



# SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter September 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

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.

*We congratulate those Priests and Religious celebrating a significant Jubilee Year and regret, given the circumstances, that we are not able to celebrate together at this time.*

### Reminders

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

Next Trustees Meeting: may be suspended.

Rosary, Monthly Mass and Dinner Events.

Due to the lockdown, suspended until further notice.

### Forthcoming Events

As our churches are closed, Adoration events are currently suspended.



[September papal prayer intention: an environmentally sustainable lifestyle \(Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network\)](#)

Editor's Note: The Pope's September prayer intention, disseminated by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer), is "We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this."

*Always to go forward, never to turn back*



**Tenderness** - by Bridget Taumoepeau - (*Marist Messenger Magazine*)



At Mass the other day there was a dear little child toddling around, who caught my attention. Or should I say it was the actions of her mother that sparked off a train of thought. As the child tottered in and out around her parents, her mother instinctively put her hand over the sharp corner of the pew. An unobtrusive, careful, thoughtful, protective gesture to avert the possibility of a nasty bang on the head – so common for small children of that height.

Immediately an image of Our Lord sprang to mind – always present, shielding us from harm. An older brother or father watching out for us as we blunder through life without taking care; as we put ourselves in harm's way; as we make mistakes; as we fall and hurt ourselves and others. Not only does He try to prevent us taking the wrong path, but He is there when we are not so wise, to pick us up, comfort us and heal us, just as that mother would have done if her little child had hurt herself.

Pope Francis so often talks of tenderness – the tenderness of God and the call for us to be tender with each other. The beauty and simplicity of that mother's actions brought all that to mind. It may be easier for us all to be gentle towards children, but there is so much need for those qualities right through life as well. The smile, the helping hand, the joy of accompanying someone on their way through life, the kindly word, the gentle touch – they all make up a tender way to treat each other, to model our lives on Our Lord and to carry out his works of mercy.

**Joy - The Bright Side (Part 1 of 3) 'Tears of Joy'** by Fr Tom Ryan SM (*Marist Messenger Magazine*)



The team and supporters winning a grand final or a world cup. The bride and groom radiant on their wedding day. The political leader and party supporters after an election victory. A couple with the birth of a child. The patient hearing "the cancer is completely cured." Parents told their lost child has been found. Joy is about being overwhelmed by happiness and, sometimes, by a sense of relief. Joy, here, is spontaneous and, in a way, beyond our control. It spills over from desires being fulfilled. Love's desire to generate new life (and protect it). Desires fulfilled by sacrifice, by skills cultivated by discipline and practice. The examples above could be described as the 'public' face of joy. Again, some joys can be passing and, at times, based on circumstances outside us.

**But joy has a 'private' face**, in the person's motivation and in its unobtrusive and enduring qualities. It is a quiet joy from the service of others, with a spirit of sacrifice and done for no personal gain. More broadly, there is the pervading sense of contentment from leading a good life.

Joy expresses connection and harmony with others and within oneself. Most especially, it is a sense of well-being through an abiding sense of being loved by God and a conscious relationship with God. Again, like love, joy is something that overflows its banks. As Mark Twain once observed: "To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with."

Again, we can be moved to admiration and joy when we witness those who strive for justice for the disadvantaged or who are courageous in the face of evil and brutality. We are, in some way, lifted out of ourselves by the testimony of the goodness of other people's lives. Our horizons are broadened; our hearts are expanded. Goodness precisely as beautiful lifts us beyond ourselves. It

**SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA NEWSLETTER**

can motivate and inspire us: “In that situation, that is the sort of person I would like to be.” Joy, then, finds a natural home in the constant effort to live a good life.

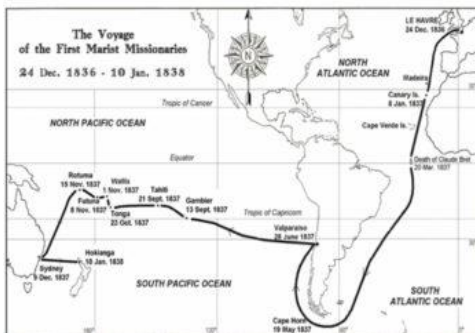


Like happiness, joy is less something we find but more a gift that ‘creeps up’ on us, namely, the by-product of doing other things, of how we live. ‘Tears of joy’ (as delight and healing) can accompany the unexpected gifts that loss and grief can bring. We see this with Australian journalist Lucy Palmer in her movingly beautiful memoir *A Bird on My Shoulder*. By looking back, in sadness and joy, on the loss of her husband Julian, and being left with three young children, she finds hope and meaning where there did not seem to be any. Perhaps these reflections on joy and its ‘tears’ may offer some insight into the comment of Teilhard de Chardin: “Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.”

**September 12 Sunday homily - Fr. Tony (<http://frtonyshomilies.com/>).**

**Homily starter anecdotes: # 1:** “Who do you say that I am?” When Christian Herter was governor of Massachusetts, he was running hard for a second term in office. One day, after a busy morning chasing votes (and no lunch), he arrived at a Church barbecue. It was late afternoon, and Herter was famished. As Herter moved down the serving line, he held out his plate to the woman who was serving chicken. She put a piece on his plate and turned to the next person in line. “Excuse me,” Governor Herter said, “do you mind if I have another piece of chicken?” “Sorry,” the woman told him. “I’m supposed to give one piece of chicken to each person.” “But I am starved,” the governor said. “Sorry,” the woman said again. “Only one to a customer.” Governor Herter was a modest and unassuming man, but he decided that this time he would throw a little weight around. **“Do you know who I am?” he said. “I am the Governor of this state.” “And do you know who I am?” the woman answered. “I am the lady-in-charge of the chicken. Move along, Mister.”** — In the above story, the governor and the lady-in-charge of the chicken, each tries to exert authority over the other by revealing his/her identity — who each is — and emphatically demanding, “Do you know who I am?” In the Gospel Reading of today from St. Mark, Jesus asks the apostles the same very question as regards His identity: “Who do you say that I am?” but completely in a different context. For, Jesus was not exerting personal authority over them, but asking of these men who had shared Jesus life for an extended time a simple and straightforward question. (Fr. Lakra).

\*\*\*\*\*



In 1836 Pope Gregory XVI called for missionaries to go to Oceania: to peoples who did not yet have a knowledge of Jesus and the Gospel. The Marists responded: and on 24th December 1836 **Peter Chanel** with 3 other priests, and three brothers left Le Havre in France to sail into the vast unknown. (*Marist Messenger Magazine*)

***Adam and Eve had the perfect marriage***

*She didn't have to hear about his mom's cookin' and he didn't have to hear about all the other men she could have married.*

*Always to go forward, never to turn back*