



## Region 12 SERRA International

### NEWSLETTER

JUNE 18,2015

**Martin Weber - Regional Director**

The past six months have produced many positive results in our Region. In April, the Spring Leadership Training was held in Kennewick and hosted by the Tri-Cities Club. The presentations were excellent and the accommodations on the Columbia River were relaxing and enjoyable. Aileen Fields, District Governor of 1-E, gives a complete report in her portion of the newsletter.

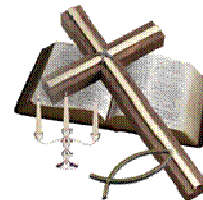
At the Spring Conference we presented the James W. Murphy Outstanding Serran of the Year Award to Phil Philbrick for his dedication and service to Serra over the past 23+ plus years. Phil has served in many roles and is currently a Deputy to the Regional Director. His knowledge, wisdom and pleasant way makes him a favorite to all that know him. Congratulations to Phil as the recipient of this prestigious award. James Murphy was an outstanding Serran and church person who devoted his life to doing good works and tremendous philanthropy. He was very first Director of Region 12 starting in 1996.

The Columbia River Club has graciously agreed to host the Spring Leadership Training Conference in 2016. The Clubs of District 1-N have jointly agreed to host the Fall Regional Convention for 2016. We have been without a Fall Convention for over four years, it being most recently hosted by the Portland Club.

Due to the hard work of our District Governors, we now have all of our clubs in Region 12 current on dues to the United States Council of Serra International. I thank all participants for their cooperation in bringing about this accomplishment, which seemed all but impossible a few short months ago. As an award for your efforts, The Holy Spirit has put in place the events leading up to the establishment of two new clubs in our Region this fall. The southwest area of Portland will see a new club chartered on October 28, 2015. The second new club will be in Bellingham and is to be chartered on October 30, 2015.

This fall we can look forward to the canonization of our patron Saint, Junipero Serra. It will be the first canonization to physically take place in the United States. It is a tremendous opportunity for Serrans to make known the work we do on behalf of vocations since the world will be focused on our patron saint and his life in the California Missions. The United States Council of Serra International will be sending to all clubs ways for your direct involvement in this process.

Martin G. Weber  
Region 12 Director





## DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Aileen Fields, Governor 1-E

As I write the following report, the temperature outside is 97 degrees and climbing! And it seems the Serra Clubs in Region 12 District 1E are hot and on fire with the Holy Spirit. The tasks and accomplishments of both the Tri-City and Spokane Washington clubs are a wonderful testament to our Patron's missionary zeal and fortitude.

During the weekend of April 17, Region 12 Spring Leadership Planning Conference kicked off the Spring season with 27 attendees participating in the Saturday training workshops and graduated to 63 guests for Saturday night's dinner. Hosted by the Serra Tri-Cities club, guest speakers included Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad, Father Rex Familiar Chaplain, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Pasco, and Father Cesar Vega, Director of Vocation Discernment from the Diocese of Yakima.

There are two important highlights. First, the workshop evaluation forms noted that almost all participants felt the Spring Leadership Planning Conferences are educational and should continue. Second, Sunday's Incoming Club President's Workshop was invaluable. Promoted and executed as a free forum, presidents primarily compared notes, exchanged ideas and shared philosophies with other club presidents. It was informative and engaging.

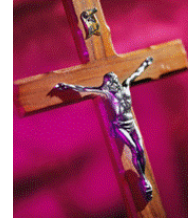
With both clubs conducting Installation ceremonies, celebrating anniversary dinners and preparing for ordinations, we are blessed in our region to have two men being ordained to the priesthood. Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. David Kruse and Kyle Ratuiste will be ordained at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes by Bishop Thomas Daly. With the Spokane Serra Club busy making preparations for the reception, Morie Ratuiste, President of the Tri-Cities Serra Club with his wife Cocot, are busy in prayer ushering their son into the priesthood. Congratulations!

For the next couple of months, the summer season is not going to slow down. The Spokane Serra Club with President Sue Manfred at the helm will be conducting a Board Retreat, setting goals and objectives for the next year. Quo Vadis Days and Vocare will be in full swing and excitement will be at fever pitch with the arrival of Our Holy Father and Canonization of our Patron, Blessed Junipero Serra.

Let us continue to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life and may we all share in the joy and peace of the Summer season.



## DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



**Ken Harris, Governor 1-S**

### **PORTLAND SERRA CLUB**

The Portland Serra Club has been very active in expanding our clubs focusing on the development of a new club in the Southwest section of Portland. Father John Henderson, former Archdiocese Vocations Director and past Chaplain of our Portland club, will be the Chaplain of this new club. In late April, a presentation was made by Dan Jones at the Masses at the parishes involved, with an invitation to an introductory meeting. The introductory meeting was held on May 20 with approximately 25 potential members in attendance. The goal is to have at least 25 individuals who will have committed to forming this new Serra club. Our second meeting was held on June 17<sup>th</sup>, which started with a round table discussion over a light dinner! Progress is being made! Sarah Kresse, Salem Keizer Club Serran & St. Joseph's/Salem Youth Ministry and Vocations, was our guest speaker and she was highly energized and motivational. The ultimate goal is to have a charter celebration for this new Serra club on October 28, 2015. This celebration would include Mass, (celebrated by Archbishop Sample) a dinner, and presentation of the charter.

The Portland Club has continued with its usual activities: In February we held our annual Priest Appreciation Dinner which was well attended and a wonderful event. In March, the club hosted an annual dinner event with Portland Archdiocese seminarians and families at St. Patrick's Parish. The Portland and Salem clubs co-sponsored with the Archdiocese Vocations Committee the annual Vocations Rally which brought about 400 sixth graders to the two events.

In May, three Portland Archdiocese seminarians were ordained as Transitional Deaconates and on June 5, we are delighted to say 8 Transitional Deacons were ordained as priests. It was a full house at St. Mary's Cathedral!

Promotion activities geared to bringing new members into the club were led by a club membership drive in June. This year the Portland club is honoring Deacons and their wives at our annual Mass and brunch at the Grotto on July 26.

### **COLUMBIA RIVER SERRA CLUB**

Columbia River Serra hosted its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Vocations Benefit dinner on January 31<sup>st</sup> with over 500 youth, adults, and religious attending. Proceeds from this dinner go to support Quo Vadis and other vocation events in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Columbia River Serra supported in the New Connection Program, helping to connect graduating seniors at area parishes and Seton Catholic High School with the college campus Newman Centers. We provided an overview of the Newman Connection Program and Newman Centers to the graduating class at Seton Catholic, and provided material to youth leaders to get students connected. The group is actively preparing for Quo Vadis Day in the Archdiocese of Seattle on June 28<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup> at Camp Don Bosco. Columbia River Serra rents a bus to get the boys to and from the camp, and provides lunches on the last day.

Club members continue to write letters of support to all the seminarians in the Archdiocese of Seattle. Columbia River Serra 2015 officers were elected in the spring and installed on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. The 2015 President is Robert Conser and President Elect is Shirley Buckmier. Our current Serra Chaplain, Father Matthew Oakland, is being transferred to Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Seattle effective July 1<sup>st</sup> and our group will be assigned a new chaplain in the coming months.

### **SALEM SERRA CLUB**

The health of our club is good, although we have no new members this year. In December, the club got together with the clergy at a coffee shop and had fun guessing who was who from a short list of answers to a few questions.

As Lent approached, they celebrated Mardi Gras with the seminarians by hosting a couple of cookie and sweets tables. This was great opportunity for Serrans to chat with the seminarians one on one. In April Salem's speaker was James Thurman, a member of the Adult Faith Formation staff from St. Joseph Parish.



## DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



### Andy 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 established a tentative date of Saturday, October 31 to Charter a new club in Bellingham, WA. Father Joseph Altenhofen has been assigned as the Chaplain.

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.

We will be celebrating the Canonization of Father Junipero Serra on Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> with a gala dinner and program hosted by the Edmonds Serra Club at Holy Rosary, Edmonds. All 1N clubs are encouraged to attend. We will also plan other local events between the Canonization and the National Day of Prayer for Vocations in November.

We hope all Districts and Regions will 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**

Sponsored a 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Wine Tasting and Auction fundraising event.

Installed newly elected board members for Membership, Communications, and President-Elect

Attended the Spring Leadership Conference in Kennewick on April 15-17 and also hosted a mini local version (9 a.m. to Noon for Mass, coffee and a time of sharing) for those not able to attend in Kennewick. About 30 Serrans from Everett, STM, Edmonds and Cascade attended.

#### **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

Attended the Spring Leadership Conference in Kennewick and the mini conference hosted by Cascade.

#### **Everett Serra Club**

Continue to host monthly discernment nights in Everett.

Hosted the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Priest Appreciation event of Golfing and Boating during the day and a fabulous Dinner party in the evening for Priests in the Snohomish County area.

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 Sisters' Appreciation Dinner on May 20<sup>th</sup> with about 70+ Sisters from many different orders attending. Sister Joyce Cox presided and gifts were given to all who attended

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

#### **Edmonds Serra Club**

Elected a new slate of officers for their Board.

Hosted a meeting and dinner for John Liston who was in Seattle and expressed an interest in meeting with some of the local clubs and their leaders.