



SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter November 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.

31 CLUB – keep up your membership commitment.

Trustees Meeting

Thursday 1st February, 2018 6.00 p.m.

Rosary, Dinner, the Christmas Party: Thursday 14th December, 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.

1st December (Friday): Adoration at St. Christopher's Cathedral following 12.15 p.m. Mass.

14th December (Thursday): Serra Christmas Party.

17th February 2018 (Saturday): Serra Retreat at the Carmel, Red Hill. Arrive at 9.00 a.m. for 9.30 a.m. start.

The Trustees plan to approach a young priest to conduct the retreat, let's hope he accepts.

Membership Drive

Early 2018 there is a plan to recruit new members through use of the SERRA Banner along with two handouts. The idea is to attract Mass goers to participate in the 31 Club and possibly become interested in joining SERRA. We will need members to assist with this exercise.

The University of the People transforming lives to build a better world

...“The University of the People is the first non-profit, tuition-free, accredited, online University for students who graduate from high school, are qualified for higher education but cannot attend higher education, either because they don't have the money, either because they live in places where there aren't enough universities, or they are deprived for political or cultural

reasons such as refugees, women in some cultures... to all these people, we bring - through the internet – tuition-free university to enable them to get higher education, a better future for themselves, for their families, for their societies and hopefully for the world as a whole” he said [Pope Francis].

Shai Reshef [President] says that currently The University of the People counts over 10,000 students from countries from across the globe – many of them from Syria.

He describes the just ended conference in Rome as focusing on a very important aspect of the migration and refugee topic and said that bringing together different universities that deal with the issue of providing education to displaced people is the first of its kind giving life to an extremely relevant conversation...

National SERRA Convention Melbourne 19-21 October 2018

Will be held at the Catholic Leadership Centre, Hoddle St., East Melbourne. Registration fee \$300. Accommodation available at the venue.

Always to go forward, never to turn back

**Part 3 from a talk given by Pope Francis to a TED conference in Vancouver on April 27, 2017
(via video)**

The third message I would like to share today is, indeed, about revolution: the revolution of tenderness. And what is tenderness? It is the love that comes close and becomes real. It is a movement that starts from our heart and reaches the eyes, the ears and the hands. Tenderness means to use our eyes to see the other, our ears to hear the other, to listen to the children, the poor, those who are afraid of the future. To listen also to the silent cry of our common home, of our sick and polluted earth. Tenderness means to use our hands and our heart to comfort the other, to take care of those in need.

Tenderness is the language of the young children, of those who need the other. A child’s love for mom and dad grows through their touch, their gaze, their voice, their tenderness. I like when I hear parents talk to their babies, adapting to the little child, sharing the same level of communication. This is tenderness: being on the same level as the other. God himself descended into Jesus to be on our level. This is the same path the Good Samaritan took. This is the path that Jesus himself took. He lowered himself, he lived his entire human existence practicing the real, concrete language of love.

Yes, tenderness is the path of choice for the strongest, most courageous men and women. Tenderness is not weakness; it is fortitude. It is the path of solidarity, the path of humility. Please, allow me to say it loud and clear: the more powerful you are, the more your actions will have an impact on people, the more responsible you are to act humbly. If you don’t, your power will ruin you, and you will ruin the other. There is a saying in Argentina: "Power is like drinking gin on an empty stomach." You feel dizzy, you get drunk, you lose your balance, and you will end up hurting yourself and those around you, if you don’t connect your power with humility and tenderness. Through humility and concrete love, on the other hand, power – the highest, the strongest one – becomes a service, a force for good.

The future of humankind isn't exclusively in the hands of politicians, of great leaders, of big companies. Yes, they do hold an enormous responsibility. But the future is, most of all, in the hands of those people who recognize the other as a "you" and themselves as part of an "us." We all need each other. And so, please, think of me as well with tenderness, so that I can fulfill the task I have been given for the good of the other, of each and every one, of all of you, of all of us. Thank you.

**Pope outlines his vision of
Christian contribution to
Europe’s future
(Vatican Press Office)
Extract only.**

It is within the family, “the primordial community,” that we are first able to come to an understanding of unity in diversity. The family, the Pope said, “is the

harmonious union of the differences between man and woman, which becomes stronger and more authentic to the extent that it is fruitful, capable of opening itself to life and to others.” The wider civic community is similar, in that it is able to flourish when it is open to the “differences and gifts” of every person within the community.

“Person and community are thus the foundations of the Europe that we, as Christians, want and can contribute to building,” the Pope said. And “the bricks of this structure are dialogue, inclusion, solidarity, development and peace.” [www.news.va]

Catholic Culture: Editor's Note: *In a lengthy address (video), Pope Francis discussed the person and community (as opposed to individualism), dialogue (as opposed to “groupthink”), inclusivity and solidarity (as opposed to “soulless globalization”) and peace and development. He concluded by invoking St. Benedict, who shows Christians “how a joyful hope, flowing from faith, is able to change the world.”* [www.CatholicCulture.org]

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