



*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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Pope's Words on Friendship to Serra International

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Below is a Zenit translation of Pope Francis' address to participants of the 75th Convention of 'Serra International' on Friday, June 23, 2017 in the Vatican. The June 22-25 convention in Rome has as its theme: "Siempre adelante. The Courage of Vocation:"

Your Eminence, Your Excellency,

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am pleased to greet all of you. From throughout the world you have gathered for this International Convention, which has as its theme: Siempre Adelante. The Courage of Vocation. In the joy of the Gospel, and with that boldness typical of the Christian mission, you have gathered here to discover anew, at the school of the Master, the meaning of every Christian vocation: to offer our lives as a gift, "anointing" our brothers and sisters with the tenderness and mercy of God. I thank Mr Dante Vannini, the President of Serra International, for his kind words. I would like to reflect on something he said which, I believe, is central to the experience of faith: to be friends.

*"It is better to go forward limping,
and even at times to fall, while
always trusting in the mercy of God,
than to be 'museum Christians' who
are afraid of change."*

~Pope Francis

To be friends to priests, sustaining their vocation and accompanying them in their ministry: with this great gift you enrich the Church! This is, above all else, what a Serran is – a "special friend" whom the Lord has brought into the lives of seminarians and priests.

Today the word "friend" has become a bit overused. In our daily lives, we run into various people whom we call "friends", but that is just a word we say. Within virtual communications, "friend" is one of the most frequently found words. Yet we know that superficial knowledge has little to do with that experience of encounter or closeness evoked by the word "friend".

When Jesus speaks of his "friends", he points to a hard truth: true friendship involves an encounter that draws me so near to the other person that I give something of my very self. Jesus says to his disciples: "No longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you" (Jn 15:15). He thus establishes a new relationship between man and God, one that transcends the law and is grounded in trust and love. At the same time, Jesus frees friendship from sentimentalism and presents it to us as a responsibility that embraces our entire life: "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (Jn 15:13).

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Pope's Words *(continued from page 1)*

We become friends, then, only if our encounter is more than something outward or formal, and becomes instead a way of sharing in the life of another person, an experience of compassion, a relationship that involves giving ourselves for others.

It is good for us to reflect on what friends do. They stand at our side, gently and tenderly, along our journey; they listen to us closely, and can see beyond mere words; they are merciful when faced with our faults; they are non-judgmental. They are able to walk with us, helping us to feel joy in knowing that we are not alone. They do not always indulge us but, precisely because they love us, they honestly tell us when they disagree. They are there to pick us up whenever we fall.

This is also the kind of friendship that you seek to offer to priests. The Serra Club helps foster this beautiful vocation of being laity who are friends to priests. Friends who know how to accompany and sustain them in faith, in fidelity to prayer and apostolic commitment. Friends who share the wonder of a vocation, the courage of a definitive decision, the joy and fatigue of ministry. Friends who can offer priests support and regard their generous efforts and human failings with understanding and tender love. In this way, you are to priests like the home of Bethany, where Jesus entrusted his weariness to Martha and Mary, and, thanks to their care, was able to find rest and refreshment.

There is another phrase that describes you. You chose it for the theme of this convention: Siempre adelante! Keep moving forward! Like you, I believe that this is a synonym for the Christian vocation. For the life of every missionary disciple bears the impress of his or her vocation. The voice of the Lord invites his disciples to leave the safety of their homeland and to begin the "holy journey" towards the promised land of encounter with him and with our brothers and sisters. Vocation is an invitation to go forth from ourselves, to rejoice in our relationship with the Lord, and to journey along the ways that he opens up before us.

Of course, we cannot make progress unless we take a risk. We do not advance toward the goal if, as the Gospel says, we are afraid to lose our lives (cf. Mt 16:25-26). No ship would ever set out into the deep if it feared leaving the safety of the harbour. So too, Christians cannot enter into the transforming experience of God's love unless they are open to new possibilities, and not tied to their own plans and cherished ways of doing things. Pastoral structures can fall into this same temptation, being concerned more with self-preservation than with adapting themselves to the service of the Gospel.

On the other hand, when Christians go about their daily lives without fear, they can discover God's constant surprises. They need but have the courage to dare, not to let fear stifle their creativity, not to be suspicious of new things, but instead to embrace the challenges which the Spirit sets before them, even when this means changing plans and charting a different course.

We can take as our inspiration Saint Junípero, as he made his way, limping, towards San Diego to plant the cross there! I fear those Christians who do not keep walking, but remain enclosed in their own little niche. It is better to go forward limping, and even at times to fall, while always trusting in the mercy of God, than to be "museum Christians" who are afraid of change. Even though they received a charism or vocation, instead of serving the eternal newness of the Gospel, they are caught up in defending themselves and their own roles.

