



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



SEP-OCT 2017

SERRA CLUB OF SPOKANE

Club 2 District 1 Region 12

Volume 7

Issue 5

Spokane, Washington

USA

President's Message

In the last issue of our newsletter we shared with you Pope Francis' exhortation to Serrans world-wide. He called us "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."

As a club Spokane Serra follows the Pope's urgings fully. Our annual Clergy Appreciation Dinner, the Welcome Back Dinner for the seminarians, breakfast treats on First Friday for the seminarians, congratulatory cards sent on ordination anniversaries, and this year our first Priests' Barbecue are all ways we as a group try to support and sustain our priests and seminarians. For over 20 years we hosted a very successful golf tournament that was enjoyed by clergy and Serrans alike. Spokane Serra does not forget our beloved women religious, honoring them with the Sister's Appreciation Brunch and birthday cards. These are very important activities and ones we want to continue for years to come.

However, there is a big difference between being a corporate friend and a personal friend. Think of the difference between a birthday card sent from your bank and one sent from a friend or distant relative. Feeling appreciated and loved by another person is much stronger and more life-giving than feeling appreciated by a large entity. Even if that group is made up of people you like and admire, being singled out by an individual brings more joy.

To help follow Pope Francis' lead, you will be provided with the addresses of all seminarians studying for Spokane in other cities and all of the Bishop White seminarians in the hope that you can find a few moments to drop a word of encouragement to them occasionally during the coming year. As seminarian Nic Costoldi told us at our July meeting, "Thinking of you and praying for you cards would be very welcome during stressful times such as mid-terms and finals." A small thank you note to your parish priest for all he does for the people of God is always appreciated. Perhaps you can include him in a family gathering or dinner party. We may never know if our outreach of love arrived at a low or stressful moment for them.

As Spokane Serra continues to support our priests and seminarians as a group I encourage each of you to make it a personal ministry also. A thought and a prayer from you can work miracles.

Sue Manfred

Bishop White Seminary
429 E. Sharp Ave
Spokane, WA 99202-1837

Diocese of Spokane
Nicolas Castoldi
Matthew Kendrick
Erick Ramirez
JohnPaul Sharkey

Diocese of Boise
Thomas Malone
Eric Martinez

Diocese of Oakland
Brian Rodriguez

Diocese of Orange
Oswaldo Sanchez

Archdiocese of Seattle
Joseph Tapia-Beeman
Andrew Hollands
Marc Jenkins
Matthew Newland

**Diocese of Spokane
Seminarians Studying
Outside of Spokane:**

Peter Fazzari
Pastoral Year
St. Peter's Parish
3520 E. 18th Ave
Spokane, WA 99223

Rev. Mr. Raymond Kalema
Patrol Year
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Parish
2098 E Alder Street
Walla Walla, WA

Andrew Kelly
Pre-Theology
St. Patrick Seminary
320 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Jeffrey Lant
Pre-Theology
St. Patrick's Seminary
320 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA 98025

The Chaplain's Corner



Dear Serrans, Praised be Jesus Christ!

Two of the Serra Club's primary purposes are to encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and to support priests and religious. This summer, the Serra Clubs in Spokane, the Tri-Cities, and Walla Walla have fulfilled these purposes in exemplary ways. Permit me to mention just two of these ways, for which my brother priests and I are truly grateful. The first is the support which Serrans provided for Quo Vadis Days and Vocare in June. Eighty young men and women participated this year in these two events which provide guidance and encouragement to discover how God is calling them to share His life and mission. The second is Priests' Dinner which the Serra Club generously provided on July 19. I don't think that you realize just how helpful that was to our presbyterate.

In my 17 years as priest, I have learned that, though essential, it is very difficult to find healthy ways to truly relax with other priests. In addition to the different religious communities to which we belong, pastoral schedules, and distances involved (exacerbated when some are on active duty in the military), there is the location, all of which adds to the cost. In our situation, it is very common for there to be priests with whom we speak only a few words each year in passing (such as in the sacristy before the Christ Mass).

There is also the fact of our personal differences (yes, that actually happens) which our Enemy is continually working to exploit and which we try to heal with God's grace. Finally, there is the continual pressure of being a very public figure, which means that a priest is always "on" when in a mixed group of people—even those who are well-disposed to us.

