



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



Mar-Apr 2020

SERRA CLUB OF SPOKANE

Club 2 District 1E Region PNW

Volume 10

Issue 2

Spokane, Washington

USA

Letter from Our President



I was speaking recently with a fellow Serran about the issues facing our Church today. I said I

was unhappy with the actions of some of the clergy. My fellow Serran suggested that when we have our particular judgment with Jesus, He will not ask us about the actions of others, but rather what we did or did not do. He will ask us if we prayed for His priests and His Church.

As a Serran, praying for priests and our Church seems automatic. In fact, why do I have to even be a Serran to pray for these intentions? Any Catholic can pray. Let's look into how the Serran experience can focus our prayer for these critical intentions, and how we benefit from these efforts.

Serra International is formally recognized by the Holy See as the global lay apostolate for vocations and is the only lay organization affiliated to a primary pontifical work. A pontifical work is an organization instituted by the Vatican to advance a particular goal of the Catholic Church. This

pontifical work is for priestly vocations. Affiliation to this pontifical work reflects not only specific support from the Vatican for our mission, but also confers special spiritual benefits on all Serrans. (*Pope Pius XII and Serra International*, <https://serrainternational.org/>)

Pope John Paul II told the Serrans at the Vatican on December 7, 2000: "Dear Serrans, you are committed in a special way to promoting vocations. Never forget that yours must be above all a commitment to prayer, prayer which is constant, unwavering and full of trust. Prayer moves the heart of God. It is the powerful key to resolving the vocations question. But at the same time prayer for vocations is also a school of life, as I had occasion recently to point out: 'By praying for vocations we learn to look with Gospel wisdom at the world and at each person's need for life and salvation; it is a way of sharing in Christ's love and compassion for all mankind...'" (Message for the 38th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 14 September 2000, n. 6).

More recently, Pope Francis told the Serrans on June 23, 2017, in Vatican City: "To be friends to

priests, sustaining their vocations 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 . . . friends who share the wonder of a vocation, the courage of a definitive decision, the joy and fatigue of ministry. Friends who can offer priests support and regard their generous efforts and human failings with understanding and tender love. In this way, you are to priests like the home of Bethany, where Jesus entrusted his weariness to Martha and Mary, and, thanks to their care, was able to find rest and refreshment."

As I reflect on my nearly 20 years as a Serran, I realize what a gift I have been given. As St. John Paul II told the Serrans, "to promote vocations ... is something that touches the very mystery of the Church." (Address of the Holy Father John Paul II to the members of Serra International; December 7, 2000.)

In Christ,

Steve Domini

Thank You Letters

Dear members of the Serra Club of Spokane,
Thank you so much for the donation of the Traveling Cross [Crucifix] for Vocations to St. Charles Catholic School!
It is a beautiful way for our students to learn about and pray for vocations.
Blessings,
~ Heather Schlaich, Principal

Dear Members of Serra,

A belated (sorry) thank you for the wonderful meal at the Clergy Appreciation Dinner last October. Also, a thank you for the gift card.

I really appreciate you and all your support. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

May God bless you all and your ministry.

In Christ,

~ Fr. Mike Blackburn, OFM (the vegetarian)

P.S. I thank you for accommodating my eating habits. The animals thank you, too 😊

Dear Serrans,

I was touched and humbled to receive your kind note and Mass card today. Thank you for your encouragement and faithful, prayerful support.

On this feast day of our Lady of Guadalupe, may the Blessed Mother intercede for you and ever arrange your endeavors to most beautifully glorify her Son.

In Christ,

~ Fr. Ratuiste

Dear Serrans,

Thank you so much for remembering me on my birthday and for all your support for the Sisters!

Blessed be this new year,
~ Sr. Leslie Lund, OCDH

Serra Endowment for the Education of Seminarians

Prayerfully consider a contribution. This endowment supports our seminarians in perpetuity.

