



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



Sept-Oct 2018

## SERRA CLUB OF SPOKANE

Club 2 District 1 Region 12

Volume 8

Issue 5

Spokane, Washington

USA

### Letter from our President

We Serrans have a unique opportunity to participate in many important and fun events, the Clergy Appreciation Dinner, Sisters' Appreciation Lunch, vocational support activities, and our own Serran meetings and dinners. We also have parish activities such as 31 Club, adoration at IHRC, as well as membership and recruiting efforts. Don't forget our personal call to holiness.

Have you ever considered that this participation means that we are working in the vineyard of the Lord? *"The Church is a vineyard, the world is a vineyard. We are the workers. The hour is now! The Church has been sent into the world to bring the world into the Church."*\*

I thought about the parable of the vineyard as I observed the many Serrans from our club and the Serra Club of North Idaho working to prepare the Welcome Back Dinner for seminarians and their families on Saturday, August 18.

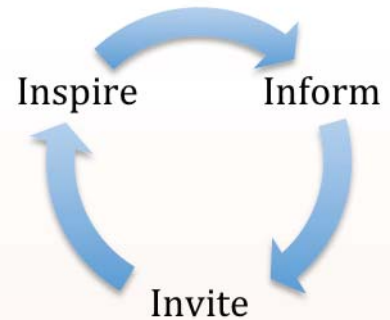
Think about the vineyard parable in this scenario. There were 16 seminarians and their families, three priests, and approximately 25 Serrans in attendance. Families included parents and siblings, aunts and uncles and friends. Many of them have never been to Bishop White Seminary before. For some seminarians, this will be their first time away from home. We Serrans were there, not just to prepare dinner, but also to bring welcome and warmth. We were working in the vineyard.

Friendship with the seminarians can begin and develop at first Friday Mass at Bishop White Seminary. We then share coffee and doughnuts and bagels. This allows us to pray with and for them as well as to get to know them. We have wonderful conversations with the rector, who is also our chaplain, and the other priests living and working at the seminary. We can show these priests our support and pray for them. First Friday Mass at Bishop White starts Friday, September 7, at 7:00 am.

Let us try to put spiritual importance on our many Serra events which we have the privilege of attending.

*"The Lord speaks to each of us and says, 'You go into my vineyard, too!' He invites us to respond afresh at every age and stage of our life."*\*

Mary, Mother of Vocations, pray for us.  
Steve



*\*Deacon Keith Fournier, Catholic Online, August 22, 2013*

## The Chaplain's Corner

Looking for words of wisdom from our chaplain, Fr. Barnett? Well, we have given him a pass for this issue. He welcomed 16 seminarians to Bishop White Seminary over several days in mid-August. The next week, they all went on a retreat. Upon their return, school will be starting and, of course, formation and discernment programs. Frs. Eugene Tracy and Jo Hien have joined the formation team so we'll be looking forward to seeing them occasionally – First Friday Mass!



## 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 the former Vice President for Communications to list new requests as they are received. Following are the most recent requests.

*Steve and Virginia Ellis, Serra members, health concerns*

*Sue Manfred, health concerns*

*Prayers for a baby born prematurely, now weighs 1 lb. 13 oz.*

*Prayers for a Serran's friend whose daughter is estranged.*

*Prayers for the repose of the soul of former Serran, Evelyn Parisot.*

*Prayers for the repose of the soul of Serran Jack Winkler.*

*Prayers for the repose of the soul of Sr. Paula Mary Turnbull, SNJM.*

*Prayers for the repose of the soul of Sr. Jeanine Marie de Turenne, SNJM.*



## 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 Bob Boehme at 924-2405.

## Prayer and Involvement Opportunities

### Membership Drive

Serra International President Mario Biscardi has made membership his main focus for 2018-2019. The challenge he sets before individual members is clear: Every Serran should strive to bring in one new member in 2018, and again in 2019. Just think: That could double, or even triple our membership in a year's time!

Before you begin asking others to join Serra, stop for a moment to think: Why did you join Serra in the first place? Key to inviting others to join is your sense of your own personal connection to our unique vocations mission. September is the traditional time for Serrans to take a few moments to breathe new energy into our promises to foster and affirm vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Let's work in God's vineyard for new members to meet President Biscardi's membership challenge!

Invite your friends and family to one of our regular meetings (review the calendar for upcoming speakers over the next couple of months) or one of our special events. Contact Greg Takisaki, VP for Membership, (509) 981-0487 or [glacbud@comcast.net](mailto:glacbud@comcast.net) for more information or for promotional materials.

