



October 2025

SERRA CLUB of PORTLAND BULLETIN

Serra Club 3 / District 1S / Pacific Northwest Region

SERRAN CALENDAR

Wed, Oct 1 11 AM Board Meeting
Speaker: Fr. Peter Julia, Vocation Director

Wed, Oct 15 Noon Mass
Serra Meeting
Speaker: Abouna Peter Zogbi
Topic: Maronite Spirituality

**Fri, Oct 24 11:30 Mass with Fr. Peter Julia
Special Luncheon with visiting**

Serra International President Emanuel Costa

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

Wed, Nov 19 Noon Mass
Serra Meeting
Speaker: Katie LaRiviere, Mount Angel

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

Canonizations — A Call to Holiness!

The canonizations of Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati in 2025 have ignited renewed enthusiasm among many young men, particularly in the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, for the Eucharist and priestly vocations. Acutis, known as “God’s influencer,” motivated youth through his modern devotion and his website documenting Eucharistic miracles, making the presence of Christ more tangible and relatable. Frassati, called the “Man of the Beatitudes,” exemplifies joyful faith, service, and authentic Catholic living, inspiring others to consider a life dedicated to God and service, including priesthood. These saints have inspired local seminarians and young people to recognize holiness as attainable in everyday life and digital culture, encouraging greater involvement in Eucharistic adoration and the discernment of priestly vocations.

Lord, we thank You for the great gift of vocations and for blessing our Archdiocese of Portland with 34 young men who have generously responded to Your call to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. May You strengthen them with faith, guide them with wisdom, and sustain them with Your love, so that they may one day serve Your people with joyful hearts.”

Saint Junipero Serra, Pray for Us,

Melliza Palazo

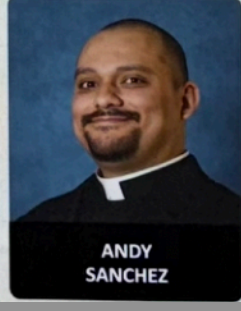
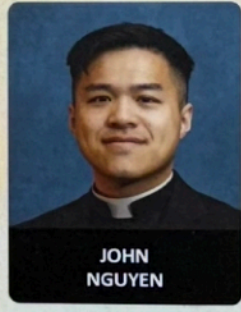
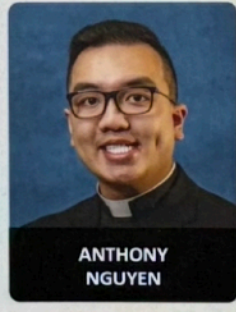
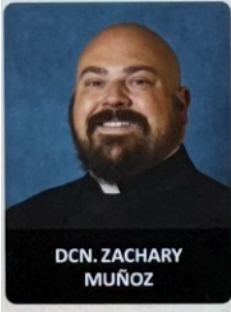
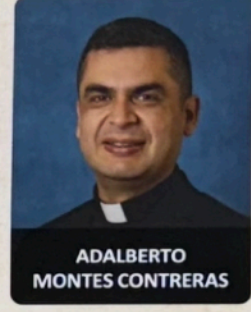
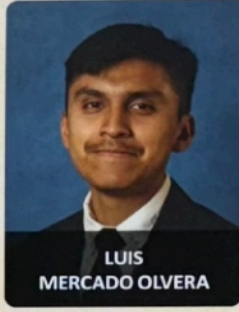
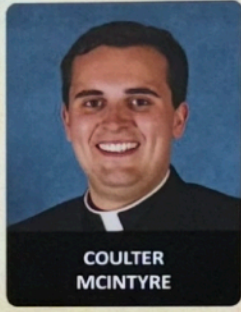
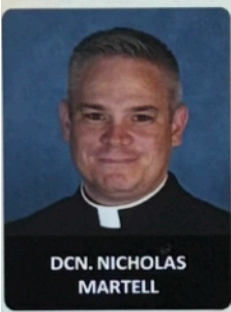
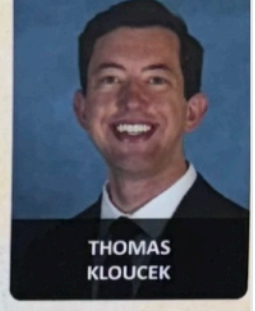
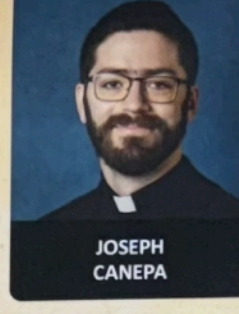
President, Serra Club of Portland

Click on the underlined names of each saint above to watch the YouTube videos featuring their lives.

