



A ministry to foster and promote vocations through prayer, awareness, affirmation and support



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SERRA CLUB OF SPOKANE

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USA

Letter from our President

Shelters of the Word

Reflecting on the feast of the Holy Family celebrated the Sunday after Christmas reminded me of the words of both Pope Francis and our own Bishop Daly, that vocations are best born and nurtured within the family. While it is true that some truly amazing vocations have come out of dysfunctional families the vast majority come from families where the word of God is taught and treasured.

Sadly, families today seem to be under attack and suffering more than at any time in history. Parents and Grandparents who try to pass on the gift of faith find themselves in competition with a world whose value system is completely at odds with Christ and whose morals are totally non-existent. We find hope hard to hold on to. I think Mary and Joseph can sympathize with our plight. When they escaped with Jesus to Egypt, a land where their ancestors were murdered and held in slavery, they were entering a world of beast-gods and the fertility cult of the Nile. Worst of all they were forced to flee because of a satanical king who was a supposed believer. They were refugees from violence and danger, strangers in an unwelcoming land. Yet they sheltered the Word of God, keeping him safe and eventually bringing him home to Nazareth where he grew in grace and wisdom.

There is a small community of Hermits in western New Jersey called the Hermits of Jesus of the Heart of Jesus. One of the titles they invoke for our Lady is "Shelter of the Word". Mary not only sheltered the word for nine months but she continually shelters and contemplates the Word in her heart as she shares Him with us. I believe St. Joseph also spent a lot of time contemplating the Word he was asked to shelter and protect. The Holy Family understands our struggles to keep our families holy in the midst of evil. Joseph and Mary can be models for all Serrans to become shelters of the Word, treasuring Jesus in our hearts and sharing Him with our own families, our parish families and with all those to whom our world seems like a desert without hope. As we pray daily for an increase of vocations we are also praying for those families who are sheltering the Word of God and helping their children see his face in all creation.

May God bless and help all of us to become not only Shelters of the Word but Sharers of Jesus with everyone we meet.

Sue Manfred

*Holy Family with Lamb
Raphael 1507*



The Chaplain's Corner

Dear Serrans,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Happy New Year!

On December 8, 2015, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the formal beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. The theme of this Holy Year is: "Merciful like the Father." Pope Francis is urgently inviting us to encounter the infinite mercy of God in Jesus Christ, who is not only merciful (the adjective), He is mercy itself (the noun).

Encountering Jesus, we encounter the mercy of the Father. And we are called to be so transformed by that mercy that when others encounter us, they experience the mercy of the Father through us—like electricity through a wire.

It is important to remember that mercy is not merely the forgiveness of sins (although it certainly includes that). The mercy of God is creative before it is redemptive. Therefore, we are each called to receive God's mercy with humble gratitude, and to offer it in the same spirit. In this way we will become holy, as God is holy—in other words, merciful like the Father.

For a Serran, this mercy will take the form of helping others understand and fulfill their destiny. Serrans become saints by helping others discern and exercise their vocations—especially to the priesthood and religious life. We do this first by experiencing the infinite mercy of God frequently in the sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist.

I encourage each Serran to receive these sacraments frequently in order to be transformed more completely by God's mercy. Then, when we pass through the Holy Door of Mercy out into the world, God can more effectively reach others through us.

Please be assured of my prayers for you, and please pray for me.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Daniel Barnett, Chaplain



Dear Serra Club Members,

Please accept my sincere thanks for your donation of \$500 to Bishop White Seminary. I am deeply grateful for the many ways that the Serra Club supports both the Bishop White Seminary and the seminarians.

Please know that you and your intentions will be remembered in our daily prayers, especially during mass and adoration, and please continue to pray for us.

Once again, thank you for your generous stewardship!

*Reverend Daniel J. Barnett
Rector*

*Dear Members of the Serra Club,
Your special ways and generous heart
make a beautiful difference. thank you so much.*

On behalf of the religious of the diocese, I want to thank you for your generous check of \$300, which made the reception after our Thanksgiving Mass for the Year of Consecrated Life a very special occasion. All the helpers that day from the Serra Club made it even more special for us. We felt so loved and supported. You are such an asset to our Diocesan Family. You will be remembered in prayer by each of the Communities there that day.