### Adoration at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center

Adoration for Vocations continues at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center every Friday at 11:00 am. This is a perfect time to join your fellow Serrans and unite in prayer for vocations and perseverance of vocations.

### 31 Club

Has your parish begun a Serra 31 Club? This is one of the easiest—and most direct—ways for us to involve our brothers and sisters in our local parishes to take part in the overall vocation-promotion effort. The 31 Club has become a mainstay at parishes around America and, indeed, around the world.

After signing up, a parishioner picks any date of the month—from 1 to 31—that suits them; then, they commit to go to Mass or a Holy Hour or pray an extra rosary on that day each month over the following year and devote that Mass or prayer to an increase in vocations, and for perseverance for priests and religious already serving the Church. The 31 Club does not hold meetings, nor does it require dues. It is open to all—including parishioners who are homebound and wish to offer their sufferings and prayer for that day. The goal is to build enough membership within the parish to cover all 365 days of the year.

Vice President for Vocations Bill Boniface could use every Serran's assistance in establishing 31 Clubs in all Spokane-area parishes. To get a 31 Club started in your parish, contact Bill by phone at (509) 808-1735 or email at [bbboniface@yahoo.com](mailto:bbboniface@yahoo.com)



### International Rosary

The Serra International Rosary for Vocations invites Serrans from all over the world to join together in a recitation of the Rosary for vocations. To join from your computer, tablet or smartphone, go to: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/314315981>. Or using your phone, dial 1 (312) 757-3119 and enter the access code; 314-315-981. The rosary is held the last Saturday of every month at 6:00 am Pacific Time. The next two opportunities are September 29 and October 27.

## Membership Gatherings

### July Luncheon Meeting – Fr. William O’Brien

On Friday, July 13, our guest was Fr. William O’Brien. Fr. O’Brien is a priest in the Byzantine rite of the Catholic Church – yes, in union with Rome! His parish is Sts. Cyril and Methodius in the Spokane Valley. He gave us insight into the various rites that are in union with Rome and he also told his vocation story. He was born and raised Roman Catholic, considered priesthood, but eventually went to college, graduated, and began working in the technology industry. During this time, he had wandered away from practicing his faith. Upon his return to the faith, he was drawn to the local Byzantine Rite church and began attending. The priest was very instrumental in his return to discernment of the priesthood. He loved the Byzantine rite from the beginning and loves it still today. He invited us all to attend Matins at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy (Mass) at 10:00 am on Sundays; 4315 N Evergreen Rd.



*Steve Domini and Fr. William O'Brien*

### Quo Vadis Days, Vocare, and Dinner for Priests

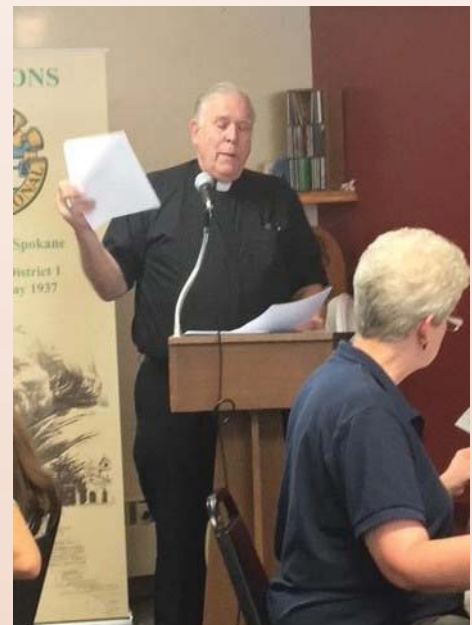
Thank you to everyone for your very generous contributions to these three events. In the next section of the newsletter, you will see thank you letters from Fr. Barnett for Quo Vadis Days and Sr. Elaine Thaden, OSE for Vocare. There is also a thank you letter from Fr. Barnett written on behalf of all the priests in attendance at the Dinner for Priests held on July 18. Many of them signed a card that will be available for viewing at future Friday luncheons and Saturday mornings.

### August Luncheon Meeting – Msgr. John Steiner

Our August luncheon featured Msgr. John Steiner. Msgr. Steiner gave a timely and interesting talk on the Synods that have been held since Vatican II. He provided a brief history of the Synod of Bishops most of his talk centered on the next scheduled synods. The next Synod of Bishops will occur in October of this year. A special synod has been called for next year.

Pope Paul VI established the Synod of Bishops in 1965 by papal decree as a permanent collegial body to collaborate with the pope on issues of universal importance to the church. To date there have been 17 regular Synod of Bishop gatherings, three extraordinary meetings, and several special meetings. Special meetings are directed to the attention of more narrowly defined concerns.

