



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



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SERRA CLUB OF SPOKANE

Club 2 District 1 Region 12

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USA

Letter from our President

I don't think in 1992 when St. John Paul II declared Serra International the Vocation Arm of the Church anyone envisioned that in 2015 a book would be published that teaches us how to do most of the heavy lifting. In the past few years it sometimes felt like we were salmon swimming upstream as we prayed and worked in our individual parishes for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We've all heard with heavy hearts of parents who openly discouraged their sons and daughters from exploring a religious vocation.

Praised be to God a new day is dawning in the church. Pope Francis's energetic challenge to evangelize and live the gospel of joy and mercy has revitalized many practicing Catholics and many who were Catholic in name only. As Fr. Brett Bannon states in the foreword to Rhonda Gruenwald's book *Hundredfold*, "...this is the age of the laity! In the spirit of *Christifidelis Laici*, the 1988 document of St. John Paul II,....the present Church calls all people in every vocation to step up and do what needs to be done to bring Jesus Christ to the world." No matter our vocation, married, single, priest or sister, our mission is to bring Jesus Christ to everyone we meet. As Serrans, we have an added responsibility, one we joyfully accept and embrace. We pray ardently for others to have the grace to hear the call of Jesus in their own life.

We are blessed to have the author of this amazing book as the presenter at our Spokane Vocation Summit on February 11th, (more on this in Fr. Barnett's column). Her book is a step by step blueprint for how to carry out the mission of Serra. Many times reading it was like reading our Serra Vocation manual but with more information and fresh ideas. Vocations come from families but also from those of us in the pews. "The greatest work in the Kingdom of God is not done at the Vatican in Rome or in the office of the local bishop, as important as they are. The greatest work in the Church is done in the local parish, initiated by the local people themselves." (Fr. Brett Bannon, foreword to *Hundredfold*.)

God is gifting us and in turn our parishes with the Vocation Summit for the laity. It is every Serran's privilege to accept this gift with open hands and hearts. This opportunity will truly enable us to live St. Serra's motto, always forward, never back. We will come away with a roadmap taking us forward on our journey. I am praying to see you all there.

God bless you,

Sue



The Chaplain's Corner

Dear Serrans,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Happy New Year!

I would like to invite each of the Serrans to a very special event just over a month from now.

On Saturday, February 11—the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, Patroness of our diocese—we will host the Hundredfold Vocation Summit 2017 from 9:30am-3:00pm. This event will feature Rhonda Gruenewald, author of the book *Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry*, and Leticia Cantu Ramirez, who translated the book into Spanish.



Bishop Daly desires that vocation discernment, promotion, and support be woven into every aspect of the Church's life in the Diocese of Spokane: Catholic Schools, Religious Education programs, Youth Groups, sports, liturgy, finances, cultural celebrations, etc. There is no aspect of life—individual, parochial, or diocesan—from which “vocation” should be absent.

Why? Because the entire Christian life is a response to a call. The Christian life, and the sacraments which initiate, heal, and sustain that life, are not things we initiate, but invitations to which we must respond. They are unmerited gifts which both enable and demand a response. Our entire life is a response to a call to holiness in a particular state in life: marriage, single life, religious life, or priesthood.

Each parish pastor has been asked to identify several key leaders to participate in this first-ever Vocation Summit. It will be offered in two simultaneous tracks (English and Spanish), so everyone can participate. At the end of the day, participants will have initiated out a plan which will allow them to go back to work with their parish and school communities to coordinate, on the grass-roots level, a plan to generate a culture of discernment in our diocese.

Because of the key role of the Serra Club in this great work, I invite you to register for this event today. Thank you for all you do to support vocations to the priesthood and religious life!

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

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Daniel Barnett, Chaplain

Register Now!
Hundredfold Vocation Summit
Saturday, February 11
9:30am to 3:00 pm
St. Thomas More Parish
www.spokanevocations.org
(509) 313-7100

HUNDREDFOLD VOCATION SUMMIT



CATHOLIC DIOCESE of SPOKANE
OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

—featuring—

Rhonda Gruenewald author of
Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017 | 9:30am to 3:00pm

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH | 515 W. St. Thomas More Way, Spokane, WA 99208

Together with a select group of other parishioners from throughout the diocese, you have been chosen to participate in the *Hundredfold Vocation Summit 2017*. At this workshop, offered in either English or in Spanish, you will develop a plan to help all parishioners discover how God is calling them to holiness—in Marriage, Single Life, Religious Life, or Priesthood.

Jesus is calling each of us to help foster vocations. Please join us!

