



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



NOV-DEC 2017

SERRA CLUB OF SPOKANE

Club 2 District 1 Region 12

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USA

President's Letter

Sharing the Gift

Last month our Serra Club was very blessed to be visited by our National President, Greg Schwietz. Greg spent over an hour and a half with our board sharing his wisdom and vision for Serra. As we talked about one of the greatest challenges of Serra world-wide, recruitment of new members, he shared an insightful thought. He suggested that membership in Serra is not for everyone. Yes, all Catholics are all called to pray for vocations and support our priests but not all are called to do it as members of an organized club. As we look at our friends and think about whom to invite to be Serrans we should keep Greg's insight in mind.



You would not recommend an Italian restaurant, no matter how good, to someone you knew was allergic to red sauce or garlic, nor would you recommend a golf course, no matter how beautiful and challenging to a friend who only plays tennis. In these instances you are excited to share something you have enjoyed with people you know have the same tastes and interests. You know your friends' likes and dislikes because you have taken the time to get to know them. You have spent time with them. You have listened to them and heard their stories.

It is much the same with our friends in the faith. Some Catholics enjoy worshipping at a Charismatic mass or prayer meeting. Others would be very uncomfortable there. I love the rosary and Adoration, but I have friends who practice their very deep faith with different pious devotions. Some people show their love of God and his people by volunteering to clean up the gardens at the church, some are Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, and still others work on pancake breakfasts or quilt shows.

We want to share Serra with everyone because we have found something we love. We love Serra for many different reasons, for the life-long friendships, the teachings and call to holiness, the chance to pray for our priests, seminarians, and sisters, and the chance to have them as friends. In our eagerness to share this gift we sometimes forget to discern whether or not this type of organization would bring as much joy to all of our friends as it does to us. As we look to "always go forward" and share Serra and our divinely inspired mission let us remember to ask God for the wisdom and grace to know whom He is calling, then to have the courage to INVITE them.

God bless you,

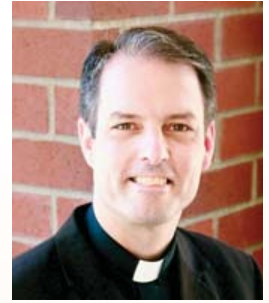
Sue

The Chaplain's Corner

Dear Serrans,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Recently I had the privilege of participating in a Congress on the new document (published about 11 months ago) which will guide priestly formation for the next several decades. I was one of three seminary rectors from the US, in addition to a bishop and two priests who work at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Our task was to help ensure that the 6th edition of the PPF will be faithful both to the guidance from Rome and to the experience of the Church in the US.



Over the next several years, the seminaries throughout the world will be undergoing a transformation. For some, it will require significant modifications, while for us here at Bishop White Seminary, the changes will be less drastic. One of the key aspects of this deeper view of priestly formation is that it flows from the Christian life. The journey to priesthood—just as the journey to marriage, religious life, or single life—is but an expression of the grace of Baptism, completed in Confirmation, healed in Confession, and nurtured in Communion. It is a journey of discipleship.

Being a Serran is also a fruit of the grace of Baptism. As Serrans, we participate in the mission of the Church, specifically, by helping priests and religious through our prayer. We have been blessed with many fine examples of this grace, lived out in exemplary ways. Their number far exceeds the space I have to list them. For each of our brothers and sisters who have lived their life in service to the Church, as priests or religious, or as members of the Serra Club, let us all offer our prayers of profound gratitude.

In Christ,

Rev. Daniel Barnett
Chaplain

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!

Annual Clergy Appreciation Dinner

On October 3, the Serra Club of Spokane hosted its the annual Clergy Appreciation Dinner. While the diocese suffered a great loss with the death of Deacon John Sicilia, it was personal for the Serra Club. Deacon Sicilia had served as the chef for this event for 20+ years. The dinner was held without his wonderful assistance. With the assistance of his daughter, Kristi Sicilia, we had a caterer within a few hours of learning of his passing. Kristi went above and beyond to help us and we owe her our deep gratitude.

Special guests in attendance, besides both bishops, were the United States Council of Serra president, Greg Schwietz from Omaha, NE; the Serra district governor, Morie Ratuiste from the Tri-Cities; and the Serra Club of the Tri-Cities president, Cocot Ratuiste. As a side note, Morie and Cocot Ratuiste are the parents of Fr. Kyle Ratuiste, currently serving at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Serra regional governor was also in attendance, our own Martin Weber.



