November 2025

SERRA CLUB of PORTLAND BULLETIN

Serra Club 3 / District 1S / Pacific Northwest Region

SERRAN CALENDAR

Wed, Nov 5	11 AM Board Meeting Noon Serra Meeting
Speaker:	Kim Yozamp
Topic:	Apostolic Life Community in Tanzania

Nov 2 - 8 National Vocation Awareness Week
www.usccb.org

St. Pius X Catholic Church
Friday, November 7 1:45-2:45 PM
Vocation Talk by Fr. Peter Julia
6:15 PM - Panel discussion on
A Call to Serve, Different Pathways

Wed, Nov 19	Noon Mass Serra Meeting
Speaker:	Katie LaRiviere, Mount Angel
Wed, Dec 4	**Christmas Party**
Wed, Dec 18	**NO MEETING**

Serra Club of Portland

President	Melliza Palazo
Past President	Paul Harris 503-657-4614
VP Programs	Susan Gallagher
VP Vocations	Melliza Palazo
Secretary	Christy Uhrich
VP Communications	Monique Harris
VP Membership	Dan Jones 503-645-2172
Webmaster	Lynn Jones
Treasurer	Ed O'Hanlon - for Serra business: 847 NE Floral Pl, Portland OR 97232
Chaplain	Rev. Peter Julia
Trustees	1 yr -Gary Wilhelms 2 yr - Daniel Okapal 3 yr - Judy Winczewski
Foundation Rep	Dan Jones

President's Message

As we commemorate **National Vocation Awareness Week**, I invite everyone to pause and reflect on the sacred call to serve within the Church—through the priesthood, religious and consecrated life, and the vocation of marriage and single life. This special week reminds us to remain attentive to God's voice, to pray, and to encourage others as they discern their unique path of discipleship.

We were profoundly blessed to welcome Mr. **Emanuel Costa, President of Serra International,** together with his wife Beatrice, during their visit with our Pacific Northwest Serrans. Their presence was both inspiring and uplifting, underscoring the vital role Serrans play in fostering vocations and supporting those who have generously responded to God's call. Mr. Costa's words renewed in us a deeper appreciation for our mission as laypeople—to accompany our priests with friendship and prayer, seeking their guidance while offering steadfast support in their pastoral ministry.

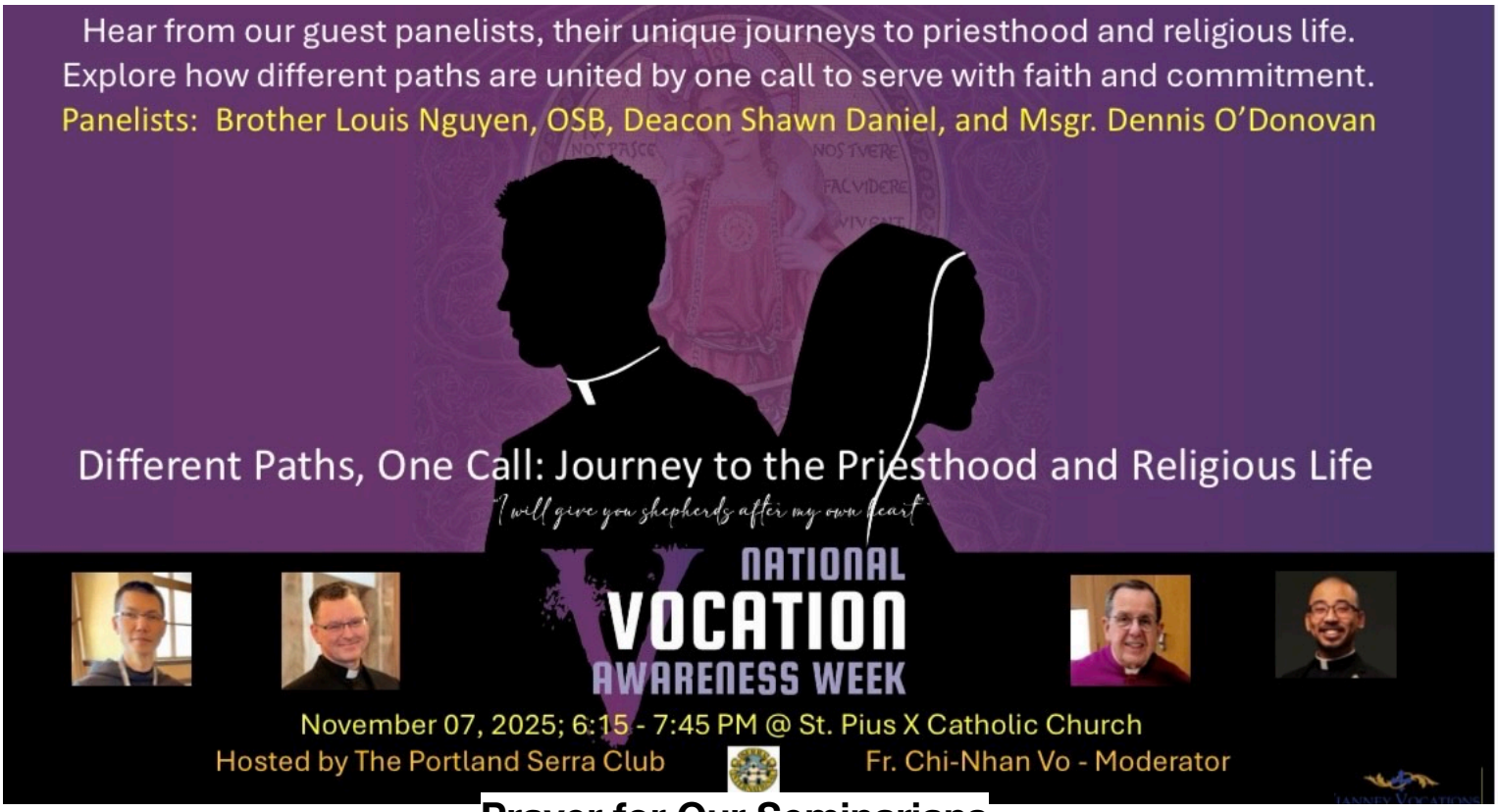
We were further enriched by the presence of our Vocation Director, Fr. Peter Julia, whose heartfelt message challenged us to persevere in our commitment to seminarians and all those discerning God's call in their lives.