A vocation is a calling received from an Other. It entails letting go of ourselves, setting out and placing ourselves at the service of a greater cause. In humility, we become co-workers in the Lord's vineyard, renouncing every spirit of posses-

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Pope's Words *(continued from page 2)*

sion and vainglory. How sad it is to see that at times we, men and women of the Church, do not know how to cede our place. We do not let go of our responsibilities serenely, but find it hard to hand over to others the works that the Lord had entrusted to us!

So you too, *siempre adelante!* With courage, creativity and boldness. Do not be afraid to renew your structures. Do not rest on your laurels, but be ever ready to try new things. As in the Olympic Games, may you always be ready to "pass the torch", above all to future generations, knowing that the flame is lit from on high, precedes our response and exceeds our efforts. Such is the Christian mission: "One sows and another reaps" (Jn 4:37).

Dear brothers and sisters, I encourage you to be true friends to seminarians and priests, showing your love for them by promoting vocations and through prayer and pastoral cooperation. Please, keep pressing forward! Forward in hope, forward with your mission, ever looking beyond, opening new horizons, making room for the young and preparing the future. The Church and priestly vocations need you. May Mary Most Holy, Mother of the Church and Mother of priests, be with you every step of the way. And I ask you, please, to pray for me!

[Original text: Italian] [Vatican-provided English translation]

We say goodbye to Madeleine Durkin

By Steve Domini



Serra's beloved Madeleine Durkin passed away in May after a long battle with cancer. She showed her feisty spirit by actively living years longer than anyone expected. She attended her final Serra meeting in April, saying she couldn't miss a meeting in her home parish (the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes) and she wanted to hear Fr. Sean's (Thomson) talk.

Madeleine received her 10-year membership pin in 2015 and for every one of those 10 years she worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes, on many Serran activities. She was involved in ordination receptions held at the Cathedral. While she wasn't usually the person in charge, she definitely made everyone else look good. Diane Kelly said the only words she ever said were, "Tell me what I can do."

Under her leadership, the Clergy Golf Tournament thrived for many years. An avid golfer, she brought enthusiasm and her wonderful sense of humor to this event making it fun and memorable. Being smart and insightful, when it came time for the golf tournament to make way for other activities, Madeleine was the first one to recognize it and encourage the Board to let it go. She served on the Board for 6 years as vice president for programs and as a trustee. Her wise advice was invaluable to all the officers who served with her and her wicked sense of humor helped to keep things fun.

Serra Club honored Madeline in 2016 with the Michael and Winifred Doohan Serra Club Loyalty Award. The title of the award, "loyalty" truly exemplified Madeleine.

We are saddened by her loss but we know she has gone to her reward in heaven where the skies are blue, the fairways wide, and the greens run true. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon her and grant her peace.



Pictured, from left to right, Madeleine Durkin, Steve Domini, Gerry Manfred, Mike Doohan

Serra Club Anniversary Dinner

Our anniversary dinner was held on Sunday, June 11 to celebrate our Club's 80th Anniversary. Below are photos taken at our event for your enjoyment.



Fr. Bell welcomed us to St. John Vianney Parish.



Guests Morie Ratuiste and Cocot Ratuiste from the Serra Club of the Tri-Cities. Morie is the USAC District Governor for our district.



Fr. James Kelleher, SOLT, with the Eucharistic Family Rosary Crusade, joined us.



Martin Weber, currently serving our club as a Trustee and serving USAC as Regional Governor, gave a very brief history of Serra upon receipt of his 25-year membership pin.



Praying the Serran prayers for vocations are George and Sharon Czerwonka, Martin and Jane Weber, and Marie Sokol.



Fr. Barnett gave us words of wisdom during the program portion of the evening.



This year's winner of the Michael and Winifred Doohan Serra Club Loyalty Award is Aileen Fields. Aileen was unable to attend the dinner. Pictured above is Earle Doohan (son of Michael and Winnie) and Mike Doohan.

Serra Club Anniversary Dinner (cont.)

Installation of the 2017/18 Serra Club of Spokane officers by District Governor Morie Ratuiste



From left: Al Hanson, vice president for programs; Steve Domini, vice president for communications; Judy Luce, secretary; Karen Domini, treasurer; Morie Ratuiste at podium; Sue Manfred, president; Martin Weber, trustee, Gerry Manfred, past-president and trustee; Bob Boehme, trustee; Bill Boniface, vice president for vocations; and Greg Takisaki, vice president for membership.



Father Daniel Barnett, Serra Club Chaplain and Bishop White Seminary Rector, receives a check from Sue Manfred, Serra Club President. Serra Club of Spokane has an endowment to be used for the seminarians at Bishop White Seminary and the check represents this year's distribution.

Did you know Serra has a Web Site?

The address is www.serraclubofspokane.com and you can find the following:

- List of officers and their contact information
- Board of Trustees Minutes
- Membership Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Reports
- Current and back issues of the bulletin/newsletter

Share with your friends!

