



Statue of St. Junipero Serra, Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa

# SERRA CLUB of PORTLAND BULLETIN

## President's Message



Greeting fellow Serrans.

This year is almost over and this will be the last newsletter of 2020! As we all know it has been a challenging year for businesses and other organizations. As I sat down to read the Oregonian on Monday, November 9, my eye caught the headline on the front page, "After 101 years, the Kiwanis Club of Portland disbands" ( <https://portlandoregonian-or.newsmemory.com/?publink=0cf6aa22e> ). I was a bit taken aback and was saddened by the news. Most of us know that the Serra Club was conceived based on the success of other charitable organizations such as the Kiwanis Club. I suggest you all take a few minutes to read the article because it is a fate that we need to avoid at all costs. Kiwanis clubs raised money to help the city and those in it, indeed a worthy cause. However, our mission is laser focused on promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The Serra Club is a vital link in the effort to recruit new discerners and to encourage those who have chose to become priests and religious. I dare to say it is bedrock for our faith. Without priests we have no Eucharist and the Eucharist is what nourishes us.

We can be sure our mission will continue if we are faithful in our commitment to our faith and to promoting our cause. Prayer is first and foremost for all of us to continue even though we are not meeting as a group.

In the Gospel reading for the Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary time we learned of the 10 virgins who were awaiting the bridegroom. They had to wait patiently for the bridegroom to appear. Five were prepared with extra oil for their lamps while the other five were not. When the bridegroom arrived the five wise virgins were rewarded by being able to attend the wedding feast. We must do the same, we must be prepared, pray and be patient and we will be rewarded with many more years of service to the Church through the priesthood and consecrated life.

As I write I can't help to think about how our first meeting will be a joyous gathering like the wedding feast in the Gospel with all of us coming together once again to celebrate those seminarians, priests and religious.

So, continue your prayers for our mission and please take time to thank God for our seminarians, clergy and religious and to keep them safe. Don't forget to encourage and thank them for their commitment to all of us and to God.

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!



Mary, Mother of Vocations, Pray for us.

E. Jeff Eirvin, President,  
Serra Club of Portland



Mark your 2021 calendars for:

**World Day for Consecrated Life SUNDAY, FEB 7**

**National Catholic Sisters Week MARCH 8-14**

**World Day of Prayer for Vocations APRIL 25**

### Did you know?

In 1994, the Holy Spirit Sisters came to the United States from Tanzania and resided with the SSMOs until 2001.



The S.S.M.O., which is the only religious community to be founded in Oregon, officially opened their convent in 1886...however, their organization had their roots well before that. They were once called the Sisters of the Precious Blood, and left Ohio in 1866, following the “Hoop Skirt Incident”. Fr Albrecht, the Sisters, and the community settled in St. Nazianz, Wisconsin, with the Oschwald Sisters. Three Sisters of the Precious Blood decided to remain there, eventually becoming the foundresses of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity in Manitowoc. Fr. Albrecht, parishioners, Sisters and Brothers, settled in Rush Lake, Minnesota.

In 1884, once again there was another dispute within the community following the death of Fr. Albrecht, whose body was secretly concealed and bound for Oregon on the train, along with 79 members of the community. They arrived at Union Station, Portland, then settled in Jordan. Two years later, several sisters left, staying with the monks at Mt Angel, eventually moving to the Marizell Convent in Sublimity. In 1889, Archbishop Gross began construction of St. Mary’s Orphanage in Beaverton and in 1891, the Sisters moved from Sublimity to help run the orphanage at the Archbishop’s request. In 1894, the Sisters’ first Motherhouse was built and Archbishop Gross dedicated the Motherhouse to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.



The Most Reverend  
William Hickley Gross  
C.Ss.R.

On August 22, 1905, the Community’s name, Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, was changed to Sisters of St. Mary. In 1926, the Congregation for Religious in Rome added “of Oregon” to the name of the Community, only used in canonical documents until the mid 1950’s, at which time the Community began to officially use the full title of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon.

At the periodic meetings — common among religious communities — the sisters elect new leaders and approve a document to guide the community during the next five years. The sisters also develop goals. This year, one objective, fittingly, was increased use of technology for carrying out the mission.

Following months of preparation, prayer and contemplation, the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon intended to meet in person for their chapter meeting March 21-28. The coronavirus scuttled that plan, but the Sisters adapted and held the gathering here in Oregon, using Zoom to meet with the facilitator in St Louis.

The sisters are teachers, parish workers, spiritual directors, agency executives and counselors, among other callings.

