



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



Nov-Dec 2023

THE SERRA SNAPSHOT

Serra Club of Spokane

Club 2

District I E

Region PNW

Volume 13

Issue 6

Event Highlights



Fri, December 8, 11:00 am; Mass and Luncheon at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center

We will begin with Mass celebrated by Fr. Kyle Ratuiste in the

chapel, then luncheon and program to follow. Our speaker will be our own Robert Heacock on PNW Catholic history.



Fri, January 12, 11:00 am Adoration and Luncheon at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center

Our speaker will be

Fr. Pat Hartin. He is a retired priest for the Diocese of Spokane, retired professor for GU, and is an author of several books, including "A Spirituality of Perfection: Faith and Action in the Letter of James."



Fri, February 9, 11:00 am Adoration and Luncheon at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center

Our dynamic VPs for

Programs have been hard at work but have not gotten confirmation the speaker. Updates will be provided by email, PhoneVite, Facebook, and the calendar on our website.

Chaplain's Chronicles



Dear Serrans,

Praise be Jesus Christ!

Every year the Catholic Church in the United States observes the first full week of November as National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW). It is a special opportunity to draw attention to the beauty of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and

consecrated life and to animate prayers for more young men and women to respond to these special callings. This year, NVAW falls on November 5 through 11. However, it can be helpful to consider the whole month of November as a time for especially grateful and attentive prayers for all vocations.

As Serrans, we can ponder and delight in the unity and diversity of vocations. On one hand, all particular vocations have as their common ground the one vocation shared by all Christians, which is the universal call to holiness – the vocation to be saints. On the other hand, we know that there is no such thing as a generic saint. Each person is called to emulate Christ, who poured Himself out in love for us. The way each person participates in this pouring out of oneself varies. Often, this gift of self follows a recognizable pattern: the privileged mutual self-gift of married couples, the spiritual camaraderie of religious brothers, the supernaturally spousal devotion of religious sisters, the radical charity of permanent deacons, the encompassing fatherhood of priests. Yet, even among people living the same vocation, we witness remarkable diversity in personalities, gifts, and charisms. Nevertheless, all of these find their foundation in the singular call to holiness!

As we consider the beauty of vocations and renew our commitment to pray for those seeking to respond to their God-given calling, let us not forget our own personal stake and privilege. Our own personal call to holiness, our own unique participation in God's plan of salvation, takes shape in the form of our vocation. May we live out the vocation we have received faithfully.

¡Siempre adelante!

In Christ,

Fr. Kyle Ratuiste, Chaplain
Serra Club of Spokane

Thoughts and Prayers



We are entering into a new phase of our Serra Club vocation ministry with the advent of parish-based teams. On November 4 the Fruitful Harvests Vocations Workshop was held at St. Peter Church. Serrans attending the training included Sue Manfred, Martin Weber, Cindy Omlin, Cathy Niblock, Karen Kraft, Steve Domini, Karen

Domini, Anna Stockdill, Eva Dacanay, Jim Hose, Emily Klein, and me. Parishes represented included St. Aloysius, Assumption, St. Thomas More, St. Charles, St. Peter, Cathedral, St. Mary, St. John Vianney, St. Joseph-Otis Orchards, Walla Walla (3), and Pasco. The parish-based teams will focus on fostering a culture of religious vocations in families through promoting awareness and encouraging openness to God's vocational call. If you are interested in being involved in one of these teams and you are part of a parish listed, contact your parish office to let them know that you are willing. Also, here is a shout out for our chaplain, Fr. Kyle Ratuiste, who spearheaded the tremendous effort to put together this training and the initiation of the parish-based teams.

As we are on the cusp of Advent, I encourage you to redouble your efforts on personal holiness. Pray for our priests,

deacons, religious sisters, seminarians, and for those discerning a call to vocations, and that our families foster a culture of vocations.

On another note, please consider financially supporting one of our Serra Club initiatives. Here are some of the vocations activities that we support: Quo Vadis Days (men's discernment), Women's Day of Discernment (formerly known as Vocare), Priests BBQ dinner, Welcome Back Dinner at BWS for seminarians and families, appreciation gifts for consecrated women religious, receptions for prospective and current seminarians, receptions for priests' training day, and Traveling Crucifix program in Catholic grade schools. Since we don't do any fund raising, it is incumbent on the generosity of all of us to bolster our support for these causes. You can send a check to Serra Club of Spokane, Box 31535, Spokane, WA 99223, or include a donation with your membership dues.

