



December 2025

# SERRA CLUB of PORTLAND BULLETIN

Serra Club 3 / District 1S / Pacific Northwest Region

*Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to All!*

## President's Message



Dear Fellow Serrans and Friends,

It has been five months since I was installed as President of the Portland Serra Club, and I am deeply humbled and grateful to each of you who has supported our mission, inspired our ministry, and guided me in this journey of leadership. The dedication, prayerfulness, and solidarity of our members strengthen not only our club but the wider Church we joyfully serve.

As Serrans, we are called to pray for and promote vocations—to the priesthood, religious life, and all sacred callings where God's love is made known through service. Our mission reminds us that every vocation begins with a response to God's gentle invitation. Through prayer, encouragement, and witness, we help open hearts to say "yes" to that call.

Since we have just finished celebrating National Vocation Awareness Week, I would like to share Pope Leo XIV's closing message to our youth at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, delivered through a digital encounter with young U.S. Catholics. His words touched my heart, and I pray that our young people will treasure his message deeply. I watched the encounter via livestream while waiting for the Salt Lake Diocese diaconate ordination and listened carefully, doing my best to transcribe Pope Leo's message as accurately as I could, so I could share it with you below:



"As you grow closer to Jesus, do not fear what he might ask of you. He challenges you to make changes in your life, always because he wants you give you greater joy, greater freedom.



God is never outdone in generosity. St. Augustine knew that God strengthens those who open their hearts to him. The world needs holy families who pass on the faith and show God's love in daily life. If you think you may be called to marriage, pray for a spouse who will help you grow in holiness, help you grow in faith. Some of you may be called to the priesthood. If you feel that tug in your heart, don't ignore it. Speak with a priest you trust. Others may be called to consecrated life, to be witnesses to a joyful life given completely to God. Do not be afraid. Ask the Lord to guide you, to show you his plan. Trust Jesus. He knows how to lead you to true happiness. When we give ourselves to him we receive far more than we could ever imagine. Your vocation is always connected to the greater mission of the Church. Jesus sent his disciples to prepare the way for him, to preach, to heal. What greater gift can you offer

the world than the gift of eternal life in Christ? What greater cause could you dedicate your life to than the Gospel?"

Let us continue to pray together for more holy vocations and for the courage to nurture them — in our families, our parishes, and our communities. May our shared mission bear much fruit as we support those who serve the Church and guide others to hear God's call.

[Vatican news link](#)

*Melliza Palazo*  
*President, Portland Serra Club*

[Link to the full text of Pope Leo's message from National Catholic Register](#)

**Sr. Mother Mary of the Angels, SR**, will be performing with the Ave Maria Chorus on December 26 at 6 pm at the Grotto's **Christmas Festival of Lights**. If you have not ever been to this event, be sure to make time to attend during Advent and Christmas Season. Not only will you be impressed with the beauty of the display of lights but also with the quality of the choral groups!



We are ever so grateful for all the support of many of you who support the mission of the Serra Club, affirming and encouraging vocations to the religious life and priesthood. At this time I would like to thank in particular all members of the Serra Board, Serra members who help us throughout the year, and Fr. Peter Julia, our Serra Chaplain for his unwavering dedication in supporting the seminarians and encouraging men to consider the priesthood. May God bless you all abundantly this coming year with good health, happiness and joy.

*Monique Harris,*  
*Editor of the Serra Bulletin*

## The Gift of Christmas



<b>SERRAN CALENDAR</b>	
<b>Wed, Dec 3</b>	<b>Annual Christmas Luncheon</b>
<b>Wed, Dec 17</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>Thurs, Dec 25</b>	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b>
<b>Thurs, Jan 1</b>	<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>
<b>Wed, Jan 7</b>	<b>11 AM Board Meeting Noon Serra Meeting</b>
<b>Speaker</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Wed, Jan 21</b>	<b>Noon Mass Serran Meeting</b>

