



SERRA CLUB of PORTLAND BULLETIN

Serra Club 3 / District 1S / Pacific Northwest Region
www.serraportland.org

SERRAN CALENDAR

Sun, Feb 1 - World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, 11 AM Mass, St. Mary's Cathedral

Wed, Feb 4 11 AM Board Meeting
Noon Serra Meeting
Speaker: Melliza Palazo
The 2026 Serra Club Rally

Wed, Feb 18 Noon Mass
Ash Wednesday
Serra Meeting
Speaker: TBA

Wed, Mar 4 11 AM Board Meeting
Noon Serra Meeting
Speaker: TBA

Wed, Mar 18 Noon Mass
Serra Meeting
Speaker: Sr. Angelicah Njuguna, SMK
Ministry & Programs of SMK

Serra Chaplain's Message

I recently had the privilege of attending the 2026 SEEK Conference in Denver, Colorado, hosted by FOCUS College Missionaries. I attended alongside Dawn Bentz from the vocations office, two of our seminarians, Fr. Randy Hoang, and—most notably—Archbishop Sample.

One evening, I witnessed what I can only describe as a small miracle. Archbishop Sample was addressing approximately sixty seminarians from across the country at an outdoor bar-and-grill venue. The space was far from ideal for reflection: loud music was playing, and four large televisions displayed four different football games. As he often does, Fr. Randy quickly went to ask the staff to turn off the music. Even before everything was quiet, something remarkable began to unfold.

During the first ten minutes of the Archbishop's address, I carefully observed the seminarians. Despite the noise and the flashing screens—distractions that might easily command attention—every single one of those men remained fully focused on the Archbishop. Not one glance drifted toward the televisions. Not one seemed tempted away by the surrounding spectacle. They were completely captivated by his words.

This struck me deeply. Most of these men have grown up in a generation saturated with constant media and distraction from their earliest years. And yet, in that forty-five-minute encounter with a successor of the Apostles—a bishop shepherding one of the most unchurched regions of the United States—they listened with a rare and profound attentiveness.

In that moment, it was clear that they were hearing more than a speech. They were hearing the voice of Christ speaking through the voice of His bishop, a voice strong enough to pierce through the noise of our modern world.

The Lord is calling men into His vineyard—and they are beginning to listen.

*Fr. Peter Julia, Vocation Director
Chaplain, Portland Serra Club*

Serra Club of Portland

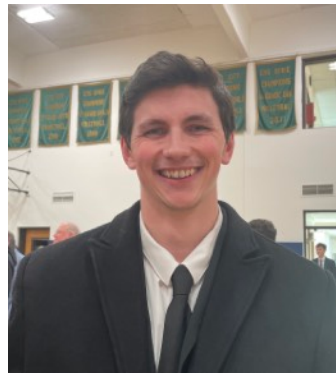
- President [Melliza Palazo](#)
- Past President [Paul Harris](#) 503-657-4614
- VP Programs [Susan Gallagher](#)
- VP Vocations [Melliza Palazo](#)
- Secretary [Christy Uhrich](#)
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- VP Membership [Dan Jones](#) 503-645-2172
- Webmaster [Lynn Jones](#)
- Treasurer [Ed O'Hanlon](#) - for Serra business:
847 NE Floral Pl, Portland OR 97232
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Congratulations, Archbishop Alexander Sample!

On the 20th Year Anniversary of Your Ordination as a Bishop on Jan 25, 2006, in Marquette, Michigan

The Archdiocese of Portland celebrated the anniversary of the episcopal ordination of Archbishop Alexander Sample with a beautiful Mass and reception at St. Mary's Cathedral on January 25, 2026. During the homily Archbishop Sample remarked that we are called to come together and to be one in the Lord in the mission of the Church and to break down the divisions among us. People are longing for purpose in their lives and the numbers of those entering the Catholic Church is growing. That is good news indeed!



