



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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Letter from our President

Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Exhortation last year entitled "Gaudete et Exsultate," {Rejoice and be Glad}. The document aims to help us be holy in the modern world. In it, he writes the following statements:

1. "We are called not to be afraid of holiness ... for our entire lives do not have a mission, but are a mission."
2. "A Christian cannot think of his or her mission on earth without seeing it as a path of holiness, for 'this is the will of God, your sanctification'" (1 Thess 4:3). Each saint is a mission, planned by the Father to reflect and embody, at a specific moment in history, a certain aspect of the Gospel.
3. "We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves."
4. Pope Francis adds, "holiness is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God's grace."

To depend on God sets us free. (from: BeHisown.com, "The Sexual Scandal & Why Holiness Isn't What I Thought," Kara Klein Oubre; 8/25/2018). I mention Gaudete et Exsultate because of the similarities between it and the writings of Father Walter Ciszek, S.J. We were treated to a wonderful video program about the life of Father Ciszek at our February luncheon. The video was followed by discussion led by Sue Manfred and Martin Weber, who have read the three books by Fr. Ciszek.

Father Ciszek was born in 1904 in Pennsylvania. He joined the Jesuits and studied in Rome, in order to prepare to work in Russia. He was ordained in 1937 and sent to Poland. He entered Russia and was captured by the Soviet army and spent 23 years in Soviet prisons, and Siberian labor camps. He was released and returned to the United States in 1963. He died in 1984.

Father James Martin, S.J., in his book, "The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything," writes about Father Ciszek and quotes from his book, "He Leadeth Me": "What Father Ciszek discerned in the Soviet prison camps was an understanding of God's will. One day he had a revelation, when it comes to daily life, God's will is not some abstract idea to be figured out or puzzled over or even discerned. Rather, God's will is what is presented before us every day."

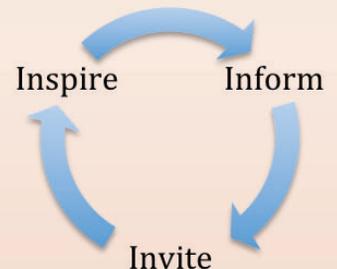
Fr. Martin again quotes from "He Leadeth Me," "God's will for us was the twenty-four hours of each day: the people, the places, the circumstances, he sets before us in that time. Those were the things God knew were important to him and to us at that moment."

As we Serrans approach Lent and as we work on our own holiness, let us remember that God is always before us, loves us, and understands us better than we do. Let us follow the words of Pope Francis and Father Ciszek to help us achieve holiness and doing the will of God each day.

As Father Ciszek said, "I looked no longer to self to guide me, relied on it no longer in any way, so it could not fail me. By renouncing, finally and completely, all control of my life and future destiny... I was freed therefore from anxiety and worry, from every tension, and could float serenely upon the tide of God's sustaining providence in perfect peace of soul."

May God continue to bless all of you, and I pray everyone will have blessed Lenten season.

Steve



The Chaplain's Corner



Dear Serrans – Praised be Jesus Christ!

The revelations of crime and degenerate behavior which have been flooding the news have shaken the faith of many in the Church. They have also illustrated the great need for a renewal of the priesthood from within. As a Diocese which has lived through the pain of bankruptcy, we have a unique opportunity to work for purification, healing, and renewal in the Church as a whole. As Serrans, we have an obligation to do so.

Therefore, on the first Thursday of every month – the day Our Lord instituted the Holy Priesthood – we will have a Holy Hour from 7-8 pm at Bishop White Seminary in reparation for the sins of the clergy, and for more and holy vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Spokane. I invite all Serrans to come pray for a renewal of holiness in and through the priests.

We will kick this off on Thursday, March 7, when we are blessed to host the incorrupt heart of St. John Vianney, Patron Saint of Priests. Please join us and invite your friends as we implore his powerful aid to move always forward. You may find more information at www.kofc.org/Vianney and scroll down the schedule to 3/07/2019.

Please be assured of my prayers, and please pray for me. God bless you.

Very Rev. Daniel Barnett

A Prayer for Priests

Members Gerry and Sue Manfred attended one of the evening Lourdes Novena for Healing prayer services at Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes and would like to share the following prayer that was printed in the program:

O Jesus, I pray for your faithful and fervent priests;
for your unfaithful and tepid priests;
for your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields;
for your tempted priests;
for your lonely and desolate priests;
for your young priests;
for your dying priests;
for the souls of your priests in purgatory.
But above all, I recommend to you the priests dearest to me:
the priest who baptized me;
the priests who've absolved me from my sins;
the priests at whose Masses I've assisted and who've given my Your Body
and Blood in Holy Communion;
the priests who've taught and instructed me;
all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way, especially (fill in name)
O Jesus, keep them all close to your heart,
and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. Amen.



