



SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter September 2020

The Five Elements of Serra

- ✚ Spiritual growth in Christ
- ✚ Religious education of the laity
- ✚ Encouragement of church vocations
- ✚ Responsive lay leaders
- ✚ Association in Christian fellowship

PO Box 1070, Woden ACT 2606
Chaplain: Fr. Bill Kennedy
Pb: (02) 6214 2011
President: Michael Allam
Pb: (02) 62519333
Website: <http://www.serracanberra.org>

Serran Prayer for Vocations

O God who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph her spouse, Saint Junípero Serra and all the saints, an increase of labourers for your Church, fellow labourers with Christ, to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ Your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Perseverance in Vocations

O God, you have constituted your Only-Begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of your majesty and the salvation of mankind: grant that those whom he has chosen ministers and dispensers of his mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Reminders

REMEMBER to say the Serran Prayer DAILY and 31 Club commitment.

Trustees Meeting

Thursday 1st October, 2020 6.00 p.m.

**8th October, 2020 (Thursday):
Rosary 6.10 p.m., Mass 6.30 p.m.**
Holy Trinity, Curtin followed by dinner at 7.30 p.m. in the private dining room CSCC, Woden.

Further information regarding our bookings at the CSCC: our club can now have our general meetings in the private dining room, but with a limit of 25 participants.

Our plan to host Fr. Brian Lucas as guest speaker and invite the Jubilarians' for dinner at two upcoming meetings cannot be put in place until we can host more than 25 participants at these events.

Forthcoming Events

Adoration:

Every Friday: Evening Prayer and Adoration, Mary Help of Christians, Pearce 5.30 p.m.-6.00 p.m.

2nd October (First Friday):
Adoration at St. Christopher's Cathedral following 12.15 p.m. Mass.

7th October (First Wednesday):
Adoration St. Brigid's Dickson, **Serra commitment** - 12.00 noon-1.00 p.m.



TWITTER@PONTIFEX

Trust in the Lord and make an effort to enter into his plans, accepting that His salvation can reach us in ways that may be different from what we expect.

Mass online Canberra

Mass each Sunday at 11.00 a.m., see the Catholic Voice Canberra Website: <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>

Always to go forward, never to turn back

A Special Power of Loving: Mother Teresa's Letter on Women

[Dan Burke - <https://spiritualdirection.com/2020/09/03/a-special-power-of-loving-mother-teresas-letter-on-women>]

For Feast Day of Mother Teresa - 5 September, 2020

The lines of division in our country and in the world are marked and clear and widening by the hour.

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse, therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live." (Deut 30:19)

It is a clear choice for some of us, but for so many, what is good and true and beautiful is shrouded in a kind of haze of ambiguity and confusion and complexity.

But God? God is simple. And when He speaks, there are no trap-door meanings or manipulated words. Love is love, marriage is marriage, life is life—choice and rights and freedom and family and fatherhood and femininity—they all mean what they were created to mean, undistorted by the one who lies for a living.

So I love it when I find someone unafraid to say it like it is. To be the child on the street pointing out the embarrassingly obvious: that the emperor has no clothes. That there is no substance behind the wagging signs and slogans and mantras of movements which purport to be vaguely Christian but really are houses of cards built on nothing but sand.

The feast day of St. Teresa of Calcutta is approaching on September 5. Simple, direct, unassuming, and totally unafraid, this little nun captivated us with her love—but also with her healthy dose of truth. She made world-leaders shift uncomfortably in their seats (if not in their consciences). And do we ever need her intercession today.

There is a little-known letter written by this diminutive powerhouse that I want to share with you. It's timely not just because of her approaching feast day, but also because this month marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of its writing.

Twenty-five years ago, the United Nations held its Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China (ironically—China, of all places, where millions of women are aborted and brutally and coercively sterilized every year) and before it began in 1995, the Church could already anticipate what was coming.

Preparatory meetings drafted documents to be ratified at the conference—documents that confirmed the worst fears of pro-life and pro-family delegates from around the world (including representatives of the Vatican). Documents that wove words like "sexual and reproductive rights" throughout, veiled terms for "abortion." Documents that willfully disregarded the complementarity of men and women, the support of traditional motherhood, and the right to life. Documents that introduced dangerously cryptic terms like "gender" and opened a Pandora's box of demonic consequences. Documents that threatened to unravel common sense and universal experience—and everything we hold sacred regarding femininity and the family.

So the summer before the conference opened, Pope John Paul II wrote his famous Letter to Women—warm and personal, he thanked women for their distinctive contributions to the family, to the Church, to the world. He held up the uniqueness of a woman's nature as something to be celebrated. He hoped for an authentic freedom for women everywhere—not to be like men, but to be wholly and fully women, living the entirety of the Gospel. He prayed that the conference would "bring out the full truth about women." But he wanted a woman's voice to share the Church's platform. And so he turned to Mother Teresa and asked her to write a letter, too.

The letter was typed, signed, and sent to the Vatican. On her way to the conference, which was to begin September 4, 1995, Mercedes Arzu-Wilson, a member of the delegation from Guatemala and a friend of Mother Teresa, stopped in Rome to pick it up. The letter was handed off to pro-life lobbyists who had secured, thanks to a helpful hotel manager, what appeared to be the only available photocopy machine available in the entire city. Running that machine out of their hotel room throughout the conference, volunteers copied thousands and thousands of pro-life, pro-family, and pro-woman flyers on reams of multi-colored paper which members of sympathetic delegations had snuck into their luggage.

