



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



SEPT-OCT 2016

## SERRA CLUB OF SPOKANE

Club 2 District 1 Region 12

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Spokane, Washington

USA

### Letter from our President

#### Only For Today

How wonderful it is to be a Catholic and a Serran in Spokane in the fall of 2016. We rejoice in the fruits of answered prayer as we welcome 13 young men to Bishop White Seminary while 4 more are pursuing advanced studies. Eighteen parishes have made the 31 Club a regular part of their parish activity, with one more set to start in October. In September new Serra Clubs will be chartered in Coeur d'Alene and Walla Walla. As Serrans we have followed God's call to pray for vocations and for all our priests and sisters. We heard Him when he called us to practice an increase in personal holiness. The generosity of God when he answers his people's prayer is overwhelming.

We know the job is not over, the race is not complete and the challenge now is to keep answering God's call to prayer. I would like to share a prayer I found in a book of meditations for the Year of Mercy. Sometimes I find that a new prayer will enliven my prayer life and make it new again. This prayer from St. John XXIII speaks to my heart and I hope it will aid you seeking God's call to personal holiness.

**Only for today,** I will seek to live the livelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.

**Only for today,** I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behavior; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.

**Only for today,** I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.

**Only for today,** I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.

**Only for today,** I will devote ten minutes to some good reading, for good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.

**Only for today,** I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.

**Only for today,** I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.

**Only for today,** I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.

**Only for today,** I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.

**Only for today,** I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness.

~St. John XXIII

God bless you,

Sue



*St. John XXIII*

## The Chaplain's Corner

Dear Serrans,  
Praised be Jesus Christ!

As I write this, my heart is full of gratitude to you and to the many others who have been praying for vocations to the priesthood. God is answering our prayers.

On Tuesday evening, the four "Old Men" returned to Bishop White Seminary-three studying for the Archdiocese of Seattle, and one for the Diocese of Spokane. It was a nice opportunity for them to share the stories of their pastoral assignments as they prepared for the new year ahead. The next morning, we welcomed NINE New Men to Bishop White Seminary-four for Seattle, three more for Spokane, and two studying for the Diocese of Boise. After showing them to their rooms and having lunch, we went off for a two-day Orientation Retreat to get to know one another, and to continue our journey in prayer.

When we returned, the Serra Club members prepared a wonderful BBQ dinner for the seminarians and their families, who had come up by that time to help them move in and enjoy the Orientation Weekend at Gonzaga University. The Bishop White refectory has rarely been so full with people!

A few days before, the Diocese of Spokane sent off two seminarians (Raymond Kalema and Peter Fazzari) to continue their studies at Theological College in Washington, DC. Finally, Andy Kelly and Chase Willcuts began studies at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park.

Thus, this year we have a total of 8 seminarians studying for the Diocese of Spokane (up from four last year). God is good!



*New Seminarians*

I am convinced that the prayers of the Serrans are making a difference. Thank you for your prayers, please keep them up, and know that we are praying for you. May the Lord bless you as we keep moving siempre adelante! Always forward!

In Christ,  
Fr. B.

*Fr. Daniel Barnett, Chaplain*

# Serra Club Annual Picnic

August 13, 2016

*Thank you Bishop Daly and Father Barnett for making this such a special and inspiring evening.*



## Keeping the Legacy Alive

by Sue Manfred

We have all mourned the passing of Jim Bertis this summer. This almost 50-year Serran was beloved by all who knew him and he loved Serra. He embodied the spirit of Serra, always praying for vocations and priests and encouraging everyone he knew to join Serra and keep the prayers going.



Jim was one of several Serrans who years ago had a vision that would help support Bishop White Seminary financially. They established an endowment for the seminary that anyone wanting to support the priesthood can contribute. The endowment becomes invested through the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Washington. Each year a regular portion of the endowment's proceeds is available to Bishop White Seminary to help offset education and operation expenses.

It is fitting that Jim's love of and care for priests can be kept alive through the yearly gifts from the endowment to Bishop White Seminary.

Thank you to the following individuals who have made donations to the endowment in Jim's memory:

Virgil and Rosemary King  
Mr. & Mrs. Dave McGann  
Jay Wieber, Tony Wieber and Elsa Wieber Ceder  
Mr. Phil Brennan  
Richard & Shirley Keith  
Patricia Ewers  
Florian & Judy Herda  
Marietta Gilmore  
Gerry and Sue Manfred

**Interested in joining SERRA Club?**

**Contact:**

Steve Domini

VP of Programs & Membership

(509) 590-7079

## Flame of Faith

by Steve Domini

At the Friday, July 8 luncheon meeting, our speaker was Fr. C. Hightower, SJ. As many of you remember, Fr. Hightower was the Serra Club of Spokane chaplain for several years. He is currently getting ready to depart for Florence, Italy, to begin an assignment as chaplain for the Gonzaga in Florence program. God works in mysterious ways.

Fr. Hightower's mother, Annette Isabel Hightower, recently entered into eternal life in Renton, WA, and Fr. Hightower celebrated her funeral Mass, which precipitated his topic for us on July 8.

He spoke about grief and hope. Father explained that grief is a selfish action, which makes our focus ourselves. Father explained that we should not be frozen by grief, but that we should move past grief. As Christians, we are a hopeful people.

He talked about the "flame of faith" that was alive in his mother's heart, and that we should think back to the baptismal promises that her godparents made.

The funeral is about the victory of Christ, not about the deceased. We should rejoice not grieve for the deceased. God is not a selfish God. God's greatest gift is our salvation, and that we will see friends and family in heaven.

