



SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter June 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.

JOHN STEPHENS MEMORIAL LUNCHEON

WELCOME TO PARENTS OF PRIESTS, SEMINARIANS AND RELIGIOUS

Reminders

REMEMBER to say the Serran Prayer **DAILY** and your commitment to the **31 Club**.

Trustees Meeting

Thursday 5th July, 2018 6.00 p.m.

Rosary, Monthly Mass & Dinner:

Thursday 12th July, 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.

1st July (Sunday): Feast Day St. Junípera Serra. The Trustees encourage all members to attend Mass in their own Parish to celebrate this feast day.

6th July (Friday): Adoration at St. Christopher's Cathedral following 12.15 p.m. Mass.

4th 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.

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

Annual visit to the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush 11th-12th 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.

Pope: Church's social doctrine helps build economic justice, equality, inclusion – *extract only*

“The current difficulties and crises within the global economic system have an undeniable ethical dimension,” the Pope said. “They are related to a mentality of egoism and exclusion that has effectively created a culture of waste blind to the human dignity of the most vulnerable,” the Pope told participants in an international conference organized by the Centesimus Annus pro Pontifice Foundation.

St. Pope John Paul II instituted the foundation in 1993 to promote the Church's social doctrine, especially as outlined in his 1991 encyclical, “Centesimus Annus” with which he commemorated 100 years of Pope Leo XIII's landmark encyclical on the social teaching of the Church.

Complete article at:

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

Putting “Vocation Directors” in Every Home, School, and Parish

... How seriously are we taking our responsibility to cultivate the personal vocations of others?

Pope John Paul II wrote about the importance of this initiative very clearly in his first encyclical, “On the Redeemer of Man”:

Every initiative serves true renewal in the Church and helps to bring the authentic light that is Christ insofar as the initiative is based on adequate awareness of the individual Christian's vocation and of responsibility for this singular, unique and unrepeatable grace.

A Catholic diocese typically has one “vocation director” whose primary responsibility—at least the public perception of it—is to cultivate the vocations of people who are discerning the priesthood or religious life.

I’ve had a very positive experience with vocation directors. Two generous priests in the Diocese of Las Vegas helped me enter seminary formation and ultimately to leave it. But had I not decided to enter seminary, I would’ve never met them.

Vocation directors have limited reach. In a thriving diocese, there might be one hundred seminarians and religious vocations. Where does that leave the dancers? The doctors? The young man who is petrified of proposing to the love of his life because he doesn’t know if her dad likes him?

This is where you and I come in.

I believe that the only way to create a culture of vocation—one in which everyone’s personal vocation is cultivated—is through a culture of mentorship. Vocation directors are critical, but they can’t do this work alone. They need co-workers.

You have unrepeatable experiences and a vocation that someone in the world desperately needs to see lived out with heroic fidelity. As we live out our own callings, each of us should pray for the grace to be a mentor to someone else.

I believe that we need to broaden our understanding of who has responsibility to be a “vocation director.” Should there not be “direction” for people who are called to every state of life, every profession, every unique pathway to holiness? If we are to fulfill the dream of John Paul II, then we must think big. We have to put “vocation directors” in every home, school, and parish. They will be well-trained mentors who take up John Paul II’s call to cultivate the personal vocations of others. We must teach young people basic skills of discernment that they can carry with them for the rest of their lives. ... [<https://www.wordonfire.org/> - by Luke Burgis]

Pope: Health of family is decisive for world, Church

Pope Francis on Friday received in audience officials and personnel of the Rome Police Headquarters and the Central Health Directorate, who came along with their families.

The good health of the family, where love, faith and good deeds are taught and learnt, is decisive for the future of the world and the Church. This is why the Church, in the footsteps of Jesus, is close to families that face the challenges and difficulties of today...

The Pope ... noted that the bitter realities of life, of pain and evil are

understood and overcome in the communion of life and love of the family.

Jesus accompanies families

Citing amply from the Bible about families in suffering and difficulties, the Pope said Jesus never fails to come to the rescue of those who call out to Him for help or who cry inconsolably.

Jesus, the Holy Father assured, accompanies with His mercy all human beings, especially families, to whom he manifests his tenderness and caress through the embrace of a mother, a father, a son.

Stressing that the family is the place of tenderness, the Pope urged families never

to lose this tenderness that the current age lacks, and to help rediscover it. ...

Like Jesus, the Pope said, the Church also knows the anxieties and tensions of families, such as generation gap, domestic violence, economic difficulties and job insecurity, and is close to them as a travelling companion.

Like a caring mother, the Church teaches us to be steadfast in God who loves and sustains us. This “fundamental inner experience”, this “solid inner experience”, the Pope said, helps us in facing all oppositions and vicissitudes of life, and enables us to be saints, persevering in goodness which conquers every evil.

Faith, that is handed down in the family, teaches us to pray while being open to hope in joyful harmony with others, supporting one another while acknowledging our limitations.

[<http://www.vaticannews.va> by Robin Gomes]

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

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