Serrans in the Land of Our Patron
The Serra Rally and California Mission Pilgrimage Bring Serrans Closer to St. Junípero than Ever
Now more than ever, we need the Lord to raise up an army to strengthen His Church and spread the Gospel. The prayer, fasting and service you do as Serrans, for the sake of vocations, is essential to this work.”

Most Rev. Andrew H. Cozzens, STD, DD, outgoing Episcopal Adviser for Serra’s USA Council

The Serran Calendar

April 27, 2019
Serra Global Rosary for Vocations

May 12, 2019
World Day of Prayer for Vocations

May 25, 2019
Serra Global Rosary for Vocations

June 20-23, 2019
Serra’s 77th International Convention, Mexico City

June 29, 2019
Serra Global Rosary for Vocations

July 27, 2019
Serra Global Rosary for Vocations

September 22, 2019
Priesthood Sunday
(Yes, Priesthood Sunday is moving from the fourth Sunday in October to the fourth Sunday in September! See p. 12.)

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Col. John Halloran, Serra USA Membership Vice President

ON OUR COVER
Serrans from the Southeast Kansas City club turned out en masse for the Ventura Serra Rally in January 2019! Pictured after Mass at Mission San Buenaventura from left to right: Glen and Mary Erntzmann, Katie Radford, Diane Kent, Homer Radford, Yvonne Teeple, Sherry and Deacon Robert Falke. The Erntzmanns and the Falkes also attended the Serra Mission Trail pilgrimage following the Rally.

Photo by Anne McCormack

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The Serra Rally in Ventura, California
USA Council Annual Event Takes Us to Serra Country

The fifth annual Serra Rally took place from January 17-20, 2019, in Ventura, California. Nearly 200 Serrans from all over the world attended the event, which is designed to offer a combination of inspirational talks, practical workshops and deep spiritual nourishment to Serra leaders. The weekend is sponsored by Serra’s USA Council and includes reports from the Vocations, Communications, Programs, and Membership committees, as well as meetings of both the Serra International and USA Council boards.

This year’s Rally was the first to take place in “St. Junípero Serra Country,” and featured Mass at the beautiful nearby Mission San Buenaventura with the Most Reverend Marc Trudeau, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles. Serra International Episcopal Adviser, His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, joined Serrans for the whole event, presiding at the Travelers Mass and delivering yet another of his spectacular talks, this time on “Serra Discipleship and Spirituality.” San Mateo author and educator Christian Clifford continued the local theme with his presentation, “Defending St. Serra in the Marketplace.”

About a dozen special speakers and panelists formed the core of the Rally’s daily programming, sharing their own and others’ incredible vocation journeys. A common theme emerging at this Rally was how vocations are answered in the face of challenges unique to the 21st century, including technology, media messages and rapidly changing value systems. Speaking directly to this was Fr. Marinello Seguin, associate pastor at St. Margaret Mary in Lomita, California, whose rousing talk on “The New Generation Priest” had Rally attendees rocking with laughter at times, and nodding enthusiastically in acknowledgement of the lightbulbs he set off in their heads. Christina Lamas, executive director for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) gave a presentation called “What Serrans Need to Know about Generation Z.” After outlining the differences between the characteristics of the different generations in America since

Continued on next page
World War II, she focused on the current, youngest generation of Catholics, who live in a world completely unlike and possibly even unrelated to what has come before. Her eye-opening talk was the first of its kind given at a Rally, and very significant in that it offered Serrans clues to the otherwise mysterious culture of teens today and what it would take to engage them to become missionary disciples, and, presumably, future religious to build up the body of our Church.

Rally attendees received an extra special treat at the reception and banquet. After celebrating the closing Mass, the Most Reverend Joseph Brennan, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, took the stage with singer Anna Betancourt to beautifully perform a few songs. Serrans new to Bishop Brennan got a sense of his dedication to music and heartfelt singing at Mass; little did they know he would entertain them like a pro an hour later! Even better, he and Anna were joined by famed modern liturgical music composer David Haas (many of whose songs, such as “Glory to God,” “Blest Are They” and “We Are Called,” you may know by heart). What a rare treat! A wonderful troupe of young Irish step dancers completed the evening’s fun entertainment.

Following the Rally, a group of about 50 pilgrims set sail (via coach) to visit seven California missions. Read more about this extra special Serran trip on page 13. Stay tuned to future issues of THE SERRAN magazine for transcripts of the talks of some of the Rally’s featured speakers.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:


The Serra Store table was a hopping spot in the exhibit area.

Mariachis serenaded Serra International Episcopal Adviser Thomas Cardinal Collins for his birthday after Mass on Friday.

Christina Lamas, Executive Director for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, gave an enlightening talk on the mysterious Generation Z and how we can adjust our ministry to include them as the future of our Church.
RIGHT: USA Communications VP Nancy Gibson (far left) poses with the winners (or their representatives) of the Outstanding Club Newsletter Award.

BELOW LEFT: Christian liturgical music composer David Haas, cantor Anna Betancourt, and Most Rev. Joseph V. Brennan, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, showed off their incredible talent at the banquet.

BELOW RIGHT: Most Rev. Marc V. Trudeau celebrated Mass for Rally attendees at Mission San Buenaventura.

ABOVE: Serra USA Council President Judy Cozzens enjoys her spot in a spontaneous conga line winding its joyful way through the diners at Mission San Buenaventura’s O’Brien Center.

