

Minutes
Serra Club of Wabasha County
St. Marys of the Lake Church, Lake City MN
February 16, 2025

Guests Attending: Fr Tom Loomis, pastor of St Felix and Deacon Jordan Danielson of St Paul Seminary

Prayer: The club attended a holy hour and Benediction led by Deac David Dose, chaplain from 3:30 pm to 4:30. Potluck followed at St Marys.

Opening

Fr Loomis and Deacon Danielson were introduced, and both shared their call to the priesthood. (A video recording of their talks is on the St Felix parish web site, under Organizations, Serra Club, February 16, 2025.)

Fr Loomis has been a priest for 32 years. He had relatives who were priests. He grew up on a family farm. He reflected on his childhood memories of these priests. He attended the U of MN/Waseca and played football. Times of silence are important to him spiritually. Father T was his mentor. He found peace at the seminary, after being anxious in the days leading to arrival. He honestly reflected on adjusting to the life as a priest for about 10 years and then found himself living fully the priesthood in the freedom that comes with living the life intended by God.

Deacon Danielson, a transitional deacon until his pending ordination in May of 2025, then told his vocation story. He grew up in Dover, MN. He described being a weekend Catholic and remembers his mother praying with him and his brother at bedtime. He attended Dover Eyota and joined band, robotic and Math. In high school, his parents divorced and it “rocked his world”. It left him broken and hurt. He had good people around him, in particular the faith formation coordinator for his parish. She helped him reach out with opportunities at the Salvation Army, a Rochester soup kitchen during which he experienced moments of goodness in life. Deep hurt in his teen years eventually lead him to set aside time of personal prayer. He came to point of telling God, he would do whatever He asked of him if he was happy. He then described a vivid dream seeing an elderly priest staring at him. He then attended IHM seminary, and it was tough first year. His prayer life deepened and the Lord helped him through the remaining years.

In closing he thanked the persons in his life that “saw something in him that he did not realize about himself”. His ordination is May 30th.

Secretary Report: No minutes for December or January.

Treasurer Report: Balance is \$1,830. \$145 was sent to the Religious Sisters of Mercy. A donation was made to the Serra Foundation based on the decision made earlier in December.

Seminarian Update: Dorothy reported on recent changes at IMH.

Old Business: Birthday cards continue to be sent. A report on the Epiphany gathering at St Agnes when the Religious Sisters spoke to the gathering. The members who made the visit to the new DOWR chancery described the beauty of the chapel.

New Business: Traveling chalice is with the Busch family at St Felix. The Vocations group of the club met with Patrick Derleth about youth events. Mardi Gras trays will be delivered March 4th to IHM.

Lenten Soup suppers will be parish-based events as individual parish customs continue. Dorothy noted Women Day, to be held in Mankato MN in 2025. A \$200 donation was approved by the club. Lastly, the annual fish fry pilgrimage with Stations of the Cross at Thielman and Roys, pending some further plans.

Next meeting: March 18, 2025, at St Felix at 8:45 for prayer in the church and the meeting at 9:00 AM in the vestibule at the side entrance.

Closing: The meeting closed with Prayer

Respectfully, Dan Schaefer, Secretary