



# SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter November 2022

## 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.

The month of November is dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory

### Reminders

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

### Trustees Meeting

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2023 5.30 p.m.

### Rosary 6.10 p.m., Monthly Mass

**6.30 p.m.** Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 at 6.10 p.m. Holy Trinity, Curtin followed by **Christmas Party Dinner** 7.30 p.m. in the Private Dining Room, Southern Cross Club, Woden.

### Forthcoming Events

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

Holy Family, Gowrie Adoration 5.00 pm., Mass 6.00 p.m.

**Tuesdays:** Adoration at St. Vincent's, Aranda 4.20 p.m.-5.20 p.m. Mass follows at 5.30. p.m.

Adoration Holy Family, Gowrie 4.30 p.m., Mass follows.

**Saturdays:** Sacred Heart, Calwell, Adoration/Rosary following Mass at 9.00 a.m.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2022 (First Friday):

Adoration at St. Christopher's Cathedral following 12.15 p.m. Mass. **Serra commitment.**

### 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 (First Wednesday):

Adoration St. Brigid's Dickson, **Serra commitment** - 12.00 noon-1.00 p.m.

### Pope's Prayer Intention for November

#### For children who suffer.

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the

opportunity to experience family affection. [popesprayer.va]

### Serra Membership

If the occasion arises, when speaking with fellow parishioners, encourage them to join Serra; keep in mind the 5 elements of Serra which are:

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

In the coming months Max Spencer plans to visit some parishes to encourage membership to Serra. Please let him know if you can assist him in recruiting new members in your parish.

For those seriously interested in joining Serra let them know we offer one complimentary dinner.

*Always to go forward, never to turn back*

## Francis Speaks on All Souls Day – (extracts only)

...Church Tradition has always urged prayer for the deceased, in particular by offering the Eucharistic Celebration for them: it is the best spiritual help that we can give to their souls, particularly to those who are the most forsaken. The foundation of prayer in suffrage lies in the communion of the Mystical Body.

As the Second Vatican Council repeats, “fully conscious of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the pilgrim Church from the very first ages of the Christian religion has cultivated with great piety the memory of the dead” (Lumen Gentium, n. 50)...



Remembering the dead, caring for their graves and prayers of suffrage, are the testimony of confident hope, rooted in the certainty that death does not have the last word on human existence, for humankind is destined to a life without limits, which has its roots and its fulfilment in God.

Let us raise this prayer to God: “God of infinite mercy, we entrust to your immense goodness all those who have left this world for eternity, where you wait for all humanity, redeemed by the precious blood of Christ your Son, who died as a ransom for our sins. Look not, O Lord, on our poverty, our suffering, our human weakness, when we appear before you to be judged for joy or for condemnation. Look upon us with mercy, born of the tenderness of your heart, and help us

to walk in the ways of complete purification. Let none of your children be lost in the eternal fire, where there can be no repentance. We entrust to you, O Lord, the souls of our beloved dead, of those who have died without the comfort of the sacraments, or who have not had an opportunity to repent, even at the end of their lives. May none of them be afraid to meet You, after their earthly pilgrimage, but may they always hope to be welcomed in the embrace of your infinite mercy. May our Sister, corporal death find us always vigilant in prayer and filled with the goodness done in the course of our short or long lives. Lord, may no earthly thing ever separate us from You, but may everyone and everything support us with a burning desire to rest peacefully and eternally in You. Amen” (Fr Antonio Rungi, Passionist, Prayer for the Dead).

With this faith in humankind’s supreme destiny, we now turn to Our Lady, who suffered the tragedy of Christ’s death beneath the Cross and took part in the joy of his Resurrection. May she, the Gate of Heaven, help us to understand more and more the value of prayer in suffrage for the souls of the dead. They are close to us! May she support us on our daily pilgrimage on earth and help us to never lose sight of life’s ultimate goal which is Heaven. And may we go forth with this hope that never disappoints! [*Marist Messenger*]

### Pope in Bahrain - Day Two: An oasis in the desert

- By Devin Watkins – Manama, Bahrain  
...our correspondent picks up on how the Pope consistently draws on the contrast between desert and oasis to point out the path toward peace.... He hasn’t been talking only about the lack of water in barren landscapes.

The Pope has employed the image of the desert to highlight the unenviable position we humans have placed ourselves: countless wars and conflicts, isolationist mentalities, and environmental destruction...

He attended the closing session of the Bahrain Forum for Dialogue with over 200 religious leaders in the morning, then met in the afternoon with the Muslim Council of Elders and later attended an ecumenical prayer meeting with young Christians in Bahrain...

Of the two private encounters, one was with the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, for a brief, brotherly exchange.

He also met privately with one of the leaders of the Islamic world, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmed al-Tayyeb.

Pope Francis thanked him for his words at the closing of the Bahrain Forum for Dialogue, saying Al-Tayyeb was “courageous” to call for dialogue among Muslims.

#### Watering the deserts of human coexistence

Through the day, the Pope has contrasted the image of the “parched deserts of human coexistence” with our duty to irrigate these existential realities with the “water of fraternity”.

Whether speaking to the King of Bahrain or religious leaders or local Christians, Pope Francis has held out the possibility

for humanity to create an oasis in the desert.

Such a sanctuary should not be enclosed within the walls of a select group, he suggests, but must rather fill all corners of the earth.

And each person—especially people of faith—has the duty to water that oasis with our daily actions on behalf of human fraternity.

The goal is to allow God to guide our paths toward peace on this earth and the “fullness of communion in God”.