RIGHT: Young Irish dancers entertained Rally attendees after the closing banquet.
Introducing the Most Reverend Thomas A. Daly
Bishop of Spokane to Be Serra USA Council’s New Episcopal Adviser

While we are sad to see our beloved Bishop Andrew Cozzens complete his term as Episcopal Adviser of the USA Council, we are excited and honored that Bishop Thomas Daly of Spokane has agreed to guide us. Serra’s USA Council extends a heartfelt thank you to Bishop Cozzens for the outstanding quality of his presence and commitment to us over the past five years. We greet Bishop Daly with a warm welcome as he begins his journey with us. Get to know our new Episcopal Adviser when you read his biographical information below.

PERSONAL

Thomas Daly was born April 30, 1960, in San Francisco. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of San Francisco in 1982; a master of divinity from St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park, California, in 1987; and a master of education degree from Boston College in 1996. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of San Francisco in 1987. He served as an associate pastor, pastor, Associate of Catholic Youth Organization, Chaplain to St. Vincent’s School for Boys, Vocation Director and Rector of St. Patrick Seminary and University. With over 20 years in high school education, Bishop Daly has served as teacher, chaplain and President of Marin Catholic. Pope Benedict XVI named him auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of San Jose on March 16, 2011. He was ordained and installed a bishop May 25, 2011. Pope Francis named him the seventh Bishop of Spokane on March 12, 2015. He was installed on May 20, 2015 in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes in Spokane.

EDUCATION

• University of San Francisco- B.A. 1982
• St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park- M.A. of Divinity 1987
• Boston College- M.A. of Education 1996

MEMBERSHIPS

• Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations
• Committee on Catholic Education
• Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions
• Subcommittee on Native American Affairs
• St. Patrick Seminary & University Board Member
• Episcopal Adviser of the USA Council of Serra International
• National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors

PRIOR ASSIGNMENTS

• Parochial Vicar – Our Lady of Loretto Parish, 1987-1992
• Teacher and Campus Minister – Marin Catholic High School, 1992-2003
• Pastor – St. Cecilia’s and St. Mary’s Parishes, 1995-1999
• Assistant Chaplain – San Francisco Police Department, 1995-2004
• Chaplain – St. Vincent’s School for Boys, 1999-2011
• Archdiocesan Director of Vocations, 2002-2011
• President, Marin Catholic High School, 2003-2011
• Pastor – St. Nicholas and St. William’s Parishes, 2014-2015
• Rector – St. Patrick’s Seminary and University, 2013-2014
January 30, 2019

Dear Serrans,

It has been my pleasure to serve as Episcopal Advisor for the USA Council of Serra for five years. Now, it is my time to pass the torch as your Episcopal Advisor to Bishop Daly. I am delighted he has accepted this mission, as he is a gifted and faithful man who loves Serra and the work for vocations. Of course, I will continue to do what I can to promote the good work of Serra.

As I leave my official position, I want to impress on you how important your work is at this difficult time. Many people ask me now they can help the Church. Our fidelity is the best way we can do this, especially fidelity to supporting the many holy and faithful priests, religious and seminarians we have. Now more than ever we need the Lord to raise up an army to strengthen His Church and spread the Gospel. The prayer, fasting and service you do as Serrans, for the sake of vocations, is essential to this work. I know that those who serve in these special vocations appreciate so much the support you give them.

We have many reasons for hope. There are many young men and women stepping forward right now to give their whole lives in service to the Church. There are many holy families seeking to expose their children to the beauty of vocation.

Please know of my prayers for the work of Serra. I pray many of you will step forward to increase your membership and form new clubs to support and promote religious vocations and grow in personal holiness.

Please feel free to use this endorsement letter of Serra to encourage your members and promote expansion of this beautiful organization.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Andrew H. Cozzens

The Most Reverend Andrew H Cozzens, STD, DD
Auxiliary Bishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
USA Council Episcopal Advisor

ask
The Vocations Office for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, along with the Serra Club of North Houston, hosts a monthly Holy Hour for vocations that is truly special indeed. Hosted at St. Mary’s Seminary’s beautiful chapel, the Holy Hour includes exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, sacred music conducted by renowned Catholic musician Daniel Knaggs, and scripture, all by candlelight. Father Richard McNeillie, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, opened the event to invite young adults and non-Serran vocation ministers/supporters. A local foundation has underwritten the cost of Knaggs’ quartet.

“The combination of the candlelight, the mesmerizing music and the beautiful scripture is a formula for a mountaintop experience!” said Margo Geddie, North Houston Serran and Trustee for Serra International. “It is a great way to enhance holiness as well as attract more people to Serra.”

Galveston-Houston’s Adoration by Candlelight (see the event’s beautiful program cover, right) takes place every fourth Monday of the month. ☝️
Iron Mountain Vocations Calendar: A collaboration between Serrans, school children, seminary, and diocese

by Tamara Lemanski
Vocations Vice President, Serra Club of Iron Mountain/Kingsford, Michigan

The project our club is most excited about is our yearly Serran Vocations Calendar. The calendar features artwork of middle-school students in our Catholic schools. The art comes from a poster contest sponsored by our Serra club which is initiated in the spring of the year prior to our calendar date. We began with our two local Catholic schools, but last year we expanded, adding two more of our diocesan Catholic schools and now hopefully, we will be adding four more schools to the poster contest for our 2020 calendar.

Winners of the poster contest receive a special card of congratulations, three calendars for sharing, vocations prayer cards, and a $5.00 gift card or cash along with having their posters featured in our next calendar. We try to present the awards in a special way and thank all the participants for supporting the Catholic Church by promoting vocations in their artwork.

The calendar is personalized to our diocese, as we also feature our seminarians, quotes from our seminarians, prayers...

