



## Diocese of Austin

The Catholic Church of Central Texas  
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[www.austindiocese.org](http://www.austindiocese.org)

## Vocation Office

Funded through Catholic Services Appeal

December 1, 2006

Parish Coordinators of Altar Servers in the Diocese of Austin

Dear Parish Coordinator of Altar Servers:

As you are probably aware, the Diocese of Austin Vocation Office is jointly sponsoring along with the Serra Club of Austin and the Serra Club of Central Texas a diocesan-wide **Altar Server Recognition Day**. The event will be held Saturday, January 20, 2007 at St. Louis Parish in Austin from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. I encourage altar servers to participate in this day of recognition for the valuable service they offer the church by serving their parish community.

The event will include a Mass with a **special blessing** of altar servers by Bishop Gregory Aymond, as well as **workshops** for altar servers, "The Meaning of Serving at the Altar" and "Vocation: Our Baptismal Call," and a workshop for parents, "Families: Seedbed of Vocations." The talks will have simultaneous Spanish translation available. Donuts, coffee and juice as well as lunch will be provided.

We will also provide a printed **certificate to each altar server**.

A Serra Club medal will be awarded to **one outstanding altar server** from each parish. It is the pastor's decision which server to honor, and upon what criteria to base their decision. Please make sure that the name of your outstanding altar server is submitted to Mrs. Sherri Davis, president-elect of the Serra Club of Austin and the committee chair of the Altar Server Recognition Day. She may be contacted at [sherridavis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sherridavis@sbcglobal.net) or (512) 346-0573.

Each parish group is invited to bring a **parish banner** or an **altar server banner** (approximately 24 inch x 30 inch) representing your parish in the Mass. Each parish will choose one of its servers to carry the banner in a procession. This "banner bearer" may be vested in the alb or cassock used by the altar servers at your parish. Please provide your own pole and stand to hold the banner during Mass, as well as the vestment for your one "banner bearer."

Dress for this occasion is casual, but those in attendance should not wear shorts.

**Fliers, registration forms, and parent consent forms (English and Spanish)** for Altar Server Recognition Day are available on-line at [www.austindiocese.org/vocations/resources](http://www.austindiocese.org/vocations/resources). If you have not already distributed the forms, please make them available to the altar servers and their parents. We ask that you gather the registration and parental consent forms and provide the names of all your servers who will participate in this day to Sherri Davis no later than **December 15, 2006**.

St. Louis Parish is located one half-block south of Anderson Lane on Burnet Road in north central Austin. Directions are available on-line at [www.st-louis.org/map](http://www.st-louis.org/map). Please check-in at Wozniak Hall.

Please remember that anyone – volunteers, paid staff or clergy – who works with minors or vulnerable adults in a parish or diocesan setting, is required to complete an online eAppsDB application at [www.austindiocese.org](http://www.austindiocese.org), and attend a *Protecting God's Children* workshop. For more information about the online application or the diocesan policy, *Ethics and Integrity in Ministry*, please contact Colleen Schiller at (512) 697-2046.

You may address any questions about this event with Sherri, or for Spanish speakers with Mr. Gilbert Bernal, former president of the Serra Club of Austin. He may be reached at [gjbernal@aol.com](mailto:gjbernal@aol.com) or at (512) 346-5558.

I remain,

Yours in the joy of Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Michael J. Sis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rev. Michael J. Sis  
Vocation Director

MJS:cmg