Above from left to right: Sr. Therese Gutting, FSE, Archbishop Alexander Sample, Sr. Paula Jean Miller, FSE, Seminarian Caleb Peltzer from the Diocese of Fresno, Fr. Randy Nguyen, Archbishop Sample with his sister Marty.

Below, from left to right, Seminarians David Jablonski, Michael Boltri, Andrew Seeber, Beto Montes-Contreras, Gerardo Perez Roblero, Serran Gail Wilhelms and Vince Vanzuylen, seminarians from our Archdiocese of Portland.



World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

Feb 2, 2026 - Candlemas Day



As World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is on a Monday this year, the Archdiocese of Portland honored our consecrated with a Mass on Sunday, February 1st at St. Mary's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland. In attendance were the Benedictine monks from Mount Angel, Holy Spirit Sisters, Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, Society of Mary Sisters, Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows, Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, and other religious sisters, plus Consecrated Virgins, and three consecrated priests, a Jesuit, Holy Cross and Dominican representing their communities.

Bishop Smith spoke of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and how each consecrated community reflects their own unique spirituality, giving strength to their members to fulfill their mission in the Church and radiate the love of Christ in all that they do.

In conclusion, Sister Veronica Schueler invited all consecrated in attendance to a special luncheon sponsored by the Serra Club of Portland. May the Lord bless abundantly those who consecrate their lives to to our Lord and increase their numbers!



Celebrating Consecrated Life

We give thanks to God for all the consecrated within our archdiocese. Our lives have been enriched by the witness of consecrated men and women in the Church throughout the years. The World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life was instituted by Pope St. John Paul II in 1997. Several parishes in Portland will hold special Candlemas services on Monday, February 2nd, including St. Stephen Parish, 1112 SE 41st Ave, at 7 pm with a sung High Mass in Latin, a procession before Mass, and a blessing of candles.

Below are photos taken during the luncheon held to honor our consecrated. Our thanks go out to Melliza Palazo who organized the luncheon, and Valeria Rodriguez and Dr. Mia Thomas who helped out with the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Mar 8-14 Catholic Sisters Week
- Apr 5 Easter
- Apr 26 World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- May 1 Religious Brothers Day
- July 9-12 83rd International Serra Convention Indianapolis, Indiana
- Jun 12 World Day of of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests
- June 20 Priestly Ordination
- July 1 St Junipero Serra
- Aug 10-13 Quo Vadis Days
- Sep 27 Priesthood Sunday
- Oct 11 Kevin van Hoomissen Honorary Sisters' Appreciation Luncheon
- Nov 1-7 National Vocation Awareness Wk



Serra President's Message

I am so blessed and truly grateful to have attended the 2026 U.S. Serra Leadership Rally in St. Louis, Missouri. It was a grace-filled experience that strengthened my understanding of how the Holy Spirit works through every Serran to foster and promote vocations to the priesthood, religious, and consecrated life.

As the Archbishop of St. Louis, Most Reverend Mitchel T. Rozanski, reminded us: "As you know, the work of fostering vocations is ongoing and requires the participation of all the faithful. Serra Clubs across the world are vital to that work and often provide the energy, prayers, and resources to aid the local Church, to accompany our youth, to hear and answer the call to follow JESUS. For that, the entire Church is grateful!"

In the days ahead, I look forward with great joy to sharing with you the many good works being undertaken by our fellow Serrans across the world, all for the greater glory of God and the flourishing of vocations.

*Melliza Palazo
President, Portland Serra Club*

Reflections from January 7 Serra Meeting : **Adopt-a-Seminarian**

Serrans: Mary Asmus, Melliza Palazo, Dan Jones

Melliza Palazo, President of the Serra Club of Portland, talked about the Adopt-a-Seminarian program and gave out cards, each with a photo of a seminarian, information about his favorite books, devotions, saints, hobbies and the inspiration which moved him to consider the priesthood as a vocation. Serran members were encouraged then to adopt one of these seminarians. Mary and Bruce Asmus shared with all present their experience with the program:

