



SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter February 2019

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: remember to keep up your commitment and recruit new members.

Trustees Meeting

Thursday 7th March, 2019 6.00 p.m.

Rosary, Monthly Mass & Dinner:

Thursday 14th March, 2019 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.

Every Friday: Prayer Group, "Community of the Risen Lord",

St. Brigid's, Dickson 7.00 pm. - 9.30 p.m.

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

HOW ARE WE TO GO FORWARD IN 2019?

The club faces some serious challenges in 2019. Our membership has aged. This accounts for a couple of resignations and a few other members who cannot attend meetings because of ill health. Some other resignations may be because the activities of the club are not sufficiently attractive to them. Moreover, we did not attract any new members in 2018.

With these membership trends we will soon be below the level of active members normally required for a club to retain its charter under the

Serra bylaws. We will also struggle to reach the minimum number of 20 attendees that the Southern Cross Club requires in order to give us access to the private dining room for our meetings.

More importantly we have to look at how we are fulfilling the objectives of Serra, whether we can develop or renew our activities in fulfillment of these objectives, and how we can promote membership through this work and recruitment effort.

Pilgrimage to West Wyalong

Fr Dominic Bryne is now parish priest at West Wyalong and has indicated that he would welcome a visit from Serrans on weekdays before Easter.

Please indicate if you are interested in making the trip.

Pope Francis homily at the Sept. 23, 2015 Mass of Canonization of St. Junípero Serra

The trail-blazing life of this priest should be a call to all Christians to never grow complacent, and to always go out to proclaim the Gospel with joy.

He was the embodiment of ‘a Church which goes forth’, a Church which sets out to bring everywhere the reconciling tenderness of God.

Junípero Serra left his native land and its way of life. He was excited about blazing trails, going forth to meet many people, learning and valuing their particular customs and ways of life. He learned how to bring to birth and nurture God’s life in the faces of everyone he met; he made them his brothers and sisters.

Junípero sought to defend the dignity of the native community, to protect it from those who had mistreated and abused it. Mistreatment and wrongs which today still trouble us, especially because of the hurt which they cause in the lives of many people.

The saint also had a motto which inspired his life and work: “Keep moving forward!”.

Something deep within us invites us to rejoice and tells us not to settle for placebos which simply keep us comfortable.

At the same time, though, we all know the struggles of everyday life. So much seems to stand in the way of this invitation to rejoice.

Jesus gives the answer. He said to his disciples then and he says it to us now: Go forth! Proclaim! The joy of the Gospel is something to be experienced, something to be known and lived only through giving it away, through giving ourselves away.

St. Junípero Serra was the kind of person who knew this and lived it on a daily basis. He was constantly being shaken out of complacency by embracing the joy of proclaiming the Gospel to all people.

For him, this was the way to continue experiencing the joy of the Gospel, to keep his heart from growing numb, from being anesthetized. He kept moving forward, because the Lord was waiting.

He kept going, because his brothers and sisters were waiting. He kept going forward to the end of his life. Today, like him, may we be able to say: Forward! Let’s keep moving forward!

Holy Father and Grand Imam sign ‘Document on Human Fraternity’

The Holy Father left Rome on Sunday, 3 February, for a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates, the first for a leader of the Roman Catholic Church. Upon his arrival the Pope was greeted by the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mo-hammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. On Monday, 4 February, the Pontiff attended the Global Conference on Human Fraternity where he joined the Grand Imam of

Al-Azhar, Dr Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, in signing the “Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together”. The Document invites all persons who have faith in God and inhuman fraternity to unite and work together so that it may serve as a guide to peaceful coexistence for future generations. In Abu Dhabi’s Zayed Sports City Stadium on Tuesday morning, 5 February, the Pope presided at a Mass “for peace and justice”, the final event of his journey to the UAE. (Vatican News)

World Day of the Sick in Kolkata

A delegation of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, led by Cardinal Turkson, is in Kolkata to convey the Pope’s message of compassion to the sick.

Cardinal Peter Turkson, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, is in Kolkata to celebrate the 27th World Day of the Sick, held annually on February 11, the **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes**.

Speaking to Vatican News, the Cardinal says the Pope’s message to the faithful is that there can be no true care without sharing in the situation of those afflicted, by showing compassion and being willing to empathize with the sick.

St. John Paul II instituted this celebration in 1992. (Vatican News)

The Members of the Board of Trustees for 2018-2019 are:

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