



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



Mar-Apr 2024

THE SERRA SNAPSHOT

Serra Club of Spokane

Club 2

District I E

Region PNW

Volume 14

Issue 1/2

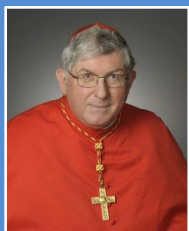
Event Highlights



**Fri, March 8,
11:00 am;
Adoration and
Luncheon at
Immaculate Heart
Retreat Center**

We will begin with

Adoration in the chapel, then luncheon, program, and Election of Officers to follow. Our speaker will be our own chaplain, Fr. Kyle Ratuiste. See Insert.



**Sat, March 9,
9:00 am
Serra Meets
Webinar**

The speaker will be Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop Emeritus of Toronto

and Serra International's Episcopal Advisor. See Calendar for more information.



**Fri, April 12,
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 from the speaker. Updates will be provided by email, PhoneVite, Facebook, and the calendar on our website.

Thoughts and Prayers



As we move into 2024 it is a good time to reflect on our situation especially as Serrans.

I am humbled by the blessings of being a member of Serra Club. Seeing the commitment of our bishop, seminary rectors, seminarians, and everyone associated with the vocations process is inspiring.

It has been my pleasure to get to know many of the young seminarians and see them on a regular basis. Our Cor Christi and Bishop White seminarians are doing

wonderful things to serve God's people by helping in our parish schools, serving at masses, and ministering to the homeless. They are working hard to grow in their understanding of our faith and in their discernment of a priestly vocation.

I really appreciate the dedication of our Director of Vocations, Father Kyle Ratuiste. He is a tireless worker and gives so much to his ministry. He has been inspirational as our Serra Club chaplain and comes to all of our board meetings and monthly member meetings if possible. The work that he has done to initiate the Diocesan Parish Vocation Ministry Teams has been simply outstanding.

I am impressed by the job that our Bishop White Seminary Rector, Father Daniel Barnett has done in getting McGivney Hall finished and getting the first-year Cor Christi seminarians moved in. It was a monumental undertaking to put it all together and it certainly took tremendous dedication and persistence to complete.

I am grateful to Bishop Thomas Daly for putting such a strong emphasis and priority on rebuilding the priest vocation formation process in our diocese. Without clear vision and leadership, we would not be in the happy circumstance of having 10 seminarians studying for our diocese. I am totally impressed with how frequently he is at Bishop White Seminary saying mass and interacting with the seminarians. He also had done a fantastic job as the Episcopal Advisor to Serra USA.

Finally, I am grateful for the prayers and work of the members of the Serra Club of Spokane. Our members have stepped up to meet new challenges through their prayers, time, and talent to promote and support vocations to the priesthood and religious life. You have continued to reach out and invite people to come to our meeting and join our apostolate which has resulted in us growing to 63 members as we begin the new year!

Well done all!

Blessings, Greg Takisaki

December Luncheon – Robert Heacock



We enjoyed the beautifully decorated fireplace room at IHRC for our December meeting. There were delightful Christmas centerpieces at each table. We had 31 members in attendance and our chaplain, Father Kyle Ratuiste.

Our speaker was our own member, Robert Heacock. He talked about the history of the Catholic Church in the Pacific Northwest. He told us about the many missionaries that came from Eastern Canada, Missouri and elsewhere. Of course, we heard about the Jesuits who came to Montana and eventually onto our area. We heard about ministering to the Native Americans, many of which became Christians and where many of the missionaries ended up settling.

His presentation was so informative, and he used pictures as well as physical items which means that listening to the audio alone doesn't do justice to the

presentation and there is no audio available. We truly appreciate Robert's depth of knowledge and dedication to our club to put together such a comprehensive presentation.

January Luncheon – Fr. Patrick Hartin

Our January meeting welcomed 26 members who braved the 5-degree arctic chill to attend. Also in attendance were Fr. Kyle Ratuiste and Fr. Patrick Hartin.

