

## **Mission and Ministry of a Serran**

*(Read the Opening Prayer and Scripture out loud.)*

### **Opening Prayer**

Lord, through the missionary activities of Blessed Junipero Serra your saving work has continued to this day. We praise and thank you as we gather here to celebrate the joy of being a Serran. May the love we have for your Church continue to guide our activities. Give us the strength, courage, and insight we need as we work to bring the vision of Serra to reality. We pray in the name of Jesus your Son. Amen.

### **Scripture**

“Let what you heard from the beginning remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, then you will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made us: eternal life ... As for you, the anointing that you received from him remains in you, so that you do not need anyone to teach you. But his anointing teaches you about everything and is true and not false; just as it taught you, remain in him.” *(1 John 2: 24-27)*

*(Take time for silent reflection, then read the Introduction out loud.)*

### **Introduction**

Involvement in Serra International challenges its members to live up to their baptismal call as Christians. In essence the success of Serra’s mission and ministry is dependent on its members’ personal actions in living a Christian Catholic life. This program matches an individual’s personal calling with the mission of Serra, which is to learn about the Catholic faith, foster vocations, and providing outreach.

*(Introduce a speaker or the facilitator can read the following paragraphs with pauses in between.)*

### **Documentary Traditions**

As Christians, we have always believed that the life of faith is not a private affair but rather a communal expression. Basically, Christianity is a community event as well as a personal calling. There is a basis for community whenever people discover that they share a concern for some significant aspect of their lives. When this common interest is important enough it will move people to come together in light of these concerns.

Through its history church communities have formed around particular acts of service and expressions of prayer and devotion. In each case people see the religious ideal of community as the goal for their interactions with one another and the model for how they can best serve the Church in a particular way. Common elements found in the mission and ministry of a Serran includes:

“Since, like all the faithful, lay Christians are entrusted by God with the apostolate by virtue of their baptism and confirmation, they have the right and duty, individually or grouped in associations, to work so that the divine message of salvation may be known and accepted by all people throughout the earth. This duty is more pressing when it is only through them that others can hear the Gospel and know Christ.” *(Catechism of the Catholic Church, #900)*

“...The specific role of the teaching of adults consists in an initial deepening of their faith, received at baptism, in an elementary, complete and systematic way (CT 21), with a view to helping individuals

all life long grow to the full maturity of Christ (cf. Ephesians 4: 13)” (*Adult Catechesis in the Christian Community*, #32)

“On behalf of the Church, I must tell you of my esteem and my encouragement for your numerous initiatives in favor of vocations. It is really admirable that lay persons, deeply convinced that the Church and society needs priests and religious, take as a purpose of their commitment as Christians prayer and hard-working action for the spread, development, perseverance, increase and assistance of vocations. You are mindful in this of Jesus words, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (*Pope John Paul II to Serrans*)

*(The facilitator can read the Discussion Questions out loud for general or small group discussion.)*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. When you hear the words “Serra International,” what comes to your mind?
2. When you think of serving as a Serran, how does it make you feel?
3. How does participation in Serra meetings contribute to your faith? The faith of others?

### **Closing Reflection**

The mission of the Church is one of service to the community. The Church is a community of disciples. Serrans share in this discipleship in a way that is based on their initial call from the Lord. They are also called to be together in community that is sent out into the world to make a difference. Such involvement requires that they understand the dignity of their calling, service, and ministry in light of their contribution to the Church, their local parish, and Serra International.

### **Bibliography**

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