Pray for our Seminarians!

2025-2026

To read about the vocation story for each, go to: <https://archdpdxvocations.org/our-seminarians/>



“The Lord knows well that only by being joined to him and united among ourselves can we bear fruit and give credible witness to the world.” Pope Leo XIV

ON THE JOURNEY TOWARDS THE PRIESTHOOD



During the Holy Hour for Vocations at St. Alice Catholic Church in Springfield, Seminarian Mauricio Duran leads the prayer in the photo to the left. To the right is Mauricio during the visit of the JP II Monstrance this past June.

BIRTHDAYS

PRIESTS

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>10/2 Rev. Stephen Kenyon
 10/3 Rev. Michael Jeeva Antony
 10/5 Rev. Raphael Jude Thaddeus Lefevre, MMJMJ
 Jeffrey Meeuwssen
 Rev. Chrispine Otieno
 10/6 Rev. William Hammelman, OSB
 Rev. Rev. Joseph Sergott, OP
 Rev. Christopher Weekly, SJ
 10/9 Rev. Ignacio Llorente, SSJ
 10/10 Rev. Mark Padrez, OP
 Rev. José Ugalde, MSpS
 10/12 Rev. Craig Boly, SJ
 10/13 Rev. John Vianney Le, OSB
 10/14 Rev. Randy Hoang
 10/15 Rev. Ronald Nelson
 10/19 Rev. Wilibaldo Gutierrez Herrera
 Rev. Bryce McProud
 10/21 Rev. José Luis Gonzales
 10/22 Rev. Julio Cesar Torres Montejo
 10/23 Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph Betschart
 10/24 Rt. Rev. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB
 10/25 Rev. Peter Julia
 Rev. Kwac Duong Ngo, SDD
 10/26 Rev. Basil Lawrence, OSB
 10/27 Rev. Richard LeFavre
 Rev. Efrain Razo
 Rev. Israel Sanchez, OSB
 10/28 Rev. Timothy Weed, CSC
 10/29 Rev. James Antonio, SJ
 Rev. Todd Molinari
 10/31 Rev. Aelred Yockey, OSB</p> | <p>10/2 Rev. Daniel Thomas Harris, MMJMJ
 Rev. Raphael Jude Thaddeus Lefevre, MMJMJ
 10/4 Rev. John Kerns
 10/5 Rev. David Zegar
 10/14 Rev. Peter Phong Nguyen, SDD
 Rev. Richard Sirianni
 10/18 Rev. Gabriele Maria White, OJSS</p> |
|---|--|
- May her soul rest in peace.
Sr. Mary Jeanita Richter, RSM
 Sept 21, 1936 - July 11, 2025
- ### **SISTERS**

<p>10/12 Rev. Craig Boly, SJ 10/13 Rev. John Vianney Le, OSB 10/14 Rev. Randy Hoang 10/15 Rev. Ronald Nelson 10/19 Rev. Wilibaldo Gutierrez Herrera Rev. Bryce McProud 10/21 Rev. José Luis Gonzales 10/22 Rev. Julio Cesar Torres Montejo 10/23 Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph Betschart 10/24 Rt. Rev. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB 10/25 Rev. Peter Julia Rev. Kwac Duong Ngo, SDD 10/26 Rev. Basil Lawrence, OSB 10/27 Rev. Richard LeFavre Rev. Efrain Razo Rev. Israel Sanchez, OSB 10/28 Rev. Timothy Weed, CSC 10/29 Rev. James Antonio, SJ Rev. Todd Molinari 10/31 Rev. Aelred Yockey, OSB</p>	<p>10/12 Sr. Joseph Fennimore, OSB 10/17 Sr. Catherine Biehl, FSE 10/18 Sr. Christine Rausch, OSB 10/23 Sr. Marie Bernadette George, SSMO</p>
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- ### **CELEBRATING FEAST DAYS**

