



# SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter May 2017

## The Five Elements of Serra

- ✠ Spiritual growth in Christ
- ✠ Religious education of the laity
- ✠ Encouragement of church vocations
- ✠ Responsive lay leaders
- ✠ Association in Christian fellowship

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## Serran Prayer for Vocations

O God who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph her spouse, Saint Junípero Serra and all the saints, an increase of labourers for your Church, fellow labourers with Christ, to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ Your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

## Prayer for the Perseverance in Vocations

O God, you have constituted your Only-Begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of your majesty and the salvation of mankind: grant that those whom he has chosen ministers and dispensers of his mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

### Reminders

**REMEMBER** to say the Serran Prayer **DAILY**.

#### Trustees Meeting

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2017 6.00 p.m.

**THE INGAUGURAL JOHN STEPHENS MEMORIAL LUNCHEON FOR PARENTS' OF PRIEST AND RELIGIOUS Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2017. Mass 11 a.m. at St. Christopher's Cathedral. Lunch in the Private Dining Room Southern Cross Club, Woden.**

**Please Note:** no meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

#### Forthcoming Events

**Every Friday:** Evening Prayer and Adoration, Mary Help of Christians, Pearce 5.30 p.m.-6.00 p.m.

**2<sup>nd</sup> June (Friday):** Adoration at St. Christopher's Cathedral following 12.15 p.m. Mass.

**1<sup>st</sup> July (Saturday):** Feast Day St. Junipera Serra.

**12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> August (Sat/Sunday):** We visit the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush NSW.

### The John Stephens Memorial Luncheon for Parents' of Priests and Religious Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

The Trustees have established an annual memorial event to honour John Stephens, a founding member and first President of SCANZSPAC and President of our Canberra Club in 1986-1987 and 2001-2002. As a fund-raising effort, John walked the Pilgrimage *The Camino de Compostela* (The Way of St. James). Apart from his commitment to Serra John is remembered for his strong support in many activities in our Archdiocese.

This is an important Serra event. Please bring spouses/friends to show our appreciation to these parents and the Stephens family.

We reserve a few front rows at the Cathedral for the parents and Serrans. Please be sure to sit there.

### WWVP

Working With Vulnerable People Card

Please check the expiry date on your card and update if necessary.

### Serra Membership Grows!

Tonight we welcome an impressive group to the ranks of Serra and hope they will enjoy being a part of our endeavours to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

## IV Sunday of Easter - May 07, 2017 - Fr. Anthony Kadavil

**Pope St. John Paul II, the good shepherd.** The most beautiful and meaningful comment on the life and the legacy of our late Holy Father, Pope St. John Paul II, was made by the famous televangelist, Billy Graham. In a TV interview, he said: "He lived like his Master, the Good Shepherd, and he died like his Master, the Good Shepherd." In today's Gospel, Jesus claims that he is the Good Shepherd and explains what he does for his sheep. Moses, the shepherd-leader: The Jews had a lovely legend to explain why God chose Moses to be the leader of His people. "When Moses was feeding the sheep of his father-in-law in the wilderness, a young lamb ran away. Moses followed it until it reached a ravine, where it found a well to drink from. When Moses got up to it, he said: 'I did not know that you ran away because you were thirsty. Now you must be weary.' He took the lamb on his shoulders and carried it back. Then God said: 'Because you have shown pity in leading back one of a flock belonging to another man, you shall lead my flock Israel.'"

**Introduction:** On this Good Shepherd Sunday and World Day of Prayer for Vocations, the Church reminds us of our call to become good shepherds of God's flock and good sheep of His parishes and invites us to pray for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and the consecrated life. Both the Old and New Testaments use the image of a Shepherd and His flock to describe the unique relationship of God with Israel and of the Christ with Christians...

**Life Messages:** We need to be good shepherds and good leaders: Everyone who is entrusted with the care of others is a shepherd. Hence, pastors, parents, teachers, doctors, nurses, government officials, and caregivers, among others, are all shepherds. We become good shepherds by loving those entrusted to us, praying for them, spending our time, talents and blessings for their welfare, and guarding them from physical and spiritual dangers. Parents must be especially careful of their duties toward their children, giving them good example and sound religious instruction. Above all, parents should pray for their children and infuse into them sound Christian moral principles.

We need to pray for good pastors and or vocations to priestly and religious life. The Church uses this Sunday to encourage vocations to the ministerial priesthood, the diaconate and the consecrated life. All Christians share in the responsibility of fostering these vocations: a) The faith community must continuously pray for vocations both in the Church and in their families. b) Since good priests, deacons and people embracing the consecrated life come from good Christian families, all Christian parents need to live their faith in Christ on a daily basis by leading exemplary lives as parents and by fostering good relationships with, and among, their children. c) Parents need to respect and encourage a child who shows an interest in becoming a priest or deacon or of entering upon a consecrated life. Parents need to encourage their children, including their teenagers and young adults, to participate actively in the children's and youth activities in the parish, like Sunday school, children's clubs, and youth associations. They also need to encourage and actively support them in becoming altar servants, gift-bearers, lectors and ministers of hospitality. On this World Day of Prayer for Religious Vocations, let us begin, or continue, to pray for our priests, deacons and those living a consecrated life instead of criticizing them. [Vatican Radio]

### Pope at daily Mass 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2017:

#### To evangelize, go out, listen, rejoice

The Church should be on its feet and on the journey, listening to the restlessness of the people, and always with joy. That was the message of **Pope Francis** this morning in the homily for the morning Mass at the Casa Santa Marta.

In the first eight chapters of the Acts of the Apostles, the Pope said, "there is a summary of the whole history of the Church": preaching, baptism, conversion, miracles, persecution,

joy, but also the ugly sin of those who join themselves to the Church for their own ends, "those benefactors of the Church who in the end cheat the Church," like Ananias and Sapphira. The Holy Father began his homily with this reflection, then moved on to a consideration of the day's readings. He first emphasized that the Lord from the beginning accompanied His disciples, confirming the Word with miraculous signs. He never left them alone, not even in the worst moments.

Pope Francis then focused on three "words" taken from the day's first Reading, inviting those present to re-

read the passage at home. The first saying was the words of an angel to Philip: "**Get up and go.**" "This," the Pope said, "is a sign of evangelization": the vocation, and the great consolation of the Church, is to evangelize.

"But in order to evangelize: 'Get up and go!' One doesn't say: 'Stay seated, calm, in your house': No! In order to be faithful to the Lord, the Church should always be on its feet and on the journey: 'Get up and go.' A Church that does not rise up, that is not on the journey, is sick." ... [Vatican Radio]

<http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-at-daily-mass-to-evangelize-go-out-listen-rej>