*...continued on next page*



*Msgr. John Steiner*

## Membership Gatherings (cont.)

The Synod of Bishops has representation from all area of geological areas of the church and some defined bodies within the Church.

The 2018 Synod of Bishops is entitled “Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment.” Questionnaires and preliminary documents were distributed and pertinent information is being gathered. The agenda, at least in part, has been drafted.

As the title suggests, the synod will focus on the youth of the church. The synod is not U.S or European centric, but encompasses the needs of the church throughout the world.

The Synod scheduled for 2019 will be a special synod focusing on the challenges facing the church in the Amazon basin. Msgr. Steiner pointed out that Brazil has the most Catholics of any nation. The Amazon basin encompasses much of Brazil and parts of several other countries. It is estimated that 100,000 priests are needed to meet the Eucharistic needs of the area. Currently, there are only 10,000 priests. America faces a shortage of priests and we have in the neighborhood of 40,000 priests.

In keeping with Pope Francis’ view of the world-wide church, leaders of the special synod are from Baghdad, Madagascar, Myanmar, and Papua New Guinea.

The Synod of Bishops is important as the church faces the challenges of tomorrow. Msgr. Steiner noted the synod is necessary as the likelihood of another council such as Vatican II is remote; mostly due to the number of bishops now. In 1960 there were about 2,500 bishops. Today there are around 5,000.



### Ordinations

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

## Priest's Dinner & Welcome Back Dinner

There was such a wonderful turnout of Serrans to cook, set up, and clean for both dinners! The Priests' Dinner held in July had 7-10 Serrans cut, slice, and set tables. Beverages were iced down and centerpieces placed. Please read the thank you letter from Fr. Barnett. We have been told there were approximately 45 priests in attendance and that they so appreciate their time together without a meeting or a speech – just relaxation.

At the Welcome Back dinner held for seminarians and families in August, there were about 20-25 Serrans, including 4 from the Serra Club of North Idaho. It turned out to be a lovely evening and the smoke from the various forest fires was not too bad yet. The dining room was full, the patio was full, and there was overflow in the Bishop White Room. The menu was hamburgers, potato salad, macaroni salad, chips, and cookies. The main barbecue chefs were Bob Boehme and Bill Boniface, with several assistants.

You may be wondering why the Serra Club of North Idaho was involved. The Diocese of Boise is sending two young men to BWS and Fr. Timothy M. Ritchey from St. George's Catholic Church in Post Falls was invited to the Priests' Dinner. He went back to his Serrans with nothing but praise and they asked to be involved in the Welcome Back Dinner and next year, the Priests Dinner.

### Priests' Dinner

---



*Bill Boniface - in charge?*



*Gerry Manfred cleaning and preparing fruit salad.*



*Steve Domini and Martin Weber also cleaning and preparing fruit for a Priests' Dinner salad.*

### Welcome Back Dinner

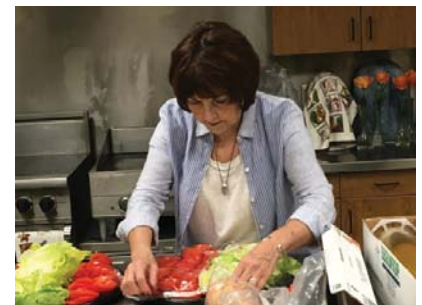
---



*Chefs and assistants. From left: Bill Boniface, Steve Domini, Al Hanson (hidden by Steve Domini is Bob Boehme). What is that old saying – two many cooks spoil the stew? What about too many men at the barbecue?*



*George Czerwonka brought flowers for the tables from his wife, Sharon, to beautify the room for the Welcome Back Dinner.*



*Barbara Boniface readying trays of tomatoes and lettuce for the hamburgers.*

## Thank You Letters

Dear Serra Friends,

Barrie and I appreciate your thoughts and prayers so much. I am getting better, so I know they helped. Thank you all very much and God bless! ~ Joyce and Barrie Baird

---

The next thank you note is from Fr. Barnett as rector of Bishop White Seminary and Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Spokane:

Dear Serra Club Members,

Thank you for your recent generous donations of \$436, \$950, and \$1,200, to Bishop White Seminary and the Office of Vocations. As you requested the funds earmarked for Quo Vadis Days will be used to help fund the 2018 discernment camp and retreat {\$1,200}. Thank you again for your generosity. The seminarians, staff, and I appreciate the many ways that Serra Club members support the seminary, the Office of Vocations, and the seminarians. Please keep me and the seminarians in your prayers as we continue to pray for you and all our donors.