To contribute:

Include an endowment contribution with your next dues payment to make a 100% tax deductible donation.

Contact Sue Manfred at (509) 926-1067 or Bob Boehme at (509) 924-2405 if you have questions.

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Membership Gatherings

January – Michael Dumais; How to talk to pro-abortion advocates

It was a small but mighty group that met for adoration and luncheon on January 10.

Pictured from left: Bob Boehme; Diana Boehme (welcome back!); Emily Klein; Al Hanson; our speaker, Michael Dumais, Outreach Coordinator for Human Life of Washington; Steve Domini; Martin Weber; and Gerry Manfred. In attendance but not pictured were Dave McGann and Karen Domini.



Michael graduated from Gonzaga Prep and Whitworth University. He was the leader of the Whitworth Chapter of Students for Life. He was involved in personnel management and client relations at Catholic Charities Spokane Furniture Bank. He also served with the Diocese of Spokane as the coordinator for the Respect Life Office.

He has spoken widely on pro-life advocacy at venues including Teen Aid, Covenant Church, and Path of Life Spokane. He is very articulate and well versed in talking and listening about pro-life issues.

Rather than attempting to recapture his presentation, I encourage everyone to go to the following YouTube link and listen to him set forth how to talk with others about pro-life issues: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lJNTb1nwScs>.

February – Fr. Daniel Barnett; Communicating with the seminarians

Fr. Barnett, our chaplain, was asked to speak to us to provide more insight into conversations we have with seminarians. As some of you remember, Fr. Gene Tracy spoke to us in December and had stated that not all seminarians necessarily like to talk about themselves all the time. We need more!

Fr. Barnett began by explaining that Bishop White Seminary represents the initial phase in the entire formation process that is 8-10 years long. A young man could be there from 2-3 years. Formation continues with a 4-year theology degree, a pastoral year, ordination as a transitional deacon, and concludes with ordination to the priesthood.

The college-level seminary, like Bishop White, is where men are still finding out if the priesthood is for them. In most cases, they are young; 19-22. They are uncertain of who they are and what God wants of them.

BWS is a place of clarity and freedom to understand God's will. They also learn what

makes good husbands and fathers; how to be a man of Christ's church for others. They gain necessary tools and attributes for the priesthood; particularly as a pastor in a parish.

Fr. Barnett suggested that what they don't need is having too much done for them, don't coddle, don't tell them not to "worry about it," etc. They do like a challenge, do ask how they chose to enter seminary, ask about their plans for the future. Do ask why they chose priesthood discernment over any other area of interest or are they combining interests and why. Be someone they can obtain perspective from by asking these kinds of questions.

Express yourself to them; be a witness, show how you integrate your faith into your life. They go through grief and serious family illnesses just like you and may need to talk; share your own experiences. Talk about how you were called to your vocation.

Fr. Barnett reminded us that in praying for vocations, we should personalize our prayers. Do we know the young men and women in our parishes? We should get to know them, talk to them about being called by God to the priesthood and consecrated religious life. Ask them what their future plans are, do they feel God's call to a particular vocation. He spoke of a seminarian who chose the seminary after a vocation talk by his pastor. He felt he should step-up and seriously consider it; if not him, then who?

During the question and answer portion, Fr. Barnett was asked if seminarians can be invited to events outside of the seminary. The response was yes, but the invitation should be issued in a general manner rather than specific. Another option is to call Theresa Ferguson at the seminary and arrange to have lunch or dinner with the young men. It doesn't have to be a "Serran" event for you to do this.

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. New requests will be printed as they are received.

Pray for the repose of the soul of Cheryl McIntosh, the daughter of member Carol Dunne.

