



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



MAR-APRIL 2016

SERRA CLUB OF SPOKANE

Club 2 District 1 Region 12

Volume 6

Issue 2

Spokane, Washington

USA

Letter from our President

“He is there!”

Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR was traveling with a Protestant minister in a car, and when they passed a Catholic Church, Fr. Benedict made the sign of the Cross. The minister asked him why he did this. Fr. Benedict explained that it was out of reverence for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. The minister told him, “If I believed what you believe, I would get out of the car, run inside the Church, fall on my knees and never get up again.”

This story got me to thinking. If I confess to someone that Jesus is really present in the tabernacles could I be “convicted” of the miracle I profess to believe? Or would I appear as hypocritical as the Pharisees? How would I act if the person I claim to love most in the world was sitting alone and waiting for me to come by and spend a few moments with him? Would I be too busy with my life, or would I drop everything and run to him?

St. John Vianney, the Cure of Ars, told his people, “Our Lord is hidden there in the tabernacle, waiting for us to come and visit Him, and make our requests to Him. If He had presented Himself

before us in all his glory now, we should not have dared to approach Him; but He hides Himself like a person in prison, who might say to us, ‘You do not see Me, but that is no matter; ask of Me all you wish and I will grant it.’” During his homilies the Cure of Ars would often turn towards the tabernacle, saying with emotion, “He is there!”

Unfortunately the practice of Eucharistic Adoration fell out of favor in many parishes and dioceses in the 1970’s and 80’s. In fact one national survey concludes that over 60% of Catholics in mass on Sunday do not really believe in the Divine Presence. Praise be to God Adoration is gaining favor once again thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit, Saint John Paul II and many other holy men and women.

Spokane Serrans are blessed with the opportunity to support the revival of Friday Adoration at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center. We Serrans will have the honor of adoring our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament every Friday from 11:00 to noon. On the second Friday of the month, the day of our monthly meeting, a Holy Hour, co-authored by our District Governor, Aileen Fields, will be prayed by all present. On the other

three Fridays of the month adoration will be in the tradition of silent prayer. Vickie Nicks, one of our newest members, has volunteered to coordinate the adoration schedule. She will have sign-up sheets at our monthly meetings and you can also reach her at jvnicks@msn.com.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy let us recall the words of Saint John Paul II, “With ever-living ardor, contemplate Christ in the mystery of the Eucharist. Following His example, be ready in all circumstances to make yourselves instruments of mercy and communion.”

God bless you all,

Sue Manfred



The Chaplain's Corner

Dear Serrans,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Our journey through this holy season of Lent mirrors our pilgrimage through life. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Church invites each of her members in a special way to encounter the Divine Mercy—Jesus—so that we may arrive at our true destiny bathed in Easter glory.

Indeed, God wills that each person without any exception whatever be transformed by His mercy and brought to the full stature of Christ. Each and every person is invited to encounter Jesus, be moved to conversion, drawn into communion, and reach out in solidarity to others. How does God plan to accomplish this massive task?

Through the Church. Through you and me. Our vocation is to allow ourselves to be transformed so that God may use us as His agents in the world. Think for a moment of every person with whom you have been in contact today (in person, or via e-mail, telephone, letter, text, or other means). Each of those interactions is to have been for the other person an encounter with the mercy of God through you.

In this Holy Year, we are to proclaim the mercy of God with our works as well as our words. I invite each Serran to experience that mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that we can more effectively fulfill our own vocation of fostering and supporting vocations.

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

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Daniel Barnett, Chaplain

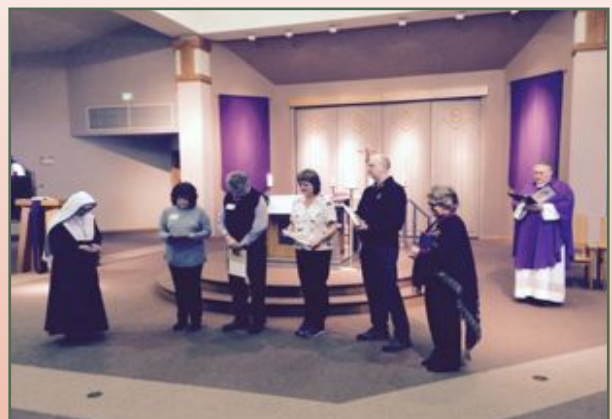
Fr. Barnett traveled to Rome recently to be commissioned as an official Diocesan Missionary of Mercy for the Jubilee Year.

Our chaplain is one of only a few hundred priests world-wide who have been designated as Missionaries of Mercy.

Welcome New Members!



Please welcome our newest members: (from left) Barbara & Bill Boniface, Vickie & Jim Nicks, Aileen Fields



Sister Paschalina, SMMC and Fr. Joe Bell with our new members

Saturday Meetings

by Steve Domini

After a holiday hiatus, the Serrans met on Saturday, January 23, at St. Anne's parish in Medical Lake, for Mass and breakfast. Judy Luce coordinated the meeting, along with Betty Patterson at the parish. St. Anne's has a very large and modern parish hall.

Fr. Gus Ruiz, St. Anne's pastor, shared a very moving and informative DVD presentation. He described his mission trip to Honduras. Fr. Ruiz, along with Fr. Luta, Nsubuga, pastor of Our Lady of the Valley parish in Okanogan, traveled to San Pedro Sula, Honduras. They visited the villages of La Colonia, Mirador, and Santa Fe. The priests traveled during late September and early October, in order to minister to, and provide the sacraments for the Honduran people, Franciscan University of Steubenville students, and medical personnel.

