



SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter October 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 Junipero 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.

Daily Prayer for Vocations (31 Club)

Heavenly Father, help us respond to, and live out, our mission in the Church. Help all your people to know their vocation in life and assist them to prepare for it.

For your greater glory and for the service of your people call many to be Priests and Religious. Give those whom you call the grace to respond generously and to persevere faithfully. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reminders

REMEMBER to say the Serran Prayer DAILY.

31 CLUB – keep up your membership commitment.

Trustees Meeting

Thursday 2nd November, 2017
6.00 p.m.

Rosary, Monthly Mass & Dinner:

Thursday 9th November, 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.

3rd November (Friday): Adoration at St. Christopher's Cathedral following 12.15 p.m. Mass.

13th October (Friday): 6.00 p.m. at St. Christopher's Cathedral, **Ordination to the Priesthood Deacon Joshua Scott.** Can we have strong representation from Serra members at this important event?

9th November (Thursday): Guest Speaker Msg. John Woods.

7th December (Thursday): Serra Christmas Party.

31 Club

An important activity for Serrans is to pray for vocations. The 31 Club is one useful way you can do this.

Please see what you can do to extend 31 Club membership by mentioning it to others you know.

If unable to attend Mass on the allocated day one should simply go as soon as possible.

See John Smith if you are successful in recruiting a new member we can add to the list and get a fridge magnet for them as a reminder of their day.

Thank You Messages to Serra

We had thank you messages from Sr. Kate McMahon and Fr. Brannelly for having them to the Jubilarians' Dinner.

Deacon Adrian Chan also wrote expressing gratitude for love and support from Serrans and attending his and Namora Anderson's recent ordination to the Diaconate.

Always to go forward, never to turn back

**Part 2 from a talk given by Pope Francis to a TED conference in Vancouver on April 27, 2017
(via video)**

And this brings me to my second message. How wonderful would it be if the growth of scientific and technological innovation would come along with more equality and social inclusion. How wonderful would it be, while we discover faraway planets, to rediscover the needs of the brothers and sisters orbiting around us. How wonderful would it be if solidarity, this beautiful and, at times, inconvenient word, were not simply reduced to social work, and became, instead, the default attitude in political, economic and scientific choices, as well as in the relationships among individuals, peoples and countries. Only by educating people to a true solidarity will we be able to overcome the "culture of waste," which doesn't concern only food and goods but, first and foremost, the people who are cast aside by our techno-economic systems which, without even realizing it, are now putting products at their core, instead of people.

Solidarity is a term that many wish to erase from the dictionary. Solidarity, however, is not an automatic mechanism. It cannot be programmed or controlled. It is a free response born from the heart of each and every one. Yes, a free response! When one realizes that life, even in the middle of so many contradictions, is a gift, that love is the source and the meaning of life, how can they withhold their urge to do good to another fellow being?

In order to do good, we need memory, we need courage and we need creativity. And I know that TED gathers many creative minds. Yes, love does require a creative, concrete and ingenious attitude. Good intentions and conventional formulas, so often used to appease our conscience, are not enough. Let us help each other, all together, to remember that the other is not a statistic or a number. The other has a face. The "you" is always a real presence, a person to take care of.

There is a parable Jesus told to help us understand the difference between those who'd rather not be bothered and those who take care of the other. I am sure you have heard it before. It is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. When Jesus was asked: "Who is my neighbour?" - namely, "Who should I take care of?" - he told this story, the story of a man who had been assaulted, robbed, beaten and abandoned along a dirt road. Upon seeing him, a priest and a Levite, two very influential people of the time, walked past him without stopping to help. After a while, a Samaritan, a very much despised ethnicity at the time, walked by. Seeing the injured man lying on the ground, he did not ignore him as if he weren't even there. Instead, he felt compassion for this man, which compelled him to act in a very concrete manner. He poured oil and wine on the wounds of the helpless man, brought him to a hostel and paid out of his pocket for him to be assisted.

The story of the Good Samaritan is the story of today's humanity. People's paths are riddled with suffering, as everything is centered around money, and things, instead of people. And often there is this habit, by people who call themselves "respectable," of not taking care of the others, thus leaving behind thousands of human beings, or entire populations, on the side of the road. Fortunately, there are also those who are creating a new world by taking care of the other, even out of their own pockets. Mother Teresa actually said: "One cannot love, unless it is at their own expense."

We have so much to do, and we must do it together. But how can we do that with all the evil we breathe every day? Thank God, no system can nullify our desire to open up to the good, to compassion and to our capacity to react against evil, all of which stem from deep within our hearts. Now you might tell me, "Sure, these are beautiful words, but I am not the Good Samaritan, nor Mother Teresa of Calcutta." On the contrary: we are precious, each and every one of us. Each and every one of us is irreplaceable in the eyes of God. Through the darkness of today's conflicts, each and every one of us can become a bright candle, a reminder that light will overcome darkness, and never the other way around.

To Christians, the future does have a name, and its name is Hope. Feeling hopeful does not mean to be optimistically naïve and ignore the tragedy humanity is facing. Hope is the virtue of a heart that doesn't lock itself into darkness, that doesn't dwell on the past, does not simply get by in the present, but is able to see a tomorrow. Hope is the door that opens onto the future. Hope is a humble, hidden seed of life that, with time, will develop into a large tree. It is like some invisible yeast that allows the whole dough to grow, that brings flavor to all aspects of life. And it can do so much, because a tiny flicker of light that feeds on hope is enough to shatter the shield of darkness. A single individual is enough for hope to exist, and that individual can be you. And then there will be another "you," and another "you," and it turns into an "us." And so, does hope begin when we have an "us?" No. Hope began with one "you." When there is an "us," there begins a revolution.

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



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*Only in the silence of prayer
can you learn to listen to the
voice of God.*