Our speaker was Father Patrick Hartin who is a native of Johannesburg, South Africa. He just returned on New Year's Day from a vacation home to visit siblings. He has been a priest for 52 years. He taught for 43 years earned tenure at two universities in South Africa and at Gonzaga University where here served for last 21 years of his career. He retired in 2016 and has published 18 books. He continues to teach at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, CA where we have six seminarians.

Fr. Pat reflected that everything that happened to him as a blessing of God's grace. Part of his vocational discernment involved going to a workshop where he had three questions for the various orders represented: "Who founded you, why were you founded, and what is the purpose of your order?"

The diocesan priests said they were formed by Jesus Christ at the Last Supper to care for God's people. As a young person he was not impressed with that answer because he did not understand the difference between religious orders and diocesan priests. He dismissed a diocesan calling and joined the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. They were very prominent in South Africa.



See **HARTIN, 3**

HARTIN, continued from 2

He went to Rome to study theology just after the end of Vatican II which was an ideal time. He was challenged by many scriptural issues which drove him in his studies. He would eventually pass on to his students an important lesson that he learned, "It's the message that's important."

He really loved teaching young people and being able to effectively communicate to them. His first two books were used throughout South Africa to teach the introduction to the bible.

While he was in Johannesburg, he changed from being a religious priest to being a diocesan priest. He decided that he wanted to spend his life in contact with God's people on a parish level and got approved from the bishop to change. He was asked to teach New Testament at a college, so he went to his bishop to ask for permission. His bishop asked him a question that continued with him throughout his ministry, "How do you see the grace of priesthood working in this?" His bishop allowed him to pursue teaching.

While he was on a sabbatical he taught at Claremont College in California. Gonzaga approached him to teach theology. He wanted to come to Gonzaga to teach at a Catholic college. Catholic colleges don't exist in South Africa. He got permission from his South African bishop and has been here ever since. He came to Spokane knowing nobody here. He started subbing at St. Paschal's while he taught at GU and ended up being the pastor there when Fr. Wetzler retired.

He has been happy in Spokane but in retirement he said that he needs to be involved with a parish. Every week he celebrates Mass at Our Lady of Fatima, St. Joseph-Otis Orchards, and for the Poor Clare nuns. He said that the life of a priest can be hard and there can be loneliness. He said that our prayers for the perseverance of priests are very important. We should also remember the families of priests in our prayers in that they may be sustained in their separation.

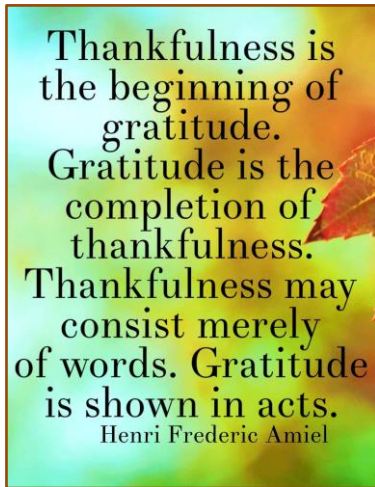
The audio of Fr. Hartin's talk may be found here:
<http://tinyurl.com/2wmdp9cj>

Holy Hour for Holy Vocations

Pictures from the gathering after the Holy Hour held February 1.



Thank You Notes



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

Dear Serra Club Members,

Thank you so much for remembering me on my birthday. Your thoughtfulness and care for us Religious Sisters is always a comfort and appreciated. We are so grateful for your thoughts and prayers. May God bless all your efforts to bring more young people to consider the priesthood and religious life.

~ Sr. Sharon Bongiorno, FSPA

Dear Serra Club Members,

This "thank you" is long overdue. Your prayers and support really are appreciated and often remembered in our prayers. May your hearts be warmed by joy, touched by love, and filled with peace – and we know it is Christ who brings it all. May he fill your hearts all year.