On July 19, we had one of the largest number of priests gather for a social event that I can recall. There was no pressure, the food was excellent, we had time and location to truly pray, socialize, and talk together. Priests lingered over dinner. And let this fact sink in for a moment: There was not a single complaint. Not one. Serrans, it was a graced time, and we are most grateful. Thank you. Please know that I hold you in prayer, and please pray for me.

Thank You Letters

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Quo Vadis Days, Vocare, and Priests' Dinner fund. We received a letter from Fr. Barnett and seminarian Peter Fazzari specifically thanking us for the \$1,200 contribution to Quo Vadis Days. See the letter below along with another thank you regarding our Priest's Dinner.

June 30, 2017

*Dear Serra Club Members,
Praise be Jesus Christ!*

Please accept my sincere gratitude for your generous donation of \$1,200 to the annual Quo Vadis Days vocation camp held recently at Pinelov Park on Deer Lake. Thanks to your generosity, and the generosity of other donors, we were able to offer the camp free of charge again this year. I am pleased to report to you that the camp was very successful again this year, with forty three young Catholic men taking advantage of this unique opportunity to consider important questions in their life while immersed in a fearless spirit of trust in God. We have already begun planning for 2018, when the camp will once again be held at Pinelov Park on June 25-28. Thanks again for your generous support. You are remembered, along with all our donors, in our daily prayers here at Bishop White Seminary.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Very Rev. Daniel J. Barnett, Director of Vocations and
Peter Fassari, Camp Coordinator*

July 20, 2017

*Dear Sue and Fellow Serrans,
Praise be Jesus Christ!*

On behalf of Bishop Daly and the diocesan and religious priests in the Diocese of Spokane, please accept our most sincere thanks for helping provide a wonderful steak dinner last night. It was a fantastic success!

I don't remember an event such as this that has such overwhelming participation. Over 60 priests responded, and many others would have, but had pastoral or health situations that prevented them coming. It was simply delightful - an opportunity to rekindle old friendships and make new one, while enjoying a delicious steak dinner on a beautiful summer night.

Your generous support made this possible, and everyone present was and remains deeply grateful for your kindness. The attached card is but a small token of our gratitude. (See page 7) Please be assured of our prayers for you, and please pray for us. Sincerely in Christ,

*Rev. Daniel J. Barnett, Director of Vocations
Chaplain, Serra Club of Spokane*

Apartheid in South Africa



Fr. Pat Hartin speaking to Serrans on June 24

Fr. Pat Hartin, a diocesan priest and professor emeritus of religious studies at Gonzaga University, was the speaker for our June 24 meeting held at Bishop White Seminary. He gave the Serrans a brief history of apartheid in South Africa from the viewpoint of one who lived through much of its turbulent history; having been born in South Africa in 1944. He was ordained a priest there, taught high school and was a principal. Father Hartin came to the United States in 1994 to teach at a Catholic university.

South Africa was discovered by the Portuguese and settled by the Dutch. The Dutch controlled central Africa. They discovered gold and diamonds in the 1800's. The British took over the southern tip of the country. It was under British rule from 1910 until 1960, when they received independence. The Union of South Africa is twice the size of Texas with 80% of the population being black and 20% white. No intermarriage was allowed and the black population was not allowed to advance.

Father vividly expressed his first understanding of this injustice at age 12. He also described how the Catholic Church established schools for the black population; explaining that the church's goal was to educate people and allow intermarriage.

In the early 1980's high school students revolted and eventually the end of apartheid occurred. He discussed Nelson Mandela's approximately 27 years in prison after being found guilty of treason and his role in the fight for independence. The Catholic Church in South Africa prayed for him at every Mass. Mandela became president in 1994. Today there is still unhappiness in South Africa due to continued violence and poverty.

An interesting note on language in South Africa: English is the de facto official language. However, there are 11 official languages. Afrikaans, evolving from the Dutch vernacular, is spoken by approximately 13.5% of the population.

Thank you, Al Hanson, for scheduling this very moving presentation.

Prayer Requests

Serra Club of Spokane has a prayer request book available at every meeting and event.

Please include the book of requests in your prayers. It is the goal of our Vice President for Communications, Steve Domini, to list new requests as they are received. Names have not been listed as permission has not been granted to publish them.

Following are the most recent requests:

- Diagnosis of autism
- Continued challenges in fighting leukemia
- Diagnosis of prostate cancer



My Journey to Priesthood

At the July 14 Serra Club of Spokane meeting, we were blessed with a presentation by Nic Castoldi, a seminarian at Bishop White Seminary. Nic will be a senior in theology this year and will begin his second year at Bishop White.