The new SSMO leaders, who were installed June 28, are: Sister Michael Francine Duncan, superior general; Sister Denise Klaas, vicar general; Sister Sara Goggin, general councilor; and Sister Rita Watkins, general councilor.

In what they call a direction statement, the sisters prayerfully look forward to the next five years. “Women of Vision: Welcoming All with Compassion and Joy” says the sisters commit themselves more deeply to their charism and mission “in order to live a more vibrant communal life.”

For a more complete read about their history, go to: <https://www.ssmo.org/our-history/>

## Once A Vocation Director Always a Vocation Director



Sister Charlene Herinckx, SSMO

About 35 years ago, my Community's leadership sent me to St. Louis University for a year of study in preparation for ministry as a Formation Director of our new members. One of the presenters was a vocation director who suggested how a Community's vocation director and formation director might work together. I sat there thinking "I never want to be a vocation director!"

Within 2 years I began serving as the SSMO Vocation Director while serving part-time in the Archdiocesan Vocation Office, which I did for seven years. I had the privilege of serving with Msgr. Dernbach, Fr. John Kerns, and Bishop Liam Cary – thanks to Cardinal Levada's decision to include a woman religious in the Archdiocesan Vocation Office. It was during that time that I became well acquainted with the Serra Club of Portland. I even asked the questions "Why are there no women Serrans?" I thoroughly enjoyed those seven years which were followed by a brief (4-year) return to education ministry.

What happened next was (and still is) astonishing to me. I was invited to interview for the position of Director of Programs and Projects at NRVC (National Religious Vocation Conference) in Chicago. Even more astonishing perhaps is the fact that the Superior General at the time said that I could not only go for the interview, but could accept the position if it was offered to me!

What followed was six years of vocation ministry at the national level. **Once A Vocation Director Always a Vocation Director!** Given the position title, I used my skills of planning and organizing to the max! And I really loved it! However, in 2005, as the Community was beginning the discernment for new leadership, my name surfaced repeatedly. I am grateful to this day that Br. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, the Executive Director of the NRVC at that time said to me, "As much as I would want you to stay at NRVC, you have to remember 'Community comes first.' I am a strong believer in that tenant! (This meant, of course, that when Br. Paul was elected to leadership and had to move to Rome, I repeated his wise words back to him!)

For the next five years, I served as a Council member and vocation director for my Community. **Once A Vocation Director Always a Vocation Director!** I loved the mix of the two roles! This was followed by two 5-year terms as the major superior of my Community during which time I appointed our first full-time vocation director, Sr. Michael Francine!

So now I am enjoying my Covid-altered sabbatical and am preparing to return to Chicago where I will again serve at the National Religious Vocation Office in the position of Director of Membership. I am excited; I am nervous. Many things have changed, including everyone on staff and how NRVC functions in the digital world. I will leave in early January and am praying for no snow at that time in Chicago. Please keep me in your prayers. **It's true: Once a vocation director, always a vocation director!**

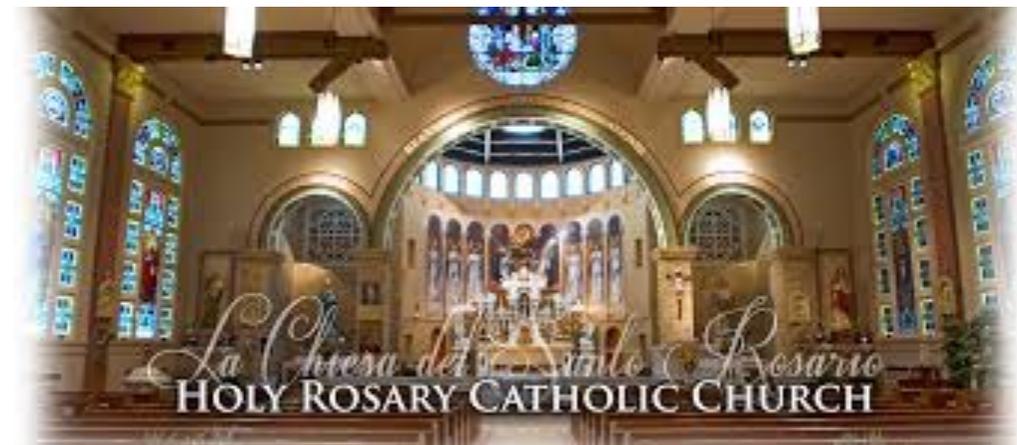
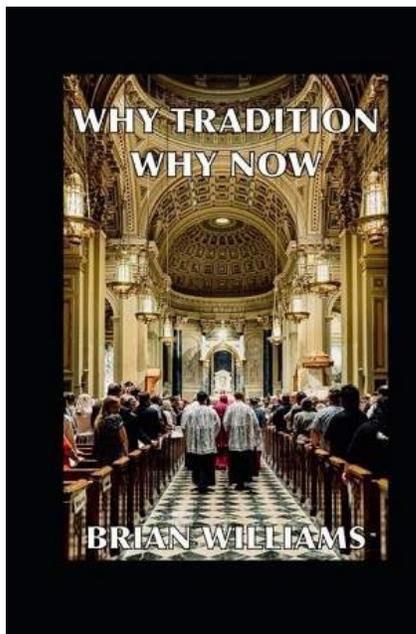
*Sister Charlene Herinckx, SSMO*



