



## Region 12 SERRA International

### NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

**Martin Weber - Regional Director**

#### 2014 Serra International Convention

Serra's 72<sup>nd</sup> International Convention held in Sacramento was an answer to our prayers for reconciling the ongoing dispute between our organizations. The theme "The Path to Holiness" started with an evening Mass in the beautiful ornate Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Following mass was a Eucharistic Procession of the Blessed Sacrament a distance of two long city blocks to the Trinity Room of the Hyatt Regency where the Convention was being held. The fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus acted as honor guard and the church choir accompanied the procession. People along the street paused in silent respect of the occasion.

The first evening a social hour was hosted by Dan Jones, outgoing president, and Bob Labat, incoming president of the United States Council, with a special invitation to members of the Serra International Board. This was a first and highly successful in bringing about meaningful communications amongst the respective board members.

The Friday sessions started with a two-hour Spiritual Retreat for Serrans presented by Very Rev. John Horn, S.J. It helped set the spiritual atmosphere of the entire convention. Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament followed at noon.

Serra International President, Sean Yeo, gave his State of Serra address. I could not help but marvel at the guidance of the Holy Spirit in both the selection of him as our leader in these troubled times but also the inspired wisdom and charity that governed his actions throughout the convention. He started the session with the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and on another occasion the recitation of a decade of the rosary. He and Dan Jones along with many others brought about the long overdue reconciliation that was needed.

The hiring of the new Executive Director, John Liston brought about a complete change in management. For the first time in over 14 years we were provided an audited financial statement of the business affairs of Serra International. Changes in the now combined offices of Serra International and United States Council have resulted in drastic reductions of managerial expenses. Attendees at the convention came away with new enthusiasm as a result of the cooperation of the two entities.

Serra International put out a "Handbook for Serrans Called to Holiness". I recommend that each and every Serran obtain a copy for their personal use. Part I covers the "Essentials of a Serran's Spiritual Life" and part II covers the "Essentials of the Catholic Faith." The first role of a Serran is to grow in holiness so we can do God's work.

A new dawn is awakening in Serra. We simply need to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in his guidance of our activities to accomplish good results.

**Martin G. Weber, Regional Director**

#### **Daniel R. Jones, Past President USAC / Current Trustee Serra International**

As past president of the United States Council of SI and current Trustee of Serra International, may I be so bold as to strongly encourage all Serra Clubs to pay both the Council and Serra International dues! Serra International is formally recognized by the Holy See as the global lay apostolate for Vocations. Mistakes have been made in the past, but that's only because we are all human. We are a Church that believes in forgiveness, and it is time to do just that and move forward. Everyone who attended the Serra International Convention in Sacramento this last July, could certainly see and feel the positive attitude of moving forward as **One United Serra**. In fairness to all Serra Clubs who are paying both Serra International and the United States Council of Serra International dues, it is time for all Serra Clubs in Region 12 to do the same.



## DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



### Aileen Fields, Governor 1-E

Greetings and Blessings from District 1E / Region 12.

Behind the scenes, Serra Members in Eastern Washington have been busy this summer preparing for an active 2014 Fall season.

Participating in several conference calls with USAC's Membership Committee Chairman, Mark Bonkewietz and USAC's Membership Retention Team, The Tri-Cities and Spokane Serra clubs have been diligently gearing up for their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Membership campaigns and working to achieve the 15% membership increase per year for the next three years.

Deserving an honorable mention, the Tri-Cities membership campaign titled, **9 Missions 9 Members**, incorporates a unique focus and obtainable challenge. While praying the 9 Missions of Blessed Junipero Serra Novena, each Serra Member is asked to focus on the intention of recruiting 9 new members. As prospects are recruited, the Novena prayer becomes a Thanksgiving prayer. The challenge is each member is to prospect and recruit throughout the year, working to ensure 9 qualified members are retained.

Spokane's membership campaign, "Come and See", kicks off November 22<sup>nd</sup> with the Saturday morning Mass and Breakfast at Bishop White Seminary. The Membership committee will be mailing prospects a letter of invitation provided by Bishop Blase Cupich and include the "Why Be a Member" brochure. Saturday's event will include a testimonial guest speaker followed by a Serra Power Point presentation. After prospects have successfully been recruited, a series of orientations will commence and volunteer duties will be assigned.

The well attended, Tri Cities Clergy Appreciation dinner took place Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at Christ the King Church in Pasco, Washington to be followed by Spokane's Clergy Appreciation dinner which is slated for Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

And that's not all. Spokane is hosting the 2015 Regional Conference, October 16-18<sup>th</sup> at the Red Lion Inn at the Park Hotel. Rooms have been reserved, a list of guest speakers has been established and the brochure is in the final phase of completion! Congratulations to Chairwoman, Sue Manfred and the Board of Directors.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Celine Peterson who has been integral in solidifying the details for the Spring Leadership Conference. Sponsored by Serra Club of Tri-Cities the training will take place in Kennewick, Washington April 17-19, 2015 at the Clover Island Inn and St. Joseph's Catholic Church. District Governors from Spokane, Lynwood and Portland have been contacted and the list of guest speakers is currently being developed. Save the Date fliers have been produced and all details will be completed by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Many Blessings and Prayers,

*Aileen Fields*

*District Governor 1E*



**LATE BREAKING NEWS:** The Vatican announced Saturday that Bishop Blasé Cupich of Spokane will replace Cardinal Francis George as Archbishop of Chicago. On behalf of all Serrans in Region 12, we extend our congratulations to Bishop Blasé Cupich!



## DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



### Ken Harris, Governor 1-S

The **Columbia River Serra club** has a new club chaplain – Father Mathew Oakland from St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Camas. Also they have changed their meeting dates to the first Saturdays of each month, beginning with the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

The club helped to provide funding and assisted with meals and transportation for the 140 plus boys who participated in Quo Vadis Days in June. The club also provided support for the third annual “Pedaling for the Priesthood” activity on July 7-9. Vocations Director, Father Bryan Dolejsi, along with other priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese, biked throughout the Southern Deanery promoting vocations at area parishes.

The Traveling Monstrance for Vocations started at St. James Church and several of our members traveled with it up the I-5 corridor to the Cathedral in Seattle.

Several members from Columbia River club participated in the Serra Spring retreat in Tacoma. Father Kenneth Baker S.J. was the retreat master and spoke on “the Peace and Joy of being Catholic in Good Times and Bad”. His second topic was “Vocation, Priestly formation and the Will of God”.

The club also will participate in several holy hours and masses dedicated to vocations to the priesthood and religious life during National Vocations Week in November. The events will be advertised in parish bulletins and the club website.

The new president-elect for the Vancouver club, Robert Conser, attended the Region 12 Spring Leadership Conference. Our next election for new officers will be held in February and the new officers will participate in the spring leadership conference in Kennewick.

The Columbia River Serra club is beginning the planning efforts for their 5<sup>th</sup> annual vocations benefit dinner to be held on January 31. Our keynote speaker will be Archbishop Sartain.

The **Portland Serra Club** inducted Paul Harris as their new president. The club also has a new chaplain, Reverend Jeff Eirvin. Father Jeff brings much enthusiasm and optimism to our Serran mission.

In July, Portland Serrans attended Mass at the Grotto. Serrans provided prayer cards to the large crowd. The sermon was focused on vocations. After the Mass, Serrans enjoyed fellowship and a wonderful brunch.

Recruitment of new members is a focus for September. A meeting was held at the Madeleine Parish on September 17 and the goal is to have at least ten prospective members come out of these efforts.

On October 19<sup>th</sup> the Portland Club’s annual Sisters’ Appreciation luncheon will be held at the Double Tree Lloyd Center. The Sisters turn-out for this event is always tremendous. It is a function in which Portland Serrans participate and are rewarded by the enthusiasm of all the Sisters in attendance.

The **Salem Serra Club** has once again had a full agenda of activities for the support of the seminarians at Mount Angel Seminary. They have a bowling night. They also host a barbeque for the seminarians and some of the monks from Mount Angel Abbey. The club also sends Christmas cards to each of the seminarians.

The Salem chapter also has established a Vocation Promoter from each parish in the region. This person will have the responsibility of making sure that all vocation information from the Archdiocese will come to the attention of their parishioners. That person will also be involved in the Priesthood Sunday activities.

For several years the Salem Serrans have hosted a Vocation Rally for 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the local Catholic schools. This activity has blossomed so that the designated parish has a full auditorium of “bubbling, enthusiastic” youngsters.

**Ken Harris**  
**District Governor 1S**



## DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



### Andy Tassani, Governor 1-N

#### Event Recaps

- ✚ Everett held their annual Priest Appreciation Dinner on May 13, an event that has taken place annually for almost 30 years
- ✚ Cascade hosted the annual Seminarian Dinner with Archbishop Sartain on Wednesday June 4 with over 200 in attendance
- ✚ All Serra clubs in 1N participated in the annual Quo Vadis Days event on June 22-25 at Camp Don Bosco with 145 young men in attendance. This marked the 10<sup>th</sup> year of this annual event
- ✚ All clubs attended the Ordination of Father Brian Thompson and Father Dean Mbuzi on Saturday September 6 at the Saint James Cathedral in Seattle
- ✚ An ongoing new Serra club formation process continues in the Northern Denary with Father Joseph Altenhofen identified as the new Chaplain

#### Upcoming Events

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| September | Monday September 29 President's meeting at the Chancery (Archbishop's Conference Room), beginning at 8:45 followed by our meeting with Father Dolejsi at 10:30 and Mass at 12:05. Lunch and follow up as needed   |
| October   | <p>Wednesday evening, October 22, please join the Edmonds club for Mass at 6 PM followed by a wonderful presentation from Father Scott Connolly about his recent pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Desserts will be served and there is no charge. All are invited</p> <p>Sunday, October 26 is Priesthood Sunday where we are called to pray for our priests and continue to support them in meaningful ways. A bulletin announcement or some other kind of recognition for our priests is recommended!</p> |
| November  | Please join the Cascade Serra Club on November 20 at Elizabeth Ann Seton parish for Mass at 5:30 followed by a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner and presentation. Cost is \$20.00 per person and RSVP's will be necessary for our caterer. More details to follow  |
| December  | Thursday December 18 at 6 PM is a Christmas Party with the Archbishop. More details to follow   |

Blessings to all,  
**Andy Tassani**  
**District Governor 1N**

