



SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter July 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 3rd August, 2017 6.00 p.m.

Rosary, Monthly Mass & Dinner:

Thursday 10th August, 2017 at 6.10 p.m. Holy Trinity, Curtin. Dinner 7.30 p.m. at the **Private Dining Room Southern Cross Club**, Woden.

Forthcoming Events

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

4th August (Friday): Adoration at St. Christopher's Cathedral following 12.15 p.m. Mass.

10th August (Thursday): Guest Speaker Fr. Richard Thompson.

12/13th August: SEMINARY VISIT

22nd Sept. (Friday): Ordination to the Diaconate Namora Anderson and Adrian Chan.

12th October (Thursday): Guest Speaker Fr. Paul Nulley.

13th October (Friday): Ordination to the Priesthood Deacon Joshua Scott.

Visit to the Seminary of the Good Shepherd 12th & 13th August 2017

CAN YOU BOLSTER THE NUMBERS FOR THIS VISIT?

Serrans to arrive on Saturday 12th August. We will have dinner with our seminarians and the Rector Fr. Danny Meagher on Saturday evening; stay overnight at the seminary; attend morning prayers and Mass Sunday; concluding with brunch. Individual donations are appropriate to cover accommodation costs.

Serrans pay for their own dinner, the Club will pay for our seminarians and Fr Meagher.

Please respond by 30th July to audrey.smith@apex.net.au or 62861720 if attending.

Dinner Meeting Bookings - Please respond on time

The Southern Cross Club has stringent requirements regarding our dinner bookings. When e-mailed please respond on time to Mary Malycha. If you are not on e-mail take the initiative and phone her by the Monday before the dinner. This would help greatly! Thanks.

31 CLUB

Membership of a Serra 31 Club is free. Members attend a weekday Mass on one day of the month for the special intentions of vocations, seminarians and those in ministry.

Always to go forward, never to turn back

Extracts from Pope Francis’ address to the Serra International Convention, June 2017

I would like to reflect on something He [the Master] said which, I believe, is central to the experience of faith: to be friends.

To be friends to priests, sustaining their vocation 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.

Today the word “friend” has become a bit overused.

When Jesus speaks of his “friends”, He points to a hard truth: true friendship involves an encounter that draws me so near to the other person that I give something of my very self. Jesus says to His disciples: “No longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you” (Jn 15:15). He thus establishes a new relationship between man and God, one that transcends the law and is grounded in trust and love. At the same time, Jesus frees friendship from sentimentalism and presents it to us as a responsibility that embraces our entire life: “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn 15:13).

We become friends, then, only if our encounter is more than something outward or formal, and becomes instead a way of sharing in the life of another person, an experience of compassion, a relationship that involves giving ourselves for others.

It is good for us to reflect on what friends do. They stand at our side, gently and tenderly, along our journey; they listen to us closely, and can see beyond mere words; they are merciful when faced with our faults; they are non-judgmental. They are able to walk with us, helping us to feel joy in knowing that we are not alone. They do not always indulge us but, precisely because they love us, they honestly tell us when they disagree. They are there to pick us up whenever we fall.

This is the also the kind of friendship that you seek to offer to priests. The Serra Club helps foster this beautiful vocation of being laity who are friends to priests. Friends who know how to accompany and sustain them in faith, in fidelity to prayer and apostolic commitment. 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.

POPE FRANCIS’ WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Weep not for what you have lost, fight for what you have.

Weep not for what is dead, fight for what was born in you.

Weep not for the one who abandoned you, fight for who is with you.

Weep not for those who hate you, fight for those who want you.

Weep not for your past, fight for your present struggle.

Weep not for your suffering, fight for your happiness.

The Members of the Board of Trustees for 2017-2018 are:

President:	John Smith	Treasurer:	John Malycha
Immediate Past President:	Michael Doherty	Trustees:	Daniel Kenny
VP Vocations:	Brian Usback		Patricia Doherty
VP Programme:	Mary Malycha	SCANZSPAC Rep.:	Max Spencer
VP Membership:	Michael Allam		
VP Communications and Secretary:	Audrey Smith	Chaplain:	Fr. Bill Kennedy

With things that are happening to us, we begin to learn that nothing is impossible to solve, just move forward.