Continued on page 12
**Mexico City**

June 19-23, 2019

**Serra’s 77th International Convention**

One of the world's largest cities, and the most populous one in North America, Mexico City offers a wide variety of attractions, activities and experiences for all visitors to its vast expanse, with great ethnic, architectural, topographical and ecological diversity. It also presents a glimpse of the long and rich history of the Mexican capital, from pre-Hispanic times and the colonial era to contemporary life in a city that never ceases to surprise.

Mexico City is home to over 100 art galleries, dozens of theatres and concert halls, and more than 150 museums – the largest metropolitan concentration of museums in the world! These feature important works and exhibits representing Mexican history and culture; major artists from all over the world take their place alongside these as well. And if art and history are not really your thing, enjoy shopping or dining in exclusive areas. The opportunities for safe and exciting adventure are endless in Mexico City.

Our convention organizers have planned a program balancing education, work, fellowship and fun. Our featured speakers include Monsignor Eduardo Chavez, founder and headmaster of the Superior Institute of Guadalupe Studies and Canon of the Shrine at Our Lady of Guadalupe; and Most Rev. Ricardo Valenzuela, Bishop of Caacupe, Paraguay.

You'll have time to learn about worldwide Serra efforts in the areas of Membership, Vocations, Communications and Programs. A chapel for Eucharistic Adoration will be available for spiritual nourishment and refreshment throughout the convention. And of course, we invite you to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, where you will be able to see firsthand the image of the Virgin left on St. Juan Diego's cloak nearly 500 years ago. The Basilica is just over five miles away from the hotel. As a special highlight of our convention program, buses will take all convention attendees to Mass at the basilica on June 21.

The Serrans of Mexico welcome you most warmly to this enchanting part of the world!

Convention registration is USD$490.00 and includes:

- A welcome reception on Thursday night
- Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday
- Lunch sponsored by the Serra International Foundation on Friday
- The Annual Banquet on Saturday
- Access to all speakers and workshops

**EXTENDED: Sign up by April 15, 2019, and pay only $415.00!**

Register securely online at [www.serrainternational.org](http://www.serrainternational.org). Or, call the Serra International office at +1 (312) 419-7411 to register over the phone. Please have your credit card ready.
Mexico City FAQ
Answered by our convention host Serrans in Mexico City

How safe is Mexico City?
Like any other large city, there are some risks that can be prevented if you follow the recommendations provided by the staff. The downtown area where our hotel, the Hilton Mexico City Reforma, is located, hosts a high concentration of tourists, and it is considered a safe area.

Where can I get Mexican currency (pesos)?
You can have money exchanged at the airport or at the hotel. All authorized taxi carriers at the airport accept credit cards (including American Express).

Should you need to make cash withdrawals during your stay in Mexico, we recommend you only use the ATM located at the hotel.

Remember to notify your bank that you are traveling, in order to avoid having your credit or debit card blocked.

How do I recognize a safe public transport vehicle in Mexico City?
You can use authorized taxis at the airport and the hotel. If you need that service elsewhere, we recommend Uber. You can download the app to your smartphone and hire a driver from anywhere, anytime.

A list of authorized taxi telephone numbers will be provided to you upon arrival at the Hilton Reforma.

Should I worry about drinking water in Mexico City?
As long as you are drinking it from a bottle, no. Bottles of water are complementary at the hotel because tap water is not appropriate for drinking. If you order water at a restaurant, it will most likely be bottled, but you can always confirm this with the waiter.

What are the safety measures I should consider while in Mexico City?
You will be provided with detailed information about safety measures upon arrival, but the general guideline is to exercise common sense: don’t wear expensive jewelry on the streets; only take authorized taxis and tours; and stay with the group.

Are there any additional expenses I should consider?
Tips are usually not included in restaurant checks.

If I need medical assistance, what should I do?
If you are at the hotel, you should call the front desk immediately. If you are not at the hotel, you should contact any staff member, and they will find the appropriate health/emergency aid. Mexico City is home to some of the finest doctors known worldwide in most medical fields.

Do I have to arrange my own transport to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe?
No. Transportation is included in the program for the group visit according to the schedule of the convention.

What is the weather like in Mexico City that time of year?
It’s usually warm during the day and rainy in the evening. However, we recommend that you check your weather news provider just prior to your trip, so you can pack accordingly.

Should I worry about earthquakes?
You may have heard that an earthquake struck last year, and sadly, some buildings collapsed; those were very old buildings with poor foundations. All new buildings in Mexico City are required to include special foundation technology that make them perfectly safe. The Hilton Reforma exceeds those requirements, which is one of the reasons why we chose it as our venue. Furthermore, all hotel personnel and staff members are highly trained to lead the group to safety.

What about altitude sickness?
Mexico City is more than 7,000 feet above sea level, which may be considerably higher than your home town. The high altitude may cause symptoms such as headache, fatigue or shortness of breath for some people. We suggest coming a day or two early to help your body adjust to the thinner air. Staying hydrated, taking care not to overexert yourself on the first couple of days, avoiding caffeine and alcohol (which can be dehydrating), and wearing sunscreen will all help your body adjust quickly to the altitude in Mexico City.

Do I need to know how to speak Spanish in order to get around Mexico City and interact with hotel staff?
The Hilton hotel staff is perfectly bilingual. You can always find someone who speaks English in town, and people are willing to help you get around.
Keep Young Catholic Adults Connected to Their Catholic Faith When They Go to College

In 2018 Newman Connection and Serra partnered to provide Catholic Campus Ministries, Newman Centers, and FOCUS Missionaries with the names of over 76,000 Catholic incoming college freshmen. Most of those names came from Catholic high schools; 9,653 came through parishes.