Thank you for all that you do for Serra Club and our vocations ministry.

I wish all of you a most blessed and joyous Christmas and look forward to working with everyone in 2024!

Blessings,

Greg Takisaki

Seminarian Updates



Photo by Ramón Camacho, Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon

Spokane seminarian Andrew Kelley (front row, second from left) marked a significant milestone in his journey to the priesthood as he received the ministry of acolyte during a Mass celebrated by Bishop Thomas Daly in the chapel of St. Patrick's Seminary & University on October 9.



Spokane seminarian Nathaniel Loe (front row, far right) was admitted as a candidate for Holy Orders during Mount Angel Seminary's annual Mass of Candidacy on October 18.

Please pray for these men as they continue their journey to the priesthood!

Serra's 86th Anniversary Celebration

The celebration began with Mass in Immaculate Heart's chapel celebrated by our chaplain, Fr. Kyle Ratuiste, and assisted by Serran and Deacon Richard Borda. We were blessed to be able to attend Mass before our celebration. Enjoy the pictures taken by Doreen Takisaki.

Pictures from Mass with Deacon Richard Borda and Fr. Kyle Ratuiste:



Before the program we enjoyed a time to socialize and get to know one another. Pictured below, from left, Carolyn Entel, Martin Weber, Bill Davis, the 1-E District Governor, Cindy Omlin, Cocot Ratuiste, John Ferguson, and Steve Domini. Bill and Cocot traveled from the Tri-Cities Serra Club with their spouses, Margaret and Morie, and with Dick and Celine Petersen.



See **Celebration, 4**

Celebration continued from 3



President Greg Takisaki served as emcee for the program.



Bill Davis, the District Governor for 1-E, provided a district update.



During Bill Davis' update, Morie Ratuiste announced that Steve Domini would be the next district governor, beginning in October 2024.



President Greg Takisaki presented 10-year membership pins to Al Hanson, Sharon Czerwonka, George Czerwonka and Diana Boehme – thank you for being Serrans!

See **Celebration, 5**

Celebration continued from 4



President Greg Takisaki thanks Al Hanson for his many years of service on the board. Al stepped down on May 31.



Fr. Ratuiste was presented with a check for Bishop White Seminary in the amount of \$2,220.00 donated by Serrans and the disbursement from our endowment fund.



Fr. Ratuiste blesses the officers.



The 2023-24 Serra Officers. In the picture at left, from the left: Emily Klein, Jim Hose, Cindy Omlin, Lori Neumann, and Sue Manfred.

In the picture at right, from the left: Steve Domini, Martin Weber, Greg Takisaki, and Karen Domini.

Not pictured are Anna Stockdill and Cathy Niblock.



October Luncheon – Deacon Richard Borda



Our October meeting welcomed 20 members including member Deacon Richard Borda who was our speaker.

Deacon Borda told us about his latest pilgrimage to Poland which he and his wife Mary just completed a week prior on October 6. He provided everyone with maps so we could see the locations of the churches and shrines and the route of their trip. A special part of their visit was that they were able to spend time with a Polish priest and friend, Fr. Peter, who recently moved back to Poland.

At Niepokalanow, they visited where Fr. Maximillian Kolbe was based. In Lichen Stary they saw the Cathedral of our Lady of Sorrows. It is one of the largest churches in the world and is dedicated to the Blessed Mother. It was largely paid for by the people of the US.

Deacon Borda shared a good trivia question: What city had the 2nd largest population of Poles? The answer: Chicago!

He shared a story about the Polish Hussar soldiers who went to Vienna and fought so fiercely in the Battle of Vienna in 1683. In a single day they repelled the Ottoman Turks who had overrun eastern Europe. The Polish soldiers were so fierce that they drove them back to Turkey. In Gniezno, once the capital of Poland, in 966, the rulers were baptized into

Catholicism.

They went to Poznan which was the location of a Eucharistic miracle in 1399. Stolen hosts, that were being desecrated exhibited miraculous signs. In the cathedral is a shrine to this miracle. In Kalisz in 1670 a paralyzed man prayed to St. Joseph that he may die. Instead of dying, he was cured, and St. Joseph asked him to commission a painting of the Holy Family which he did. Over 600 miracles are attributed to this shrine.