"My husband, Bruce, and I took part in the "Adopt a Seminarian" program when we moved to Portland and joined Serra Club. We met a young man at a Serra luncheon who was discerning. Bruce told him we would pray for him in his discernment phase. When he entered the seminary and we were offered the opportunity to "adopt-a-seminarian", we chose him. Through his years of formation we prayed for him daily. We sent him birthday cards, and took him out to breakfast or lunch a few times a year. We are kind of far from the seminary but when he was in Portland once, we had him over for dinner. We visited him in his summer assignments over the years, and often brought him or sent him some of my oatmeal cookies that he loves. We were blessed to attend his ordination to the Diaconate, and then his ordination to the Priesthood. We continue to keep in touch with occasional emails and cards, and we pray for his perseverance."

Dan Jones outlined the Adopt-a-Seminarian program, considered one of the 7 greats, the first of several activities included in **SPARK (Serra Promotion and Resource Kit.)**

To learn more about what you can do in your parish, go to: <https://serraspark.org/the-7-greats/>

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

2/5 Rev. Secil Raj Savarimuthu, HGN
 2/11 Rev. Patrick Hannon, CSC
 2/17 Rev. Richard Berg, CSC

BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

2/3 Rev. Edmund Smith, OSB
 Rev. Peter O'Brien
 2/4 Rev. Jean Bernard Dubos, OJSS
 Rev. Thomas Aquinas Pickett, OP
 2/6 Rev. Piotr Dzikowski, S.CH
 Rev. Jack Krouse, SJ
 2/8 Most Rev. Peter Smith
 2/9 Rev. James Ladd
 2/10 Rev. Peter Phong Nguyen, SDD
 2/12 Rev. Martin Grassel, OSB
 Rev. Sean Weeks
 2/13 Rev. James Rigert, CSC
 2/14 Rev. Michael Biewend
 Rev. Paul Ybarra, CSC
 2/15 Rev. John Boyle
 Rev. Michael Kueber
 2/16 Rev. Daniel Thomas Harris, MMJMJ
 2/17 Rev. Francesco DePuydt, OJSS
 2/19 Rev. Philip Waibel, OSB
 2/21 Msgr. Donald Buxman
 2/23 Rev. Rito Guzman, MSpS
 2/24 Rev. Anthony Hoangphan
 2/25 Rev. Jegathesh Thiru Selvam, HGN
 2/27 Rev. Peter Do, OP
 2/28 Rev. John Paul Le, OSB



SISTERS FEAST DAYS

2/5 Sr. Agatha Radoli, OCD
 Sr. Agatha Thuy Hang Tran, MTG
 Sr. M. Agatha Ying, OSF
 2/6 Sr. Dorothy Pulkka, OSB
 Sr. Dorothy Rausch, OSB
 Sr. Christine Rausch, OSB
 Sr. Regina Rausch, OSB
 2/10 Sr. Diana Jean Neumayer, SSMO
 2/11 Sr. Marie Bernadette George, SSMO
 Sr. Bernadette Marie Nguyen, OSF
 2/18 Sr. M. Regis Chan, OSF
 2/21 Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer, OSB

Anniversary of Monastic Profession:

Sisters Dorothy and Christine Rausch - 74th
 Sister Regina Rausch - 71st

BIRTHDAYS

2/7 Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer, OSB
 2/8 Sr. Joyce Green, SP
 Sr. Mary Thuan Pham, MTG
 2/12 Sr. Barbara Schamber, SP
 2/14 Sr. Dorothy Pulkka, OSB
 2/28 Sr. Therese Gutting, FSE

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and
 let perpetual light shine upon him.*



Rev. Joseph McMahon

May 24, 1942 - Dec 10, 2025

Support Vocations! Send a card ~ Say a Prayer
 Let them know

WE CARE!