# The Dominicans

November/December 2020

*WE ARE PREACHERS*  
*Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ in the footsteps of St. Dominic*



Holy Rosary Church, staffed by the Dominican Friars of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

**Father Vincent Kelber, O.P. (Order of Preachers):** Holy Rosary Parish was founded in 1894 to, as one Archbishop stated it, “labor to build up and increase the worship of the Blessed Mother of our Lord Jesus.” This is what Holy Rosary has continued to do for over 120 years, administered by the Western Dominican Province. The church itself is the chapel of the Rosary Confraternity whose western offices are across the street. The Rosary Center's mission is to provide resources to help the faithful grow in their love of our Lord, the Blessed Mother, the Rosary and the Catholic Church.

Father Paul Duffner, O.P., at 98 years old, was still assigned to the Priory community of Friars, founded KBVM as a radio Rosary apostolate to broadcast the recitation of the Holy Rosary and provide catechesis, even before the founding of EWTN. Although a territorial parish, Holy Rosary has always served the wider Portland Metropolitan area. A great number of parishioners traveled 45 minutes or more each Sunday to attend Mass at the parish. Today, Holy Rosary has over 900 families on the parish rolls, who (would normally) fill the pews for six Masses every weekend. What’s more, (pre-Covid-19), many Catholics (would) drive from the areas around Portland for Mass, socializing, catechism, Bible classes and book groups.

Holy Rosary Parish has been the source of many vocations to the priesthood and religious life. While an official count needs to be taken, we would say that upwards of 30 men and women attribute at least part of their discernment to time spent at the church. Thankfully, there are also many young people currently in the parish discerning such a vocation. It should be added, that there are many married men and women who have found strength and inspiration for their vocation from the parish as well.

Religious orders nearly always appear in response to some crisis in the Church, and that was no different for the Order of Preachers. Between the 12th and 14th centuries, a heresy known as Catharism spread throughout much of southern Europe. Dominic de Guzman, a Spanish priest, encountered the Catharists in France while traveling with Diego d’Azevedo, the Bishop of Osma. After spending the night in conversation with a confused innkeeper, Dominic became enflamed with zeal to convert the Catharists back to the Catholic faith.

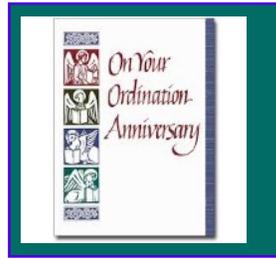
The Catharists taught that all of reality was the result of a conflict between a good god and an evil god. The good god was seen as having created the spiritual realm, and the bad god as having created all physical matter. According to the Catharists, all physical matter was evil, including the human body, which was thought of as a prison for the soul. This was in direct contradiction to the true Christian faith which professed belief in one God who created all things and “saw that it was good.”

Dominic, inspired by his love of God and neighbor, sought the permission of the Holy Father to combat the heresy of Catharism. Joined by the Bishop of Osma and a small group of priests, he received a mandate from Pope Innocent III in 1205 to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of souls. More than 800 years later, Dominicans imitate their founder by preaching the true Catholic faith for the salvation of souls. Saint Dominic, pray for us.