Induction of New Members



On May 12, eight new members were inducted into the Serra Club of Spokane. Well, maybe not all were “new.” There were members inducted who have just always missed an induction ceremony.

They are (from left to right): Jim Huss, Al Hanson, Claire Schaubel, Pat Paullin, Carolyn Entel, Geneva Moloney, Shirley Carnell, and Vic Carnell.

Our own Aileen Fields as Serra District Governor directed the ceremony.

Luncheon Meeting - June 9

By Steve Domini

Al Hanson, the new Vice President for Programs, really provided us with a wonderful program his first time out. Father Esteban Soler, IVE, must have a lot of frequent flyer miles – more on that, later.

He is currently the parochial vicar at St. Mary’s Parish in the Spokane Valley, soon to be re-assigned to Walla Walla. He is a priest for the order, Institute of the Incarnate Word (or Instituto del Verbo Encarnado).

First, he provided us with some background on his order. It was founded in Argentina in 1984, and includes both priests and religious brothers. The Institute is the male branch of the Religious Family of the Incarnate Word, a union of religious institutes. The other two branches are the female religious community known as the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará (SSVM) and the Secular Third Order. “IVE” means “the Word became flesh.” The IVE priest takes a fourth vow of Marian slavery, based on the practice of St. Louis de Montfort.

He explained that the order works in schools, universities, houses of charity, and parishes. They are located in North and South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. They are also in the war-torn areas of Iraq and Syria.

Second, Fr. Soler provided us with some of his personal history. He was born in Mendoza, Argentina, to a large family devoted to the Catholic faith. His mother and father are doctors, as is one of his sisters. He has a brother who is also a priest and two sisters who are consecrated women religious. His family prays the Rosary every day. This was the beginning of his vocation journey. His brother entered the minor seminary first (for high school students) and he followed one or two years later.

After completing major seminary and being ordained a transitional deacon he was sent to Italy. He was ordained in Italy in 2004 and sent to Papua, New Guinea, but while waiting for a visa, served in the Philippines. He was then assigned to the United States but while waiting for a visa, served in Ireland. Upon arrival in the USA, he served in California and Florida. He was then assigned to Greenland. From Greenland, it was back to the USA for service in Chicago, Dallas, New York City (Harlem), and currently, Spokane. While telling us of his travels and service, he had a story about each place and showed us pictures of his adventures.

As you can see, he certainly has accumulated a lot of frequent flyer miles.



Father Esteban Soler, IVE, was our speaker at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Friday, June 9.

Schedule of Events

JULY 2017

Fri Jul 7	No First Friday Mass
Fri Jul 7 11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Tue Jul 11 5:30 pm	Board Meeting at BWS (no Mass)
Fri Jul 14 11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC
Wed Jul 19	Fathers' Day Dinner for Priests at BWS. The Serra Club of Spokane, Serra Club of the Blue Mountains, and the Serra Club of the Tri-Cities will be underwriting this dinner for priests. We will not be attending.
Fri Jul 21 11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat Jul 22 9:00 am	Prayer Service and Meeting at O'Malley Hall; St. Aloysius Parish.
Sun Jul 23 7:00 pm	Eucharistic Family Rosary Crusade at Avista Stadium
Fri Jul 28 11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Fri-Sun, Jul 28-30	Steubenville Northwest at Gonzaga University. Volunteers are needed to pray in the adoration chapel beginning Friday, July 28.

AUGUST 2017

Fri Aug 4	No First Friday Mass
Fri Aug 4 11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Tue Aug 8 5:30 pm	Board Meeting at BWS (no Mass)
Fri Aug 11 11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC
Fri Aug 18 11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Fri Aug 25 11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat Aug 26 9:00 am	Prayer Service and Meeting at O'Malley Hall; St. Aloysius Parish.

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

Ordinations

Fr. Michael Ishida	Jul 7, 2006	Fr. Pedro Bautista-Peraza	Aug 6, 2004
Fr. Gustavo Ruiz-Juarez	Jul 7, 2006	Fr. Miguel Angel Mejia	Aug 11, 2000
Fr. Alejandro Zepeda-Labastida	Jul 7, 2006	Fr. Jose Luis Millan	Aug 11, 2000
Fr. Brian Mee	Jul 8, 1978	Fr. David Baronti	Aug 15, 1976
Fr. Paul Vevik	Jul 9, 1977	Fr. Patrick Hartin	Aug 15, 1971
Fr. Albert Grasher	Aug 1, 1986	Rev. Msgr. Pedro Ramirez-Alejos	Aug 3, 1974
Fr. Mark Pautler	Aug 3, 1974	Rev. Msgr. Kevin Codd	Aug 25, 1979
Fr. Michael Savelesky	Aug 4, 1973		