



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



Mar-Apr 2018

## SERRA CLUB OF SPOKANE

Club 2 District 1 Region 12

Volume 8

Issue 2

Spokane, Washington

USA

### Letter from our President

Normally I am a pretty good cook. However, when it comes to yeast breads I am a total failure. I kill the yeast by having the water too hot or cold, or where I put the dough to rise is too cold or hot, or my yeast is so old it died. Leavening agents, while very powerful when used properly, require care and nurturing. One teaspoon of healthy yeast can make the perfect loaf of heavenly goodness. Poorly nurtured yeast leaves a lump of dry inedible dough.

The shortest parable in the bible, Mt. 13:33, compares the kingdom of heaven to the small amount of leaven a woman puts in 3 measures (about 50 pounds) of meal. In its' exegesis of this text the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible says this, "...At the personal level, leaven is the individual Christian called to bring the gospel to those around him....The parable thus highlights a great disproportion: the little leaven is hidden yet actively raising a significant amount of meal."

While we Serrans are not mighty in numbers we can be a mighty leavening agent. Our prayers, presence and unselfish efforts can work miracles in our ministry of encouraging vocations and supporting our clergy and women religious. However, just as yeast must be well-cared for so must our souls. We are called to respond to Jesus' call to be holy as His Father in heaven is holy. An impossible goal to reach on our own, but with Christ's grace and the prayerful support of our brothers and sisters in Christ we can steadily progress to success in heaven. As we love and pray one another into holiness we become healthy living leaven. Powerful leaven that through constant prayers will raise up the Kingdom of God in our diocese.

We have a chance to put our leavening power into action on April 22nd - the annual Worldwide Day of Prayer for Vocations. Information will be going out to all parishes from the Diocesan Office of Vocations with suggestions on how to recognize this day of prayer. If each Serran would go to his or her own pastor and offer to help implement the plan, think of the lives that could be impacted. We can give our pastors encouragement and support and be "hands on" in growing a culture of vocations in our parishes.

While I have given up on yeast breads, Panera does it better, we can't give up on our ministry no matter how small we are in numbers. Keep up the prayers for vocations and for one another.

May God bless and keep you,

*Sue*



## The Chaplain's Corner



While our chaplain, Father Barnett, is on retreat in Chicago perhaps we can pray this prayer for him and for all priests.

### Mary, Mother of Jesus

“Mary, Mother of Jesus, throw your mantle of purity over our priests. Protect them, guide them, and keep them in your heart.

Be a Mother to them, especially in times of discouragement and loneliness.

Love them and keep them belonging completely to Jesus.

Like Jesus, they, too, are your sons, so keep their hearts pure and virginal.

Keep their minds filled with Jesus, and put Jesus

always on their lips, so that he is the one they offer to sinner and to all they meet.



Mary, Mother of Jesus, be their Mother, loving them and bringing them joy.

Take special care of sick and dying priests, and the ones most tempted.

Remember how they spent their youth and old age, their entire lives serving and giving all to Jesus.

Mary, bless them and keep a special place for them in your heart.

Give them a piece of your heart, so beautiful and pure and immaculate, so full of love and humility, so that they, too, can grow in the likeness of Christ.

Dear Mary, make them humble like you, and holy like Jesus. Amen.”

~ Saint Mother Teresa

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## 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:

*Earle Doohan, Serra member, health concerns*

*Rest of the soul of Ernie Becker, member for 2 years*

*Rest of the soul of Sr. Laura Michels, SNJM*

*Elizabeth and Vincent Ruffin, health concerns, at the request of Sr. Eucharista*

*Gregory Schuon, health concerns, at the request of Sr. Eucharista*

*Emily Klein, Serra member, health concerns*



# Luncheon & Membership Gatherings

by Steve Domini, Vice President of Communications

## January 12 Luncheon – The Beatitudes

Our vice president for programs, Al Hanson, provided us with a Call to Holiness program from Serra, “The Beatitudes.” He started with a prayer and then read Matthew 5:1-10 for our reflection. Discussion questions were distributed to each person and after answering them, we shared with the membership at large. These were the questions:

- What are some of the challenges the Beatitudes bring up in your life?
- What are some of the blocks in your life that keep you from fully experiencing the blessedness of the Beatitudes?
- Where does Serra exhibit this blessedness?

