



SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter April 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

PO Box 1070, Woden ACT 2606

Chaplain: Fr. Bill Kennedy

Ph: (02) 6214 2011

President: John Smith

Ph: (02) 62861720

Website: <http://www.serracanberra.org>

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, 3rd May, 2018 6.00 p.m.

Celebration of 40th Anniversary of the SERRA Charter with Rosary, Mass & Dinner: Thursday, 10th May, 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.

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

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

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

3rd June (Sunday): John Stephens Memorial Luncheon for Parents of Priests, Religious and Seminarians beginning with 11.00 a.m. Mass at St. Christopher's Cathedral followed by lunch at the Southern Cross Club, Woden.

19th-20th October (Friday-Saturday): National SERRA Convention Melbourne.

40th Anniversary of the SERRA Charter for Serra Club of Canberra

The actual Charter date is 6th May (Sunday) but we will celebrate this event at our Dinner Meeting on 10th May, 2018. The Trustees hope to see a good attendance of members, spouses and friends of Serra.

Archbishop Prowse will celebrate Mass but is unable to attend the dinner.

Update to Fr. Nulley's Vocations Strategy for Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese

Fr. Nulley's draft Strategy for Vocations will be considered by priests at the Clergy Assembly in May. The draft nominates Serra to promote prayer activities in the parishes.

**Extract 3 from Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 2018 World Day of Vocations
Living**

Lastly, Jesus announces the newness of the present hour, which will enthuse many and harden the heart of others. The fullness of time has come, and he is the Messiah proclaimed by Isaiah and anointed to liberate prisoners, to restore sight to the blind and to proclaim the merciful love of God to every creature. Indeed, Jesus says that “today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (Lk 4:21).

The joy of the Gospel, which makes us open to encountering God and our brothers and sisters, does not abide our slowness and our sloth. It will not fill our hearts if we keep standing by the window with the excuse of waiting for the right time, without accepting this very day the risk of making a decision. Vocation is today! The Christian mission is now! Each one of us is called – whether to the lay life in marriage, to the priestly life in the ordained ministry, or to a life of special consecration – in order to become a witness of the Lord, here and now.

This “today” that Jesus proclaimed assures us that God continues to “come down” to save our human family and to make us sharers in his mission. The Lord continues to call others to live with him and to follow him in a relationship of particular closeness. He continues to call others to serve him directly. If he lets us realize that he is calling us to consecrate ourselves totally to his kingdom, then we should have no fear! It is beautiful – and a great grace – to be completely and forever consecrated to God and the service of our brothers and sisters.

Today the Lord continues to call others to follow him. We should not wait to be perfect in order to respond with our generous “yes”, nor be fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead open our hearts to the voice of the Lord. To listen to that voice, to discern our personal mission in the Church and the world, and at last to live it in the today that God gives us.

May Mary Most Holy, who as a young woman living in obscurity heard, accepted and experienced the Word of God made flesh, protect us and accompany us always on our journey. [From the Vatican, 3 December 2017]

**Divine Mercy Sunday -
the Sunday after Easter**

**St. John Paul II’s devotion to
divine mercy**

There are many notable things about the life and papacy of St. John Paul II, but perhaps most impressive was his devotion to divine mercy. In 1980, he wrote an entire encyclical on it, “Dives in Misericordia” (“Rich in Mercy”), in which he outlines the truth and meaning of mercy from biblical times to the present and beyond.

In it, he states mankind’s mission of mercy. “The church must profess and proclaim God’s mercy in all its truth, as it has been handed down to us by revelation,” he wrote. He took this task upon himself becoming for many the champion of divine mercy.

Not surprisingly, he seemed to have found in St. Faustina Kowalska a kindred spirit. She was a humble, uneducated and holy nun of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland who received extraordinary revelations of Our Lord. Jesus instructed Faustina to record his

messages of God’s divine mercy. She did and compiled them into a diary.

Faustina’s message reverberated in John Paul II’s heart, as he demonstrated in his homily at her canonization on April 30, 2000.

“And you, Faustina, a gift of God to our time, a gift from the land of Poland to the whole church, obtain for us an awareness of the depth of divine mercy; help us to have a living experience of it and to bear witness to it among our brothers and sisters.

“May your message of light and hope spread throughout the world, spurring sinners to conversion, calming rivalries and hatred and opening individuals and nations to the practice of brotherhood.

“Today, fixing our gaze with you on the face of the risen Christ, let us make our own your prayer of trusting abandonment and say with firm hope: Christ Jesus, I trust in you! ‘Jezu, ufam tobie!’” he said.

At the same time, John Paul II declared Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated worldwide on the Sunday after Easter.

In 2002, the apostolic penitentiary of the Holy See issued a decree granting a plenary indulgence to those who comply with all the established conditions (confession, Communion and praying for the pope’s intentions) and a partial indulgence to

those who incompletely fulfill the conditions.

This was in accordance with Jesus’ own wishes as told to Faustina. Together, these two papal acts are the highest endorsement the church can give to a private revelation.

In his 2001 homily on Divine Mercy Sunday, John Paul II pointed to the revelations of Faustina as “the appropriate and incisive answer that God wanted to offer to the questions and expectations of human beings in our time, marked by terrible tragedies. ... Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity at the dawn of the third millennium.”

His confidence in divine mercy never wavered. Throughout his life, he not only promoted it, but he personified it. As if to crown his work, providence saw to it that John Paul II died on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday 2005. He was canonized on April 27, 2014. [Catholic News Service • Posted April 6, 2018]

Pope Francis said that to seek the Sacrament of Penance is not like going to the Laundromat to wash away the dirt, it is to receive God’s loving embrace.