As Father Hightower was speaking to us, Serran Jim Bertis was undergoing serious surgery, from which he did not recover. He entered into eternal life, shortly after Father finished his talk.

As we were given a lesson on grief and hope and how to deal with these issues in our own lives, it didn't take long for us to begin to practice a new way of grieving.



*Fr. C. Hightower*



## Serra International Foundation Award

Regional Director, Martin Weber, accepted the award naming Serra of Spokane as a Banner Club for 2015 while attending the Serra International Convention in St. Louis in July.



## Two New Serra Clubs

by Aileen Fields

The Holy Spirit's Call to Holiness has been heard in our Inland Northwest. This summer God gifted the Serran community with two new Serra clubs.

(1) Located in Walla Walla Washington and formally titled the Serra Club of the Blue Mountains, this club began its formation process in December 2015, and is now ready for Charter on September 15. Sponsored by the Tri-Cities Club, three Walla Walla parishes, St. Francis, St. Patrick and Assumption, have worked in a wonderful spirit of cooperation and collaboration with their newly ordained priest and chaplain, Father Kyle Ratuiste. All are invited to attend the Installation Mass with Most Reverend Thomas A. Daly, followed by the Chartering and Induction Dinner, Thursday, September 15, at 5:00 p.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Walla Walla.

(2) The quick development of the second club came as a surprise. Bishop Christensen, former Serra International emeritus chaplain, requested the Spokane District Extension Team review the feasibility of establishing the first Serra Club for the State of Idaho in the northern half of the state. During the first meeting, Bishop Christensen phoned the pastor of St. Thomas Catholic Church in Coeur d'Alene and named Father Mariusz Majewski the clubs first Chaplain. With an orientation meeting beginning in April of this year, followed by several formation and program meetings, the Serra Club of Northern Idaho finished its formation process in early August and successfully implementing two "31 Club" campaigns.

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus, the Serra members from St. Thomas, St. Pius and St. George, including members from the Spokane sponsoring club, will be attending the Installation Mass with Most Reverend Peter Christensen, Bishop of the Boise Diocese, on Saturday September 17, 11:00 a.m. at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Coeur d'Alene, followed by the Chartering and Induction luncheon.

All are invited to attend both Charter events. For reservations and information call Aileen Fields, District Governor Region 12 1E/USA Council Program Chair. (509) 999-7023

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

### Ordinations

Sept. 25, 1982	Fr. Patrick Baraza
Sept. 6, 1991	Fr. Eugene Tracy
Oct. 29, 1977	Fr. Roy Floch

### Birthdays

Sept. 23	Fr. Felix Lorge
Sept. 27	Fr. Robert McNeese
Oct. 2	Fr. Jose Luis Millan
Oct. 7	Fr. Richard Root
Oct. 9	Fr. Bonaventure Obisike
Oct. 11	Fr. Msgr. Frank Bach
Oct. 27	Fr. Kevin Codd

# Welcome Back Dinner for Seminarians

August 26, 2016 at Bishop White Seminary

*Seminarians taking time out from their busy retreat schedule.*



*Chefs Al Hanson & Bob Boehme*



*Serrans George & Sharon Czerwonka and Martin Weber*



## Schedule of Events

### SEPTEMBER 2016

~~Fri; Sep 2; 7:00 am; First Friday Mass at BWS~~

Fri; Sep 2; 11:00 am; Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

Fri; Sep 9; Noon; Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC

Fri; Sep 16; 11:00 am; Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

Thu; Sep 22; 5:30 pm; Mass and Board Meeting at BWS

Fri; Sep 23; 11:00 am; Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

Sat; Sep 24; 9:00 am; Mass and Breakfast Meeting at BWS. Our speakers will be seminarians John Paul and Michael.

Fri; Sep 30; 11:00 am; Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

### OCTOBER 2016

Fri; Oct 7; 7:00 am; First Friday Mass at BWS

Fri; Oct 7; 11:00 am; Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

Fri; Oct 14; 11:00 am; Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC

Sun; Oct 16; World Mission Sunday

Thu; Oct 20; 5:30 pm; Mass and Board Meeting at BWS

Fri; Oct 21; 11:00 am; Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

Sat; Oct 22; 9:00 am; Mass and Breakfast Meeting at TBD

Fri; Oct 28; 11:00 am; Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

Sun; Oct 30; Priesthood Sunday

## Thank You Letters

*Dear Sue and all the generous Serra Club,*

*How could we ever thank you enough for your generosity? The final lunch was a great success again with many families joining in the closing Mass and great feast. Please thank Dennis and Martin for joining us - their presence added to the graciousness of the event. Please let us know if we can assist your group in any way.*

*~ Sr. Elaine M...*

*Dear Serra Club members,*

*Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,000 to the Office of Vocations of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane. As you requested, the funds will be used to help pay expense at the 2016 Quo Vadis Days camp for young men from June 20-23.*

*Seminarian Peter Fazzari has returned to the diocese from the Theological College at Catholic University. Peter and I have been working together to organize the Quo Vadis Days this year, and he has talked about the camp at Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese. Thanks to generous donors like you we are pleased to offer the Quo Vadis experience at no cost this year. We expect a record number of young men to take advantage of this unique opportunity to consider important questions while immersed in a fun atmosphere of fraternity and safety.*

*Thanks for the many ways that you support the seminary and the priestly formation program. You are remembered, along with all our donors, in our daily prayers here at Bishop White Seminary.*

*Sincerely in Christ,  
Rev. Daniel J. Barnett, Director of Vocations*