Membership Gatherings

January Luncheon Program – Sr. Irene Knopes, SNJM – a Vocation Story

Serrans were graced with the presence of Sr. Irene Knopes, SNJM, at our January luncheon. Her talk was warm and inspiring as she shared her journey from motherhood to sisterhood. Motherhood, you say? When she was 45 years old her husband died of a heart attack. Her daughters were 19 and 21. She was working at Potlatch in Lewiston and lived in Clarkston.

A coworker who had also lost her husband told Irene that it was the worst time possible, “they were too young for the seniors and too old for the younger crowd.” Without thinking Irene responded, “I think it is the best time, I could go back to school or get a new job.” She did not know what prompted her response as she enjoyed her job and had never thought of leaving it.

During the grieving process she came across a card that said, “I don’t know why, but if it is your will do with me as you want.” Then, listening to the radio one day she heard the words “put your hand in the hand” It was a special moment that touched her deeply. She then physically heard a masculine voice speak, “Trust Me.”

Looking for an answer she contacted a community of sisters in Cottonwood, spoke with Msgr. Donnelly, Fr. Van, and then the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who allowed her to become an associate. She then earned her first master’s degree from Gonzaga – a Master of Pastoral Administration. She then earned a second master’s degree from Gonzaga – a Master of Divinity.

Sr. Irene described herself as naïve about religion, not of faith. Faith had come to her through contact with non-denominational churches. She had taught Sunday school and was impressed at how they made learning about Jesus a joyful experience the children looked forward to.

She learned of spirituality from the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and became a candidate for religious life. She gave away all of her possessions, including selling her house. At the time, she said to herself, “Okay here comes Trust.”

Sr. Irene took her first vows in 1998 and her final vows in 2002. Meanwhile, it was announced that three parishes in the diocese were to have women religious as Pastoral Administrators and the position at St Joseph’s (on Dean Avenue in Spokane) came open. She applied and got the job. When introduced to the parish, the bishop said, “Here is your new pastor.”

For the first three years, Fr. Pautler was assigned to St. Joseph’s. After that, Sr. Irene had to get a priest for all Masses, confession, weddings, funerals, and more. Bishop Cupich assigned Fr. Jose Milan as pastor and Sr. Irene became the Parish Administrator.

The transition has had its tough moments as they strive to reach a comfortable balance and some language barriers – St. Joseph has 100 Anglo families and 300 Hispanic families; Fr. Jose speaks Spanish and English, Sr. Irene does not speak Spanish.

As Sr. Irene told Fr. Jose, “Not speaking Spanish is a blessing and a curse. A curse because she is unable to effectively communicate with some parishioners. A blessing, because if she could speak Spanish, Fr. Jose would have even more work for her.”

It was an amazing journey that she shared with us.



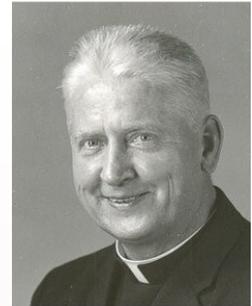
Membership Gatherings (cont.)

February Luncheon Program – Fr. Walter Cizek, S.J., Video

Serrans were treated to the spiritual journey of a remarkable Jesuit, Father Walter J. Cizek, S.J., at our February luncheon.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of Sue Manfred and Martin Weber, we heard about his life by viewing a video and information from three books authored by Fr. Cizek. They are:

With God in Russia
He Leadeth Me
With God in America



The video is remarkable because it presents the beginning of the Communist persecution of the Church in 1917. We viewed dramatic black and white footage of historic Churches being destroyed and sacred icons being thrown into bonfires.

Suddenly, we move to modern day Russia. The nightmare is over, and the Church is no longer persecuted. We see rebuilding of Churches and holy Mass being celebrated, and priestly vocations are growing. Father Walter Cizek foretold this miracle many decades before.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1904, he was a tough young man, almost incorrigible. He was athletic and hid his piety. He joined the Jesuit seminary. He studied in Rome, following the call of Pope Pius XI, to minister in Soviet Russia. He secretly entered Russia in 1940. He was captured by the Russian secret police in 1941 and was in custody in Soviet prisons, with years in solitary confinement, and Siberian labor camps. He was released in 1963. We heard a very touching story by an archbishop about how the Russian grandparents passed on the faith to their grandchildren during the time of persecution. Father Cizek is remembered and much loved by the Russian people and clergy, because of his suffering and defense of the faith.

Martin and Sue each gave emotional commentaries on the books, as well as a handout and prayer card. If you would like to view the video or receive the handout and prayer card, simply email or call Karen Domini, kdomini81@gmail.com or (509) 468-6774. While Karen is reading the books right now, they will also be available to read if you'd like to let her know.