Together, as Serrans and faithful members of the Church, **we are called to nurture a culture of vocations** through prayer, friendship, and action. Let us work hand in hand to encourage vocations to the priesthood, religious and consecrated life, and marriage — ensuring a vibrant, faith-filled future for our Church.

May this week rekindle in each of us a spirit of service, gratitude, and hope. May our hearts remain open to supporting those who courageously say "yes" to God's call, and may our collective prayers and actions continue to bear abundant fruit in the vineyard of the Lord.

Saint Junipero Serra, Pray for Us,

Melliza Palazo, President, Serra Club of Portland



Prayer for Our Seminarians

Lord Jesus, as you once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men, let your sweet invitation continue to resound: Come Follow Me! We thank you for the gift of these seminarians called to serve in the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. Inspire them to imitate You, the Eternal High Priest, in sacrificial service to Your Church. Grant perseverance to our seminarians. Give them the graces they need to one day serve You faithfully as priests. May Your light shine through them to everyone they meet. Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help our seminarians to continue to say "yes" to the Lord who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation.

Amen

Erik Morris

"I felt that God was asking me for something deeper than intellectual conversion… I experienced multiple breaking points where God worked on my intrinsic desires and fears. Eventually, God led me to a state of peace about following Him further."

Thomas Perry

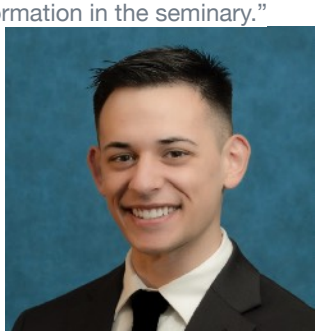
"After much discussion I decided to act in faith, live in hope, and seek charitable service for God and His Church as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Portland."

Shawn Daniel

… "The continued and increasing feeling of being 'at home' in the Church has led me to believe that perhaps it really is my home. As a result, I feel confident this is the direction in which I should move."

Noah Maffett

…"In that moment I could feel my heart light up with a new fire for the priesthood … I could so clearly see that there was more to this than the curiosity of a young boy in Mass. I could feel a calling to the priesthood. Now, I am given a truly special opportunity to take this feeling, shape it, and refine it through discernment and formation in the seminary."



Vince Vanzuylen

…" I began to properly discern my calling in life. I was able, not only to continue to grow my mixed martial arts skill set, but I was also able to form and develop a personal relationship with God."

To read more about the seminarians, go to archdpdxvocations.org/our-seminarians/

Reflections from October 1 Serra Meeting:

Thresholds to Enter the Seminary

Fr. Peter Julia, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Portland

To enter the seminary, men must meet these following benchmarks:

Human

1. An absence of serious pathology;
2. A proven capacity to function competently, which can be seen in their volunteering or work history;
3. Psychosexual maturity - are they mature for their age, working with men and women;
4. Do they have a genuine empathy and connection with others;
5. Do they demonstrate the ability to initiate and sustain friendships;

Spiritual

6. Do they show a capacity for spiritual growth;
7. Do they demonstrate a deep desire to be a man for others;
8. Do they pray regularly and are they currently active in parish life;
9. Do they participate regularly in the sacraments - going to Mass, penance, etc;

Intellectual

10. Do they demonstrate a capacity for critical thinking and problem solving, and being able to communicate with others;

Pastoral

11. Do they have a fundamental sense of the Church's mission, a willingness and enthusiasm to promote it;
12. Do they demonstrate a sensitivity to the needs of others?