# BIRTHDAYS



- 12/01 Rev. Richard Berg, CSC
- 12/02 Rev. John Kerns
- 12/04 Rev. Msgr. Richard Huneger
- 12/05 Rev. Manuel Becerra-Peñaranda
- 12/06 Rev. Jeffrey Schneibel, CSC
- 12/07 Rev. Donald Durand
- 12/09 Rev. James Dowd
- Rev. George Kuforiji
- Rev. Kenneth Olsen
- Rev. Zani Pacanza
- 12/10 Rev. Manuel Becerra-Peñaranda
- 12/14 Rev. Brent Crowe
- 12/15 Rev. Mariano Escano
- 12/16 Rev. Gregory Moys
- 12/27 Rev. Timothy Furlow
- 12/28 Rev. Henry Guillen-Vega
- 01/01 Rev. Paul Peri
- Rev. David Zegar
- 01/10 Rev. Fred Anthony
- 01/10 Rev. Hans Mueller
- 01/11 Rev. Brian Allbright
- 01/12 Rev. Tetzal Umingli
- 01/13 Rev. Scott Baier
- Rev. Stephen Stobie
- 01/15 Rev. Stephen Geer
- 01/16 Rev. Msgr. John Cihak
- 01/18 Rev. Mark Ontiro Gikenyi
- 01/20 Rev. David Cullings
- Rev. Stephen Fister
- 01/23 Rev. Ken Sampson
- 01/29 Rev. Paolo Dayto
- 01/30 Rev. John Marshall



Support our Priests  
Send a card  
Say a Prayer  
Let them know we care

November/December 2020

# ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES



- 12/16 Rev. Msgr. Gregory Moys
- 12/18 Rev. Robert Antonelli, CSC
- Rev. Claude Pomerleau, CSC
- 12/19 Rev. Richard Rutherford, CSC
- Rev. Jack Topper, OSM
- 12/20 Most Rev. John Vlazny (Emeritus)
- Rev. Donald Durand
- Rev. Jose Luis Gonzales
- 12/21 Rev. Amancio Rodrigues
- 01/06 Rev. Nicolaus Marandu, ALCP
- 01/10 Rev. Stephen Fister OSB

“Mount Angel is a place full of a lot of history, culture, tradition, the arts. It all fits together in forming a complete kind of priest who is able to deliver at depth the joy of life in Christ.” *Abbott Jeremy*

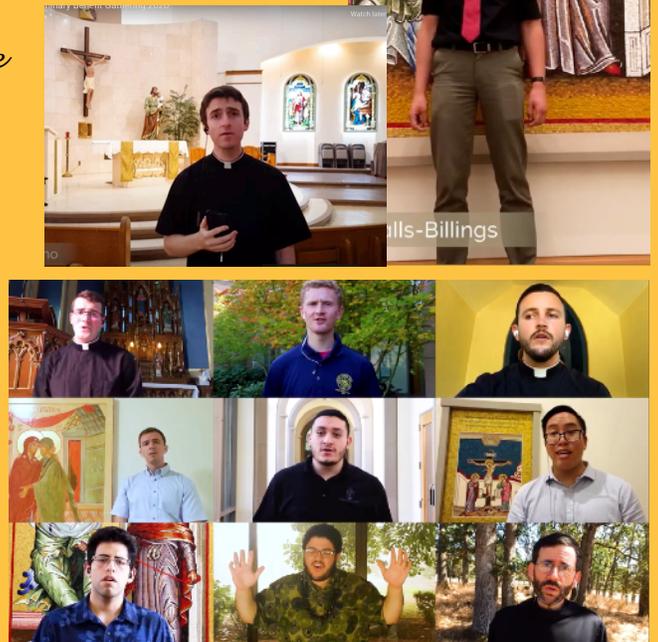
## A few photos from the Seminarian Benefit Gathering



*Encounter  
the Heart of  
Mount Angel Seminary*



“DO NOT BE AFRAID... BE FISHERS OF MEN”  
The seminarians talk about their first experience of the Abbey...their anxiety and anticipation, then sing of their immense joy. We invite you to view the video of the **2020 annual Seminary Benefit Gathering!**



# LOOKING FOR IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS?

**The Grotto** - (503) 261-2424 ([thegrotto.org](http://thegrotto.org))

For online and curbside pickup



**-Our Lady of Peace Retreat House** (503) 649-7127

3600 SW 170th Ave., Beaverton, OR 97003-4467



**-Blessings From Heaven** - (503) 644-1814

4755 SW Tucker Ave. Beaverton, OR 97005



**-Queen of Peace Bookstore** - (360) 693-5031

807 1/2 Grand Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98661



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Suncatcher



Adoring Animals Advent Calendar

**-Mount Angel Abbey Bookstore** - (503) 845-3345



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Let us Rejoice and Be Glad!



## Club Information

Serra Club of Portland 847 NE Floral Pl Portland, OR 97232

Serra Club Bulletin  
Monique Harris, Editor 503-657-4614

E. Jeff Eirvin, President  
503-901-8026  
[earnieirvin@gmail.com](mailto:earnieirvin@gmail.com)

[paulnmonique@comcast.net](mailto:paulnmonique@comcast.net)

**WEBSITE: [www.serraportland.org](http://www.serraportland.org)**

