



# SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE Newsletter

October November 2018

## RETREAT AND SEMINARY VISIT

The Annual Serra District 89 Retreat has been booked at Holy Cross Retreat Centre at Templestowe for Saturday 6th April 2019, and as it was such a success this year, the Mass and Luncheon visit to Corpus Christi Seminary will be on Sunday 7th April 2019. 2018 provided a great opportunity to gather on the one weekend and resulted in the best attendance at the Retreat in many years.

## MASS FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

The Mass and Morning Tea that is usually held on the first Saturday in February has been cancelled. At this stage we do not know if it is to be held at another date, or if something different is planned. It would be regrettable if it does not resume in some format, as there is no doubt that the 250 to 300 who attended each year regarded it as a very special day, in that it honoured their commitment to God, but was also a joyful occasion at the gathering for Morning Tea that followed where many were able to renew friendships, both in the various Orders, but also those Serrans assisting at the Mass and the Morning Tea, were able to greet various friends among the priests and religious gathered there.

## NOVEMBER MEETING

The Program for the meeting was conducted by Anne Larkins, President SCANZSPAC and a member of the Board of Serra International. This was in response to the message from the President of Serra International, Mario Biscardi, that Membership is EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS.

The President stated that during his term as President of Serra International, and as the opportunity arises, he will be asking:

- ◆ Every Serran to bring one new member in 2019
- ◆ Every District to bring in one new Serra Club in 2019
- ◆ Every Council to have their District Governors focused on Membership
- ◆ Every DG to work closely with each Club President in increasing Membership
- ◆ Past Presidents to work with their DG's as Deputy District Governors in helping them to maintain the focus on Membership

How can each Serran find one new member?

- ⇒ Firstly, consider your spouse, siblings, children, relatives and friends, and invite them to join Serra. Serra has helped each of us grow in our Catholic Faith, and it therefore follows that we would want to have our loved ones and good friends in Serra as well.
- ⇒ If no relatives or friends can be found who are interested in Serra, then the next best place is your Pastor. Invite him to a Serra meeting as a Guest Speaker and ask him for referrals. Ask him also for permission to invite daily communicants to a Serra information meeting after morning Mass, or start a new Club 31.
- ⇒ If the Pastor does not have any referrals for you, look at the volunteers in your parish, namely ushers, lectors, ministers, etc. people who have a deep appreciation for the priesthood.
- ⇒ If no parishioner can be found, then ask your priest friends or seminarians for referrals, especially family and extended family members of priests and seminarians for they are good prospects for Serra.
- ⇒ Serra Italy Council has had tremendous results in increasing membership by inviting prospective Serrans to their Serra vocation activities, as well as to our monthly meetings.
- ⇒ Serra Clubs in the USA have had excellent results by devoting at least one Serra meeting each year to promote Serra membership by inviting prospective members attend to hear a presentation on Serra along with the testimony of Serrans, the Club Chaplain and/or Vocation Director and/or Bishop.

Before you invite people write down your own thoughts on why are you a Serran and what convinced you to join.

Identify three Serran activities that you enjoy and that fulfil Serra's mission. Think about why you support Serra and what blessings your membership has brought to you. How important is it to pass on your Catholic faith and to have the sacraments available to the next generations. How would you feel if there were no priests for your Parish?

The discussion that this message from Mario Biscardi generated was very good and very lively. Our Club Chaplain, Fr Gerard Dowling, suggested that we each think about why we joined Serra, and what benefit it had on our lives, and this in turn, could provide ideas on our approach to prospective Serrans.

### *Sharing Christmas Joy*

Heavenly Father, I thank you for sending  
your Son, Jesus, into our world.  
The event we so happily celebrate at Christmas.  
May I open my heart to the true joy of his  
coming and may I share it generously with  
those I meet.  
Amen.

*Father Gerard Dowling  
Chaplain Melbourne Serra  
and Catholic Care*

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

## NOTICE OF MEETINGS

December 12th St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin  
 Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by  
 Dinner Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.

January 2019 **MEETING CANCELLED**

February 27th

March 27th

## SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

December	St Joseph's Springvale	8.00am
January	St Catherine's Moorabbin	8.30am
February	St Mary's Hampton	8.30am
March	St Leonard's Glen Waverley	9,00am

## MASS ROSTER

	<i>December</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>March</i>
<b>Reader:</b>	John	<b>Meeting</b>	Anne	Max
<b>Prayers of the Faithful:</b>	Frank	<b>Cancelled</b>	Dan	Frank
<b>Offertory Procession:</b>	Guests		Jo/Terry	Alison/Dan
<b>Minister of Communion:</b>	Concelebrants.		John/Frank	Anne/Terry
<b>Meals Clean Up:</b>	<b>All Members urged to assist.</b>			