This year, we aim to reach more Catholic seniors from public high schools by providing Newman Connection support materials to Serra clubs who can present these to parish pastors and help plan a recognition ceremony to honor the parish’s graduating seniors. Following this ceremony, the Serra club would host a reception for the seniors and their parents. The reception gives Serrans an opportunity to gather the names of each senior and their college for the Newman Connection system. When the seniors go to college, Newman connects them with the Catholic campus ministry there.

For more details about this Newman Connection/Serra program, go to: https://fccdl.in/sngIFaUrqa.

Priesthood Sunday Is Moving!

Starting this year, Priesthood Sunday will be celebrated on the 4th Sunday of September, the 22nd, 2019 and will continue on that 4th Sunday in future calendar years.

Iron Mountain Calendar, continued from page 9

for vocations, images from diocesan events including ordinations, specific prayers for priests, deacons, vowed religious and also for parents. The last two years I included a page dedicated to parents with the theme, “Will You Help Your Child Hear the Call?”.

The calendar also features the birthdays of our bishop and all of our diocesan priests, including the date of their ordination next to their name.

This year we included “Opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration Prayer” with a complete diocesan listing of Eucharistic Adoration days and times, some specific to prayer for vocations.

The back cover of the calendar is the full page dedicated to St. Junípero Serra with his image, information about the Serra Club and the Serran Prayer for Vocations.

Originally, we distributed 600 calendars, but this number has now expanded to 1,100. They are gifted to each sponsor of the calendar, our vicariate parishes (for distribution to the congregations) and their high school faith formation students, our diocesan Catholic schools (for their classrooms and 7th and 8th-grade students), all of our seminarians, women religious of our diocese, Carmelite nuns, deacons, our diocesan bishop, vocations director and retired priests.

Additionally, we have begun distributing our morning prayer for youth to Catholic school students and to our parish faith formation classes. The prayer, printed on a card with the Serra logo and name of our club, is as follows:

I love you Jesus. All that I am and all that I have has come from You. Thank you, Lord, for everything! Be with me and show me what You want of me today. Is it possible, Lord, that You are calling me to become a priest or vowed religious? Show me Your will for my life; and grant me the courage and strength to follow that path. I ask these things in Your Most Holy Name. Amen.

I can’t help but believe that if young people began praying this prayer with a sincere heart, the future of our Church, vocations and the world would be much brighter.
About 50 pilgrims, most of them Serrans, enjoyed the opportunity of a lifetime: traveling together over four days to visit seven California missions, including Mission San Carlos Borromeo, where St. Junípero Serra is entombed. The group departed directly from the hotel after the conclusion of the Serra Rally in Ventura, embarking on a journey that was equal parts prayer, education, and fun as they sought to enjoy an even closer connection to our patron than ever before.

Led by pilgrimage chaplain Fr. Jim Heyd of Chicago and supported by tour managers Melani Roewe and Sven Syversen of Canterbury tours, the group’s first stop was Mission Santa Bárbara, known as the “Queen of the Missions.” There, they were treated to a very special tour of the Mission Archive-Library, which houses the largest collection of Serra materials in the world, including the official canonization portrait of St. Junípero, and also his letters, ledgers and other personal artifacts.

Along with Mission San Luis Rey, it is one of only two missions still in the hands of Franciscans.

After a quick stop to admire a terrific view at Santa Inés on the Feast of Saint Ines herself, the group headed to Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, which was founded by St. Junípero Serra in 1772. Here they learned the story of the mission’s patron saint, Saint Louis, Bishop of Toulouse, France, who was the second son of King Charles of Naples. Surviving years as a prisoner of war in Spain, the young prince’s exposure to Franciscans there inspired him to renounce his claim to the crown and to become a friar. He was consecrated Bishop of Toulouse before dying at the tender of age of 23, and to this day remains very dear to the Franciscan Order.

The following day’s first stop was perhaps the one most anticipated by the pilgrims: San Carlos Borromeo del rio Carmel, St. Junípero’s final resting place. Greeted by a guide bearing Serra medals on the mission’s beautifully manicured garden grounds.

Continued on page 15
1. Mission Santa Bárbara exterior
2. Docent Maria Cabrera explains items at the Santa Bárbara Mission Archive-Library.
4. Felisa and Fran Pulumbarit pose with St. Junípero Serra.
5. St. Junípero’s portrait at the head of his tomb at Carmel.
6. Pilgrims place objects on St. Junípero’s tomb.
7. Andy Galvan lectures before a mosaic at Mission San Francisco de Asís.
8, 9. The Mission model museum and wine tasting at Cline Cellars.
11. Tour chaplain Fr. Heyd at Mission San Francisco Solano Church.

All photos by Don Simoneaux
by a clear and sunny morning, the group was then ushered into the church where St. Junípero is entombed beneath the sanctuary. Before Mass, they were invited to place objects on the tomb for blessing and to transform them into third-class relics. Unsurprisingly, the atmosphere at Mission Carmel, as it is also known, was quite different from the others, owing to the presence of a saint (our saint!) right there in the church.

Then it was on to Mission San Francisco de Asís, where the tour group met their guide, mission curator Andy Galvan, whose Ohlone tribe great-great-great-great grandparents helped build the mission in the 18th century and who are buried in the mission graveyard. Aside from Galvan's lively presentation and encyclopedic knowledge of St. Serra and the missions in general, his heritage provided a unique and holistic perspective on an issue that is contentious among modern native tribes in the area. To be welcomed and educated by Galvan, who honors both his Catholic and indigenous lineage was humbling and awesome.

