



Region 12 SERRA International

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 9, 2015

Martin Weber - Regional Director

This past Christmas, I just enjoyed the 1946 movie "It's a Wonderful Life". The film is considered one of the most loved films in American cinema and has become a traditional viewing during the Christmas season.

The film stars James Stewart as George Bailey, a man who has given up his dreams in order to help others and whose imminent suicide on Christmas Eve brings about the intervention of his guardian angel, Clarence Odbody (Henry Travers) who is assigned to save George. Clarence shows George all the lives he has touched and how different life is his community of Bedford Falls would have been had he never been born.

This movie caused me to reflect on what my life might have been like without the tremendous influence all of those priests and religious with whom we interacted over the years. I was blessed with a brother who was a Jesuit priest for 45 years before his death. He served as chaplain of the Tacoma Club. We pray through his intercession to bring healing and reconciliation to the Tacoma Serra Club.

All of the communities in which we live are better because of the sacrifice and dedication of our priests and religious in responding to God's call. You see, we all are very important participants in God's plan of salvation.

Have we called upon our own personal guardian angel to assist us during those times when we become tired or discouraged in carrying out the work God has assigned to each of us through Serra? We are responsible for the affirmation of God's chosen ministers and dispensers of his mysteries so they may found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. Our work in assisting others to be faithful has eternal rewards for all and a profound impact for good in the world in which we live.

Much effort has been devoted to reconcile the differences and hurts caused in our organization by the recent lawsuit. We need the help, understanding, and participation of all Serrans to foster this healing. Great progress has been made by the combined offices of the United States Council and Serra International in reaching out to all clubs. Let all of us respond to these efforts as true Christians in extending a helping hand. Working together we can make this a truly fruitful life. I would like to extend my personal thanks to those who have dedicated so much of their time and efforts towards this reconciliation process.

I take this opportunity to wish all our fellow Serrans a very Happy New Year. I hope to see some of you in Houston, Texas for the Serra Rally being held next week (January 15-18, 2015).

Martin G. Weber,
Regional Director





DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Andrew Tassani Governor 1-N

There are eight (8) Serra clubs in District 1N with each club working hard for and in support of Vocations. Each club is committed to becoming “the best version of itself” by prayer, stewardship, generosity and evangelization. We are reaching out to neighboring parishes to attract new members, and have an additional goal of chartering at least 1 Serra club in each Denary in the Archdiocese.

Cascade Serra Club

- Sponsored many local events including Ignite the Torch in Olympia in August, Sisters of St. Dominic, Quo Vadis Breakfast and other local parish activities in support of Vocations
- Welcomed 5 new members this year
- Welcomed our new Chaplain, Father Cal Christensen from St Pius XII in Mountlake Terrace
- Reviewed and modified local club bylaws
- Hosted annual Thanksgiving Mass and Dinner for all local Serra Clubs
- Attended the Cornerstone Pro-Life Conference in Tacoma in October

Saint Thomas More Serra Club

- Initiated the Vocation Cross Project where crucifixes supplied by the Serra Club are distributed throughout all school classrooms on a rotating basis and to families distributed at Mass on Sundays.
- Organized a Christmas Carol fundraising event, and in addition the Serra club caroled for groups in local hospitals and assisted living homes.

Everett Serra Club

- Continue to host monthly discernment nights in Everett.
- Hosted annual Sister’s Appreciation Day on October 26.
- Worked with parishioners in a program directed to assist homeless and poor people.

Hispanic Club of Renton

- Hosted the Operation Andrew dinner and continue to host monthly discernment meetings.

Seattle and Eastside Serra Clubs

- Hosted the annual Sister’s appreciation dinner.
- Hosted the annual Christmas Party with Archbishop Sartain, Bishop Eusebio and Father Dolejsi the Director of Vocations.