Fr. Jeff Lewis, the newly assigned pastor for St. Peter's, the dinner location, and Fr. Stephen Booth, MM.



Fr. Paul Cochran, SJ, Serran Emily Klein, and Mr. Jeff Ball, SJ.



Mrs. Andrew (Chuckie) Phelps; Deacon Andrew Phelps; and Deacon John Ruscheinsky.



Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad and Bishop Thomas Daly



Serran Barbara Boniface is pictured with Fr. Tom Connolly



As part of the evening's festivities, Serra Club of Spokane presented a certificate to Bishop Daly honoring his 30 years of ordination to the priesthood.

Pictured from left to right: USAC President Greg Schwietz; USAC Program Committee member Aileen Fields; Bishop Thomas Daly, Serra District Governor Morie Ratuiste; Serra Club of Spokane President Sue Manfred; Serra Regional Governor Martin Weber; and Serra Club of the Tri-Cities President Cocot Ratuiste.

My Journey to the Permanent Deaconate



Deacon Mike Miller speaking to Serrans on September 8.

Deacon Mike Miller is serving at St. Mary's Parish and began his presentation with a reading from Luke 6. He provided a brief explanation of the deaconate. There are two types of deacons, transitional and permanent. The transitional deacon is awaiting ordination to the priesthood and the permanent is just that – permanent.

Deacon Miller gave us his vocation story that started as an altar server as a young boy. While he served as an altar server, he was asked by "Sr. Rose" to leave and had residual anger about that for several years. He thought about the priesthood but failed religion class and had to re-think that.

Life went on and he eventually married. At age 55, he had a dream to enter the service of the church in some fashion and at the same time, his wife Kathy also had a dream, hers was to go to the missions. Deacon John Ruscheinsky encouraged him to consider the permanent deaconate. He said, "Mike, you and Kathy are a diaconal couple if I ever saw one." Later, his pastor said the exact same thing.

Then, in 2001 he was asked to apply for the diocesan CFO-equivalent position. At this point, a new class of deacon candidates was being formed and at Deacon Ruscheinsky's urging, he joins. The class met once a month over a weekend for 3-4 years. The teachers were religious education staff at Gonzaga University and various priests serving in the diocese.

The deacon candidate is male and must be a minimum of 35 years of age. The deacon candidate's wife must agree with her husband's entrance in the class and is encouraged to attend classes with him. While a permanent deacon may be married at the time of ordination, he may not get remarried if his wife should die. Permanent deacons serve as ordinary minister of the cup at Mass, may proclaim the Gospel and provide the homily occasionally. They may also perform weddings, funerals, and vigils outside of Mass.

Deacon Miller told us he volunteers at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, L'Arche, and House of Charity. He also delivers communion to those St. Mary's parishioners unable to attend Mass.

During a question and answer time, he was asked how Serrans could support the deaconate. He replied to always keep praying. He also appreciates the Clergy Appreciation Dinner we hold. He encouraged members not to forget the seminarians – notes and cards remind them you are there praying for them and they're not alone.



Fr. Stephen Booth and the Maryknolls

Father Stephen Booth is a Maryknoll priest currently assisting at St. John Vianney Parish. His presentation was very warm and was well received by the Serra membership.

Fr. Booth began his story by telling us he was raised a Southern Baptist. While in grade school his father began to study Catholicism. After a time he informed his wife that he was going to convert. She said go ahead, but not to expect her to follow suit. His mother was eventually won over and she too converted. The children followed.

There was a high school seminary in his hometown that Fr. Booth wanted to attend but his father said no. He then decided to go to seminary after high school but a Jesuit priest talked him out of it.

He went to college intending to switch to a seminary after two years. He joined ROTC and thought it was better than the draft. How long could the Vietnam War last – the USA was only in WWII for four years. Upon graduation in 1970, he became a 2nd LT. in the army and was sent to Ft. Benning. He got into flight school and was sent to Korea. He also became a chaplain in the US Air Force in 1988 and retired in from that in 2005.

He was stationed at Ft. Lewis after Korea. Upon discharge he came to Spokane to attend Gonzaga Law School. At Gonzaga he met a girl and became engaged. It was an engagement that did not last. He became a corporate attorney in Seattle after graduating from GU.

In an interesting aside he mentioned that he had met the father-in-law of the girl to whom he had been engaged. She was happy and had children.