The next day, the pilgrims continued into Sonoma Wine Country, and conveniently for a mission tour, it just so happens that Cline Cellars, a family-owned Napa winery, is located on the original Sonoma Mission site. On this brisk yet sunny day, pilgrims enjoyed taking turns literally ringing a mission bell, feeding farm animals, browsing a museum housing miniature replicas of all the California missions under glass, and sampling some of Cline’s best bottles at a leisurely and fun wine tasting.

The final stop was at the last of the originally established California missions: Mission San Francisco Solano, about 40 miles north of San Francisco and across from the site of the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846. The group enjoyed the tour’s final Mass celebrated by Fr. Heyd at St. Francis Solano Church. After the Eucharistic liturgy, Fr. Heyd brought a large sign displaying members of the parish who were serving in the military to the front of the altar, to remind us to pray for those serving our country. Unforgettably, this reminder was made all the more poignant by the church bells ringing at 11 o’clock at a natural pause in Fr. Heyd’s remarks, creating an impromptu moment of silence and remembrance for all those who have given their lives defending their country.

The pilgrimage tour included wonderful breakfasts and dinners, time off to explore on one’s own, many bus-ride rosary recitations and daily reading reflections (pilgrims were aided in this by complimentary copies of the January Magnificat provided by Canterbury Tours). The trip was briskly paced but handled well by Serrans of all ages. There are plans to conduct a tour of the southern California next January after the Rally; stay tuned for more information on this next wonderful opportunity.
Featured Club Program: The Lord’s Prayer

One of the best practices we can do for Lent is pray. Lent is a blessed time when we can renew our baptismal promises through prayer and petition either through contemplating the program titled, Baptism, located in the Call to Holiness Manual or when reciting the Lord’s Prayer or both.

Oftentimes, the Lord’s Prayer is described as “the seven petitions.” As you deepen your prayer life with the Lord this Lent, consider how these seven petitions connect with your own baptismal promises of blessing, acclamation, petition, thanksgiving, intercession, surrender, and mercy.

Here is how the Lord’s Prayer and our Baptism complement one another:

Blessing – Hallowed be Thy Name

Acclamation – Our Father, who art in Heaven

Petition – Thy Kingdom come

Thanksgiving – (for giving) us this day our daily bread

Intercession – Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

Surrender – Thy Will be done on earth, as it is in heaven

Mercy – Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us

Indeed, it is through prayer that we come to know, love and serve God. As we embrace the universal Call to Holiness, which is rooted in our Baptism, next time you pray the Lord’s Prayer, give blessing, acclamation and thanksgiving to our loving and merciful God. Be holy as He is Holy!

— Morie Ratuiste, Pacific Northwest Regional Director, Serra’s USA Council

Read the Opening Prayer and Scripture out loud.

Opening Prayer

Jesus, the source of all prayer, through your life and ministry you taught us how we are to pray. So very simple, personal and direct. Be with us this day as we explore the wisdom of the Lord’s Prayer. Amen.

Scripture

In Matthew’s gospel, the evangelist states, “This is how you are to Pray: ‘Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” (Matthew 6:9-13). Matthew gives a more detailed version than Luke (Luke 11:2-4), which the Church has retained as its liturgical tradition.

Take time for silent reflection, and then read the Introduction out loud.

Introduction

Christian thinkers and people of prayer have explored the depth of these words and what they reveal to us about Christ’s innermost being. In essence, the Lord’s Prayer presents a summary of the whole gospel. It offers us insights into Jesus and His relationship with the Father and the divine treasures that are a part of the kingdom of God that Jesus preached. Such attention has been given to the Lord’s Prayer because it comes to us from the Lord Jesus, the master and model of prayer, and has been one of the most important prayers of our Church. It is one of the first prayers taught to us in religious education classes. It holds a very central place in our sacramental celebrations, and is recited in many public and private prayer experiences by many Christians around the world. This program identifies the structure of the Lord’s Prayer and clarifies the meaning of the petitions.

Introduce a speaker or the facilitator can read the following paragraphs with pauses in between.

Documentary Tradition

The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the seven petitions of the Lord’s Prayer. While each petition holds a rich treasure of divine wisdom, together they offer us the prayer style of Jesus by defining two different sets of petitions. The “Thy Petitions” and the “Us Petitions.” An analysis of these petitions reveal that the Lord’s Prayer is a parallel construction that brings us into communion with the Father and with the
Son, while at the same time revealing us to ourselves.

The three “Thy Petitions” can be found in the first part of the prayer. “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” The intent of these petitions is to worship and welcome the glory of God in heaven and the coming of the kingdom on earth. With God’s will being experienced on earth, each petition in some way addresses the reality and role of one of the three persons in the Trinity. To call upon the Father, whose name is hallowed, is indeed to call upon the almighty Father. Thy “kingdom come” is of the kingdom embodied by the Son of God made flesh, and “Thy will be done” is the reign of the Holy Spirit in the life of the world, church and individual lives. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2804)

The four “Us Petitions” have a different tone and expression. “Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. The “Us Petitions” contain the essence of all petitionary prayer. Reliance on God for sustenance, forgiveness, guidance and deliverance makes up the basic attitude of faith. These statements reveal the most necessary assistance in the most serious of life’s temptations. These petitions parallel the three temptations of Christ. Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread, to test God’s special love and protection for Him, and the promise of all earthly Kingdoms. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2805)

The Bible shows us the unique understanding that Jesus had of the Father. Its implication is not merely world shaking but world remaking. It is what defines Jesus’ message and teaching about the relationship that we are to have with God. In a unique way, the Our Father is a theological statement about relationship and interdependence that leaves humanity both loved and healed.