<b><u>Serra Club of Portland</u></b>	
President	<u>Melliza Palazo</u>
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Chaplain	Rev. Peter Julia
Trustees	1 yr - Gary Wilhelms 2 yr - Daniel Okapal 3 yr - Judy Winczewski
Foundation Rep	<u>Dan Jones</u>

# Seminarian and Vocations Update

Dec 19 - 21 Archbishop's Priesthood Discernment

Jan 1 - 5, 2026 SEEK Conference, Denver Colorado



Some of our seminarians will attend the SEEK Conference in Denver in January where we will hear Archbishop Sample's presentation to the conference's seminarian-track. If you know of anyone from the Archdiocese who is also going to be there, please tell them to say hello to our seminarians.

Please keep in your prayers these men who are slated to be ordained pending their final evaluations:

Jun 6, 2026 Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate:  
[Coulter McIntyre](#)



Jun 20, 2026 Ordination to the Priesthood:  
Deacon Shawn Daniel  
Deacon Nicholas Martell  
Deacon Zachary Muñoz  
Deacon Tristan Schubert



"The number of seminarians is now 32. I recently completed visits to our guys at their respective seminaries. As you know, it is always a joy to be with them. They are continuing to study hard for their December finals and to take advantage of their formation opportunities. I am proud of them.

New episodes of the Engaged in the Spirit podcast have been released on Mater Dei Radio:

<https://materdeiradio.com/engaged-by-the-spirit-with-fr-peter-julia/>

More posts have been added to our blog: <https://archdpdxvocations.org/archdiocese-of-portland-vocations-blog/>

Thank you once again for your outstanding care and support for our seminarians! Our future Church depends on individuals like you living out your call to holiness. May God bless you.

*Fr. Peter Julia  
Vocation Director  
Archdiocese of Portland  
Serra Club of Portland Chaplain*



The Vietnamese community at St. Anthony Parish in Tigard celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of their community. In celebration of this milestone, the community gifted the parish a new altar, ambo, and altar furnishings. Today, this growing community is home to more than 250 families, an active Sunday School and Vietnamese language program, and multiple apostolates serving both the parish and the wider community. (<https://archdpdx.org/>)



On January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, (SSMO), will renew their vows renew with great joy!

**Funeral Mass for Fr. Terry O'Connell**  
December 29, 2025 · 11:00 AM · St. Juan Diego Catholic Church, Portland



Please join us in commending the soul of Fr. Terry O'Connell to the loving mercy of God and in giving thanks for his more than three decades of faithful priestly service to the Church.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

# Reflections from November 5 Serra Meeting : Apostolic Life Community-Tanzania

Kim Yozamp



*Worldwide Seminarian Support (WSS), founded in 1993, supports seminarians of the Apostolic Life Community of Priests (ALCP/OSS). WSS board members cover all operational expenses, ensuring 100% of donations go directly to the seminarians. During a recent visit to Tanzania for the ALCP's 50th anniversary, Kim Yozamp highlighted the need for support and the growing number of priest vocations.*

Kim Yozamp shared the story of Worldwide Seminarian Support (WSS), an organization founded in Oregon in 1993. Archbishop William Levada invited two priests, Fr. Nilema and Fr. Marandu, ALCP, from Tanzania to serve in the Portland Archdiocese. Kim's family took Fr. Nilema under their wing, who was serving at their parish St. Therese in Portland, and he became like a brother to them. Fr. Nilema expressed the need for funds to pay for seminarians' education in Tanzania, where there were many applicants to his order, the Apostolic Life Community Of Priests in the Opus Spiritus Sancti (ALCP/OSS). Kim's family and Father started WSS to raise money and support seminarians worldwide. At that time, they needed \$1,500 per year for each seminarian. They started with the goal of supporting five seminarians but ended up supporting 10 the first year.