These discussions always provide a new insight or another way of looking at something and are very informative, too. It is very beneficial to share ideas and thoughts with others.



Al Hanson



Fr. Peter Byrne S.J.

## January 27 Meeting – Nothing Sacred!

Fr. Peter Byrne, SJ, was our speaker for the first Saturday meeting we’ve held for a very long time. We met in O’Malley Hall (the basement of St. Aloysius Church). Fr. Byrne started by playing music for us and explained that music is a way to prepare for prayer and readying ourselves to listen – “Holy is God’s Name.”

He then explained the title of his talk. Several years ago there was a TV series produced by a Jesuit called “Nothing Sacred!” Why that title? Fr. Byrne explained that because everything is sacred and holy or potentially sacred and holy. Then he noted that there is tension between these two.

True wisdom and spiritual maturity is the capacity to hold opposite values in tension. He provided examples of this by reminding us of the call of Moses and quoting a poem from Elizabeth Barrett Browning. He then spoke of Luke’s Gospel where we are charged to be as compassionate as our Father and noted the criticism against Jesus: eats with tax collectors and sinners, touches the outcasts, breaks the purity codes.

Today we can fail to have a deep sense of reverence and compassion that constitute God’s holiness. We wobble, “God is other people or God is Other, people.” This is from Avery Dulles.

The key is not the person who says, “Lord, Lord, who will enter the kingdom,” but the “person who does the will of the Father.” How we treat one thing is how we treat all things. There should be reverence for creation – for other human beings.

Fr. Bryne provided many examples and much more food for thought. He also had three handouts and if you could not attend but would like the handouts, please email me at [dominis60@gmail.com](mailto:dominis60@gmail.com)

## Luncheon & Membership Gatherings (cont.)

### February 9 Luncheon – Catechism of the Catholic Church Game

Steve and Karen Domini facilitated a game centering on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The group was divided into three and vied against each other for various prizes. As the questions proved entirely too easy (Karen's version of events), everyone went away a winner.

### February 24 Meeting – Parable of the Lifesaving Station and Act of Entrustment

Fr. Patrick Baraza was unable to be our speaker on Saturday, February 24. Our chaplain, Fr. Barnett stepped in. He shared a parable with us about a crude little lifesaving station, how it was started, how it grew to become more a resort, how members disagreed and parted ways several times, and with each parting a creation of another lifesaving station that eventually turns into a resort. What can we do to save the people? There are always storms in the world and it is much easier to insulate ourselves. We must learn how to use our gifts for the good of others, receive God's grace and be a conduit of God's grace to others.

He directed his talk then to Marian consecration and led us in a prayer he modified, "Act of Entrustment to Our Lady of Guadalupe." I have copies if you are interested, dominis@gmail.com

Of course, there was much, much more. It is challenging to summarize such meaningful talks.

In addition to learning so much from Fr. Barnett, during the meeting portion of the morning the slate of officers for 2018/19 was presented for voting. The officers elected are:

- President: Steve Domini
- Past President: Sue Manfred
- Chaplain: Rev. Daniel Barnett
- Vice President for Vocations: Bill Boniface
- Vice President for Programs: Al Hanson
- Vice President for Membership: Greg Takisaki
- Vice President for Communications: Karen Burgard,  
to be voted on at the March 9 meeting
- Secretary: Judy Luce
- Treasurer: Karen Domini
- Trustees: Bob Boehme, Gerry Manfred, Martin Weber



*Steve Domini & Martin Weber*

Also during the meeting, Martin Weber announced that at the National Serra Rally in Phoenix, January 11-14, 2018, the Region 12 Best Newsletter Award was presented to the Serra Club of Spokane. Martin attended the Rally and accepted the certificate on behalf of Steve Domini, Vice President for Communications. Congratulations, Steve and "staff!!!" Along with the certificate, a \$50 American Express gift card was given.

The board voted at the last meeting to give the card to Kara Hughes. Many of you may not know that Kara takes all our articles, pictures, calendar, and other items and assembles them into this newsletter. While we cannot give her credit for the design, she does an amazing job of making us look good. The designer was Lori Bertis, daughter of Jim Bertis+, who was a member for many years. Thus the meaning of "staff."

## Prayer Partner Program: Storming Heaven for Vocations

In response to our call to holiness mission, Serra offers an opportunity to partner with each other for prayer. If a Serran would like a prayer partner, he/she can contact Judy Luce at 509-299-2751 to participate. Once partners are found, they are sent an email/letter with their new prayer partner's name and telephone number. Each person is expected to pray for his or her partner's increase in holiness.