What's Going On

Saturday Monthly Meetings

As you may have noticed, the monthly Saturday meetings have been sparsely scheduled and attended when held. Your board is struggling with obtaining wonderful speakers to come and then there are only a handful of attendees. Conversely, our Saturday meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of the month which often means a holiday – Memorial Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.

While we discuss what avenue to pursue, we do believe it is important to offer a meeting working members may attend – we have put the Saturday meetings on hold.

Options we have discussed include maintaining the fourth Saturday at a different, permanent location, changing to an evening dinner and program (please read Fr. Barnett's article), and a few others. If you would like to contribute your thoughts and ideas, please contact President Steve Domini, dominis60@gmail.com or (509) 468-6774 or any other member of the board.

Sisters Appreciation Luncheon – Save the Date!

The Sisters Appreciation Luncheon has been scheduled for **Saturday, April 13**. Bishop Daly will celebrate Mass for this wonderful event and the luncheon will follow. We have secured St. Charles Parish as the location. Invitations will be arriving soon.

With these plans in progress, Karen Domini is thinking about centerpieces. Is anyone interested in helping? Do you have an idea but not sure of the execution? Do you want to get together with others and help plan? Crafters and wanna-be crafters can contact Karen by email at kdomini81@gmail.com or phone at 468-6774.

Traveling Crucifix Kits

Traveling Crucifix kits are being sponsored and provided by Serra to Spokane diocesan schools. Currently, we have six kits with at least two more on order. VPs for Vocations Bill and Barbara Boniface have been working with Kathy Hicks in the diocesan education office to place kits in schools and to assist in kits traveling from school to school.

Ms. Hicks has asked if Serra could possibly supply 10 more kits so that kits travel from classroom to classroom instead of school to school. Anyone interested in sponsoring a kit can send a donation to the Serra Club of Spokane marked "Traveling Crucifix." The kit costs \$98.65 (\$85 for the aluminum case kit and \$13.65 shipping) and can be viewed here <https://www.vianneyvocations.com/product/traveling-vocation-crucifix/>. The Serra Club of Spokane address is PO Box 31535, Spokane, WA 99223.



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.

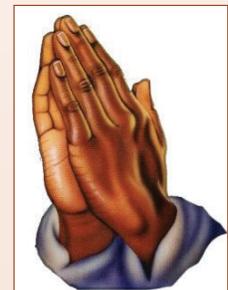
Prayers for Baby Jaxton, now six months in NICU.

Prayers for the repose of the soul of member Mike Anselmo.

Prayers for the repose of the soul of member Pat Stanton.

Prayers for the repose of the soul of former member Joan Pearson.

Prayers for the repose of the soul of Frances Christine "Chris" McGinn



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.

Schedule of Events

March 2019

Fri., Mar 8	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC. Fifth Day of the Novena to St. Junipero Serra for Bishop Daly's intentions. Our speaker will be Fr. Brian Mee. He is pastor of St. Augustine Parish and is one of the diocesan vicars that can be heard on "Bishop and the Vicars" on Sacred Heart Radio (EWTN).
Mon., Mar 11	5:15 pm	Mass and Board Meeting at BWS
Fri., Mar 15	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Fri.; Mar 22	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat.; Mar 23	9:00 am	Saturday Meeting at O'Malley Hall; St. Aloysius Parish- CANCELLED
Fri., Mar 29		Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat., Mar 30	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: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/314315981 . Or using your phone, dial 1 (312) 757-3119 and enter the access code; 314-315-981

April 2019

Fri., Apr 5	7:00 am	First Friday Mass at BWS
Fri., Apr 5	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Mon., Apr 8	5:15 pm	Mass and Board Meeting at BWS
Fri., Apr 12	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations
Fri., Apr 12	12:00 pm	Luncheon Meeting at IHRC has been CANCELLED due to Bishop Daly's request for the use of IHRC for a day of prayer for Chancery office staff.
Sat., Apr 13	11:00 am	Sisters Appreciation Mass and Lunch at St. Charles Parish. Mass celebrated by Bishop Daly. Sixth Day of the Novena to St. Junipero Serra for Bishop Daly's intentions will be prayed as a group at this event.
Fri., Apr 19		Holy Friday, NO Adoration for Vocations
Fri., Apr 26	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat., Apr 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: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/314315981 . Or using your phone, dial 1 (312) 757-3119 and enter the access code; 314-315-981
Sat., Apr 27	9:00 am	Spring Leadership and Planning Conference at St. John Vianney Parish, Spokane Valley. More information to come.

Ordination Anniversaries

Fr. Michael Blackburn, OFM	Mar 1, 1986
Rev. Msgr. John Steiner	Apr 12, 1969
Fr. Rex Familiar	Apr 16, 1993
Fr. Charles Skok	Apr 30, 1952