



SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter March 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.

31 CLUB – keep up your membership commitment.

Trustees Meeting

Thursday 5th April, 2018 6.00 p.m.

Rosary, Monthly Mass & Dinner:

Thursday 12th April, 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.

6th April (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.

6th May (Sunday): 40th Anniversary of the SERRA Charter.

3rd June (Sunday): Parents' Lunch. 11.00 a.m. Mass at St. Christopher's Cathedral followed by lunch at the Southern Cross Club.

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.

Pope institutes new celebration of Mary, Mother of the Church

Pope Francis inserts the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother

of the Church, into the Roman Calendar on the Monday following Pentecost Sunday.

[<http://www.vaticannews.va/>]

Worldwide Prayer Network of the Apostleship of Prayer

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network of the Apostleship of Prayer developed "The Pope Video" initiative to assist in the worldwide dissemination of monthly intentions of the Holy Father in relation to the challenges facing humanity. [<https://www.popesprayer.net/>]



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We can support one another, and face every kind of challenge with courage and hope, when we draw our strength from Jesus.

Extract 2 from Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 2018 World Day of Vocations

Discerning

When Jesus, in the synagogue of Nazareth, reads the passage of the prophet Isaiah, he discerns the content of the mission for which he was sent, and presents it to those who awaited the Messiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour (Lk 4:18-19).

In the same way, each of us can discover his or her own vocation only through spiritual discernment. This is “a process by which a person makes fundamental choices, in dialogue with the Lord and listening to the voice of the Spirit, starting with the choice of one’s state in life” (SYNOD OF BISHOPS, XV ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment, II, 2).

Thus we come to discover that Christian vocation always has a prophetic dimension. The Scriptures tell us that the prophets were sent to the people in situations of great material insecurity and of spiritual and moral crisis, in order to address in God’s name a message of conversion, hope and consolation. Like a whirlwind, the prophet unsettles the false tranquility of consciences that have forgotten the word of the Lord. He discerns events in the light of God’s promise and enables people to glimpse the signs of dawn amid the dark shadows of history.

Today too, we have great need of discernment and of prophecy. We have to resist the temptations of ideology and negativity, and to discover, in our relationship with the Lord, the places, the means and situations through which he calls us. Every Christian ought to grow in the ability to “read within” his or her life, and to understand where and to what he or she is being called by the Lord, in order to carry on his mission.

Pope urges us to learn to do now what we will do in heaven: Adore!

At the Santa Marta Mass Pope Francis reflects on the way the people of Israel go up to the Temple with the Ark of the Covenant and adore God in silence.

By Sr. Bernadette Mary Reis, fsp

In his daily homily at Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis began by reflecting on the first reading of the day, taken from the first book of Kings. The passage recounts how all the tribes of Israel came to King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the Ark of the LORD’s Covenant to the temple. Pope Francis noted how they were making an uphill journey, carrying

with them the two stone tablets that God had given to Moses on Mount Horeb.

He went on to reflect on our Christian journey, which, he said, is an upward climb, it is not always easy. The people of Israel, undertaking this uphill journey, are carrying the Ark of the Covenant to its resting place, and they bear a memory, “the memory of election”. In addition, the Pope said, the Ark of the Covenant was stripped of any ornamentation. It was stripped down to the tablets of the law: “In the ark, in fact, there was nothing except two stone tablets.” ...

“We know how to teach them how to pray, sing, and praise God, but to adore?” The pope defined adoration as the prayer “which annihilates us without annihilating us.” He took the opportunity of encouraging the newly

installed pastors, present in the Casa Santa Marta chapel, to “teach the people to adore in silence.” ...

Anticipating tomorrow’s reading, Pope Francis suggested that we too use the only two words that Solomon was able to utter—“listen and pardon”.

Pope's prayer intention for March: 'For formation in spiritual discernment'

The times in which we live demand that we develop a profound capacity of discernment... To discern, from among all the voices we hear, which is the Lord's voice, which is the voice of Him who guides us to the Resurrection, to Life, and the voice that frees us from falling into the “culture of death”.

Let us pray together that the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

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

President:	John Smith	Treasurer:	John Malycha
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