Link to:
[Oregon Catholic Directory](#)

News from the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon

- 1) The Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon will be kicking off the 140th anniversary of the founding of their congregation in March, 2026.
- 2) The Sisters have been inviting various parish schools, parish youth groups and others to come to their beautiful and busy 43 acre campus for tours and an introduction to their SSMO history.
- 3) As part of Catholic Schools Week, Valley Catholic, has invited the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon to share the SSMO story, provide a day of Faith Formation for our faculty and celebrate with students pre-kindergarten through the 12th grade.

For more information, go to ssmo.org

Reflections from January 21 Serra Meeting :

Spiritual Journey of a Consecrated Virgin

Miriam Marston, Director of Faith Formation, St. Anthony Parish



Originally from Alexandria, Virginia, Miriam Marston is a Portland-based writer, speaker and musician. She has released several albums and books, and has presented a variety of topics pertaining to Christian life and culture. From 2020-2024, she hosted the weekly show “Blazing the Trail” on Mater Dei radio. Miriam serves as the Director of Faith Formation at St. Anthony’s in Tigard. Prior to that, she served as the coordinator for the Institute for Catholic Life & Leadership at the Archdiocese of Portland. After receiving her MA in Theology and Ministry from Boston College in 2010, she worked for the Theological Institute at St. John’s Seminary in Boston until 2013. Prior to her graduate studies, she lived and worked in Oxford, UK and then moved to Boston, where she worked in the canon law office for the Archdiocese of Boston. She studied history and religion at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. One of her greatest joys is being an aunt to 7 wonderful nieces and nephews, who live in Tigard, OR, and Neufchâtel, Switzerland. She is fluent in French and will happily watch many hours of soccer in her spare time. Miriam was consecrated by Archbishop Sample in 2020, and she is so grateful to live out the vocation of consecrated virginity in the Archdiocese of Portland.

Miriam Marston was raised by a Catholic mother and a Presbyterian father, who later converted to Catholicism. Her parents moved to her mother’s homeland of France. She has a brother who lives in Switzerland and a sister who lives across the street from her here in the Portland area. When she was growing up, her family went to church and the children attended Catholic school. She and her siblings had always assumed they were baptized as Catholics. When her sister needed records for her marriage in the Catholic Church, they discovered they had been baptized in the Methodist Church.

They were raised to be aware of the world and creation. At the age of 12, she saw a sunset in France that was so beautiful, she had her first thought that something or someone had created that beauty. She hadn’t yet developed a strong sense of faith. What had kept her connected to the church up to that point was being in the choir since the 3rd grade. Her mother was a professional singer and music was a big part of family life.

During her freshman year in college, she drifted away from the practice of going to Sunday Mass. In 2001 the suicide of a cousin and 9/11 caused her to have an existential crisis, wondering if there is a God. Her mother gave her the book, Mere Christianity, by C. S. Lewis, which helped bring her to the knowledge that God was real and loved her. She studied some different religions to find the God she wanted to follow. She came to realize that Jesus was always with her in her lowest moments, and that He was the God she wanted to follow. In the beginning, as she began to experience the presence and love of God, she felt like it was an experience of falling in love. She began to discern a consecrated life, feeling drawn to the idea of celibacy. She moved back home for awhile and became aware of the Daughters of St. Paul who had a store nearby. She was intrigued by the religious life and spent time with them. While discerning what to do with her life, she moved to Oxford, England for awhile. From there she moved to Boston where she first heard of the vocation of consecrated virginity. She tried dating but realized her heart wasn’t in it. She finally realized what the Lord was calling her to do.

It was another 10 years before she was consecrated. To be consecrated, a woman has to show she has lived the consecrated life style for a time. She moved to Portland and, while working for the diocese, was consecrated along with another woman by Archbishop Sample on May 24, 2020 with almost no one present at the Mass because it was the time of Covid.

A consecrated virgin is not required to work for the church, although Miriam does work for the diocese. She currently is the Director of Faith Formation at St. Anthony’s Parish in Tigard. She looks forward to opportunities that come up for her to witness to how God loves us. (Article written by Mary Asmus)

To learn more about the vocation of consecrated virginity, go to this link on [EWTN](#).