



Region 12 SERRA International

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 7, 2016

Martin Weber - Regional Director

Dear Fellow Serrans,

We just completed a very eventful year for 2015 which included the canonization of our patron, Saint Junipero Serra. The Holy Spirit flooded our Region with many blessings during the year by bringing unity back into our organization. Through the work of many dedicated Serrans, the Serra Club of Tualatin Valley, Oregon was chartered on October 28, 2015 with Most Rev. Alexander Sample, Archbishop of Portland presiding at the installation of the Officers and the Dinner.

Our Region 12 has four more clubs in formation, all of which should receive their charters during calendar year 2016. I extend my personal thanks to the Extension Committees involved in this process. The details regarding these clubs in formation are set forth in the District Governor's Reports in following paragraphs.

To keep this enthusiasm alive, it is extremely important that we address the management positions at all levels of our organization. We have been experiencing difficulties in getting candidates for officers of the clubs and District Governors as well as a Region 12 Director. I ask you to reflect on the following words of St. Paul.

“For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them.” (Romans 12: 4-6)

I ask each and every one of you to give serious consideration of the God given talents which you have received in fulfilling the following goals of our management team identified as follows:

1. In January nominate and in February elect the new officers of your club for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2016. Be sure to obtain a candidate for the position of President–elect of your club. Advise these new officers at the time of their nomination of the necessity of their attendance at the Spring Leadership Planning Conference.
2. The Columbia River Club agreed to host the Spring Leadership Planning Conference in April in Vancouver. The District Governor of 1-S is charged with the responsibility of putting on this conference with the able assistance of Serrans from throughout the Region. We need a “Save the Date “ notice to be sent out as to scheduled date.
3. The District Council for each of the Districts 1-North, 1-South and 1-East are composed of the current Governor and Governor-Elect, current Club Presidents and active Past District Governors. These individuals are responsible for nomination and election of a District Governor for their individual Districts whose term commences on June 1, 2016. I am advised that District 1-South has an individual who has agreed to accept the nomination to serve as District Governor. Please complete the process through a vote of all District Council members from that District.
4. The process for electing a new Regional Director takes the following steps. Qualified individuals include present District Governors and former District Governors who are still active in their respective clubs. Current District Governors, former active District Governors and presidents of a club may place a name in nomination. Those names submitted will be sent to United States Council in Chicago who will send out a ballot with the names of nominated persons listed. A vote is submitted to Chicago to determine the next Region Director. This person takes office on June 1, 2016. I ask that your respective clubs follow this process and submit the names to Peter Cunningham not later than April 1, 2016.

**Martin G. Weber,
Regional Director**



DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Andrew Tassani Governor 1-N

There are 8 Serra clubs in District 1N with each club working hard for and in support of Vocations. In addition, we have 2 new clubs in formation, Bellingham and Renton and the goal is to charter both clubs in the spring or summer of 2016 (due to the schedule of Archbishop Sartain).

The Serra Clubs in District 1N continue to pursue many vocations activities and events in the Seattle Archdiocese including the Quo Vadis Days event at the end of June. We also meet with Father Dolejsi our Vocations Director twice a year to coordinate schedules and to look for other opportunities to serve. A District wide celebration was held on Wednesday September 23rd in honor of the Canonization of Father Junipero Serra with a gala dinner and program hosted by the Edmonds Serra Club at Holy Rosary, Edmonds. All 1N clubs participated and we will also plan other local events between the Canonization and the National Day of Prayer for Vocations in November. We encouraged all Districts and Regions to join this once in a lifetime event and use it as a springboard to promote vocations around the country and around the world

Cascade Serra Club

Pat Sweeney stated an ongoing goal was to increase membership with an ultimate goal of 50 members (or more of course). Current roster has 36 members.

Cascade has held a coffee 'n after First Friday Mass which has been very well attended including this past date where a speaker from Elizabeth Ann Seton in Baltimore made a presentation. About 80 people attended and the Cascade club hosted with food and beverage.

Saint Thomas More Serra Club

Continued 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.

Camilla stated that her club continues to try to add to their membership and held a very successful Vocations Sunday. Serra material was given out before and after Mass to all parishioners and a Vocations speaker spoke after each Mass.

