



# SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

## Newsletter May 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.

*Welcome to our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the SERRA Charter for the Serra Club of Canberra*

**CHARTER ISSUED BY SERRA INTERNATIONAL ON 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 1978**

#### Reminders

**REMEMBER** to say the Serran Prayer **DAILY**.

**31 CLUB** – keep up your membership commitment.

#### Trustees Meeting

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 6.00 p.m. (No Trustees meeting in June).

**John Stephens Memorial Luncheon for Parents of Priests, Religious and Seminarians to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2018 (Sunday):**

beginning with 11.00 a.m. Mass at St. Christopher's Cathedral followed by lunch at the 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.

**1<sup>st</sup> June (Friday):** Adoration at St. Christopher's Cathedral following 12.15 p.m. Mass.

**4<sup>th</sup> August (Saturday):** SCANZSPAC will meet at Sacred Heart Church Meeting Room, 100 Casey Cres, Calwell following 9.00 a.m. Mass. Canberra

Serrans are welcome to attend as observers.

**19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October (Friday-Saturday):** National SERRA Convention Melbourne.

**Annual visit to the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> August, 2018**

Plans are already underway for our annual seminary visit to support our seminarians. Max Spencer is now taking names of those able to make this visit, please let him know if you plan to attend.

*Always to go forward, never to turn back*

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION  
***GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE***

**OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD**

**Extract Only**

**THE LORD CALLS**

10. ... with this Exhortation I would like to insist primarily on the call to holiness that the Lord addresses to each of us, the call that he also addresses, personally, to you: “Be holy, for I am holy” (Lev 11:44; cf. 1 Pet 1:16). The Second Vatican Council stated this clearly: “Strengthened by so many and such great means of salvation, all the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord – each in his or her own way – to that perfect holiness by which the Father himself is perfect”. [10]

11. “Each in his or her own way” the Council says. We should not grow discouraged before examples of holiness that appear unattainable. There are some testimonies that may prove helpful and inspiring, but that we are not meant to copy, for that could even lead us astray from the one specific path that the Lord has in mind for us. The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts (cf. 1 Cor 12:7), rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them. We are all called to be witnesses, but there are many actual ways of bearing witness.[11] Indeed, when the great mystic, Saint John of the Cross, wrote his Spiritual Canticle, he preferred to avoid hard and fast rules for all. He explained that his verses were composed so that everyone could benefit from them “in his or her own way”. [12] For God’s life is communicated “to some in one way and to others in another”. [13]

12. Within these various forms, I would stress too that the “genius of woman” is seen in feminine styles of holiness, which are an essential means of reflecting God’s holiness in this world. Indeed, in times when women tended to be most ignored or overlooked, the Holy Spirit raised up saints whose attractiveness produced new spiritual vigour and important reforms in the Church. We can mention Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Saint Bridget, Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. But I think too of all those unknown or forgotten women who, each in her own way, sustained and transformed families and communities by the power of their witness.

13. This should excite and encourage us to give our all and to embrace that unique plan that God willed for each of us from eternity: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you” (Jer 1:5).

**Pope's prayer intention for May: 'The Mission of the Laity'**

Pope Francis on Thursday released a video message accompanying his prayer intention for May which is “The Mission of the Laity”.

In his prayer intention for the month of May, Pope Francis said: “Lay people are on the front line of the life of the Church” and he expressed his belief that “We need their testimony regarding the truth of the

Gospel and their example of expressing their faith by practicing solidarity”.

It has become the custom of Pope Francis to release a video message detailing his new prayer intention each month.

The full text of the message is below:

*Lay people are on the front line of the life of the Church.*

*We need their testimony regarding the truth of the Gospel and their example of expressing their faith by practicing solidarity.*

*Let us give thanks for the lay people who take risks, who are not afraid and who offer reasons for hope to the poorest, to the excluded, to the marginalized.*

*Let us pray together this month that the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, the mission that they received in Baptism, putting their creativity at the service of the challenges of today's world.*

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.

[Vatican News]

**'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