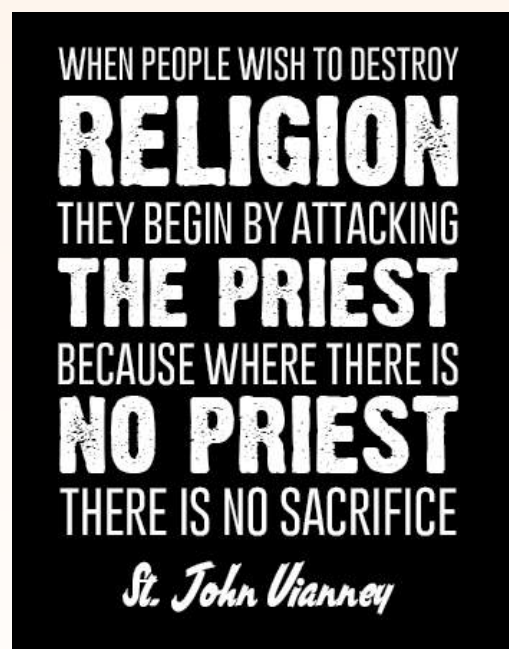
Pray for Carol Dunne, that she be given peace, comfort, and strength during her time of grief.

Pray for the repose of the soul of Michael Didier, the son of member Ernie Didier.

Pray for Ernie (Dorothy) Didier, that they be given peace, comfort, and strength during their time of grief.

A Prayer for Priests

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 me 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 a name)
O Jesus, keep them all close to your heart,
and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity.
Amen.



Ordination Anniversaries

Ordination anniversary cards are mailed to priests on behalf of the Serra Club by member Andy Harris. Celebrate your own pastor or those priests that have special meaning in your life by attending Mass, saying a prayer, or sending your own card.

Fr. Patrick MacMahon	Apr 12, 1969
Rev. Msgr. John Steiner	Apr 12, 1969
Fr. Rex Familiar	Apr 16, 1993
Fr. Charles Skok	Apr 30, 1952

Save these Serra dates and plan to attend now!

Saturday, March 28 – It's our Annual Sisters Appreciation Mass and Luncheon! We all look forward to this event in celebration of the consecrated women religious living and serving in the Diocese of Spokane.

June 25-28 – Serra International's 78th Convention: Igniting the Fire Within. This year's convention is in New Orleans, Louisiana. Registration is now open at <https://www.serrainternational.org/news/registration-now-open-new-orleans-convention> and there is an early registration discount until April 15, 2020.

October 16-18 – Pacific Northwest Regional Conference at Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, OR
The theme is "20/20 Vision." More information as the date gets closer.

Serra Club of Spokane Calendar

March 2020

Thu	Mar 5	7:00 pm	Holy Hour at BWS for reparation and purification of sins by members of the church and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Following will be social time with conversation, snacks, and beverages. All Serrans are invited to come pray and socialize afterward.
Fri	Mar 6	7:00 am	First Friday Mass at BWS
Fri	Mar 6	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Fri	Mar 13	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC.
Mon	Mar 16	5:15 pm	Mass and Board Meeting at BWS
Fri	Mar 20	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Fri	Mar 27	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat	Mar 28	11:00 am	Sisters Appreciation Mass and Lunch at St. Charles Parish. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Daly.

April 2020

Thu	Apr 2	7:00 pm	Holy Hour at BWS for reparation and purification of sins by members of the church and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Following will be social time with conversation, snacks, and beverages. All Serrans are invited to come pray and socialize afterward.
Fri	Apr 3	7:00 am	First Friday Mass at BWS
Fri	Apr 3	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC
Sat	Apr 4	9:00 am	Spring Training & Planning Conference at St. Joseph Parish, Kennewick. More to come.
Fri	Apr 10		Good Friday, NO Adoration for Vocations and NO Luncheon Meeting
Fri	Apr 17	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations
Mon	Apr 20	5:15 pm	Mass and Board Meeting at BWS
Fri	Apr 24	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations at IHRC

Serra International Rosary for Vocations

Serra International Rosary for Vocations will be on **March 28 and April 25**: 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/31431598>. Or using your phone, dial 1 (312) 757-3119 and enter the access code; 314-315-981.