As you might imagine, the villagers are very poor, some without electricity or running water. In addition, the Catholic population in these villages may see a priest for once every three years. Villagers may walk five difficult miles in order to reach the Church. Some villagers have not received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, or First Eucharist nor attended Mass in many years. We could hear the sorrow in Fr. Gus's voice, as he recounted his mission story.

As Serrans, let us reflect and appreciate the abundant access we have to the sacraments, as well as the priests in our diocese. Also, let us appreciate our Serran mission, which is to pray for and support vocations. Don't forget Serra International works worldwide, in order to support vocations in places like Honduras. A portion of your dues provides this support. I want to encourage all Serrans to attend our Saturday meetings. Our chaplain, Fr. Barnett, has prayerfully recommended that we travel to parishes throughout Spokane, as a way to increase the visibility of Serra. Each parish we visit is an opportunity to gain new members, because these parishes advertise our visit in advance in the parish bulletin. Mass is celebrated, even if it is not a regularly scheduled Saturday Mass and the celebrant mentions our presence from the pulpit. As you can see, this is a great way for each of us to interact with these parishioners and invite them to stay for breakfast and meeting, invite them to learn more about who we are.

The weather is getting better, and it's fun to visit new places!
See you at our next Saturday meeting!



From left, Judy Luce, Sue Manfred and Steve Domini, Bob Bohme and Fr. Gus Ruiz

The Jubilee Year

by Steve Domini

On Friday, February 12, Fr. Mike Savelesky spoke to us at IHRC about the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy and its Biblical roots.

He began by reminding us that on December 8, 2015, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica, to begin the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. In addition, Pope Francis directed that every diocesan cathedral is to have a Holy Door of Mercy for the faithful to make a pilgrimage to and enter. Usually, only the door at the Vatican is opened and only those in Rome may enter. The Pope would enter symbolically for those who cannot go to Rome.

The Jubilee Year is a time of joy. It is a time of remission of sins, and universal pardon, and has its origins in the biblical book of Leviticus. (Inside the Vatican; May 2015).

Father explained that according to the book of Leviticus, a Jubilee Year would occur every 50 years, at which time the tribes of Israel would return to their original home (the land around and including Jerusalem), give back any land purchased elsewhere to its original owners, free their slaves, and forgive any debts owed them.

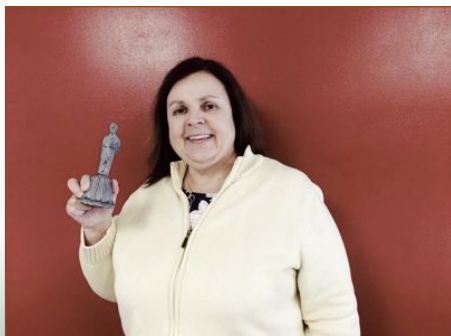
Father told us how the Church has since incorporated Jubilee Years throughout her history. In recent centuries, Jubilee Years have been called every 25 years. This year is "Extraordinary," because it has occurred less than 25 years from the last one.

The word "jubilee" is from the Hebrew word "Yovel" - which is the blast of a shofar, a ram's horn. To announce a Jubilee Year, the shofar would be blown on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur).

Interestingly, and many do not know this, this year is a Jubilee Year for the Jewish people. Because the tribes were scattered and all the original land owned by them is no longer theirs, the Jewish people have not celebrated a Jubilee Year in many centuries. Only the very Orthodox continue to try to live up to the law of Leviticus as best they can in current times.

He then played the sound the horn makes on his computer. He said the horn is significantly large, but its sound is surprisingly high pitched. The horn was used on several festive occasions, each with its own codified blast.

Let all of us learn more about the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, and pray and ask God for mercy, and show the same mercy to others.



Many thanks for the gift to Serra Club of this beautiful bell from Colin and Andi Harris

Schedule of Events

- Mar 4 - Fri 7:00 am First Friday Mass *Bishop White Seminary, 429 E. Sharp*
Mar 11 - Fri noon Luncheon Meeting *Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd.*
Speaker: Fr. Dan Barnett (Serra Club Chaplain) on being commissioned in Rome to be a Missionary of Mercy
Mar 17 - Thurs 5:15 pm Mass and Board Meeting *BWS (St. Patrick's Day)*
Mar 19 - Sat 11:00 am Sisters Appreciation Mass and Lunch *St Charles Parish and Hall*
4515 N. Alberta St., Spokane Mass Celebrated by Bishop Daly

Share Serra! Invite a friend to breakfast or lunch!

- Apr 1 - Fri 7:00 am First Friday Mass *BWS*
Apr 8 - Fri noon Luncheon Meeting *IHRC*
Apr 17 - Sun World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Apr 21 - Tues 5:15 pm Mass and Board Meeting *BWS*
Apr 23 - Sat 9:00 am Mass and Breakfast Meeting *(location to be determined - for more information, email: sgmanfred@comcast.net)*



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

We appreciate you!

Dear Serra Club Members,

*I very much thank you for all the support you
give to boost vocations. Your generosity means
a lot to us as seminarians.
God bless you most abundantly!*

*Seminarian
Raymond Kalema*

Anniversary of Ordination

Apr 12, 1969 Rev. Msgr John Steiner
Apr 30, 1952 Fr Charles D. Skok

Birthday

3/2 Most Rev William S. Skylstad
3/7 Fr Daniel Barnett
3/11 Fr Patrick Kerst
3/11 Fr Rory Pitstick
3/22 Fr Joseph Bell
4/3 Fr. Richard Semple
4/26 Fr Joachim Hien
4/28 Rev. Msgr Robert Pearson