The order was founded in 1974 by a German priest who had come to Tanzania as a missionary. He soon realized he needed help, so he found five men who wanted to become priests and thus founded the ALCP order. The ALCP priests are missionary priests who go all over the world. One advantage for them coming to the US is that in Tanzania, English is taught in the schools, making it easier for the priests to assimilate here. There are currently about 22 ALCP priests serving in the United States. With the support of WSS and several US bishops, they have now built a seminary in Tanzania that houses about 72 students. In addition to studying for priesthood, they learn to help their parishioners in the third-world countries grow food and raise animals and build hospitals to provide healthcare for their parishioners and schools for the children.

For more information about WSS, go to: <https://seminariansupport.org/>

## Reflections from November 19 Serra Meeting : Hazelnut Catholic

Katie Jo LaRiviere, Ph.D, Mount Angel Seminary  
Associate Dean of the Propaedeutic Stage,  
Associate Professor, Dept of Literature



Dr. Katie Jo LaRiviere with Abbot Jeremy Driscoll  
Photo taken at the Pacific NW Serra Regional  
Conference, held at Mount Angel Abbey.

*Dr. Katie Jo LaRiviere completed her doctoral studies at the University of Oregon as a dissertation fellow with the Oregon Humanities Center. Her scholarly research and current book project, *The Medieval Person: Theological Self and Personhood in Late Medieval English Literature*, investigates the intersection of theology and identity in the Middle Ages. As an academic dean at Mount Angel Seminary, she oversees the intellectual formation of all first-year seminarians. She teaches a literature curriculum spanning ancient to contemporary poetry, prose, and other media, as well as interdisciplinary courses in philosophy and theology in the college and Doctor of Ministry programs. Katie Jo is the winner of five career teaching awards, which recognize her ability to connect with students and to deeply engage them in both academic and personal growth. She was recently honored to give the Inaugural Address for Mount Angel Seminary's 24-25 academic year, and she looks forward to keynoting the Annual Summer Conference for Catholics at the University of Portland in 2026.*

Dr. Katie Jo LaRiviere spoke of the diversity of backgrounds and ages of the seminarians, some straight out of high school, a PhD graduate, stockbrokers, and a division one wrestler. She and the team at the seminary strive to teach them to be disciples of the Lord, what discipleship means, work on spiritual formation, and on the whole person. As a result of her work as a professor and scholar, Katie Jo thought to herself, "What if everyone in the Church got to experience this kind of formation of the whole person in their faith?" She contacted her friend and colleague, Certified Catholic Coach, Jessica Bedortha, CCC, forming Hazelnut Catholic, a home for Catholics and seekers who are hungry for faithful, Christ-centered and communion-focused integrative experiences that cultivate peace, joy, and hope-filled relationships with God, ourselves, and our communities. Hazelnut Catholic offer intentional and unique retreat experiences, immersive and personal live and online courses, seminars, and guided educational experiences for adults at all stages in their spiritual lives. Jessica is certified to guide people to think through problems in their lives from a Catholic perspective. Katie and Jessica meet people where they are and inspire them to go forward in their faith and build a closer relationship with God. Katie's work at Hazelnut Catholic is shaped by her work as a seminary professor and scholar.



For more information about Hazelnut Catholic, go to: <https://www.hazelnutcatholic.com/> [www.hazelnutcatholic.com/](http://www.hazelnutcatholic.com/)  
As a note, Hazelnut Catholic's Advent Seminar is live on Zoom, Dec 14

- 12/1 Rev. Richard Berg, CSC
- 12/2 Rev. John Kerns
- 12/4 Rev. Msgr. Richard Huneger
- 12/06 Rev. Jeffrey Schneibel, CSC
- 12/09 Rev. George Kuforiji
- 12/10 Rev. Manuel Becerra-Peñaranda
- 12/14 Rev. Brent Crowe
- 12/15 Rev. Mariano Escano
- 12/17 Rev. Joseph Sands, SJ
- 12/19 Rev. Athanasius Onyima
- 12/22 Rev. Gabriele Maria White, OJSS
- 12/26 Rev. Gracy d 'Rozario, CSC
- 12/27 Rev. Timothy Furlow
- Rev. Timothy Kalange, OSB
- 12/30 Rev. Chi-Nhan Vo