Reflections from October 15 Serra Meeting: Maronite Spirituality

Abouna Peter Zogbi, St. Sharbel Catholic Church

Abouna Peter Zogbi lived in 5 states while he was growing up, but spent the biggest part of those years in Portland, Oregon. Peter felt from a young age that he had a priestly vocation. When he was in high school, he attended Quo Vadis Days four times, which greatly impacted him and led him to becoming a priest. He studied at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, then joined the seminary and studied theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. His first assignment as a priest was at a church in Birmingham, AL. Abouna (Father) Peter Zogbi is now studying psychology and is the pastor of St. Sharbel Church, 1804 SE 16th Ave, Portland.

Abouna Peter Zogbi explained that while we are Roman Catholic, the Maronites are Antiochene Catholics. Although they are here in Portland, they have a different bishop than we do, but we are all Catholics under the same pope.

Father Peter has a special love for the Holy Qurbono, the Maronite term in Syriac for the Divine Liturgy for the Mass. There are some differences between the Maronite and Roman Catholic liturgy, but many similarities. In the Maronite liturgy, the Syriac or Aramaic language is used, which was likely the language Jesus spoke. Different prayers are used but the structure is the same: the Liturgy of the Word, including intercessions which are similar to our prayers of petition, and The Liturgy of the Eucharist. Many Maronites are Lebanese. Because Father is Lebanese American and speaks both Arabic and English, he can be a link between the Lebanese and American communities.

He spoke of the importance of the Eucharist which is the central belief of our faith. "It is the source and the summit of Christian life." The Eucharist in all of us is a link that connects the natural world to the divine or spiritual world.

For more information about St. Sharbel Catholic Church and the Maronite Church, go to: https://www.stsharbel.org/the-maronite-churh/

Friday, October 24, 2025
Highlights from the Luncheon Honoring International Serra President Emanuel Costa

Fr. Peter Julia, Archdiocesan Vocation Director and Serra Chaplain, greeted President Emanuel Costa and his wife Beatrice before Mass, prior to this special Serra meeting, scheduled in addition to the normal meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. After meeting with the Serrans and enjoying the delicious food, President Emanuel Costa shared with our members his love of Serra and of Serrans world-wide and his plans to visit many clubs across the US and the globe. He emphasized the message of Pope Francis from the 2017 papal audience during the 75th International Serra Convention, “to be friends to priests, sustaining their vocation and accompanying them in their ministry.” He looked forward to meeting Pope Leo in 2027, a visit that he was taking steps to arrange for Serra International.

Both Peggy Platt, the President of the Kaiser-Salem Club, and Shirley Buckmier, our District Governor and representing the Vancouver River Club, gave examples of their ongoing Serran events as they promote vocations within their regions. Peggy talked about their events with the seminarians, such as bowling and support of Quo Vadis Days. Sharon told us about the dinner their club sponsors every February, open to the public, which includes a panel of speakers with the religious, priests, seminarians and Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle. Both Dan Jones and Melliza Palazo highlighted our club activities; not only do we have our Priests Appreciation Dinner and Sisters Luncheon, but will host a panel at St Pius X for Vocation Awareness Week on November 7, as we have done so for the last three years. In May the Club facilitated a reception to honor Fr. David Jane, a diocesan priest who had passed away this year. Fr. Peter concluded the meeting with a few words regarding the success that they have had with the growing number of men interested in joining the Propaedeutic Year as seminarians at Mount Angel Abbey, highlighting that we now have 33 men enrolled. Now the challenge is to make room for these men to be together as a separate group, to enable them to step away from the temptations of the world and learn what it means to be truly Catholic.

Our thanks go out to Melliza Palazo, Dan and Lynn Jones, for following up on the news that the International President of Serra would be in the Northwest to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Seattle Club, for making sure that invitations went out not only to our club but also to the Salem-Keiser and the Vancouver River Clubs, for arranging the beautiful luncheon and making sure that all details were in place, and to include a visit to Mount Angel Abbey and a meeting with Abbot Jeremy Driscoll. Thanks to Gail Wilhelms, Mara Barich, Maria and Mike Cedergren who helped with the food and preparation!

