

APPENDIX F: Induction Ceremony for New Members

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Will the new members of the (_official name of the Club_) please come forward/or stand and remain in place¹ as you are called?

(After assembling)

CHAPLAIN: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

CHAPLAIN: The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

CHAPLAIN: Heavenly Father, look with favor upon the Serrans assembled here. Bless their apostolate. Guide our new members through your Spirit dwelling in them to fulfill their new apostolate to the end that many generous people through their vocations may preach the Good News your Son proclaimed, and make his sacrifice visible in the lives of those whom they serve.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: You are about to be inducted as new members into the (_official name of Club_). Serra International's mission is a sacred ministry. You will strengthen Serra's role as the lay arm of the Church for vocations in promoting, fostering and preserving vocations to the priesthood and religious life both by prayer and by active vocation programs. Furthermore, you are to promote, through Christian education and Serran fellowship, your own personal holiness, and that of your fellow Serrans, in order to better carry out your own Christian vocation to service. His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, recognizing Serra's unique character in promoting vocations, has sent this message to its members:

“ Serrans have wished to keep two outstanding characteristics of Father Junipero Serra: love for priestly and religious vocations, and the constant testimony of Christian faith in the environment in which your activity takes place. On behalf of the Church, I must tell you of my esteem and my encouragement for your numerous initiatives in favor of priestly and religious vocations. It is really admirable that lay people, deeply convinced that the Church and society needs priests and religious, take as a purpose of their commitment as Christian prayer and hard working action for the spread, development, perseverance, increase and assistance of vocations. You are mindful of this in Jesus' words: “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Your commitment of praying, promoting and helping priestly and religious vocations continually stimulates you to reflect on the requirements of the Word of God. For this reason, you intend also to live up to your own Christian vocations. Prove to everyone, with clarity and without compromise, your sincere adherence to Christ. Prove at home, at work, in your associations, that the message of Jesus forms real men and women, capable of coping serenely with the harshness of daily life. Be available to contribute with all your strength to the construction of a civil society more worthy of man. Prove in your whole behavior that, with the grace of God, it is possible to put into practice in the modern world the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes with all the radicalism they involve. With these wishes I invoke the abundance of divine favors on your meritorious activity, on you all, and on your dear ones, and I willingly impart my apostolic blessing.”

(Light candles 2)

USA Council Membership Manual Revised May 2011 41

CHAPLAIN: This candle is a reminder of the one you received on the day of your baptism. Its light symbolizes Jesus, the light of the world, and its fire, the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit. Let it be a symbol of re-dedication to your solemn pledge to direct yourself in Christian principles. In this spirit I ask these questions of you:

Will you give your time, efforts and prayers for the encouragement and preservations of vocations to the ordained and professed ministry?

NEW MEMBERS: I will.

1. Use your judgment according to the facilities available. In general, try to line up the new members near the podium, in dining facilities, or in front of the altar, if in church.
2. Lighting candles can be cumbersome. Use individual candles for 4 or fewer new members. Use a single larger candle for 5 or more new members; give to one of the new members to hold.

CHAPLAIN: Will you, by faithful attendance at Serra meetings and by the example of your Christian life, promote and deepen Christian justice and charity, and continually strive to fulfill your own Christian vocation?

ALL: I will.

CHAPLAIN: Will you do your best to share our Serra community with others who have much to give and much to gain from their Christian friendships which are refined through Serra membership?

ALL: I will.

CHAPLAIN: (A short sentence or two of congratulations, e.g., Congratulations!! Welcome to Serra International.)

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: (Ask new members to be seated and continue with the Mass/meeting.)