The decision was made to copy the letter from Mother Teresa in all six of the official United Nations languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and Arabic. Pro-life translators were found for each language. But the existence of the letter was kept a secret so that pro-abortion forces would be caught off-guard when Mercedes Arzu-Wilson delivered it in a press conference on September 12, 1995.

The letter reads: ...

Dear Friends,

I am praying for God's blessing on all who are taking part in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. I hope that this Conference will help everyone to know, love, and respect the special place of women in God's plan so that they may fulfill this plan in their lives.

I do not understand why some people are saying that women and men are exactly the same, and are denying the beautiful differences between men and women. All God's gifts are good, but they are not all the same. As I often say to people who tell me that they would like to serve the poor as I do, "What I can do, you cannot. What you can do, I cannot. But together we can do something beautiful for God." It is just this way with the differences between women and men.

God has created each one of us, every human being, for greater things—to love and to be loved. But why did God make some of us men and others women? Because a woman's love is one image of the love of God, and a man's love is another image of God's love. Both are created to love, but each in a different way. Woman and man complete each other, and together show forth God's love more fully than either can do it alone.

Always to go forward, never to turn back

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA NEWSLETTER

That special power of loving that belongs to a woman is seen most clearly when she becomes a mother. Motherhood is the gift of God to women. How grateful we must be to God for this wonderful gift that brings such joy to the whole world, women and men alike!

Yet we can destroy this gift of motherhood, especially by the evil of abortion, but also by thinking that other things like jobs or positions are more important than loving, than giving oneself to others. No job, no plans, no possessions, no idea of "freedom" can take the place of love. So anything that destroys God's gift of motherhood destroys His most precious gift to women—the ability to love as a woman.

God told us, "Love your neighbor as yourself." So first I am to love myself rightly, and then to love my neighbor like that.

But how can I love myself unless I accept myself as God has made me? Those who deny the beautiful differences between men and women are not accepting themselves as God has made them, and so cannot love the neighbor. They will only bring division, unhappiness, and destruction of peace to the world. For example, as I have often said, abortion is the greatest destroyer of peace in the world today, and those who want to make women and men the same are all in favor of abortion.

Instead of death and sorrow, let us bring peace and joy to the world. To do this we must beg God for His gift of peace and learn to love and accept each other as brothers and sisters, children of God.

We know that the best place for children to learn how to love and to pray is in the family, by seeing the love and prayer of their mother and father. When families are broken or disunited, many children grow up not knowing how to love and pray. A country where many families have been destroyed like this will have many problems. I have often seen, especially in the rich countries, how children turn to drugs or other things to escape feeling unloved and rejected. But when families are strong and united, children can see God's special love in the love of their father and mother and can grow to make their country a loving and prayerful place. The child is God's best gift to the family and needs both mother and father because each one shows God's love in a special way. The family that prays together stays together, and if they stay together they will love one another as God has loved each one of them. And works of love are always works of peace.

So let us keep the joy of loving in our hearts and share this joy with all we meet. My prayer for all of the delegates, and for every woman whom the Beijing Conference is trying to help, is that each one may be humble and pure like Mary so as to live in love and peace with one another and make our families and our world something beautiful for God.

Let us pray. All for the glory of God and good of souls. God bless you.

Mother Teresa, MC

And there you have it. Men and women, she says, are different. Can anyone really deny it? Women's maternity is a gift not only to the world but to her—it is, in fact, the way she was designed to love. To say otherwise is a lie and a distortion. "Did God really say..." Satan begins, and she shuts him down, I imagine, with her hand in the air: Yes, He did. Isn't it obvious? Case closed.

Those radical feminists who used the power of the UN to mainstream gender ideology and to advance abortion, birth control, and downplay the importance of marriage and the nuclear family were, of course, very successful. Yet, we know, as Mother Teresa knew, that in the end, such radical policies are doomed.

"Perhaps," reflected Martha Casco, a delegate from Honduras, "our greatest hope for stopping this absurd attempt to change human nature is women themselves. A woman's way of being is so deep, her love for life is so passionate and her longing to be a mother so strong that the feminist revolution is ultimately destined to fail."

"In the end," says the greatest Mother ever, "my Immaculate Heart will triumph."

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

St. Teresa of Calcutta — Mother Teresa—pray for us, our nation, and our world.

Plenary Council Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land. O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council. Give us the grace to see your face in

one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road. Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth. Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying. Lead your Church into a hope-

filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen. Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

The Members of the Board of Trustees for 2020-2021 are:

President:	Michael Allam	Treasurer:	John Malycha
Immediate Past President:	John Smith	Trustees:	Michael Doherty
VP Vocations:	Brian Usback		Pat Supple
VP Programme:	Mary Malycha		
VP Membership:	Vacant	SCANZSPAC Rep.:	Max Spencer
VP Communications and Secretary:	Audrey Smith	Chaplain:	Fr. Bill Kennedy

Marin Luther King Jnr.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

— Martin Luther King Jr.,