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30 October 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Serra,

When a family is united and one of its members has a difficult problem, all get together in an effort to help and support him.

There is no doubt, in my mind, that this is the case for the Serra Family, due to the nature and characteristic of each Serran: the spirit of friendship freely given and of fraternity.

Joe Donahue, of the Serra Club of NW Metro Denver in Colorado U.S.A. and also a member of the International Board of Trustees, communicated that he has been diagnosed with cancer of the liver and pancreas, because of which (in his own words) there is little hope.

We, altogether and united, can be a great help to Joe: the certainty of our prayers for him and his family.

However, I am asking more. I have Joe's permission to ask all Serrans to pray to our Patron Blessed Junipero Serra to intercede for a cure and, if this be God's will, to make this initiative a worldwide effort.

It is my dream: could Joe be the instrument of the miracle needed for Blessed Junipero Serra to be recognized as a saint of the universal Church? It is a fact that we are waiting his canonization for a long time.

To this end, I ask you to inform Chicago Headquarters or me directly on what initiative you have or will be taking.

Mary, Mother of Vocations, pray for us!

Yours in Serra,

Cesare Gambardella

S.I. President