Deacon Borda related that 1,800 Polish priests died in Dachau during World War II. Toward the end of the war only German priests were left in the camp and they started a devotion to St. Joseph of Kalisz. The Americans liberated the camp just in time before the remaining priests were killed and people attributed their liberation to St. Joseph's intercession.

The Borda's visited Auschwitz death camp at Oswiecim, and he told us about seeing rooms full of the hair, shoes, and suitcases of the Jewish people who were killed with gas immediately after their arrival. They visited Wadowice, which is the birthplace and hometown of St. Pope John Paul 2. You can get the "Pope's Cake" which is a thick cream filled delicious cake.

In Kalwaria (Calvary) there is the "Way of the Cross" on a hillside reminiscent of the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem.

In Zakopane, a resort town, in May of 1981 a priest made a vow if Pope John Paul II would be saved, he would build a church, which he did. Czestochowa is the location of a famous shrine of Poland to our Blessed Mother.

Deacon Borda shared a story about St. Faustina of Poland. It is said that while praying for Poland she heard these words, "I bear a special love for Poland and if she will be obedient to my will, I will exalt her in might and holiness. From her will come forth the spark that will prepare the world for my final coming."

Every place they went there were miracles and holiness. It is the most Catholic country that Deacon Borda has visited. Every church had adoration chapels that were so occupied that they did not need to have people scheduled.



The audios of Deacon Borda's talk may be found here:

Part 1: <https://tinyurl.com/27jdpa8v>

Part 2: <https://tinyurl.com/yt2pkswz>

November Luncheon – Fr. James Peak



On the feast of St. Leo and the eve of Veterans Day, we welcomed 39 people including our chaplain, Fr. Kyle Ratuiste, the IRHC chaplain, Fr. Max Oliva, and our speaker, Fr. James Peak. Deacon Victor Lopez and Deacon Richard Borda were also present. Cindy Omlin invited several guests, her husband, John Omlin, Miriam Devaney, Patricia Kienholz, and Lisa Tucker. Mike and Sue Harrell invited Jody Hudgeons. Lori and Kirk Neumann invited Malia and Rob Craven. Jim and Dianne Hose invited Denis and Diane Hardy. Anthony DiMauro, who has attended before, also came.

Fr. James Peak, retired US Army chaplain, was invited to speak to us on this eve of Veterans Day. He mentioned that while he was in the Army prior to becoming a priest he participated with the Tacoma Serra Club. He shared riveting stories of being a chaplain in Afghanistan and related these stories to spiritual warfare in our lives.

He was given a combat patch after 30 days of being in Afghanistan which he never wore on his uniform during that tour. Why wasn't he wearing it? He was leaving his right sleeve blank because the real combat is against invisible forces. This was an opportunity for evangelization for him.

Fr. Peak then recalled waiting in total darkness for a helicopter. His assistant gave him night vision goggles and he could clearly see things that were invisible to the naked eye. Similarly, in our spiritual lives we need to see things through the eyes of the Holy Spirit and the Gospels. People who don't believe that there is a devil or hell are in great spiritual danger and will not fare well in spiritual combat.

He once arrived at a dangerous remote outpost in the dark and was told that there may be an attack that night. During the night they would send up illumination rounds that would slowly float down while lighting the area so they could see the enemies' movements. In a similar way we must allow the light of Christ to

illuminate the darkness. The devil wants people to remain in the darkness of sin, doubt, and hopelessness.

At another outpost he arrived by helicopter just after it had been under attack. They heard that the enemy had developed a pattern to attack the outpost like clockwork at 8 AM. We should similarly be able to see trends and patterns which lead to sin. We should recognize and avoid these situations and be ready to deal with temptation.

Fr. Peak was riding in a vehicle above a steep canyon at night traveling with no lights and the roadway gave way sending the vehicle tumbling down. Fortunately, a tree stopped them from going all the way to the river at the bottom of the canyon. It took some doing to figure out what to do in the darkness, being upside down, knowing nothing about where they were and where the enemy was. Similarly, the devil wants to keep people in darkness where he has power over people. Once again, it shows the importance to let the light of Christ shine to dispel the darkness.

He liked to run as often as possible to keep in shape and decrease stress. He was in an outpost which had kidnapers wishing to capture an American soldier for ransom. Occasionally he would be warned not to take his run around the perimeter. He had to rely on people who knew more than he did. In our spiritual life we need to rely on a good confessor, a good spiritual director, and the saints. They can keep us out of trouble.