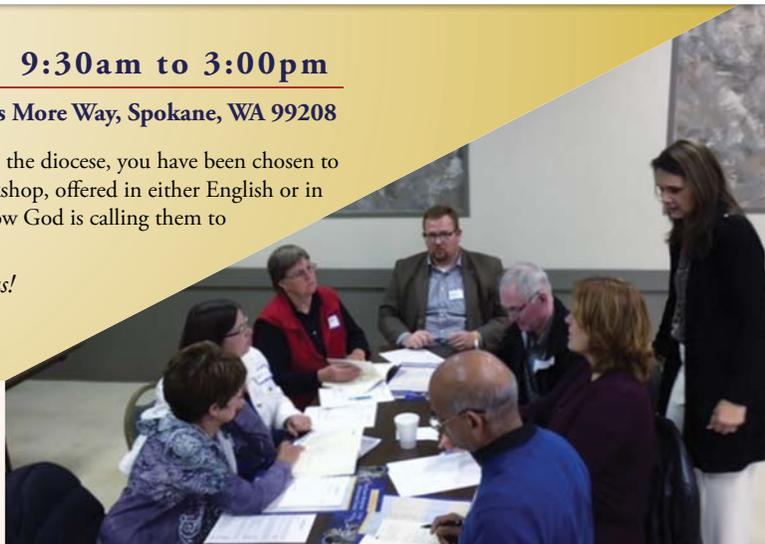
Register Now!

www.SpokaneVocations.org or (509) 313-7100

“The workshop was full of ideas, and Rhonda was very warm and engaging. She showed her passion for this in such a way that I feel excited and motivated to bring ideas back to our ministry.”

Parishioner Kristin

Our Lady of Angels, Lakewood Ranch, Florida



START VOCATION MINISTRY IN YOUR PARISH

Guest Speakers



Leticia Cantú Ramirez



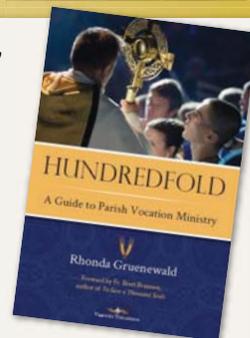
Rhonda Gruenewald

“Vocations are everyone’s responsibility. We’ve taken that to heart at my parish, and that’s what I want to talk to you about today. You can do what we have done.”

Rhonda Gruenewald

Rhonda Gruenewald’s book *Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry* is the definitive handbook for promoting vocations in Catholic parishes.

Now Rhonda is visiting dioceses to present best practices to clergy and laity. Her message has resonated with audiences in huge archdioceses like New York and smaller dioceses like Grand Island, Nebraska. Audiences love her energy, wit, and wisdom—not to mention her practical know-how about reaching young people with a pro-vocations message.



What to expect:

Half-day workshop inspiring attendees to begin Parish Vocation Ministries. It covers:

- What is a Vocation Ministry?
- Why do we need one at every parish?
- What are the goals of the ministry?
- What does a healthy ministry look like?
- What kind of activities should we do?
- What “phases” will we go through?
- How do we sustain the ministry?

What you will receive:

Attendees make a concrete plan for how they will promote vocations in their parishes:

- Assess your parish’s current efforts to promote vocations
- Choose realistic activities in the areas of Prayer, Education, Youth, and Affirmation
- Discuss how to celebrate various dates such as National Vocation Awareness Week
- Set goals and leave with a plan to get started!

Includes sample packets of vocation resources and monthly support emails for participants.

Fr. Kerst, October 22 Meeting

by Steve Domini



The Serrans took another trip for our Saturday, October 22, meeting. We met at St. Mary's Parish in the Spokane Valley. We began with Mass at 9:00 am followed by breakfast and program. Father Pat Kerst, pastor at St. Mary's, was both our celebrant and speaker. I want to give a special thanks to Bob and Diana Boehme for arranging the event.

Father Kerst spoke about his journey to the priesthood. He grew up in the parish where he is now the pastor. He recounted how God called him to consider a vocation to the priesthood and the various events in his life that lead to ordination.

I was struck by how much Father Kerst values his priesthood. He expressed much joy as he told his story.

In addition, he spoke about purgatory. He gave his priestly view about souls in purgatory and how we on earth can pray for them. This aspect of the program was timely since we were soon to enter November and celebrate All Saint Day and All Souls Day. Throughout the entire month of November, we especially pray for the souls of the faithful departed.

As I listened to Father Kerst's, I received a very personal and earnest view of why we are blessed to be Serrans. We learn about our faith together as brothers and sisters in Christ. We hear heartfelt stories about what leads a priest to his vocation. The Serran experience allows us to learn about our church and the people in it, in a very special way.

Attend the meetings!

Steve Domini
Vice President for Programs

Prayerfully Consider an Endowment Contribution



This endowment fund supports our seminarians in perpetuity.

To contribute:

Add an additional endowment contribution on your next annual dues invoice to make a 100% tax deductible donation or contact Sue Manfred at 926-1067 or Bob Boehme at 924-2405.

Fr. Barnett, November 11 Meeting

by Steve Domini



Our chaplain, Fr. Dan Barnett was the speaker at the November 11 meeting at IHRC.

He was commissioned by Pope Francis as a Missionary of Mercy, with special responsibilities during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. He spoke to us on March 11 to introduce the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Jubilee Year ended on November 20.

