



SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter February 2018

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 1st March, 2018 6.00 p.m.

Rosary, Monthly Mass & Dinner:

Thursday 8th March, 2018 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.

17th February 2018 (Saturday): Serra Retreat at the Carmel, Red Hill.
Arrival time 9.15 a.m. concluding 1.00 p.m.

2nd March (Friday): Adoration at St. Christopher's Cathedral following 12.15 p.m. Mass.

22nd April (Sunday): Good Shepherd Sunday – World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Serra Retreat at the Carmel 17th February, 2018

Those of you who attended our retreat last year will recall the excellent guidance given by the newly ordained Father Trenton van Reesch. This year Fr Joshua Scott, the newest ordained priest in the Archdiocese, will conduct our retreat. Many of you will recall the very large crowd that attended his ordination, including various ethnic groups that he had contacted during

his pastoral work as a seminarian and deacon.

Fr Josh is currently an assistant priest in the North Canberra parish and we are fortunate that he is prepared to make time to lead us. Come along and receive spiritual guidance from this newly ordained priest.

National SERRA Convention Melbourne 19-21 October 2018

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

The Catholic Guy

<https://thecatholicguy.com>

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 2018 World Day of Vocations [extract only]

Listening

The Lord's call – let it be said at the outset – is not as clear-cut as any of those things we can hear, see or touch in our daily experience. God comes silently and discreetly, without imposing on our freedom. Thus it can happen that his voice is drowned out by the many worries and concerns that fill our minds and hearts.

We need, then, to learn how to listen carefully to his word and the story of his life, but also to be attentive to the details of our own daily lives, in order to learn how to view things with the eyes of faith, and to keep ourselves open to the surprises of the Spirit.

We will never discover the special, personal calling that God has in mind for us if we remain enclosed in ourselves, in our usual way of doing things, in the apathy of those who fritter away their lives in their own little world. We would lose the chance to dream big and to play our part in the unique and original story that God wants to write with us.

Jesus too, was called and sent. That is why he needed to recollect himself in silence. He listened to and read the word in the synagogue, and with the light and strength of the Holy Spirit he revealed its full meaning, with reference to his own person and the history of the people of Israel.

Nowadays listening is becoming more and more difficult, immersed as we are in a society full of noise, overstimulated and bombarded by information. The outer noise that sometimes prevails in our cities and our neighbourhoods is often accompanied by our interior dispersion and confusion. This prevents us from pausing and enjoying the taste of contemplation, reflecting serenely on the events of our lives, going about our work with confidence in God's loving plan, and making a fruitful discernment.

Yet, as we know, the kingdom of God comes quietly and unobtrusively (cf. Lk 17:21), and we can only gather its seeds when, like the prophet Elijah, we enter into the depths of our soul and are open to the imperceptible whisper of the divine breeze (cf. 1 Kg 19:11-13). [<http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/>]

The Church celebrates World Day of Consecrated Life By Sr. Bernadette Mary Reis, fsp

Extracts only.

Men and women religious and members of Societies of Apostolic Life all over the world celebrate the 22nd world Day of Consecrated Life on 2 February.

Origins and Meaning of the World Day of Consecrated Life

This celebration coincides with the liturgical feast of the

Presentation of the Lord. In 1997, it was Pope Saint John Paul II who instituted this feast as a universal day of prayer for consecrated men and women. For pastoral purposes, the celebration in local churches is often moved to the following Sunday.

The liturgy naturally provides a concrete symbol of the mystery lived by those who consecrate themselves to the service of God and their brothers and sisters...

The world needs a “vocational meaning in life.”

Cardinal João Braz de Aviz,
Prefect for the Congregation for

Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, affirmed that “the present human history is in need of a vocational meaning in life. We need to have a project, a source of an existential meaning, full of joy and hope. As consecrated persons through our Baptism, and being part of God's life and that of his Family, the Church, we are heirs of the vocational and charismatic legacy of the Church, and we are happy and duty bound to safeguard and promote it.” [Vatican Media]



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A life of faith means wanting to be with the Lord, and that means constantly searching for Him wherever He is.