

A brief history of my involvement in the **Nuns Appreciation Day (NAD)** as it became the **Religious Sisters Appreciation Day (RSAD)**.

The Serra KCK Nuns Appreciation Day had a long history when I joined the Serra KCK Club in 2008. In 2008 Bob Vohs, Serra President asked me to work with Glen Swoyer in organizing the August event for the Sisters. We visited with George Gorman and his wife Virginia, the heart and soul of NAD for years, in order to learn more from them about organizing the "Sisters Picnic" and to seek their continued support. George promised to continue gifts from the Brotherhood Bank, and Virginia, the coordination of the kitchen. Virginia continued to work in the kitchen with Nora Volz, who succeeded her, until her untimely death.

Over the next 4 years as the team leadership progressed from Glen Swoyer to Robert Luchi to Larry Volz to Merlyn Albaugh three other significant changes occurred: the number of Sisters attended increased dramatically, more funding for Sisters personal use was obtained and, the Serra clubs in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas joined with the Kansas City MO area Serra Clubs to created a larger event for Sisters in the metro KC area.

We made a systematic effort to increase in the number of Sisters invited. At that time, the list of congregations within the Archdiocese was incomplete, so that the number of Sisters attending averaged 35. In our first year with a more complete listing of congregations in the Archdiocese, the number of Sisters attending grew to 75 and in the following 3 years to over 150. New congregations, including the Little Sisters of the Lamb and the Sisters of the Apostles of the Interior life, added to the total number of Sisters attending. This increase was not due only to more Sisters from our Archdiocese attending. The word of this event circulated across the Missouri river. Some Sisters living in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph asked if they could be invited since some of their activities took place in Kansas. Larry Volz met Sisters at the "Blisters for Sisters" event sponsored by Missouri Serra Clubs and invited them to our "Nuns Appreciation Day".

Due to the dedication of Larry Volz to this event we were able to obtain from donations enough money to give each Sister attending a token gift of \$35, later \$50 for their personal use, and still cover all related expenses. This idea of giving each Sister a gift was met with some skepticism at Archdiocesan high clerical levels but that skepticism disappeared quickly after the first year gifts were given to the Sisters. This was the beginning of a much larger effort (see below) that led to substantial amounts of money available for Sisters vocation activities.

The close collaboration and working relationships among Serra Clubs in the metro KC area to plan and execute the successful 2012 Region 9 convention at Conception Abbey led to the formation of a committee in 2013 whose members came from the Serra Clubs on both sides of the river. The committee's task was to create an event for the Sisters in the metro KC area sponsored by the Serra Clubs in the metro KC area, an undertaking that became the Religious Sisters Appreciation Day (RSAD).

Beth Tilling was named the first chair but, because of competing responsibilities, turned the chair over to Gene Schreiner. In a spirit of cooperation, the Sisters Picnic sponsored by one of the Missouri Serra Clubs was suspended and the funds for that event provided an essential boost to the committees planning effort for the next event for the Sisters. Gene Schreiner led the planning for this highly successful event that is a model of cooperation between Serra Clubs in different locations but with common goals. The jointly sponsored annual event is now called the **Religious Sisters Appreciation Day**.

Robert Luchi

(Notes on NAD 2011 - 2012 from Gene Schreiner)

Nuns Appreciation Day 2011 we adopted the acronym of NAD 2011. Larry Volz coordinated NAD 2011. I was asked to handle the registration. If our history records are correct, the numbers attending were: 154 Sisters, 56 Serrans, and 39 guests. In terms of costs – the total expenses were \$7,656 with each of the sisters receiving a \$35 gift. The sisters had time to visit, win BINGO prizes, participate in a short pray service and have a BBQ dinner with an abundance of desserts provided by Serran spouses. Nora Volz coordinated the kitchen volunteers and she has every year since. Although I sent out invitations and took reservations, I did not attend, since I was in Austria for my youngest son's wedding. Frank Schuchardt made the nametags for NAD 2011.

Nuns Appreciation Day 2012 NAD 2012 was held in August 22, 2012 with Merlyn Albaugh coordinating the event. The event was again held at St. Peter's Parish Center in Kansas City, Kansas where it had been held for a number of years. One hundred sixty-two Sisters attended in addition to 96 Serrans, spouses and guests. St. Peter's Parish Center was packed with the 258 attendees. Archbishop Naumann and Msgr. Mullen lead the prayer service with the Little Sisters of the Lamb singing. In 2012 we collected enough donations from Serrans and other donors to give each sister attending a \$50-bill, pay for the meal, drinks and other expenses and still have over \$ 3,000 left over for the next year's event. As in the past the sisters visited, played BINGO and enjoyed Jack Stack BBQ. Jack Stack always provides a great dinner and in addition to giving us his lowest price, makes a nice donation. I was asked at the beginning of the planning cycle to coordinate the event, but from my project management experience I declined since I had never attended the "Sisters' Picnic" and wanted to attend once before leading the team of volunteers who had been doing a great job putting this event on. I did take the reservations and make the nametags for the Sisters, Serrans and guests. I agreed to be the event coordinator for 2013 Nuns Appreciation Day.