## BIRTHDAYS



Support Vocations!  
Send a card ~ Say  
a Prayer  
Let them know

### WE CARE!

Link to:  
[Oregon  
Catholic  
Directory](#)

## JANUARY

- 1/1 Rev. David Zegar
- 1/3 Rev. Jerry Graham, SJ
- 1/5 Rev. Phillip Thomas, OCD
- 1/6 Rev. Manuel Rosiles, MSpS
- 1/10 Rev. Fred Anthony
- 1/10 Rev. Bill Ameche, SJ
- Rev. Ignatius Kissel, OSM
- Rev. Hans Mueller
- Rev. Frederick Nkwabwwe, AJ
- Rev. Ignatius Kissel, OSM
- 1/11 Rev. Brian Allbright
- 1/12 Rev. Tetzal Umingli
- 1/13 Rev. Scott Baier
- Rev. Lucas Laborde
- 1/16 Rev. Msgr. John Cihak
- 1/18 Rev. Mark Ontiro Gikenyi
- 1/20 Rev. Bonaventure Rummel
- Rev. Odo Recker, OSB
- 1/23 Rev. Francis Njau, AJ
- Rev. Ken Sampson
- 1/25 Rev. Jesus Angelo Te
- 1/27 Rev. Israel Sanchez, OSB
- 1/29 Rev. Jordan Bradshaw, OP
- Rev. Paolo Dayto
- Rev. Pius X Harding, OSB
- Rev. Liêm Nguyen, OSB
- 1/30 Rev. John Marshall

## FEAST DAYS

- 12/8 Sr. Ruth Frank, SSMO
- Sr. Thuy Doan, SSMO
- Sr. Miriam Hendrikson, OSB
- Sr. Mary Dang Quỳnh Nhu, MTG
- Sr. Maureen Niedermeyer, OSB
- Sr. Mary Pham Thai Thuan, MTG
- 12/10 Sr. Sara Goggin, SSMO
- 12/12 Sr. Marilyn LeDoux, SSMO
- Sr. Elma Heesacker, SSMO
- Sr. Juanita Villarreal, SSMO
- Sr. Anna Marie Vanni, OCD
- 12/16 Sr. Alice Ann Schaefer, OSB
- 12/26 Sr. Christine Rausch, OSB
- 12/27 Sr. John Therese Miller, SSMO
- Sr. John Marie Storm, OCD
- 1/21 Sr. Agnes Nguyen Anh Duong, MTG
- Sr. Marcella Parrish, SSMO
- Sr. Agnes Marie Vandecoevering, SSMO
- 1/27 Sr. Angela Meister, OSB

## SISTERS BIRTHDAYS

- 12/1 Sr. Anne Vandecoevering, SSMO
- 12/3 Sr. Margaret Bischoff, SP
- 12/8 Sr. Ruth Frank, SSMO
- 12/20 Sr. Delores Adelman, SSMO

## JANUARY

- 1/1 Sr. Agatha Hang Tran, MTG
- 1/3 Sr. Denise Klaas, SSMO
- 1/4 Sr. Theresa Lan Nguyen, SSMO
- 1/5 Sr. Rebecca Pirkel, OSB
- 1/10 Sr. Juana Maria Gonzalez, OCD
- 1/11 Sr. Maria The Dang, MTG
- 1/15 Sr. Maria Goretti Trâm Ngo, MTG
- 1/16 Sr. Mary Kim Chi Bui, MTG
- Sr. Michael Francine Duncan, SSMO
- 1/20 Sr. Alice Ann Schaefer, OSB
- 1/21 Sr. Marcella Parrish, SSMO
- 1/22 Sr. Marietta Schindler, OSB
- 1/27 Sr. Maria Serra Garcia, FSE
- 1/30 Sr. Charlene Herinckx, SSMO
- 1/31 Sr. Catherine Hertel, SSMO
- Sr. Mary Bernadette Le Uyên Nguyễn, MTG

## ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/1 Rev. Gracy D'Rozario, CSC
- Rev. Richard Rutherford, CSC
- 12/6 Rev. Dominic Mtenga-Ngayaku, AJ
- 12/8 Rev. Niall O'Riordan, OJSS
- Very Rev. Prior Vincent Trujillo, OSB
- 12/10 Rev. Felipe Mariscal-Chavez, OSM
- 12/11 Rev. Juan Ignacio Poodts
- 12/11 Rev. Aaron Stettler
- 12/12 Rev. Francesco DePuydt, OJSS
- 12/12 Rev. Francis Njau, AJ
- 12/16 Rev. Msgr. Gregory Moys
- 12/18 Rev. Robert Antonelli, CSC
- 12/19 Rev. Peter Okola, AJ
- 12/20 Rev. Rev. José Luis González
- 12/24 Rev. Jean Bernard Dubos, OJSS
- 12/26 Rev. Francis Saleth, HGN
- 12/27 Very Rev. Anthony Joseph Alles, MMJMJ
- 12/30 Rev. Chinsu Kim
- 12/31 Rev. Jossey Kuriakose
- 1/6 Rev. Nicolaus Marandu, ALCP
- 1/10 Rev. Peter Đoàn, SDD
- Rev. Jose Ugalde, MSpS

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2026

- Feb 2 World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life  
to be celebrated on Sunday, Feb 8, at the Cathedral
- Sat, Feb 7 Lady's Luncheon & Tea  
Our Lady of Peace Retreat House  
[Registration](#) is open



## November 7th Testimonies Hearing the Call



Above, Fr. Peter Julia talked about his life as priest. Below, Serrans and guests gathered together for a little social time before the panel discussion.



During National Vocation Awareness November 2-8, Serra Clubs across the United States hosted events to promote awareness and vocations to the religious, diaconate and priesthood through education, prayers and support for those discerning their calling in life. At St Pius X in Beaverton on November 7, **Fr. Peter Julia** talked to the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders of St Pius X Catholic School about his vocation as a priest. He mentioned the many years (8-10) of education and how happy he was as a priest. He also discussed the many duties that a priest may have, certainly prayer, mass, caring for the sick and dying, advice and counseling, supporting seminarians, covering for fellow priests and administrative duties. He stated that sometimes he had other special duties such as chaplain for the Air National Guard. Students in turn had the usual questions about his training, marriage, but especially about his work in the Air National Guard and if he got to fly.

Later on in the evening, the Serra Club hosted a panel with **Fr. Chi-Nhan Vo** as the moderator, and guests panelists, Br. Louis de Montfort Nguyen, O.S.B., Deacon Shawn Daniels, and Monsignor Dennis O'Donovan. The stories of panelists of what led each to their calling was fascinating and as varied as could be.

**Brother Louis de Montfort Nguyen, O.S.B.**, was raised in a devout household where daily rosary prayer and Marian devotion were central practices. While his formal Catholic education was limited to Sunday instruction, Brother Louis possessed an innate inclination toward prayer, and the foundational seeds of faith were nurtured through his family's spiritual life. As a young adult, he gained valuable experience in hospitality and service working as a busboy at Walt Disney in California—formative preparation for Benedictine monastic life.

When Brother Louis departed for medical school, he demonstrated uncommon spiritual resolve by maintaining his faith commitment during a critical life transition. His decision to pursue medical studies represented more than professional ambition; it was a conscious choice to seek and follow God's will. His dedication to deepening his relationship with God manifested through regular Mass attendance, daily rosary prayer, and active participation in campus Catholic communities. Throughout his medical studies and subsequent clinical training, he pursued God's will with intentionality, attending daily Mass and assisting at his parish whenever his schedule permitted. A pilgrimage to Rome during his fourth year of medical school proved transformative, fundamentally redirecting his vocational aspirations away from secular medical practice.