<p>10/1 Sr. Theresa Hathaway, SSMO 10/1 Sr. Theresa Ann Bunker, SSMO 10/1 Sr. Theresa Lan Nguyen, SSMO 10/1 Sr. Thanh Pham, SSMO 10/2 Sr. Angeline Sohler, SSMO 10/9 Sr. Denise Klaas, SSMO 10/10 Sr. Rene Foster, OSB</p>
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Reflections from Sept 3 Serra Meeting:

Ministry in Old Town and the County Jail

Fr. Fr. Gary Smith, SJ



Fr. Gary Smith, SJ, was born in 1937 in California, joined the Jesuits in 1959, and earned degrees in counseling, teaching, divinity, and sacred theology. After three years at Holy Family Parish in San Jose, CA, Fr. Gary worked as a community organizer, in street and jail ministry, and in refugee service in Uganda, South Africa, Kenya, South Sudan, Lesvos, and Greece.

His ministry at present is in Old Town Portland: at the Blanchet House, helping with meals and with counseling; visiting residents in the Old Town; service with the Salvation Army and at St. Andre Bessette Parish; and, visiting and ministry to county jail inmates.

At age 20, while Fr. Gary Smith was in college and feeling a need for something more in his life, a friend invited him to a retreat at a Jesuit retreat house. During the weekend he had conversations with several of the Jesuits and it changed his life. He converted to Catholicism and went into the Jesuit seminary. While studying theology in Canada, he started working in jails; it was again a life changer. He realized he could bring his theology to the poor and broken in a meaningful way.

Fr. Gary shared stories of his experiences in his early priesthood years; working with the poor, led him to realize that they needed recognition and compassion. His time in Uganda, working with the Jesuit Refugee Service, changed his life in that it made him more compassionate. He saw poverty in a way he hadn't seen before. He spoke of learning the true meaning of gratitude, telling of a young man so grateful for his ministry to the poor in Uganda, that when Fr. Gary was leaving to return to the US, the young man, the oldest son of a Ugandan family, wanted to gift himself to Fr Gary and come to the US to help him in his ministry here in the States.

Fr. Gary lives by the Samaritan Principal, that, "when you see these people in need and broken, you couldn't live with yourself if you didn't do something for them." His life is also inspired and guided by Matthew 25:40, when the Lord said, "I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me."

Reflections from Sept 17 Serra Meeting: Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Living

Jeanette Grimaldi, SEEL Director



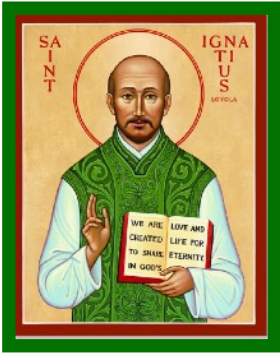
She grew up in SE Portland, attended Our Lady of Sorrows grade school, and LaSalle High School. Jeanette has been a parishioner at Saint Ignatius Catholic Parish in SE Portland for over 35 years.

Eventually, Jeanette landed in Los Angeles at USC to complete a master's degree in Piano Performance. This is where and when she met her husband, Ugo. They have been married since 1986 and are proud parents of two adult children. They became grandparents for the first time in February 2025.

Currently, Jeanette spends every weekday as "granny nanny" for her granddaughter. In her spare time, she plays piano when asked to play and provides coordination and fulfills administrative duties for SEEL (Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life) Portland retreats.

Jeanette has been a spiritual director for SEEL Portland (**Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life**) for 20 years. It is a Jesuit program that gives lay people the opportunity to experience the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius in their everyday lives. Jeanette began her explanation of Ignatian Spirituality by presenting a picture of who St. Ignatius was.