If time permits invite the small groups to share with the large group any insights that they gain from the group discussion, then read the Closing Reflection.

Closing Reflection
In summary, if we follow the order of the words in the Lord’s Prayer, we discover a wonderful rhythm, carrying with it a sense of completeness, vital and rousing in its unity and form. It becomes the merging of the two great worlds of divinity and humanity in the person of Jesus. This prayer lays the foundation for our image of the Body of Christ, whole, healed, and restored to the Father. 

Bibliography


Boost your club’s prayer life!
Let the Programs Manual: Call to Holiness amplify your members’ spiritual bond with thought-provoking club programs for any time of the year. Download it for FREE at: https://serraus.org/club-meetings-programs/. Don’t forget to download the Liturgical Calendar on the same page to help guide your club program choices by season.
How Do We Hear and Project Christ’s Voice?

At the Serra Rally in Ventura, California, last January, Fr. Ralph O’Donnell, the Executive Director of the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations at the USCCB gave a presentation titled, “My Sheep Hear My Voice and Follow Me: Vocational Discernment at Every Age.” Opening with the Scriptural text, John 10:22-27, in which Jesus continues His discourse as the Good Shepherd, Fr. O’Donnell’s talk focused on how the seed of a vocational call is planted at baptism and continually blossoms throughout one’s life, being fostered by family, friends, and mentors, who allow the voice of Christ, the Good Shepherd, to echo in their own.

Citing the “Preparatory Document for the Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment,” Fr. O’Donnell began his presentation by emphasizing the key role that the laity play in cultivating an environment that encourages fruitful vocational discernment. Highlighting the need for Serrans to be passionate men and women ignited by the flame of faith and love of Christ, Fr. O’Donnell challenged attendees to evaluate how they welcome people in their own lives, how they discuss important topics within their families, and how they balance the competing needs of their loved ones, particularly their spouses and children. It is in the midst of these day-to-day interactions that the child first learns of Christ, encounters Him, and is strengthened in the faith in order to respond generously to the Lord’s call for his or her life as they grow into adulthood.

Referring to Matthew 4:18-20, in which Jesus beckons Peter and Andrew to leave their boats and follow Him, Fr. O’Donnell reminded the audience that they too, by reason of their baptism, are called by Christ to live in the unity of the entire Church as members of Christ’s body. Each person, as a beloved son or daughter of God, has a vocation. Fr. O’Donnell stressed that the term “vocation” was expressed with a twofold meaning in the Instrumentum laboris for the Synod of Bishops XV Ordinary General Assembly on “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.” First, “vocation” can refer to the daily “yes” that one offers to the Lord; a simple surrender of love that permeates throughout one’s day so that every moment is a holy, living encounter with Jesus. The other use of the word refers to the distinct callings of ordained ministry, consecrated life, marriage, and the single state. However, regardless of the manner in which the Lord calls a person to serve Him, Fr. O’Donnell reminded the audience that their thoughts, words, and actions must always be informed by the life of Christ. Just as St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians, Christians are called to “put on the new self” and allow the voice of Christ, the Good Shepherd, to resound in their own.

Fr. O’Donnell continued his presentation by highlighting multiple qualities that can be found in a prospective candidate for the priesthood. These characteristics include: a personal relationship with God integrated through prayer, an ability/willingness to discuss the faith, a desire to serve others, an approachable demeanor, a sense of empathy and an ability to nurture, and an integrated psychosexual, social maturity that makes evident the candidate’s capacity to maintain healthy relationships and live a chaste, celibate life. Fr. O’Donnell encouraged Serrans to identify the men in their lives who exemplify these characteristics and personally invite them to consider a priestly vocation. Person-to-person communication is key, according to Fr. O’Donnell, and Serrans, by virtue of their service to the Church, and who they are as baptized Christians, can greatly encourage men to generously give of themselves in response to the Lord’s call. In these moments, the power of conversation cannot be underestimated, especially given the fact that during the Synod of Bishops, young people expressed their desire for a “less institutional and more relational Church.”

To conclude his talk, Fr. O’Donnell asked the listeners to ponder how they promote a culture of vocations in their daily lives. He encouraged them to reflect on how they speak of the ordained and the consecrated men and women who lay down their lives in service to the Church. All Christians, and especially Serrans, are called to echo the gentle, inviting voice of Christ, the Good Shepherd, as He beckons each person to “Come, follow me” (Matthew 4:19).
A fellow Serran whom I know well recently asked me an unusual and unexpected question, and it got me thinking quickly on my feet.

He asked, “What is the single most important message that you wish you could make to all Serrans?”

I had to repeat it a couple of times so as to get my brain cells focused on the question before blurting out a response. After a brief “Hmmm” or two and another repeat of the question, I said, “I wish that all Serrans would let their light shine brightly”

Matthew 5 verse 14 tells us: You are the light of the world. A city seated on a mountain cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but upon a candlestick, that it may shine to all that are in the house. So, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

In Serra, we have thousands of Serrans globally who pray daily for new priestly vocations and who work tirelessly for Serra and for our local Church. So what does it mean to us to “let our light shine before men”? As I reflected on this passage, it occurred to me that in order for Serra to grow and prosper and be relevant to our local Church today and in future generations, we can and we need to be visible in our Serra ministry in our own community.

Why? Because our “light” needs to be seen by other strongly Catholic men and women in our local Church, men and women who have a deep appreciation for the priesthood and religious life and who are concerned about having the sacraments and the Holy Eucharist readily available to our grandchildren and great grandchildren; men and women to carry on the work of planting seeds of a priestly vocation in our local community everywhere around the world; men and women who will pray for our priests everyday, so that they will remain faithful to the ministry that they have received. These are the men and women we need to attract to Serra, and being visible in vocation activities helps us to attract them.