After some time he had a talk with a priest who suggested he quit playing at being a lawyer and look at going to a seminary. He went to a Maryknoll seminary, at least in part due to the Maryknoll magazines that were always in his home when growing up. He called them the Catholic National Geographic. He immediately found peace.

The Maryknoll Missionaries were founded in 1911. Initially the mission was to serve in China. Until WWII the Maryknolls were exclusively in Asia. Later they began to serve in Africa. They are now in Bolivia. In 1970 the mission changed to stress education, healthcare, and women's empowerment.

In China the Maryknoll priests cannot proselytize. They go there to teach English. While they cannot initiate a discussion about religion, they are free to answer questions. As it turns out, questions arise frequently.

Fr. Booth was a parish priest in Korea for a period of time. The archbishop decided that all parishes were to have a Korean pastor and he was sent to Hong Kong. He's also served in Tanzania, Kenya, and Bolivia.

The Maryknoll priests work with the Bell Foundation in Korea. One program is to treat TB patients. The North Koreans do not admit to any shortcomings in their society. Therefore, in order to treat patients they need to store the x-ray machines and other equipment in Beijing. When needed the equipment is flown in and then flown back out. By the way, the drug treatment for a TB patient costs \$3,000 for three treatments.

It was truly a special presentation. He hopes to get a permanent parish assignment in the Spokane Diocese.



Fr. Stephen Booth, MM, speaking to Serrans on October 13

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. Following are the most recent requests.

- *Rest of the soul of Deacon John Sicilia*
- *Fr. Joseph Bell, continued prayers for his health*
- *Fr. Joachim Hien, healing after surgery*
- *Rest of the soul of Michael Doohan, member for 50+ years, held Serra board positions at local, state, regional, and international levels*
- *Duane Costa, some dementia, Parkinson's, loss of mobility, and depression*



Thank You Notes

Many, many thanks for the wonderful dinner at St. Peter's. The gift card was a thoughtful and great addition. Prayers + Blessings,
Fr. Paul Cochran, SJ
St. Aloysius

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Dear Sue and the Serra Club,
The God give you peace. We thank you very much for your wonderfully generous gift of providing for the closing lunch of Vocare. It's a tremendous show of support and we are so grateful. My apologies personally for being so hardy with this thank you. My Summer got away from me!

VOCARE
Diocese of Spokane
The cardinal your by name. You are blessed by God!

10-5-17

Dear Sue,
Today, I found a card in my jacket pocket which had a \$20 gift card from Serra!
I've only eaten at Mamma Mia's once, so this will be a treat for me. Way to generous, but accepted with gratitude!
Thank you + Blessings, Deacon Ken

We had a great turnout of young women and are looking forward to next year. With prayer and lots of support, the vocations for sisters and priests are coming forward. Praise God!
May you have a blessed year and may everyone stay healthy!
In His Name and through the intercession of St. Juniper Serra, Sr. Colleen and the Sisters' Vocational Team,

10-4-17

Dear Sue & Herrons!
This note is to once again express my gratitude to all Serras for the Annual dinner you do for the priests, deacons, sisters and religious of our diocese. But also for you the hours of time + talent offered for Vocations.
I was in the same diocesan class with John S, ^{has been} but was sad for me to know that my friend is no longer with us - he was invited to this event!
It was a ~~so lovely evening~~ - Sue, you did a wonderful job as ever! Thank you to all Serras and God's Blessings! ^{Deacon Ken}

Schedule of Events

NOVEMBER 2017

Fri Nov 3	7:00 am	First Friday Mass at BWS
Fri Nov 3	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Nov 5-11		National Vocations Awareness Week
Thu Nov 9	5:15 pm	Mass and Board Meeting at BWS
Fri Nov 10	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC
Fri Nov 17	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Fri Nov 24	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat Nov 25		No Prayer Service and Meeting; Thanksgiving Weekend

DECEMBER 2017

Fri Dec 1	7:00 am	First Friday Mass at BWS
Fri Dec 1	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Fri Dec 8	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC
Thu Dec 14		No Mass and Board Meeting
Fri Dec 15	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Fri Dec 22	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat Dec 23		No Prayer Service and Meeting, Christmas Weekend
Mon Dec 25		Christmas Day/Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
Fri Dec 29	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

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

Ordinations

Fr. Vincent Van Dao Nguyen	Dec. 21, 2005
Fr. Joachim Hien	Dec. 22, 1974
Fr. Michael Kwiatowski	Dec. 30, 1978