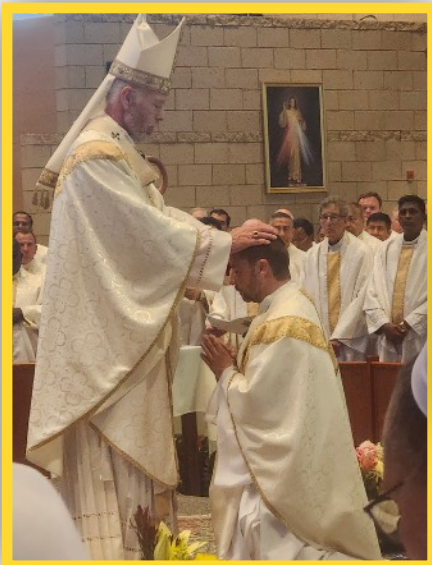
Ignatius was born in Spain in 1491, the youngest of 13 children. He was sent off to study to become a courtier and a soldier. He was known to be vain, hotheaded, and a ladies man. In Pamplona, he led a charge up a hill thinking he and his men could take on the French army. He ended up with a cannon ball in his kneecap and was returned to Spain in extreme pain. While immobilized in bed, he read the only two books in the family castle, *The Lives of the Saints*, and *The Life of Jesus Christ*. In his boredom, he read them over and over, which turned out to be the beginning of his conversion. He began to fantasize of becoming a saint, doing good works for God, and emulating St. Francis. He gave away his possessions, he confessed his sins, and looked back over his life and his failings. He went to Manresa where he did penance and wrote down his thoughts. He wrote down all the words of Jesus, and all the words of Mary from the bible. He prayed with those words and those notes are the basis today for the Spiritual Exercises Retreat. He realized he really wanted to become a priest. He went back to school in his 30's to learn Latin. He walked from Spain to Paris to the University of Paris for a degree to be able to become a priest. In Paris, he became friends with a group of younger men who were priests or studying to become priests. They were fascinated by his spirituality in just his everyday conversations. Some of those young men were Francis Xavier, Robert Bellarmine, and Aloysius Gonzaga. A group of seven became priests, took vows and wanted to become missionaries to serve God's people. They were convinced to become an order. It was not Ignatius's idea but he agreed. They took vows in 1534, as an order with the pope's permission.



The Jesuits still take a vow of obedience to the Pope today. Other orders were often named for their founder, such as the Benedictines, but Ignatius definitely did not want to be the head of the order nor have it named for him. He was forced to be the first Superior General, but he refused to have his name on the order. He said “It is always about Jesus.” So they became The Society of Jesus. They were originally called Jesuits as an insult but Ignatius was okay with being called the Jesuits. Sadly, his dream of becoming a missionary was never fulfilled. As the Superior General he was stuck in Rome directing the order, writing letters, sending money, encouraging people, but he wasn’t unhappy. He lived Ignatian indifference, which was complete confidence that “Whatever happens God is in it. God will see you through it, and God is always at work.” When Ignatius died in 1556 there were about 1,000 Jesuit priests with colleges and houses around the world. He was canonized by Pope Gregory XV in 1622.

One of St. Ignatius’s greatest gifts was the spiritual exercises. The exercises are a spiritual workout originally written as a 30 day retreat for men wanting to become Jesuits. When Ignatius saw how transformative they were, he rewrote them for a nine month format, and shared them with the lay people. The program has been offered in Portland for over 30 years. It is offered by well formed lay people who spend three years being formed to lead the program. It is sponsored by the Jesuits but the program is independent.

It starts with the principle and foundation, asking, “Who am I? What is the truth? Who do I live for? What are my priorities?” At the very end Ignatius is saying our only desire, and our one choice should be this – I want and I choose what leads to the deepening of God’s life in me.



**Mount Angel Seminary Benefit Dinner**
November 8, 2025
Click [HERE](#) for more details.



 **DIocese of BAKER**

Congratulations, Bishop Thomas Hennen!

Our thanks to **Bishop Liam Carey** for his years of service to the Baker Diocese. Replacing Bishop Carey is **Bishop Thomas Hennen**, the youngest bishop in the United States!
Here’s the [link](#) to learn more...