Nic began his presentation with a prayer. He said the first year back in college and at the seminary had been hard in a good way. Nic was the oldest seminarian. He had to get used to living in a community after a number of years on his own.

It was a humbling experience as he found younger students looking to him for support. It was a good experience getting to know his fellow seminarians. He met with his spiritual advisor and had lots of time for self-introspection as he continues to discern his calling to the priesthood.



Serran Claire Schaubel with seminarian Nic Castoldi

Nic grew up in Walla Walla. His father is a Catholic and his mother is not. He was not involved in parish life to any extent growing up. His mother had insisted that he wait until he was older to become baptized to be sure it was what he wanted. He was baptized when he was 10.

He never thought of being a priest until he attended Steubenville Northwest when he was eighteen. It was there that he first went to confession. He remembers thinking about coming forward when the question was asked if any were considering a life dedicated to God. He does not remember actually going forward, but a friend says he did.

Nic spent some time with a traveling youth ministry visiting several states. He grew to realize he wanted to give himself to the Lord. He considered applying to Mount Angel Abbey. He even went so far as to get application forms. At that point he received no encouragement or help filling out the forms from his mother.

He spent a couple years as a youth minister in Walla Walla. While assisting a friend who was trying to start an online business, he mentioned that he was still thinking about becoming a priest. His friend suggested that he needed to act and stop just thinking about it.

Nic contacted Father Barnett and began the process of applying to Bishop White Seminary. The rest as they say, is history.

Nic had been asked to let the Serrans know what we could do to assist the seminarians. He had three requests:

1. Promote the Serra Club.
2. Say extra prayers around mid-term and finals.
3. Send letters, snail mail type to the seminarians, especially around tests.

In follow up questions he was asked why he wanted us to promote the Serra Club. He said that we do good work and more members would do even more. Makes a lot of sense.

The second request makes abundant sense. As to the third request, Nic indicated that while some seminarians receive letters from home and friends, others almost never do. He made a point of requesting handwritten and snail-mailed letters.

Welcome Back Dinner

August 25 at Bishop White Seminary



Bill and Bob, Chefs Extraordinaire



Andrew Hollands and Family



(R to L) Erick Martinez, Matthew Newland, Fr. Baraza, Matthew Kendrick and Brian Rodriguez



(R to L) Carol Dunne, Bishop Daly, Martin Weber & Oswaldo Sanchez



(R to L) John-Paul, Claire Schauble and a seminarian to get to know!



Erick Martinez and family with Fr. Barnett



(R to L) Nic Castoldi, Joseph Tapia-Beeman and Joseph's family



Priests' Dinner - July 19

On July 19, the Serra Club of Spokane, Serra Club of the Tri-Cities, and Serra Club of the Blue Mountains sponsored a dinner for diocesan and religious priests. It was a huge success as evidenced by the thank you letter from Fr. Barnett and the card signed by several of the priests in attendance. In addition, many priests have personally expressed their appreciation to members. While Serrans were not in attendance, there was set-up and kitchen preparation to be done as documented by these pictures.



*Dedicated kitchen crew, Nick Curalli,
Diana Boehme, Doreen Takisaki*



Bill Boniface practicing supervisory skills



*Seminary cook, Shelley, with her trusty assistants
Doreen Takisaki and Diana Boehme*



*Set-up team, Bob Boehme, Sharon Czerwonka,
and George Czerwonka*



Shelley making sure her helpers are well fed.

Mission & Ministry of Jesus

Vice President for Programs Al Hanson brought a new dimension to our Serra meetings on August 11 at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center.

Following a strong emphasis on holiness, the USA Council has added an opportunity for clubs to interact and discuss spiritual and Biblical topics. The new emphasis provides a manual with program options that not only follow the liturgical year, but also focus on many special parts of Catholic life. We get to be the program! We participate in group reflection and discussion.

Each program follows a format of opening prayer, scripture reading, significance of the topic to each Serran, and brief reflection. Questions and small group discussion follow. This allows us to verbalize our faith to each other and to the group.