Because Serrans are especially called to pray for vocations, partners are asked to set aside time to contact each other once a week by phone and pray a decade of the rosary dedicated to vocations. Even though one decade of the rosary only takes a few minutes to recite, know this from Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."



*Prayer Partners Bob Boehme and Nick Curalli enjoying one another's company.*



*Meeting face-to-face for the first time, prayer partners Barb Boniface and Mary Druffel each made a new friend.*

## Thank You Letters

We received a thank you note from Sr. Sharon Bongiorno, FSPA, in appreciation of the birthday card sent by Vicki Volz on behalf of the Serra Club:

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*Dear Vicki and Serra Club Members,*

*Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for the birthday wishes. You are also a "gift of God" to all of us Religious. We so appreciate your love, support, and prayers, as well as your efforts to help our diocese keep a "culture of vocations" alive. Only in that way will we be blessed with vocations to the priesthood and religious life.*

*May 2018 be good to you and all your families.*

*In loving gratitude,*

*Sister Sharon Bongiorno, FSPA*

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## Ordinations

Fr. Michael Blackburn, OFM -  
March 1, 1986

Rev. Msgr. John Steiner -  
April 12, 1969

Fr. Charles Skok -  
April 30, 1952

## Fish Fry for Vocations

On February 23, Serrans helped St. Peter's Parish prepare and serve a fish fry for vocations. Over 70 parishioners enjoyed a delicious fish and pasta dinner and an inspiring talk by Fr. Jeff Lewis. It was wonderful opportunity to promote vocations and Serra Club. Thank you, Sister Margarite and Fr. Lewis, for all you are doing to promote vocations.



*Steve Domini (back) and Bill Boniface (front), master of perfect pasta*



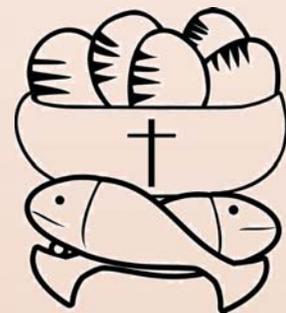
*Italian chefs are always smiling*



*Martin Weber and Al Hanson serving*



*Gerry Manfred welcoming guests*



## Schedule of Events

### MARCH 2018

Fri	Mar 2	7:00 am	<b>First Friday Mass</b> at BWS
Fri	Mar 2	11:00 am	<b>Adoration for Vocations</b> at IHRC
<del>Thu</del>	<del>Mar 8</del>	<del>5:15 pm</del>	<del>Mass and Board Meeting at BWS</del> <b>CANCELLED</b>
Fri	Mar 9	11:00 am	<b>Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting</b> at IHRC
Fri	Mar 16	11:00 am	<b>Adoration for Vocations</b> at IHRC
Fri	Mar 23	11:00 am	<b>Adoration for Vocations</b> at IHRC
Sat	Mar 24	11:00 am	<b>Prayer Service and Meeting</b> at O'Malley Hall; St. Aloysius Parish.
Fri	Mar 30		<b>NO Adoration for Vocations</b> – it is Holy Friday.

### APRIL 2018

Fri	Apr 6	7:00 am	<b>First Friday Mass</b> at BWS
Fri	Apr 6	11:00 am	<b>Adoration for Vocations</b> at IHRC
Thu	Apr 12	5:15 pm	<b>Mass and Board Meeting</b> at BWS
Fri	Apr 13	11:00 am	<b>Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting</b> at IHRC
Sat	Apr 14	11:00 am	<b>Sisters Appreciation Mass and Lunch</b> at St. Charles Parish. Mass celebrated by Bishop Daly.
Fri	Apr 20	11:00 am	<b>Adoration for Vocations</b> at IHRC
Sun	Apr 22		<b>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</b>
Fri	Apr 27	11:00 am	<b>Adoration for Vocations</b> at IHRC
Sat	Apr 28	9:30 am	<b>Mass and Breakfast Meeting.</b> Mass will be at Bishop White Seminary. Breakfast will follow at O'Malley Hall; St. Aloysius Parish. The Blue Mountains (Walla Walla) Serra Club will be in Spokane for a tour of Bishop White Seminary & will be joining us.

## 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.