PRIESTS BIRTHDAYS

11/2 Rev. Justin Echevarria
Rev. Joseph Selinger, OP
11/3 Rev. Christopher Bernabe
11/4 Very Rev. Prior Vincent Trujillo, OSB
11/6 Rev. Leo Hambur, OSM
11/7 Archbishop Alexander Sample
11/8 Rev. David Gutmann
Rev. Tyler Kreipke, CSC
11/9 Rev. Aaron Stettler
Rev. Juan Ignacio Poodts
11/11 Rev. Patrick Hannon, CSC
11/11 Rev. San Mai, SJ
Rev. Manh Nguyen
11/15 Rev. William Holtzinger
11/18 Rev. Msgr. Richard Paperini
11/21 Rev. Joshua Gatus, OP
11/22 Rev. Secil Raj Savarimuthu, HGN
11/23 Rev. Andrew Schwenke, OSB
11/24 Charles Borromeo Gonzalez, OSB
11/25 Most Rev. Kenneth Steiner
Rev. Gregg Bronsema
Rev. Moises Kumulmac
11/30 Rev. Bruce Cwiekowski

SISTERS

11/2 Sr. Miriam Teresa Heckman, OCD
11/5 Sr. Theresa Ann Bunker, SSMO
11/7 Sr Mary Therese Hoa Nguyen, LHC
11/8 Sr. Elizabeth Sohler, SSMO
11/9 Sr. Rose Mesa, FSE
11/15 Sr Maria Tuyen Bui, LHC
11/16 Sr. Theresa Lamkin, OSF
11/25 Sr. Patricia Marie Landin, SSMO
11/27 Sr. Krista von Borstel, SSMO
11/28 Sr. John Therese Miller, SSMO

CELEBRATING FEAST DAYS

11/4 Sr. Charlene Herinckx, SSMO
11/22 Sr Cecilia Dung Ngo, LHC
11/17 Sr. Susan Casey, OSB
11/17 Sr. Elizabeth Sohler, SSMO
11/19 Sr. Agnes Clare Navarra, OSF
11/21 Sr. Cecilia Thanh Tu Doan, MTG
11/22 Sr. Judith Bloxham, OSB
Sr. Cecilia Dung Ngo, LHC
11/30 Sr. M Andre Lafferty,OSF

PRIESTS ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

11/4 Rev. Charles Borromeo Gonzalez, OSB
11/7 Rev. Bill Ameche, SJ

News fromThe Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon

We pray for the soul of our dear Sister Angeline Sohler, SSMO, who passed away on October 12. Sister Angeline was 98 years young and served as a dedicated SSMO for over 82 years!

Living with Joy as Pilgrims of Hope

What: Religious life retreat for discerning women
When: Nov. 7 – 9 (4 p.m. Friday – 1:30 p.m. Sunday)
Where: St. Mary-on-the-Lake – 1663 Killarney Way, Bellevue, WA
Who: Catholic Women age 20-45 who are discerning religious life

Space is limited. Use the **Living with Joy as Pilgrims of Hope Google Form** to register today. If you have any questions, email Sr. Chero Chum at: cherochuma@csjp.org.

The Vocation Directors/Ministers of the PacificNorthwest (PNW) Member Area of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) look forward to welcoming you to this retreat.

VOCATIONS

Dan & Lynn Jones - CALL TO SERVE

We are all called to holiness… each by a different pathway.

“We are committed to Serra and find some of our best friends to be priests, sisters, and Serrans who we have met through the years.” These words of Dan ring true through their action and commitment to the mission of Serra from the very beginning when Dan joined the Portland Serra Club in 1980. Dan served as VP Vocations, Membership, Programs and President, and then served on the US Council as District Governor, Regional Director, and in several other capacities before stepping up to become President of Serra International. Dan is now a Trustee on the Foundation Board.

Early on, Dan and other Serrans organized "Come and See” events at Mount Angel for young men to introduce them to the monastery and the seminary. "I've always liked coming down here and being around the priests and monks.” Dan married Lynn after his first wife Joann’s death in a car accident, and Lynn took on the role as the club’s website master, VP of Communications and newsletter editor for which she held for 17 years. Lynn's first connection with Mount Angel was the first Seminary Benefit Dinner in 2004. "It brought tears to my eyes," says Lynn, recalling the moment when all the seminarians came into the ballroom. Dan and Lynn have also provided leadership to the Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary as Dan served several years on the Seminary Board and Lynn on the Abbey Foundation Board. Lynn holds the distinction of being the Abbey Foundation of Oregon's longest serving board member for a total of 20 years and its first woman president!

Congratulations to Deacons Eddie Caudel, Shawn Keough, Randel Livingood, Rolando Moreno, and Brian Suda
On their Permanent Diaconate Ordination
October 25, 2025

We are all called to holiness…
each by a different pathway.