On a feast of Saints Joachim and Anne he was almost killed in a helicopter crash, and he credits his survival to God's divine mercy. As the helicopter was crashing, he was thinking that it had been 3 weeks since his last confession and questioned if he was in a state of grace. If we rely on anything or anyone other than God in our spiritual combat we are going to fail. He found out later that someone from St. Thomas More prayed for him on that day and she was present at our Serra Club meeting. He thus learned of the importance of intercessory prayer.

Finally, he related a story from his grandfather, who fought in World War II. At night in the middle of a battle with the Germans, they heard cries for a medic. The medics went out to get the wounded and were killed by Germans who were impersonating wounded Americans. Similarly, the devil is going to try to impersonate the voice of the Good Shepherd and lure you away. Lucifer means light bearer and he tempts us with something which appears to be good. Through the sacrament of reconciliation, we can shine the light of Christ on our lives. Fr. Peak says we need to go to confession at least every 4 weeks. It is important for us to have the grace to recognize the enemy to fight our spiritual battles.

The audios of Fr. Peak's talk may be found here:
Part 1: <https://tinyurl.com/4s3mxe6t>
Part 2: <https://tinyurl.com/2jtjdxcr>

Thank You Notes

Serrans receive several cards and notes of gratitude from fellow Serrans, priests, and consecrated women religious. Your prayers and Mass offerings mean so much to them.

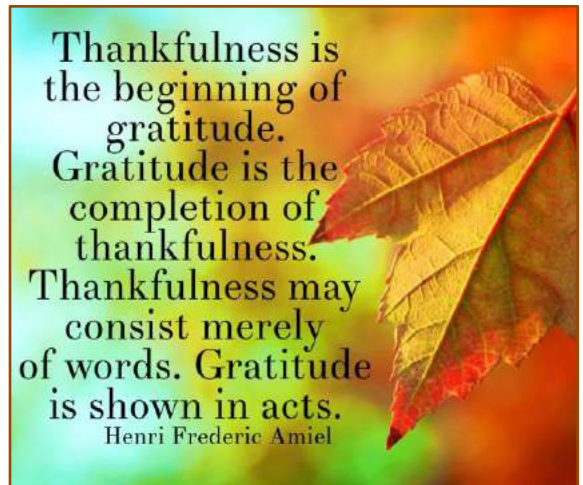
Dear Serrans,

Please accept my gratitude for your consistent and generous support of my vocation and for all the priests of the diocese. The ordination anniversary card this year reminded me that Serra has been with me for 49 years. That's a long time! In fact, Serra was by my side during my years in the seminary when there was a chapter in Walla Walla.

The Priests BBQ Dinner on August 4 was delightful, thank you.

You do great work for vocations. We don't show our appreciation often enough.

~ Msgr. Mark Pautler



Dear Serra Club of Spokane,

Thank you very much for the card you sent for my ordination anniversary. I am grateful to be remembered in your prayers and thankful for your loving promotion of vocations.

May God bless and prosper your efforts!

In Christ,

~ Fr. Kenny St. Hilaire

Dear Serra Club of Spokane,

The family of Lee Bayley acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.

Thanks so much for the memorial Mass to be celebrated for Lee on February 15, 2024. That is a very fitting and special remembrance of him.

~ Bayley Family

To the Serra Club of Spokane,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Thank you so much for your prayerful support and encouragement of our discernment retreat day on October 7. Your gracious generosity in providing for our refreshments and luncheon was so deeply appreciated by the sisters and young ladies in attendance. The time spent in discussion over the course of lunch was one of the highlights of the day. I have no doubt that all of these young women will continue to take next steps in their discernment journeys – some to religious life – and in the deepening of their lives of prayer. May the Lord bless your dear apostolate!

With my prayers, gratitude, and respect,

~ Sr. Paschalina Marie, SMMC

Serra Club,

Thank you so much for your help with the vocations workshop! Your donation of breakfast was so appreciated and helped us to keep our costs down. Thank you also for helping coordinate the coffee pick-up.

Please continue to pray for the growth of vocations in our diocese.