Guided by a dedicated spiritual director, Brother Louis engaged in sustained discernment throughout his remaining studies. Rather than pursuing medical employment alongside his peers, he visited Mount Angel Abbey, where his monastic vocation became evident. He was subsequently accepted as a novice, formally beginning his Benedictine religious life.



Br. Louis de Montfort Nguyen, OSB, Deacon Shawn Daniels, Monsignor Dennis O'Donovan and Fr. Chi-Nhan Vo

At the age of 58, **Deacon Shawn Daniels** is the oldest seminarian up on the hill but unlike many seminarians who were raised Catholic, he grew up in a faith-filled family as members of the Assembly of God, which included several preachers on his father's side. It is a charismatic movement centered on the Holy Spirit, but not on God or Jesus. As he matured into a young adult, he became disillusioned with the scandals, financial mishandling and the various problems within their church and stopped attending. Early in his 30's, Shawn became good friends with a Catholic family with two young girls who adopted him as their uncle and the family often invited him to attend Mass with them. Eventually Shawn began RCIA and joined the Catholic Church. He only considered the priesthood after he was satisfied with the way that the Catholic Church was handling the scandals, and learned that it wasn't only young men just out of high school or college that could be accepted into the seminary. He reached out to Fr. Jeff Eirvin, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of Portland at that time, and applied to Mount Angel Seminary and was accepted. Shawn felt that God put him on this path, one that he could have never envisioned twenty years ago. The history, the beauty, and the solemnity of the Catholic Church really appealed to him.

On the other hand, **Monsignor Dennis O'Donovan** grew up in a strong Catholic family in Des Moines, Iowa, the oldest of three children. He was deeply impressed by his childhood Pastor, Fr. Charles Phelan. Fr. Phelan's care and sensitivity for people was legendary. Msgr. was particularly impressed how Fr. Phelan aided a family whose boys Msgr. would often babysit in his early teens. (They were too tough for the girl babysitters.) The boys' dad was killed in a tragic auto accident on the east coast, and even local authorities knew that Fr. Phelan was the one to break the news to the surviving family and help them deal with the tragedy. He was an icon for Msgr. Dennis on what a priest should be. Msgr. Dennis entered the seminary in college at Conception Abbey in northwest Missouri. He became a Benedictine monk there and subsequently was sent to Mt. Michael Abbey in Nebraska. He taught there in the abbey's high school and then was sent to St Meinrad's School of Theology to complete his theological studies. He was ordained at Mt. Michael in 1969 and taught there and was treasurer for the abbey and school for 10 years. In 1979, Fr. O'Donovan received permission to become a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Portland. He loved every parish where he served in the Archdiocese, St. Mary's in Albany. St. Anthony's in Forest Grove, St. Cecilia's in Beaverton, and St. Philip Benizi in Redland. In 2000, Fr. O'Donovan was surprised to be appointed Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia (Archbishop's Cabinet.) He served in that position until his retirement in 2013. He had previously been appointed a prelate of honor by Pope Benedict XVI, with the title of Monsignor. Monsignor Dennis noted that a Vocation to the Priesthood always and constantly meant surprises. <https://archdpdxvocations.org/different-paths-one-mission/>

### The Presentation at the Temple

**World Day for Consecrated Life** will be celebrated on Sunday, February 8, 2026, and in parishes over the weekend of February 7-8, 2026. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.



*"He reveals his plan for us; the closer we are to God, the closer we are to ourselves. Everyone has a vocation to holiness, (and) to love God."*

Br. Louis de Montfort Nguyen, O.S.B.

*Annual Serra Christmas Luncheon  
Wednesday, December 3*

"Great Christmas party! Beautiful decorations and the food was outstanding."

*Dan Jones*



New members attending the lunch are Harvey Lucas (in the top right photo with his wife Monica,) and to the right: Quynh-Anh Troung, Kay Hendrickson, and Marita Keppel. Mollie Meter, guest of Gail Wilhelms, is the incoming president of Seminary Tea Committee.

