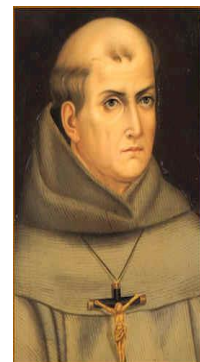




# REGION 12 NEWSLETTER

Martin Weber, Regional Director



Dear Serra Members,

I just returned from Serra's 74<sup>th</sup> International Convention held in St. Louis, Missouri. It was well attended with over 350 Serrans present from Italy, Africa, Mexico, Peru, Thailand, Mexico, Canada, as well as the United States. We were greeted at the airport by St. Louis Serrans who provided transportation to our hotel.

I attended the USA Council Board Meeting first thing on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We had previously provided a report of our Region 12 club activities. A copy of that report is included with this letter.

The opening Mass for the convention was held at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis called by Pope Paul VI "the outstanding Cathedral of the Americas." The church, built in the Byzantine tradition has soaring domes to a height of 143 feet, soffits, arches, pendentives and lunettes which are paved with brilliant mosaics. The 83,000 square feet of mosaic are created by twenty artists and installed over a period of seventy five years. The mosaics were created with over 41.5 million pieces of tesserae in more than 8,000 shades of color. I have never visited a church more richly decorated. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Robert Carlson of St. Louis.

Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Feast of St. Junipero Serra was a day of retreat starting with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction by Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas. This was followed by two great talks, the first by Auxiliary Bishop-emeritus of St. Louis, Robert Hermann. He spoke about the spiritual warfare being conducted by the Evil One against the church and Serrans. The devil does not want Serra to be successful in its mission, so he operates through well-meaning people by creating areas of dissension and animosity between its members to frustrate their good works. He emphasized the necessity of forgiveness and frequent confession.

Eucharistic Adoration was held 24 hours a day throughout the three day event and all time slots were filled. Confessions were heard from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. each day. I was greeted by my confessor when he noticed my name tag from the city of Spokane. He was a young boy in the 1940's living at Ft. George Wright in west Spokane where his father was the army doctor. He attended the 2006 International Convention in Spokane and was able to revisit the playground of his youth. He was glad to connect with someone from his former home town. Needless to say he put me very much at ease.

The second talk on July 1<sup>st</sup> was by Fr. Brett Brannen, a widely known powerful speaker and expert in priestly formation. He was a keynote speaker at the last Regional Convention held in Portland. His message was one of encouragement. He stated: I know all of you are worrying if there will be any priests for your children and grandchildren. This was followed by his total assurance that Christ will not leave us orphans, but will be with us to the end of times and will provide shepherds of his flock. Fr. Brannen is the author of several books including: *"To Save a Thousand Souls"* and *"A Priest in the Family: A Guide for Parents Whose Sons are Considering Priesthood"*.

He made a request of all Serrans to say the rosary daily and to pray for those priests who have been ministering to you as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> decade: Priest who baptized you
- 2<sup>nd</sup> decade: Priest for your first Confession and Eucharist
- 3<sup>rd</sup> decade: Bishop, priest who confirmed you
- 4<sup>th</sup> decade: Priest who married you
- 5<sup>th</sup> decade: Priest who will bury you

Mass on Friday July 1<sup>st</sup> was held in the Old Cathedral originally named as the Basilica of St. Louis IX, King of France which was dedicated on Oct. 26, 1834. The celebrant at Mass was Archbishop George Lucas, of Omaha Nebraska. The church was completely filled by Serrans. It is located less than one hundred yards from the base of the Gate Way Arch and two blocks from the convention hotel. A plaque on the face of the cathedral read:

1845

1945

“The first conference of the Society of Saint Vincent DePaul in the United States was organized here at this Venerable Cathedral one hundred years ago. The delegates of the society in convention assembled, Oct. 1, 1945 to place this tablet to commemorate the centennial of the foundation.

In 1831, two Nez Perce Indians from the tribe living along the Columbia River in Washington and two from the Flat-Head tribe in Montana were sent as a delegation to St. Louis for a missionary priest to dwell among them. They visited the Old Cathedral and attended divine services. Owing to a change of climate, they fell ill, were baptized on their deathbed and buried in the church cemetery. A second delegation was sent three years later in 1834 which resulted in Father Peter DeSmet S.J. coming to the Northwest and establishing the first Indian Mission. One of the mosaics in the new cathedral depicts the departure of Fr. Peter DeSmet S.J. in 1834 to serve the Indians of the Northwest. His pioneering spirit led to the establishment of Gonzaga University in Spokane in 1887.

Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Delegates Meeting was held to elect our own, Daniel Jones of the Portland Club, as President-elect of Serra International as well to consider the proposed eleven amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of Serra International. All of the amendments passed and in particular, Amendment 5, which mandates all clubs to pay United States Council dues assessed in the future in order to be in good standing with Serra International. Amendment 6 also passed which provides in part:

“Fifty percent (50%) of International dues are payable on January 15 and the balance on July 15 of the same calendar year.” Serra International and United States Council dues are billed on the same billing and payable at the same time.

Discussion was held concerning the filing of the 990 forms with the IRS by all club treasurers. We were informed that any club having difficulty with this process may contact the Chicago office and they will refer you to the CPA used by the Chicago office. He has been doing the necessary filings for a fee of approximately \$50.00 which is to be paid by the club requesting the services.