Now that we have the “why,” how do we “let our light shine before men”?

Building a culture of vocations is not as easy as building a house, for there is a beginning but there is no end. It’s a continuous journey that we Serrans are on, a journey that has no end until we meet our Good Lord face to face.

As I reflected on this part, it dawned on me that the “how” part starts with Serra being relevant to our local Church. It seems to me that Serra is not per se “relevant” to our local Church, but rather, it is in what Serrans do in being of service to our local Church that Serra becomes relevant. It is in being of service in praying for our existing priests and planting the seeds of future priestly vocations that we “let our light shine upon men” and thereby being visible and relevant to our local Church. I therefore strongly encourage Serrans everywhere to assess their own “relevance” to their local Church, do the necessary by working with our chaplains, pastors, vocation directors and bishops, and through prayer and faithful service to our Church, help build and sustain a culture of vocations in our dioceses.

Now, building a culture of vocations is not as easy as building a house, for there is a beginning but there is no end. It’s a continuous journey that we Serrans are on, a journey that has no end until we meet our Good Lord face to face. That is why we need to attract other strongly Catholic men and women to Serra, men and women who have a deep appreciation for the priesthood and religious life and who are interested in working for vocations, to continue the work of Serra after our day is done.

OK so far, but how do we attract such men and women to Serra? Here are some helpful thoughts for your reflection:

Be the first to step up and support your club’s vocation activities and those of your vocation director and bishop. Serrans need to be at the forefront of all vocation activities in our diocese.

Work together with other Serrans and Serra clubs to make Serra more visible in your local community, and thereby help to make Serra stronger for future generations. “More hands make work light,” as the saying goes, and together we are better in promoting the priesthood in favorable light.

Robert Schuller wrote a book entitled If It’s Going to Be,
It’s up to Me and I recall one past president of Serra International often saying that too. There is a lot to ponder over in that saying.

Always be the first to support Serrans who are doing their best to promote Serra.

Always be the first to support your local priests in whatever manner they may need to help them carry out their priestly duties. Those efforts will not be forgotten.

Make every Serra vocation activity better with your full participation and support. Failure in such activities is not an option for us Serrans. It just cannot be. We must be up-front and center and ready to go at the instant that our support is needed. In fact, do not wait to be called for support. Be there waiting with “shovel in hand,” ready to work in whatever way that Serra and the priesthood need our help in planting the seeds of a future vocation to the priesthood and religious life.

Remember that what we have accomplished is in the past. It is looking in the rear-view mirror. We need to keep our eyes open and focused on the road ahead.

Do not let any opportunity to be of greater service to our Good Lord’s Church pass you by. Lost opportunities are just that: Lost opportunities to succeed in being of greater service to our local Church. Lost opportunities to build the kingdom of God here on earth, in our own back yard.

Despite our failings, Serra has come this far. Did we collectively really try that hard to build Serra? I am constantly left with the nagging feeling that despite my efforts, I could have tried harder to build Serra and to build the kingdom of God here on earth. Imagine then what Serra would have looked like, if all of us in Serra tried much harder… Imagine over 15,000 Serrans shining their light brightly in their own communities all over the world for all to see: being close to our bishops, vocation directors, seminary rectors, priests and local Serra chaplains, planting vocation seeds…and storming heaven with daily prayers for our priests and for more priestly vocations.

“We must become fire,” says His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Episcopal Adviser for Serra International. “Every priestly vocation begins at the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-12) in the presence of the majesty and the mystery of God. A vocation is not a career, but a personal call to the service of the Lord God and of his people. It is sublime, and it is divine. Profound awareness of the majesty of the Lord who calls us must penetrate to the depths of our souls,” Cardinal Collins said. He also said we all need to be totally consumed by the “Apostolic fire” and “Pentecostal fire” so that we may be able to carry out our own mission in life. Just imagine what Serra would look like if all Serrans would be totally consumed by the fire that comes from the Holy Spirit!

In closing, my wish for all Serrans is to “let our light shine for all to see.” Be the first to volunteer everywhere that the work of Serra is needed, and every time when we can be of greater service to our local Church.

Imagine what Serra would look like if all Serrans tried much harder to be of greater service to our Church. And imagine what it would feel like to meet Christ down the road, being able to say in all honesty, “Here I am Lord, I tried my hardest.”

Thank you for all that you do for Serra, and for our Church! 🙏

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Join us in a monthly international prayer of the Rosary, via conference call! At 8:00 a.m. Central Time (-6:00GST) on the last Saturday of every month, Serrans worldwide gather to recite the Rosary for vocations.

**Upcoming Rosary dates for 2019:**
- April 27, 2019
- May 25, 2019
- June 29, 2019
- July 27, 2019

To join from your computer, tablet or smartphone, go to:
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/31431598
Putting the Urgency of Our Mission into Perspective

The Serran | Vol. 65 No. 4

There is no more important way to serve our Church at the present time than to carry out the Serra Mission. As we move forward, I want to challenge each of you to recommit to our beautiful ministry and accept that you have been chosen. Serra’s work has always been important, but it is especially important now with the scandal rocking our Church. Many good priests and religious have been unfairly tarred and they need our support. Pope Francis and our bishops are telling us that the Church need Serrans.

I want to share with you some words from my son, Bishop Andrew. (See full text on page 7.)

“I want to impress on you how important your work is at this difficult time. Many people ask me how they can help the Church. Our fidelity is the best way we can do this, especially fidelity to supporting the many holy and faithful priests, religious and seminarians we have. Now more than ever, we need the Lord to raise up an army to strengthen His Church and spread the Gospel. The prayer, fasting and service you do as Serrans, for the sake of vocations, is essential to this work.”

