish Vocation Ministries with Serra SPARK

Presented by the
US Council of Serra International

In collaboration with the
National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD)

With thanks to the
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
Serra SPARK

The Serra Promotion And Resource Kit can be found at

https://serraspark.org/

• Built by the US Council of Serra International for Vocation Directors and Vocation Promoters, in collaboration with the NCDVD and under the guidance of the USCCB, it is a valuable resource for anyone involved in vocation work.

• Parish vocation ministries can both learn and expand their vocation activities with ideas and tools available along with numerous resources.

• All tools can be tailored to meet the specific needs of a diocese or parish.
Vocation Tool Types

• Distinctions should be made in the process of choosing any vocation tool depending on what the ministry intends to accomplish.

• Tools from each of the four areas should be employed to ensure vocation activities are well-rounded.

• Affirmation Tools
• Awareness Tools
• Invitation / Encouragement Tools
• Prayer Tools
Affirmation Tools

- **Annual Vocations Events Resources - #11** (also Awareness)

- Priesthood Sunday (last Sunday in September)
- National Vocation Awareness Week (first full week of November)
- World Day for Consecrated Life (first Sunday following February 2nd)
- World Day of Prayer for Vocations (fourth Sunday of Easter)
Awareness Tools

- Traveling Chalice / Crucifix Program for the Parish - #4 (also Prayer)
- Organizing Visits to Seminaries - #6 (also Invitation / Encouragement)
- Parish Vocation Ministry - #10
- Promoting Vocations in Parishes - #16
- Organizing School Visits for Seminarians and Religious - #17 (also Invitation / Encouragement)
- School Traveling Crucifix - #18 (also Prayer)
- Maintaining a Parish Vocations Ministry - #19
- Vocation Talks for Elementary, Middle, and High School - #21
- Video Resources on Religious Vocations for Different Ages - #22
Invitation / Encouragement Tools

- **Adopt a Seminarian - #1** (also Prayer)
- **Called by Name - #2** (also Awareness)
- **Altar Server Awards - #3**
- **Focus 11 - #5** (also Awareness)
- **Discernment Retreats - #9** (also Awareness)
- **Quo Vadis - #15**
- **St. Andrew Dinners and Miriam Dinners - #23**
- **Master of Ceremony - #25**
- **The Melchizedek Project - #26**
- **Avow – A Discernment Program for Women - #27**
Prayer Tools

- **Involving the Homebound in the Vocation Effort** - #7
- **Rosary before Ordination** - #8 (also Invitation / Encouragement)
- **Rosaries for Vocations** - #12
- **Parish Vocations Prayer** - #13 (also Awareness)
- **The 31 Club** - #14 (also Awareness)
- **Holy Hours** - #20
- **The Newman Connection** - #24 (also Awareness and Invitation / Encouragement)
Serra SPARK Sampler

Five Easy Tools Proven to Create a Culture of Vocations in Your Parish

1. Adopt a Seminarian
2. The 31 Club
3. Traveling Chalice / Crucifix
4. Priesthood Sunday
5. Holy Hours
Parish Vocation Ministry

**Purpose**

- To assist the parish community in fulfilling and advancing its *mission of fostering vocations*.
- To remind parish members to *respond to God’s call in their lives*, especially to the ordained ministry and consecrated religious life.
- To *take the lead in shepherding the whole parish* through initiatives of affirmation, awareness, invitation / encouragement, and prayer.
Forming a Parish Vocation Ministry

• The duty of fostering vocations rests with the entire Christian community so that the needs of the sacred ministry in the universal Church are provided for sufficiently. This duty especially binds Christian families, educators, and in a special way, priests, particularly pastors. (Canon 233.1)
Responsibilities of the Parish Vocation Ministry

1. Be active by:
   - Praying daily for vocations;
   - Offering support and encouragement to priests and religious within the parish;
   - Accepting and carrying out assigned tasks; and
   - Reporting on the progress of assigned ministry work.

2. Foster vocation awareness in the parish through affirmation, awareness, invitation / encouragement, and prayer.

3. Have written goals and objectives, agreed-upon ministry assignments among members, and a written calendar of events.
Responsibilities of the Parish Vocation Ministry

4. Maintain a permanent file of activities, minutes, and correspondence.

5. Include pastor or pastoral staff in planning.

6. Provide bi-monthly reports to the parish education / faith formation committee and update the parish pastoral council on a yearly basis.

7. Work to create a pro-vocations environment in the parish.

8. Be on the lookout for new members.
To Begin

• Mission Statement

• A broad statement of overall direction and purpose. Why we as a unique group exist.
Key Terms

• Goal
  • Clearly defined, constructive statement of a desired direction or activity in broad general terms.

• Objective
  • Step or specific strategy in the attaining of a goal.

• Action Item
  • Specific, time-oriented and measurable statement of “what” we are going to do, for “whom” we will do it, “when”, and “how much” it will entail
Work Session

1. Write a **mission statement** for your Parish Vocation Ministry.

2. Write **one goal** for your Parish Vocation Ministry.

3. Write **two objectives** for your goal.

4. Write **action items** for each objective.

5. If time allows develop a second goal, related objectives, and action items.
Maintaining the Parish Vocation Ministry

- Parish vocation ministries are marvelous entities, but they are not self-sustaining.

- Once started, a parish vocation ministry must be maintained.

- Simply establishing a parish vocation ministry does not guarantee its continuation as a viable part of a Church-wide vocation effort.
Sustaining the Parish Vocation Ministry

• Sustain your Parish Vocation Ministry by:
  • Continuing to visit Serraspark.org;
  • Checking in monthly with your Serra mentor;
  • Completing a year end form for Serra USA; and
  • Asking for help anytime you need it!
Summary

During the workshop participants learned about:

1. Serra **SPARK** – tools that you can use immediately to foster and affirm vocations;
2. Parish Vocation Ministries – their purpose, functions, and structure;
3. Forming a Parish Vocation Ministry – reasons, organization, membership, publicity, and a first meeting to do list;
4. Responsibilities of a Parish Vocation Ministry – how to operate in the parish;
5. Planning – crafting a Mission Statement, writing goals, objectives, and action items, and creating a strategic plan;
6. Maintaining – ideas on how to keep your Parish Vocation Ministry functioning; and
7. Sustaining – how to get the help you need from Serra!
Responsibilities of the Diocese

1. Register at least five parishes (preferably ten) from the diocese to attend the workshop (with three to five representatives from each parish).

2. Arrange for Mass to be celebrated before the workshop and a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction after the workshop.

4. Organize a space to host the workshop.

5. Make copies of the PowerPoint and handouts for each participant and provide a registration list of the participants for follow up use.

7. Plan and provide hospitality.

8. Provide local transportation to the workshop site for the Serra presenters.

9. Give feedback after the workshop to the Vice President for Vocations of the US Council of Serra International.
1. Ideally, the Parish Vocation Ministry workshop is best done in person.

2. The US Council of Serra International will provide the workshop facilitators and Serrans will serve as parish consultors for one year.

3. Given today’s situation, we are preparing to offer the workshop virtually.

4. To talk about bringing the workshop to your diocese, please contact Dr. Anne Roat at vpvocusserra@gmail.com
Your Questions, Comments, or Concerns