All clubs were requested to refer to their Program Manuals for spiritual activities needed to promote and develop holiness of all members. It was suggested to hold club meetings on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

The closing Mass with principal celebrant Most Reverend Nicolas Djomo, Bishop of Tshumbe and President of the Democratic Republic of Congo Catholic Conference of Bishops was held in the convention hotel. The bishop in his homily warned us that the age of the comfortable Catholic is over. We are under persecution on many fronts. If you hold grudges, you are an impediment to vocations.

At the conclusion of the Annual Banquet, Executive Director John Liston stated that he felt this was the best International Convention he had ever attended. I had to agree that we have returned to our mission of educating and encouraging personal holiness as a necessary step to promoting vocations. I wish all of you could have shared in the rewards that I experienced at this convention.

Please start planning now for the 75<sup>th</sup> International Convention in Rome on June 22-25, 2017 when Dan Jones will be installed as President of Serra International.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Martin G. Weber*  
*Region 12 Director*

## **REGION 12 DIRECTOR'S REPORT – June 2016**

### **Martin G Weber, Regional Director**

Region 12 is the birthplace of the Serra Movement in 1935 and the site of the incorporation of Serra International as a legal entity. The Region contains 13 Serra Club with a total membership at this time of 545. The past year brought an increase of 10% in the membership status due primarily to the chartering of the new Tualatin Valley, Oregon Serra Club of 33 members.

Four clubs celebrated significant anniversaries of their charter. They are:

|              |          |                            |
|--------------|----------|----------------------------|
| Seattle, WA  | 81 years | Chartered on Feb. 27, 1935 |
| Spokane, WA  | 79 Years | Chartered on May 22, 1937  |
| Portland, OR | 79 Years | Chartered on June 19, 1937 |
| Everett, WA  | 75 years | Chartered on June 17, 1941 |

Seven of the Clubs increased their membership, three clubs maintained their number of members, and three clubs lost members.

Two of the Clubs, Eastside King County and Hispanic Club of Renton, WA have not paid their dues to Serra International and United States Serra Council for a period of four years. As a result, both of these clubs are on the list to lose their charters at the Serra International Convention in St. Louis. Continuing efforts are being made to bring them into compliance with their dues payment to avoid the loss of their respective charters.

The Region has four clubs in formation. They are as follows:

#### **District 1-N**

Bellingham, WA - no firm charter date has been set  
St. Stephen the Martyr, Renton, WA - no charter date

#### **District 1-E**

Blue Mountain, Walla Walla, WA Charter date Sept. 15, 2016  
North Idaho, Coeur d'Alene, ID Charter date Sept. 17, 2016

### **VOCATION ACTIVITIES**

The vocations activities of the various clubs within Region 12 are set forth as follows:

#### **District 1-E**

##### **Spokane Club**

Attendance at First Friday Mass with Seminarians  
Welcome back Dinner with Seminarians for Fall Semester  
Quo Vadis days of discernment for potential seminarians  
Vocare, days of discernment for women religious  
Clergy Appreciation Social and Dinner  
Sisters Appreciation Brunch  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Vocations  
Hosting reception following ordinations  
Five Star Program with emphasis on Club 31

##### **Tri Cities Club**

Vocare Days are supported for both Spokane and Yakima Diocese  
Clergy Appreciation Dinner  
Quo Vadis Days for both the Spokane and Yakima Diocese

### **Tri Cities Club**

Financial contributions to Seminarians of both Diocese  
Five Star Program within parishes

### **District 1-N**

All clubs in this District share responsibility of putting on the Quo Vadis Days for the Seattle Archdiocese. as well as the Priests Appreciation dinner . In addition, the clubs have the following individual programs:

#### **Edmonds Club**

School children letters to seminarians  
Holy Hour for vocations

#### **St. Thomas More, Lynwood Club**

Traveling Cross Program

#### **Everett Club**

Priest Appreciation Dinner

#### **Cascade Club**

Traveling Cross Program  
First Friday mass for Vocations

#### **Seattle Club**

Sisters Appreciation Dinner  
Seminarian Mass and luncheon

### **District 1- S**

#### **Tualatin Valley Club**

This club was just chartered less than nine months, but hosted a Vocation Workshop presented by Rhonda Gruenwald for people of the Western Oregon area.

Joined with the Portland Club in hosting the Seminarian Dinner for the Portland Archdiocese and will help with Deacons/Wives Christmas event

#### **Columbia River Club**

Held its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Vocation Mass and dinner attended by 450 people consisting of families with their children, priests, seminarians, sisters, novices, Archbishop Peter Sartain and Serrans. This event supports vocations in the Archdiocese of Seattle, specifically Quo Vadis Days in which the club members are active participants

#### **Salem -Keizer Club**

This club has lost many members due to transfers and is now down to 9 members. They are attempting to start the Club 31 program in their area. Currently they are distributing prayer cards for both priests and seminarians.

#### **Portland Club**

Sisters Brunch  
Priest's Appreciation Dinner  
Permanent Deacon/Wives Appreciation Dinner  
Archdiocese Seminarian Dinner  
Quo Vadis Days  
Vocation Rally for approximately 800 Fifth Graders  
Neumann College Connection  
Adopt-A-Seminarian Program  
Parish Vocation through 5 Star Program Diocesan wide