~ Sr. Frances Kendrick, SNJM

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>

Many of you know Fr. Michael Blackburn, OFM, who has been serving in the diocese for several years at St. Francis of Assisi, he is retiring and will be leaving Spokane in July 2024. If you are so inclined, write a note of thanks for his many years of service to the people of God in Spokane.

Mar 1, 1986	Fr. Michael Blackburn, OFM	Apr 12, 1969	Rev. Msgr. John Steiner
Apr 12, 1969	Fr. Patrick MacMahon	Apr 16, 1993	Fr. Rex Familiar

Prayer Requests

There is a prayer request book available at every meeting and event. You may request prayers of intercession, petition, or thanksgiving. During your own prayer time, please include these requests.

Pray for the repose of the soul of Sr. Shirley Roberg, SNJM.

Pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Charles Eis, retired priest for the diocese.

Pray for Joseph, for health of mind, body, and soul, and the graces to prepare well and pass his medical boards.

Pray that Molly M. may find her way back to being a practicing Catholic.

Pray for the repose of the soul of Sr. Mary Toeckes, OP.

Serra Club of Spokane Calendar

March 2024

		Mar 3-9	National Sisters Week
Fri	Mar 8	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC. Our speaker is Fr. Kyle Ratuiste . Please RSVP using the website https://serraclubofspokane.com/events/ or using the information provided in the announcement email. ELECTION OF OFFICERS will also happen at this meeting. See insert.
Sat	Mar 9	9:00 am	 Serra Meets speaker is Cardinal Thomas Collins , Archbishop Emeritus of Toronto and Serra International's Episcopal Advisor. This is a live, online program, connection information on page 6.
Tue	Mar 19	5:30 pm	Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes. As a powerful, visible display of our support for our priests, Fr. Ratuiste would love to see the Cathedral packed for the Chrism Mass.
Mon	Mar 25	5:00 pm	Mass and Board Meeting at BWS.

April 2024

Thu	Apr 4	7:00 pm	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	Apr 12	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC. Our speaker is to be determined. Please RSVP using the website https://serraclubofspokane.com/events/ or using the information provided in the announcement email.
Sat	Apr 13	9:00 am	 Serra Meets speaker is Scott Hahn . He is a Catholic theologian, apologist, and former Presbyterian minister. Hahn's popular works include <i>Rome Sweet Home</i> and <i>The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth</i> . Hahn is known for his research on Early Christianity during the Apostolic Age and various theoretical works concerning the early Church Fathers. This is a live, online program, connection information on page 6.
Sat-Sun	Apr 20-21		World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Mon	Apr 22	5:00 pm	Mass and Board Meeting at BWS.

See **CALENDAR, 6**

CALENDAR, continued from 5

May 2024

Wed	May 1		Religious Brothers Day
Thu	May 2	7:00 pm	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. This will be the last Holy Hour with the seminarians.
Fri	May 10	11:00 am	Adoration for Vocations and Luncheon Meeting at IHRC. Our speaker is to be determined. Please RSVP using the website https://serraclubofspokane.com/events/ or using the information provided in the announcement email.
Sat	May 11	9:00 am	 Serra Meets speaker is Father Tom Gibbons of the Paulist Fathers. He will tell us about their new documentary on St. Junipero Serra. This is a live, online program, connection information below.
Mon	Apr 22	5:00 pm	Mass and Board Meeting at BWS.

Serra Meets: To connect with the live program use the following link or use your telephone:

Please go to <https://zoom.us/j/95992451924?pwd=RFdzZjgybDk0VVlKVlhyYXNlNkpkUT09> to join live.

Passcode: 853558

To join by phone, dial (312) 626 6799, use **Webinar ID:** 959 9245 1924 and **Passcode:** 853558

Serra International Rosary for Vocations will be on the following **Saturdays: March 30 and April 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.

SAVE THE DATE – Serra Club of Spokane’s 87th Anniversary Celebration will be held **Sunday, June 2, at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center**. Mass will be in the Chapel at 3:00 pm, followed by social time, dinner, and the Installation of Officers in the Main Lounge. More information to come.

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>