



SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter July 2021

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

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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.

Feast Day of St. Junípero Serra, 1st July

Reminders

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

Trustees Meeting

Thursday, 5th August, 2021 6.00 p.m.

Rosary 6.10 p.m., Monthly Mass 6.30 p.m. Thursday 12th August, 2021 Holy Trinity, Curtin followed by **Dinner 7.30 p.m.** at the Private Dining Room Southern Cross Club, Woden.

Guest Speaker:

Lieutenant Colonel Gavin Keating.

Forthcoming Events

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

4th August (First Wednesday): Adoration St. Brigid's Dickson, **Serra commitment** - 12.00 noon-1.00 p.m.

6th August (First Friday): Adoration at St. Christopher's Cathedral following 12.15 p.m. Mass.

Saint Junípero Serra Patron of our global vocations apostolate

Not only because of his place in American history as the founder of a chain of missions in Mexico and California, but also because of his life of priestly zeal and heroic virtue, Fray Junípero Serra, OFM, was chosen as the patron of our apostolate.

Fray Junípero Serra was transferred to the Sierra Gorda region at his own request and was appointed President of the Sierra Gorda missions in 1751. After nine years, he was asked to undertake his missionary work some 1,200 km away on the Pacific coast of the North American continent, much of the time suffering with an ulcerated leg. Fr. Serra and his fellow Franciscan friars eventually established a chain of missions in Alta California and worked tirelessly to bring Christ to the indigenous peoples. After a lengthy period of missionary activity, Fr. Serra died in 1774 at the San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo Mission, in Carmel, California, U.S.A. his favourite mission.

Despite the fact that, during his time as a missionary, Father Serra had very little involvement with promoting priestly vocations, today it can only be considered providential that a holy priest who demonstrated such zeal for the salvation of souls would be chosen as the patron of our global vocations apostolate, considering that the primary focus of its work is fostering and promoting vocations to the holy priesthood and to supporting the sacred ministry of priests, those who spend and consume themselves for the salvation of souls.

[<https://www.serrainternational.org/>]

World Meeting of Families - 2022

The next World Meeting of Families on the theme "Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness" will take on a multi-centric and widespread format: each diocese will be able to be the centre of a local Meeting for its own families and communities.



[Pope Francis]

Always to go forward, never to turn back

Extract from Plenary Post Edition 35

FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA – AGENDA

As children of God, disciples of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Members of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia are called to develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia at this time. ‘I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.’ Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 27

Seven of the sixteen questions put forward for consideration:

Prayer

How might we become a more contemplative people, committing more deeply to prayer as a way of life, and celebrating the liturgy of the Church as an encounter with Christ who sends us out to “make disciples of all the nations”?

How might we better embrace the diverse liturgical traditions of the Churches which make up the Catholic Church and the cultural gifts of immigrant communities to enrich the spirituality and worship of the Church in Australia?

Formation

How might we better form leaders for mission – adults, children and families, couples and single people?

How might we better equip ordained ministers to be enablers of missionary discipleship: the Church becoming more a “priestly people” served by the ordained ministry?

How might formation, both pre- and post-ordination, better foster the development of bishops, priests and deacons as enablers of the universal Christian vocation to holiness lived in missionary discipleship?

Institutions

How might we better see the future of Catholic education (primary, secondary and tertiary) through a missionary lens?

How might we better see the future of Catholic social services, agencies and health and aged care ministries as key missionary and evangelising agencies?

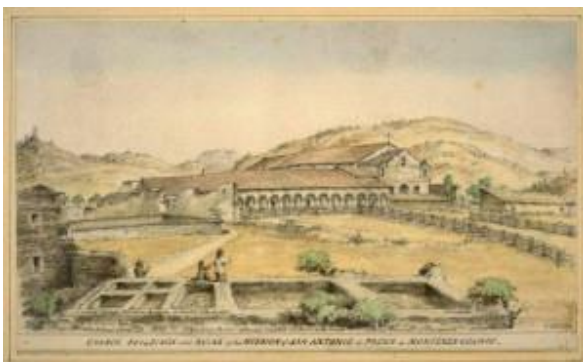
Remaining questions available at:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Plenary-Council-Agenda.pdf>

Feast Day of St. Junípero Serra, 1st July - “Always forward!” was his motto and his life

The history of the missions and their appeal is really something more than just a cold list of facts. There is a special feeling of standing in a place which has endured for several centuries, amid changes of all sorts. If we cock our ear just so we can hear echoes of those who first set down the marks in the raw soil so long ago:

"Here is where we lay the line. Here is where the wall will rise. Here is a place that will last long beyond our small lives. This will be a place for all who come after to care for and enjoy. They will be buildings that do more than just shelter, but which will protect and nourish. These adobe blocks contain more than just the soil, water and some straw, but all the hopes of those who made them and set them into place."



Always to go forward, never to turn back