For those who attended the Serra Rally in Ventura, you know it was a great experience with inspiring talks. If you did not attend, you still have a chance to experience the wisdom shared on the serraus.org website. I pray you will use these resources to encourage you in our Serra Mission.

Cardinal Collins, our Episcopal Adviser for Serra International, was with us for all three days of the Rally. His attendance and participation showed his great support for our work and his desire to encourage us in carrying out our mission. Cardinal Collins reminded us that all our Serra work should have two essential elements: We should start with prayer and move to action. Sometimes people tell us, “I will just pray for vocations, I do not need to be a Serran.” Prayer is only part of the mission; it needs to be followed by action and that is best done by Serrans.

As a grandparent and a Serran, I was amazed at the information provided by Christina Lamas, Executive Director of the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers, about Generation Z. She gave us hints on how we should interact with the present generation of young people who are the first totally digital generation. She pointed out the power we have and how we can use it.

Father Hutton, a former vocation director, shared that he tells young men that many are called to be seminarians and it may also be that God and the Church will call some to be priests. When we are encouraging young men and women to enter the seminary or the novitiate, we need to assure them that this is a time of discernment. When a young person discerns out of the seminary or convent, we need to thank them for taking time to discern. There should be no fear in going; time in formation is a gift to the Church whether used in a religious vocation or later in lay ministry.

The “Red Letter Membership Campaign” was introduced at the Serra Rally and you should have all received your copy a while back. I want to stress how important it is that we increase our membership to have more workers to carry out our mission. We have a great ministry and sharing this with other faithful Catholics is a gift to them. Please take this challenge of bringing in new members seriously and work to increase the number of soldiers in our army.

You are not a Serran by accident—the Lord has called all of us to be his hands and feet in carrying out the Serra Mission.

Putting the Urgency of Our Mission into Perspective

Judy Cozzens, President, Serra’s National Council for the United States

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You are not a Serran by accident—the Lord has called all of us to be his hands and feet in carrying out the Serra Mission. With that challenge, there are many questions. We wonder if we can do what is needed or why the Lord has given us the job. There are times it hard to say “Yes,” but Serrans must discover the courage to carry out the work. When we are tired, we need to ask the Lord to help us find the energy to accept the challenge before us. We must beg the Lord to help us all to realize we have been called to serve in this way and help us to formulate new plans to carry out the Serra Mission. We have a battle before us; we need to strengthen and increase the army working for religious vocations.

Putting the Urgency of Our Mission into Perspective

Judy Cozzens, President, Serra’s National Council for the United States

You are not a Serran by accident—the Lord has called all of us to be his hands and feet in carrying out the Serra Mission.
Over the years, I have seen and read a number of articles on recruiting and retention. I like to take great ideas, make them my own and put them into practice. Sometimes all I need do is change some wording to protect the innocent, or guilty, or even me. I wish I could say the below 12 Common Sense Steps for Membership Recruiting and Retention were all my idea, but that would not be true. It’s like an old safety saying: “There are no new accidents, just new faces.” Therefore, I need to give credit to some of those organizations and orders I belong to like the Military, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Boy Scouts of America and the Order of St. Lazarus to name a few.

Please review the 12 steps below and put them into practice, if not already doing so, to help our Serra International President, Mario Biscardi, attain his M-E-M-B-E-R-S-H-I-P objective.

1. Be honest and transparent when sending out material to attract new members. Educate the younger generation by conveying to them what you have accomplished locally, nationally and internationally. Ensure that their needs stay at the forefront of the discussion. Show them that you are making a difference. Let them know about your whole organization, not just a narrow scope of membership and money.

2. Treat everyone equally. It is not just a men’s only organization anymore.

3. Update club activities and select programs that would appeal to all.

4. The more seasoned Serrans have life experience and perhaps a different frame of reference. But we should never think that the younger generation is any different. As a leader, I’ve always welcomed new ideas from everyone, and the younger Serrans are full of ideas, just as we were at that age. Embrace their energy and let them share their ideas about improving your club; you will be pleasantly surprised with the innovative ideas that they come up with. Be open to these new ideas.

5. Welcome all at your club meetings. When you see someone new walk in, welcome them with open arms, make them feel like they are part of your club and have found new family and friends.

6. Keep your meetings short and to the point.

7. If you have younger Serrans at your club, assign them a task during the meeting and ask them to work with the membership to complete it. Get them involved in the administration of your club and encourage their involvement. The younger generation, especially, the millennials, like to solve problems by working and teaming with a group. This is a prime opportunity for the club leadership to mentor those younger Serrans.

8. Be patient.

9. Have Serrans recommend potential speakers at your meetings. This is just another way to let them know that their input is important and welcomed.

10. Don’t be afraid to work with other Serra clubs and Catholic organizations within your community. Build a strong support network for all Serrans.

11. Promote your club through the use of media. Let the community see Serrans in action. Make sure the people in your community know that you are Serrans and that anyone interested in supporting Vocations has a way to contact the club.

12. Talk the talk and walk the walk.

In closing, don’t forget that if the Red Envelope you received just sits around somewhere and gathers dust then we lost another great opportunity to make Serra a world class organization. Remember we are all recruiters and retainers for Serra and we need you all now more than ever. Take care and God Bless.

Col. John J. Halloran, Jr.,
Vice President,
USA Membership

Have you received YOUR Red Envelope from USA Council President Judy Cozzens? If not, email Nicole Klees at nklees@serrainternational.org to request one.
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