Received an invoice for "old" dues dating back to 2011 from USAC/SI and Andy will work with Camilla and with their treasurer to resolve.

Everett Serra Club

Continue to host monthly discernment nights in Everett

Challenges: while we added 4 new members in March, we lost three members that moved out of Washington State. We will add 2 new members on November 14th. Tom will mentor Darrell to add 3 or more new members in the next 6 months. We collected dues every year and paid past dues after the settlement of USAC & SI and every year since.

Some members had trouble paying \$100 in the first quarter in 2015, so we voted to allow members in 2016 to pay \$20/month for five months (\$100) paid in full by June 11, 2016.

A Vocations Rally is planned for Saturday February 13, 2016 at St Mary Magdalen parish in Everett after the 5:00 Mass. Father Olson would like to model the event currently being held in Vancouver, WA with the goal of inviting young people to attend and hear about Vocations. (Perhaps the Archbishop will attend) All are invited and encouraged to attend

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DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Andrew Tassani Governor 1-N (continued)

Hispanic Club of Renton

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

Seattle and Eastside Serra Clubs

A new parish and Chaplain are being looked at to host the Seattle Club functions. Father Mark Kieslowski from St Catherine of Sienna in North Seattle has volunteered to take over. Working with Father Mark to establish St Catherine's as new parish home.

Christmas Party with the Archbishop was held on Monday December 7.

Edmonds Serra Club

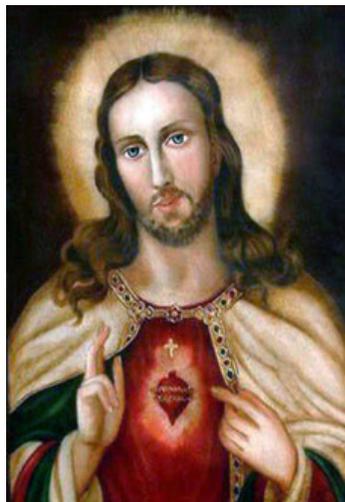
Elected a new slate of officers for their Board.

Jim Pinsoneault, club President mentioned that a fundraiser was held on Saturday October 17 at Holy Rosary, Edmonds, with about 135 people already signed up (about half of these are non-Serra members). Jim also mentioned that they are trying to attract younger members, perhaps those with children at the HS level where they may have more time and more interest.

FOCUS is a college connection type program, and a local speaker recently made a presentation at a monthly meeting. Everyone was impressed with the speaker and with their mission and Jim said that the Edmonds club would like to help support their efforts.

Andy Tassani

District Governor 1N





DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Ken Harris, Governor 1-S

Portland / Tualatin Valley Serra Clubs

The Portland Serra Club formed an Extension Committee which worked diligently with their past Chaplain, Father John Henderson, to initiate formation and charter of a new club, *The Serra Club of Tualatin Valley*. This effort was a great success and milestone! The Mass and installation of charter and officers occurred at St. Anthony's Parish on October 28, 2015. Archbishop Alexander Sample celebrated mass and attended the gala event. Father Henderson, Pastor at St. Anthony's, is now the Chaplain of this new club and he brings enthusiasm, knowledge and experience to this new club. The Portland Club is looking forward to teaming with the new club in sharing the mission of promoting religious vocations throughout the Portland Metropolitan area. There are also efforts to form and charter a new club in Eugene, as well.

The Portland Club supported the ordination events held at St. Mary's Cathedral for Transitional Deacons on May 23 (3 men ordained) and 8 new priests ordained on June 5. The Portland Archdiocese annual Quo Vadis Days was held at CYO Camp Howard June 22-25 and the club helped financially to provide support via scholarships.

On July 1, the Portland Club celebrated its 78th year anniversary of their Charter with the installation of 5 new members!

The Portland Club hosted a new event to honor and show appreciation for the permanent deacons and their spouses. This appreciation brunch was held in conjunction with the Annual Grotto Mass on July 26. It was an event well-received and targeted to become an annual one.

The Portland club also focused on Affirmation Programs celebrating the canonization of Junipero Serra at the Sisters' Appreciation Brunch held in September 27, which included the Tualatin Valley Serra club.