Sunday, September 28

The Honorary Kevin Van Hoomissen Sisters' Appreciation Luncheon



Serra President Melliza Palazo welcomed guests and Serrans, acknowledging the ten year anniversary of the Canonization of Junipero Serra. Parochial Vicar for the Archdiocese of Portland, Sr. Veronica Schueler, FSE, lead and closed the event with prayers. Ten religious orders were represented including the Sisters of the Rosary of Fatima who drove up from Salem, the Society of Mary Sisters, based in West Linn, and the Lovers of the Holy Cross of the Thu Thiem, from Beaverton. Each religious order was given a special Serra Challenge Coin, engraved with ***“Is Christ calling you to the religious life?”***, so to encourage young women to consider religious life.

It was back in 1987 that **Kevin Van Hoomissen** was inspired to recognize the gift of consecrated life in our Archdiocese, by hosting the religious sisters with an annual luncheon at the University of Portland Terrace Room. At that time, the luncheon was called the **Nuns Brunch** but the name was later changed to **The Sisters' Appreciation Luncheon**. After Kevin passed away, the Serra Club added the words **“Honorary Kevin Van Hoomissen Sisters' Appreciation Luncheon”**. At our September 28 luncheon this year, it was only right to honor his wife Peggy with a gift of roses.

For the last 20 years the **DoubleTree Lloyd Center** has welcomed the Serrans and our guests with excellent food and service. This year was no exception with the wine, (courtesy of Tom Eyer), trays of appetizers, followed by Chicken Marsala, rice pilaf and vegetables, finishing off with tiramisu for dessert. Working at the Doubletree, **Fernando** has served the Serra Club for many years including this event. Here in the photo below, he served the wine with Maria. **Dan Jones** was recognized for his service to the mission of the Serra Club, including his role as past president of International Serra, and **Lynn Jones**, as she had led and organized this event for many years prior to Monique Harris taking on this responsibility about 10 years ago. There are many to thank for their support... **Adrian Harris Crowne** played the keyboard once again now during our social; **Judith Winczewski** provided each table with a beautiful floral arrangement, each given to the religious sisters afterwards; **Valeria Rodriguez, Mara Barich, Brianna & Camille Harris** greeted the guests as receptionists; **Dan & Lynn Jones, Gary & Gail Wilhelms**, welcomed the sisters at the door as they arrived. And finally, our thanks go out to all whose generosity helped support this event!





Dan Jones, Sr. Teresa Harrell, SM, Sr. Belen Marquez, SM and Melliza Palazo



Judith Winczewski greets Jim O'Hanlon, Serra member since 1961. He just celebrated his 98th birthday on September 27!



Mary Ann Perlot and Sr. Bridget Baumann, SNJM



Above is Sr. Dominica Mchali, ALCS, and Sr. Michael Francine, SSMO. To the right, Sr. Michael Francine and Sr. Mollie Reavis, SNJM, greet Sr. Brigid Baumann, SNJM.



Melliza Palazo, Sr. Therese Gutting, FSE, and Sr. Veronica Schueler, FSE



Center front, Peggy Van Hoomissen with her son Mark. From left to right are SSMO Sisters Juanita Villarreal and Juana Gutierrez, and Missionary Sisters of the Rosary of Fatima, Raquel De Leon and Maria Micaela Valdes, Holy Name Sisters Irene Knopes, Anne Bosserman and Phyllis Jaszlowiak.



Sr. Maria Tuyen Buyen, LHC, Sr. Mary Therese Hoa Nguyen, LHC, Dolly Specht, Dick Safranski, Jim O'Hanlon, Ed & Grace O'Hanlon, and Sr. Janice Matthies, SNJM



Sr. Anne Bosserman, SNJM and Sr. Euphemia Mkenea, ALCS



Melliza Pallalo, Sr. Juanita Villarreal, SSMO, Sr. Juana Gutierrez, SSMO, and Sr. Euphemia Mkenea, ALCS

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

WE CARE!

Link to:
[Oregon Catholic
Directory](#)

And more photos....



NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

November 2 - 8
St Pius X Catholic Church

Speakers:

- Br. Louis Nguyen, OSB
- Deacon Shawn Daniel
- Fr. Cary Reniva

"God, what do you want me to do with my life for you?"

MARRIAGE | PRIESTHOOD | RELIGIOUS LIFE | SACRIFICE