~ Very Rev. Daniel J. Barnett

Rector, Bishop White Seminary

---

Note: Serrans have been generous in donating to Bishop White Seminary with their membership dues – \$436 for the 2017/2018 fiscal year. In addition, Serra accepted a disbursement of \$950 from the Serra Club endowment (managed by the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Washington) and this was donated to Bishop White Seminary.

---

The next thank you note is from Sr. Elaine Thaden, OSF, on behalf of all the religious women for Serra's support of Vocare:

Dear Sue and all Serra Club Members,

We sisters of the diocese and the lovely 57 girls who attended Vocare, as well as their families, are so grateful to your generous club members for sponsoring our fine final lunch. Together with the closing Mass it made a perfect ending to an inspiring retreat/camp event.

We all judged our 7th Vocare to be the most successful so far with 22 new young ladies coming and 35 returning for their second, third, fourth, or fifth time. They are very fine girls, eager to grow in their faith. They came from all over eastern Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. We pray we were able to plant seeds of a vocation in the hearts of some of these lovely ladies. We are already planning to do some kind of follow-up with our Vocare "graduates."

Thank you for your generosity and constant encouragement.

~ Sr. Elaine Thaden, OSF

---

The last thank you letter is from Fr. Barnett written on behalf of all priests in attendance at the dinner for priests held on July 18:

Dear Serra Club Members,

On behalf of the priests of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane, I thank you for sponsoring the priest appreciation barbecue at Bishop White Seminary on Wednesday, July 18.

As you know, the Spokane diocese is large; many priests are geographically isolated from each other. We do not often have the opportunity to meet in a casual setting. Because of your generosity, my fellow priests and I enjoyed an evening of good food, wine, and fellowship in a relaxed atmosphere of community and mutual respect. I know I speak for everyone when I say that we enjoyed the evening very much and returned to our parishes with renewed enthusiasm for our ministry there. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and generosity. I appreciate the many ways that Serra members support the priests and seminarians. You will remain in our prayers here at BWS; please keep us in yours.

~ Very Rev. Daniel J. Barnett, Rector



## Schedule of Events

*Notes: Fourth Saturday Breakfast Meetings resumes on September 22. Check out our next speakers and invite your friends and family members!*

### September 2018

Fri	Sep 7	7:00 am	First Friday Mass at BWS
Fri	Sep 7	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Mon	Sep 10	5:15 pm	Mass and Board Meeting at BWS
Fri	Sep 14	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC. Our speaker will be Fr. Patrick Baraza who will reprise the talk he gave at O'Malley Hall. There were only 5 Serrans in attendance then, let's fill IHRC! It is a wonderful talk about Kenya and his first years as a priest serving there.
Fri	Sep 21	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat	Sep 22	8:00 am	Mass at BWS. Serrans are invited to attend Mass at BWS prior to our Saturday Meeting at O'Malley Hall.
Sat	Sep 22	9:00 am	Saturday Meeting at O'Malley Hall; St. Aloysius Parish. Our speaker is Jeremy Cassidy who will be discussing FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), a campus outreach that pursues college students with intentionality and love. FOCUS invites them into a growing relationship with Jesus and the Catholic faith at a time when 80% of Catholic students leave the church by the time they graduate.
Fri	Sep 28	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat	Sep 29	6:00 am	Serra International Rosary for Vocations: Serrans from all over the world are invited to join together in a recitation of the Rosary for vocations. To join from your computer, tablet or smartphone, go to: <a href="https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/314315981">https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/314315981</a> . Or using your phone, dial 1 (312) 757-3119 and enter the access code; 314-315-981

### October 2018

Fri	Oct 5	7:00 am	First Friday Mass at BWS
Fri	Oct 5	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Mon	Oct 8	5:15 pm	Mass and Board Meeting at BWS
Fri	Oct 12	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC. Our speaker will be Sr. Eucharista, SMMC, on angels.
Fri	Oct 19	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Fri	Oct 26	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat	Oct 27	6:00 am	Serra International Rosary for Vocations: Serrans from all over the world are invited to join together in a recitation of the Rosary for vocations. To join from your computer, tablet or smartphone, go to: <a href="https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/314315981">https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/314315981</a> . Or using your phone, dial 1 (312) 757-3119 and enter the access code; 314-315-981
Sat	Oct 27	8:00 am	Mass at BWS. Serrans are invited to attend Mass at BWS prior to our Saturday Meeting at O'Malley Hall
Sat	Oct 27	9:00 am	Saturday Meeting at O'Malley Hall; St. Aloysius Parish
Thu	Oct 30	5:30 pm	Clergy Appreciation Social and Dinner; TBD; 5:30 Social Hour; 6:00 Dinner. Bishop Thomas Daly has been invited. More information to come.