Father Barnett spoke about indulgences, what they are and why they are necessary. He gave a very thorough presentation on original sin, personal sin, and the effects of sin. Even when we are forgiven of our sins in the confessional, the effects of sin remain. He then discussed attachment to sin. He said that the effects of sin go onto Jesus' shoulders. My understanding of both the crucifixion and our redemption was made much clearer.

He discussed how indulgences relate to mercy, the blood of Christ, and our good works. Indulgences (plenary and partial), remove temporal punishment due to sin that has already been forgiven.

We heard the requirements to obtain an indulgence as he explained the Holy Door. Holy Doors are present in each diocese, not just at St. Peter's Basilica. The Holy Doors in the Spokane Diocese were at Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral and at St. Patrick's Parish in Pasco. Father encouraged us to walk through the Holy Door and meet the requirements for a plenary indulgence: attend Mass, go to confession and pray (he specified each).

As vice president for programs, I encourage each of you to attend our meetings. Our speakers are selected with a specific purpose. Topics often relate to an upcoming event or liturgical period in the church calendar. Speakers and topics are also selected to increase the faith of the membership. What a great way to spend a couple of hours, enjoy time with fellow Serrans at lunch or breakfast, and learn more about our Catholic faith.

Attend the meetings!

Steve Domini, Vice President for Programs

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

Birthdays

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

Fr. Maher, December 9 Meeting

by Steve Domini



Father Michael Maher, SJ was our speaker at the December 9 meeting at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center. Father Maher is an associate professor of history as well as chair of the history department and director of Catholic Studies at Gonzaga University.

Father spoke about the Marian dogmas: the Immaculate Conception (1854) and the Assumption (1950), as well as the perpetual virginity of Mary and Mary as the Mother of God.

He began by defining theology as revealed facts and a synthesis of reason, faith and authority. He described how theology is a science.

He went into depth describing the fullness of Marian thought, describing her relationship with the beloved disciple and then the crucifixion. He then discussed Mary as our mother in faith with Eve as our physical mother.

He discussed Jesus as God and man, how Jesus is consubstantial with the Father and how Mary is the mother of God.

An interesting point was the idea of patronage. In the Middle Ages, people did not go directly to the king, but went to others who had influence with him. Therefore, Mary was the one people went to, in order to ask favor of Jesus, because of her relationship with Jesus. She was the patroness.

The theme that moved through his presentation was the incarnation. Jesus enters into humanity through Mary. In the 1800s Communism (workers' paradise) and capitalism (material production), moved people away from spiritualism. Pius IX looked at materialism. Father said that the Immaculate Conception took a stance against materialism. He called this "Mary with boxing gloves."

Father finished with a description of Deism, which says that God does not act in society. God does act in society with the incarnation, man had sinned, man was disobedient, and Mary was obedient.

In 1950, Pius XII proclaimed the dogma of the Assumption of Mary, which fulfilled the Immaculate Conception. Mary is our mother in the order of grace.

What a program – especially on the day after the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Attend the meetings!

Steve Domini
Vice President for Programs

Schedule of Events

JANUARY 2017

Fri., Jan 6: No First Friday Mass at BWS

Fri., Jan 6, 11:00 am: Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

Tue., Jan 10, 5:30 pm: Board Meeting at BWS (no Mass)

Fri., Jan 13, 11:00 am: Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC

Fri., Jan 20, 11:00 am: Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

Sat., Jan 21, 9:00 am: Mass and Breakfast Meeting – NOTE: This is a change in date from January 28. We will meet at St. Joseph's Parish in Colbert; 3720 E. Colbert Rd.

Fr. Brian Sattler (pastor) will be our celebrant and speaker. Nomination of Officers.

Fri., Jan 27, 11:00 am: Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

FEBRUARY 2017

Fri., Feb 3, 7:00 am: First Friday Mass at BWS

Fri., Feb 3, 11:00 am: Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

Sun., Feb 5: World Day for Consecrated Life

Fri., Feb 10, 11:00 am: Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC

Sat., Feb 11, 9:00 am: Vocation Summit at St. Thomas More Parish – NOTE: This is a change in date from February 25. The Diocesan Vocation Committee, at the urging of Bishop Daly and with the assistance of Fr. Barnett, has scheduled a Vocation Summit on Saturday, February 11, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at St. Thomas More. Rhonda Gruenewald, author of "Hundredfold," will be the conference speaker. If any of you have read her book, it reads just like the Serra handbook and vocations manual. All Serra Club members are invited. Sue Manfred, Serra Club president, has more information.

Tue., Feb 14, 5:30 pm: Mass and Board Meeting at BWS

Fri., Feb 17, 11:00 am: Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

Fri., Feb 24, 11:00 am: Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

Sat., Feb 25, No Mass and Breakfast Meeting – NOTE: This date has been changed to February 11.

Thank You Letters

Serrans,

Just a note to thank you for honoring me and my brother priests at the Serra dinner. And thank you, too, for the "meal ticket" to Mamma Mia's. You are most kind and supportive!

Much appreciate all the attention and words of gratitude.

Blessings,

Fr. Mike (Savelesky)