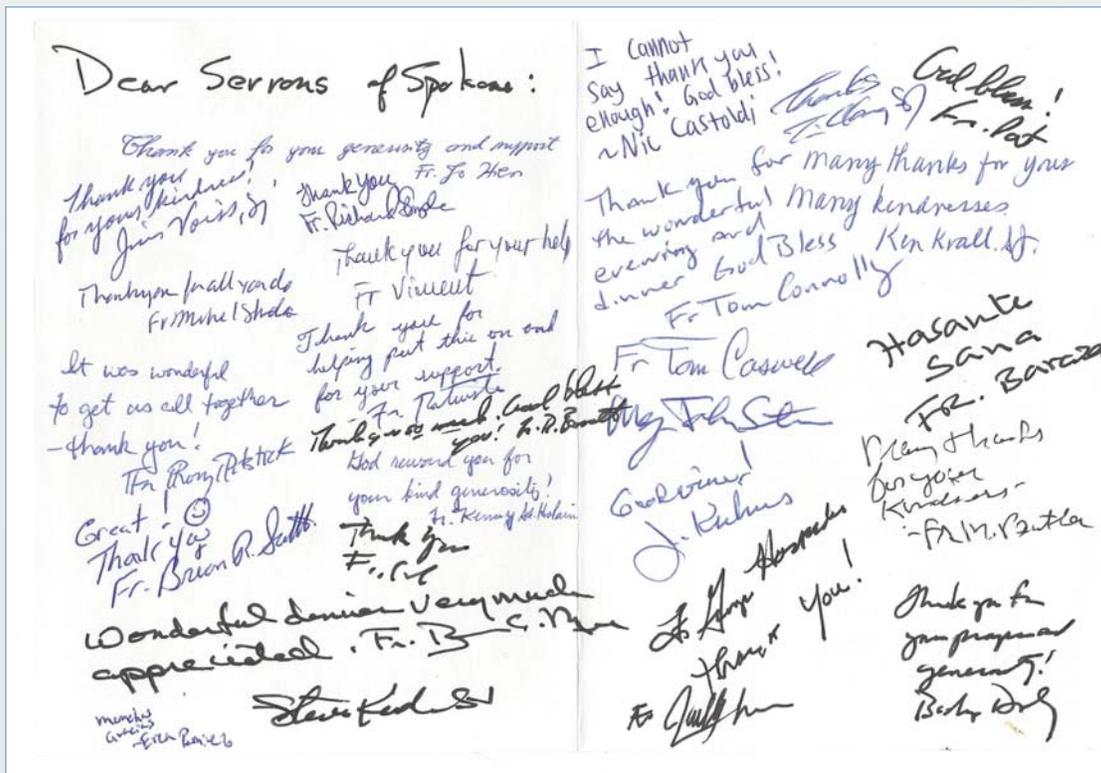
Al presented the program entitled, "The Mission and Ministry of Jesus."

Al explained that we would begin to understand our ability to evangelize our faith to others, and a deeper understanding for ourselves.

Great job, Al!

Thank You

We received the card below hand-signed by several of the priests who attended our Priest's Dinner on July 19 (see article and photos from the event, page 6).



Schedule of Events

SEPTEMBER 2017

- Fri Sep 1 7:00 am First Friday Mass at BWS
Fri Sep 1 11:00 am Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Fri Sep 8 11:00 am Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC
Thu Sep 14 5:15 pm Mass and Board Meeting at BWS
Fri Sep 15 11:00 am Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Fri Sep 22 11:00 am Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat Sep 23 9:00 am Prayer Service and Meeting at O'Malley Hall; St. Aloysius Parish. Our speaker will be Fr. Fr. Peter Byrne, SJ (Associate Pastor of St. Aloysius).
Fri Sep 29 11:00 am Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

OCTOBER 2017

- Tue Oct 3 5:30 pm Clergy Appreciation Social and Dinner; Location is yet to be determined; 5:30 Social Hour; 6:00 Dinner. Bishop Thomas Daly will be in attendance.
Fri Oct 6 7:00 am First Friday Mass at BWS
Fri Oct 6 11:00 am Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Thu Oct 12 5:15 pm Mass and Board Meeting at BWS
Fri Oct 13 11:00 am Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC. Our speaker will be Sr. Eucharista, SMMC, and her topic will be angels.
Fri Oct 20 11:00 am Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Fri Oct 27 11:00 am Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat Oct 28 9:00 am Prayer Service and Meeting at O'Malley Hall; St. Aloysius Parish.
Sun Oct 29 Priesthood Sunday

Ordinations

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

Did you know Serra has a Website?

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!