

Serra Highlights



Serra began in 1934 in Seattle, Washington, by four Catholic friends who

met regularly to discuss how their Christian values could be lived out in their lives. As more people joined them, they focused on encouraging Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Religious Life.

They chose Padre Junipero Serra, a Spanish missionary, as their patron and selected his name for their group.

Blessed Serra founded nine missions and converted thousands of Native Americans to our Catholic Faith.

Serra has grown to over 20,000 members on six continents.



His Holiness Pope John Paul II

Saint John Paul II wrote, "The fostering of Vocations cannot be considered a marginal activity, must be incorporated fully into the Life and Activity of the community."

Serra's Mission

Serra International is formally recognized by the Holy See as the global lay apostolate for Vocations.

Our objectives are:

- 1) to foster and promote Vocations to the ministerial Priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support Priests in their sacred ministry.
- 2) to encourage and affirm Vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church.
- 3) to assist its members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.



"Lord open the Hearts of many men and women to courageously consider a Vocation to the ordained ministry or consecrated life."

**Serra's National Council
for the
United States**

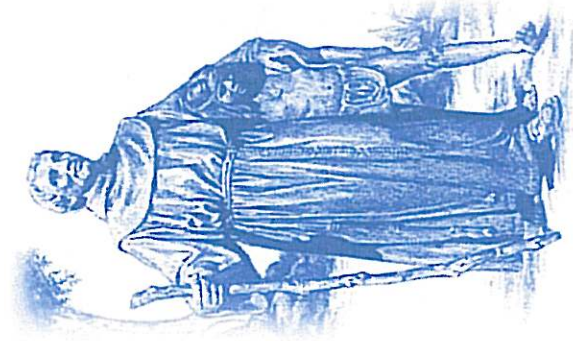
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Does the Church Need Serra?



The Church need for more Priests

The number of diocesan Priests has declined significantly: 35,900 in 1965; 32,000 in 1995 and 26,500 in 2014.

The number of religious Priests have also declined: 22,700 in 1965; 16,700 in 1995; 12,400 in 2013.

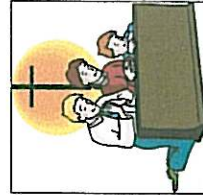


The number of **Catholics** have increased so that the number of Catholics per diocesan Priest has significantly increased from 1,777 in 1995 to 2,551 in 2013.

The number of **Priests and ordinations** have declined and the number of **Catholics per Priest** have significantly increased.

There are 17,600 parishes in the USA

In 1995 there were about 11% of parishes with out resident Priests compared 20.4% today. Some parishes are being administered by religious sisters while a traveling Priest offers Mass only on Sundays.



***There is a
Need to Pray
for Vocations!***

Curtailment of Services

- ◆ Have you experienced curtailment of services, that is, fewer Masses, less opportunities for Confession, etc.?
- ◆ Some dioceses have been forced to close parishes due to lack of Priests !
- ◆ Some dioceses have Pastors serving 2 or 3 Parishes !

You can be a part of meeting this great need as stated in our mission. We must not be complacent on this need! Serrans are important to the future of Vocations!

**Serrans are important to the
Future of our Church!**

***The Serra Club in your area
is dedicated to this mission!***

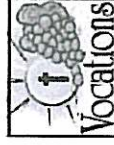
How about the future?

Who will care for our returning Catholics, the Latino population, replacements for retiring Priests, or our Catholic Schools?

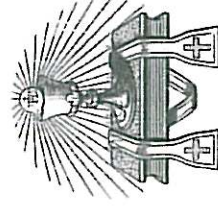
The need for additional Priests will be even greater in the future!

There are Vocations . . .

-which manifest themselves. They must be fostered!
- which are not conscious of themselves. They must be awakened!
- which do not dare manifest themselves They must be found and encouraged!
- which are in fear of being lost. They must be reassured!
- which meet with opposition. They must be strengthened!



You can make a Difference!



***Serrans are committed to fostering and
promoting Vocations!***

***You are invited to become a member
and help to increase Vocations to the
Priesthood and Religious Life!***