Edmonds Serra Club

- Presented a special gift to each Seminarian in the Seattle Archdiocese



Andy Tassani, District Governor 1N



DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Ken Harris, Governor 1-S

PORTLAND SERRA CLUB

In October, the Portland Serra Club held its annual Kevin Van Hoomissen Honorary Sisters' Appreciation Luncheon at the Double Tree Hotel in the Lloyd Center. There were almost 90 sisters and Serrans who attended. The social hour prior to the luncheon was very successful. This was due to the music provided by Arletta O'Hearn and also the many conversations that occurred between the sisters and also between the sisters and Serrans. This has become an annual event the sisters in our Archdiocese and the Portland Serrans look forward to.

In November, many of our Serrans attended the annual Mount Angel Seminary Benefit Dinner held at the Convention Center. This fund-raising event is sponsored by the seminary.

The annual Portland Serra Club Christmas celebration was held on December 3 at St. Patrick's hall. A cocktail hour provided opportunities for Serrans & guests to mingle; and Archbishop Sample and Archbishop Emeritus John Vlazny and priests to become more reacquainted with our Serra members. Archbishop Sample concluded the activity with a brief talk relating to his strong support for Serra's activities. It was a well-attended and successful event!

COLUMBIA RIVER CLUB

The Columbia River Serra Club provided ordination gifts for two new priests ordained for the Archdiocese of Seattle. Father Brian Thomson (from Holy Redeemer in Vancouver), and Father Dean Mbuji were both ordained on September 6 at St. James Cathedral in Seattle. Father Thomson celebrated his first Mass at Holy Redeemer on September 7 and the Columbia River Serra Club assisted with the reception for Father Thompson's first Mass of Thanksgiving.

In November, Columbia River Serrans participated at area parishes in holy hours and special Masses dedicated to vocations to the priesthood and religious life during National Vocations week, November 2-8. An ongoing project for the club is having its members write letters of support to all the seminarians in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

The Columbia River Serra Club now has its website "up and running" and it's looking great! We recommend you "check it out" at: <http://www.columbiariverserra.org/>

SALEM CLUB

The Salem club had a get-together for its members which included their signing Christmas cards for all the seminarians at Mt. Angel Seminary. After the signing they then feasted on soup and salad. This is an annual event. The other Christmas event was the cookie party in December. The club hosted two local priests. The priests were given a series of questions and then the Serrans guessed as to who answered in the way they did. It was a delightful and informative activity.

Best wishes for a Blessed New Year,
Ken Harris, Governor, District 1S





DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS

Aileen Fields, Governor 1-E

During the 3rd / 4th quarter, both the Tri-City and Spokane, Washington Serra Clubs have been on the move! At the top of the highlights is the successful membership campaigns the clubs have executed. With prayerful and enthusiastic commitment, the clubs are well on their way to meeting the desired goal of a 15% increase in Membership.

Tri-City Club President, Mr. Morie Ratuiste, has reported that their on-going Membership campaign, "9 Mission - 9 Members" is vibrant with a successful recruitment of 5 new members. The new Serrans began their mission Tuesday evening, December 9th at the **Christmas Dinner and New Member Installation** in St. Patrick's Church Activity center.

Spokane Serra Club "Come and See" November 22nd Membership Campaign kick-off at Bishop White Seminary was well attended. With 7 prospective new members stepping forward, the membership at large is reporting a potential of 11 new members. A more accurate figure should be available by Winter 2015.

The month of December was busy for both clubs having board meetings and on-going planning sessions scheduled for the 2015 Annual Spring Leadership Conference and the Annual Fall Planning Conference targeted for Spokane in October. All incoming officers for 2015 should **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for the Spring Leadership Conference scheduled for April 17-19 in Kennewick, WA. More details and info to follow.

The Spokane Serra Club would like to humbly request everyone pray for a speedy selection of another great Bishop for the Diocese of Spokane. They also welcome everyone to attend Spokane's Serra Club Chaplain, Fr. Bob McNeese, 2015 Lenten afternoons of prayer, **Joy of the Gospel**, (time TBD), at the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center. As details are completed, more information will be forthcoming.

Let us continue to pray for fruitful vocations!

Many Blessings and Prayers to all!

***Blessings to all,
Aileen Fields, District Governor 1E***