In Christ,

~ The Vocations Team and Fr. Ratuiste

Connect with Serra Club of Spokane and the Office of Vocations

Find Serra on Facebook at <https://tinyurl.com/yp33jpmk> and on the web at www.serraclubofspokane.com

Listen to the audio portion of past luncheon programs at: <https://serraclubofspokane.com/home/news/#media>

The Office of Vocations is asking for your prayers. Once signed up, you will receive occasional alerts asking for prayers for seminarians and other vocational concerns. To sign up, go to <https://spokanevocations.flocknote.com/pray>

Ordination Anniversaries

Ordination anniversary cards are sent to priests on behalf of the Serra Club. Celebrate those priests that have special meaning in your life by attending Mass, having a Mass celebrated for his intention, saying a prayer, or sending your own card.

Addresses cannot be provided due to space limitations and not all addresses are available, but many can be found here: <https://dioceseofspokane.org/find-a-priest>

There are no ordination anniversaries in January or February.

Dec 15, 1993	Fr. Esteban Soler	Dec 22, 1974	Fr. Joachim (Joe) Hien
Dec 21, 2005	Fr. Vincent Van Dao Nguyen	Dec 30, 1978	Fr. Michael Kwiatowski

Prayer Requests

There is a prayer request book available at every meeting and event. when you pray, please include these petitions and requests.



Pray for the success of Cor Christi and McGivney Hall.

Pray for the seminarians attending Cor Christi and Bishop White Seminary.

Pray for the seminarians attending St. Patrick's Seminary and Mount Angel Seminary.

Pray for young men discerning entrance into formation for fall 2024.

Pray for the repose of the soul of Lee Bayley, a Serran for 25 years.

Pray for the repose of the soul of Dave Carson, a former Serran.

Pray for Shirley Carnell, a former Serran who is now 93 and in a memory care facility.

Pray for Ben Nelson.

Pray for George Engelhard.

Pray for Bonnie.

Prayer is a moving force in vocation development. Prayer is effective; prayer is powerful; prayer is essential. Few are called to priesthood or religious life, but all are called to pray for vocations.

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and divine love, impart Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel to youth that they may know the vocation wherein they can best serve God. Give them courage and strength to follow God's holy will. Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen their resolutions, shield their chastity, fashion their minds, conquer their hearts, and lead them to the vineyards where they will labor in God's holy service. Amen.

Serra Endowment for the Education of Seminarians

The endowment supports our seminarians in perpetuity. Please prayerfully consider donating by:

- (1) Making a 100% tax deductible donation included with your dues.
- (2) Making a bequest to the endowment in your estate planning.

It is managed by the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Washington, (509) 358-7334 or <https://catholicfoundationspokane.org/>

Serra Club of Spokane Calendar

December 2023

Thu	Dec 7	7:00 pm	Please note the date change from Nov. 30 to Dec. 7 Holy Hour for Holy Vocations at BWS. Following will be social time with conversation, snacks, and beverages. All Serrans are invited to come pray and socialize afterward.
Fri	Dec 8	11:00 am	Mass and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC. Our speaker is Robert Heacock. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. Attend Mass with your fellow Serrans! Please RSVP using the website https://serraclubofspokane.com/events/ or using the information provided in the announcement email.
Sat	Dec 9	9:00 am	Serra Meets speaker is our own Bishop Thomas Daly with an Advent reflection for all Serrans.
Mon	Dec 18	5:00 pm	Mass and Board Meeting at BWS.

January 2024

Thu	Jan 4		There is NO Holy Hour for Holy Vocations at BWS.
Fri	Jan 12	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC. Our speaker is Fr. Pat Hartin. Please RSVP using the website https://serraclubofspokane.com/events/ or using the information provided in the announcement email.
Sat	Jan 13	9:00 am	Serra Meets speaker is TBD.
Thu-Sun	Jan 18-21		Serra Rally in Miami, FL. Registration and room reservation information at: https://serraus.org/serra-rally-2024/ .
Mon	Jan 29	5:00 pm	Mass and Board Meeting at BWS

Serra Meets, USAC's monthly virtual lecture series, continues.

Please go to <https://zoom.us/j/95992451924?pwd=RFdzZjgybDk0VVIKVIhyYXNlNkpkUT09> to join the webinar. **Passcode: 853558**

Serra International Rosary for Vocation will be on the following **Saturdays: November 25, December 30, and January 27**. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/31431598> or using your phone, dial 1 (312) 757-3119 and enter the access code; 314-315-981.