



SERRA

The global lay apostolate for vocations in the Catholic Church

The Serra Club of Kitchener-Waterloo

WHAT IS K-W SERRA ALL ABOUT?

Serra International was formed in 1935 in Seattle, USA, by a group of business men who wanted to add a spiritual dimension to their lives.

Their club took the name “Serra”. It was named after a Franciscan missionary, Junipera Serra, who had founded missions along the California coast from Mexico to San Francisco. He is now called Blessed Junipera Serra since he was beatified in 1988.

Serra International now consists of a large number of clubs in the USA, 13 active clubs in Canada and clubs in 44 countries around the world. We are over 20,000 men and women working to promote and support vocations.

Some countries have been allowed to form a council to represent them in Serra International. The Canada Council was formed in the year 2,000. **Our Episcopal Advisor is Bishop Gary Gordon of Victoria, BC.**



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Serra has attracted the attention of the Vatican because of its goals.

We are affiliated with the Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations in Rome.

• **The goals of Serra are as follows:**

- To foster religious vocations.
- To actively encourage and affirm the dedicated priests and religious who are serving us now.
- To pray for vocations to priesthood and religious life in particular and to foster vocations to married and single life.

To assist its members to deepen their own faith, holiness and knowledge of their Catholic faith.

The K-W Serra club meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month from September to June and on the 3rd Wednesday for a Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations in selected parishes.



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On the first Wednesday the meeting consists of Mass at 6PM in the Ratz-Bechtel chapel, followed by a meal and a speaker. The meeting closes with a brief club meeting to bring members up to date on upcoming activities. The purpose of the meal is to provide an opportunity to share our lives and to build community. The speakers are chosen to help us deepen our faith and learn how we can grow in holiness.

The K-W club was formed in April 1966 and was initially called the Serra Club of Waterloo and Wellington County.

To achieve our goal of encouraging and affirming the priests and religious who are serving us now, **we have a number of activities.**

- Priest barbecue in September
- Priest ski day in February
- Priest golf day in June
- Two presentations of Altar Servers' Awards in April or May
- Vocation banquet in January
- Priest portrait in the schools – when appropriate



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ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

- Presentation of plaques to parents of newly ordained priests
- Attendance at Hamilton Serra Club's Celebration dinner in April,
- Attendance at the Toronto clubs' Ordinandi dinner in March
- Traveling Chalice program

Cost to Serrans

- The treasurer sends out invoices to remind Serrans when their dues are expected. The cost covers the meals and the Serra International dues of \$70 a year.
- Other club events that require money: 1. Charter night dinner - April. Closing Banquet – June

The primary and necessary “work” of Serrans is to pray for vocations. It is this work of prayer which must underlie, direct, sustain and support all of Serra's many and varied activities to promote vocations. While prayer is not the only part of our work, it is clearly the most important part. (Cardinal Regali, former Episcopal Advisor to Serra International).