December 2nd was the Portland Club's Annual Christmas celebration held at St. Patrick's parish which included honored guests Archbishop Alexander Sample, Archbishop Emeritus John Vlazny, and Bishop Steiner along with several parish priests. There were over 70 attendees at this annual function. We hope to host a combined Tualatin Valley/Portland Club party next year!

The Tualatin Valley Serra club is new with but they have reached out to all parish priests and vocation coordinators in the area. They also have a full slate of officers and plan to "hit the ground running" in January. They also hope to co-sponsor some events with the Portland Club and working as a team to combine & enhance everyone's efforts. The Portland Archdiocese has set them up to participate in a couple of activities at the Cathedral in the next couple of months.

Columbia River

The Columbia River Serra Club is devoted to supporting Quo Vadis Days. They are sponsoring a 2016 Vocation Awareness Celebration on Saturday, January 23rd. They would like to extend the invitation to all Serrans.

Attached as a separate document with this bulletin email is a flyer with details about the event. We encourage Serrans to support this event.

Ken Harris
Governor, District 1S



DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Aileen Fields, Governor 1-E

The Serra Clubs in Eastern Washington have been extremely busy during third quarter of 2015. With Ordinations to the priesthood, St. Junipero Serra's Canonization, organizing two new clubs and monthly club responsibilities, it is evident the Holy Spirit is blessing our region.

Tri-Cities, Club No. 995, District 1E, Region 12

- Sponsoring the Chartering of new Serra Club in Walla, Walla. Participated in the introductory meet and greet meeting and first informational meeting.
- Achieved their membership goal of 9 new members in 9 months by praying the Novena to St. Junipero Serra. Welcomed Mark Bonkiewicz to attend a meeting where Mark shared membership tidbits.
- Prayed a public Novena to Blessed Junipero Serra at St. Joseph and Christ the King in preparation for his canonization.
- Approved By-Laws, drafted the 2016 Budget and held the Clergy Appreciation Dinner which was attended by several priests, deacons and their wives, including Regional Director, District Governor, President and Treasurer from Spokane.
- Beginning discussions have commenced to implement Parish Vocation Ministry.

Spokane, Club No. 2, District 1E, Region 12

- June kicked off with the club's continued support hosting the Priest Ordinations, sponsoring the Vocare closing luncheon, followed by the annual Clergy Golf Tournament.
- The President held a Strategic Planning Retreat with a SWOT Analysis led by a Board of Trustee Member. Goals and Objectives were formulated for a 2016 plan. A formal strategic plan is not yet available, however, the Board concluded their foremost mission is prayer.
- The Vocational Director/Chaplain suggested the Spokane Serra Club rotate their monthly Saturday Mass and meetings to different parishes, assisting in awareness and recruitment of Serra.
- The V.P. of Vocations is moving forward with instituting the 31 Club in parishes.
- Programs continue to provide terrific guest speakers to the Friday Formation luncheon and meeting.

A New Serra Club, not yet chartered, located in Walla Walla Washington is moving along very well. The District Extension Team, including parish leadership team members with the Chaplain put together an exceptional first informational meeting. A well thought out informative program including a testimonial/inspirational speech was highly effective in their success. Currently, they are planning the second informational meeting where potential board leadership and members will be requested to step forward. They are waiting on a Charter date.

A New Serra Club, not yet chartered, located in Coeur d'Alene Idaho is in the beginning phase of formation. The bishop phoned the priest of St. Thomas parish requesting he accept being the chaplain, followed by a formal letter requesting Father assist in forming the new club and asked that a list of names from St. Thomas, who may be interested in participating, be forwarded. A list of five couples has been submitted to the Bishop. These couples are identified as a leadership team, who will be part of the information and formation process. When characterizing the territory, the District Governor and Father have identified two other parishes for participation. The District Governor and Father have requested the Bishop to approve and send a formal letter to the other identified parishes, relaying the same information as his initial letter and include his request the parish priest select a few people be identified for the initial leadership team. The District Governor has requested a date for charter, as well. The first introduction was held with the District Extension Team, (DET), the Bishop White Seminary Vocations Director and St. Thomas Rector. It has been identified the District Governor phone the Boise Vocational Director, re-establish communication after Advent with the Bishop's office, establish a formal introductory meeting that includes DET, chaplain and priests whose parishes are selected to participate. As the above is completed, a formal first introduction meeting can commence.

Aileen Fields
District Governor 1E