*With love and gratitude,
Sister Sharon Bongiorno FSPA*

Serrans Are Pilgrims and Sharers of the Word

by Sue Manfred

I want to thank everyone who made the trip to Fatima Parish such an outstanding success. We had a great group of Serrans as well guests from Fatima Parish. As we plan our pilgrimages to other parishes I am praying you can help them to be as successful.

In January we will travel to St. Anne's Parish in Medical Lake. Father Gus and his staff have been very gracious in allowing us to use all their beautiful facilities. Father has also agreed to be our speaker that day. You will be receiving directions and more about Father Gus's talk as we get closer to January 23rd.

In February we will once again be on the move although in the opposite direction. We will be meeting at St. John Vianney Parish in the Spokane Valley on February 27th. Besides honoring our new members with their official induction into Serra we are very

blessed to welcome Sam Lien Le, best-selling author of "The Spirit Stills the Storms" and "Beyond the Shadow". Sam will share his story of faith and hardship as he and his family escaped from Viet Nam and the story of his childhood where his strong faith was formed. Besides being a nationally recognized author and owner of Madison Home and Madison Country in Spokane Sam is a lector and choir director at St. Paschal's parish in the Spokane Valley. We will invite members of both parishes to join us for mass, breakfast and our program. This sharing of the good news of Jesus by someone whose faith has been tried by fire would be a very good program for potential members. I hope to see many "pilgrim" Serrans in January and February.



Sister Eucharista at the Mass and breakfast at Fatima Parish, Oct. 24

Trying Something New

After several months of prayer and deliberation your Board of Directors voted to make the induction of new Serrans a "moveable feast". Instead of having an official induction of new members only once a year, when inductees have often been members for 10 or 11 months, the board voted to have an induction ceremony whenever we have new members signed up. Our first induction of new Serrans in 2016 will be during mass on February 27th. We have 4 members ready for induction and it is possible there will be more by the February date. We hope to see as many of you as possible at this great celebration!



Serra Introduces New Technology

Beginning in January of 2016 Serra Club of Spokane will initiate an experiment with an automated calling system. This system will allow all Serrans to have current information about meeting dates, speakers and special events without requiring individual callers to spend hours on the phone. If you choose to answer the call while it is "live" you will be able to respond to an rsvp request with the simple push of a button. If you listen to the call after a voice mail is left you can still respond with a simple phone call and leave a message. We are looking forward to utilizing this new technology and hope it will be helpful to everyone.

Schedule of Events

Jan 1 No First Friday Mass

Jan 8 - Fri noon Luncheon Meeting *Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd.*

Jan 21 - Thurs 5:15 pm Mass and Board Meeting *Bishop White Seminary, 429 E. Sharp*

Jan 23 - Sat 9:00 am Mass and Breakfast Meeting Nomination of Officers

St. Anne Catholic Church 708 E. Lake St., Medical Lake, WA

Share Serra! Invite a friend to breakfast or lunch!

Feb 2 - Tues World Day for Consecrated Life

Feb 2 - Fri 7:00 am First Friday Mass *BWS*

Feb 12 - Fri noon Luncheon Meeting *IHRC*

Feb 18 - Thurs 5:15 pm Mass and Board Meeting *BWS*

Feb 27 - Sat 9:00 am Mass and Breakfast Meeting

Speaker: Sam Lien Le Induction of new members

St. John Vianney 501 N. Walnut Rd., Spokane Valley

*We invite you to recognize your diocesan priests' special occasions
and remember them in your prayers*

Birthday

Jan 8 Fr Eugene Tracy

Jan 18 Fr Michael Venneri

Jan 19 Fr John Krier

Jan 23 Fr David Baronti

Feb 9 Fr Miguel Angel Mejia

Feb 18 Fr Darrin Connall

Feb 28 Fr Thomas Caswell

We appreciate you!

