September 2025

SERRA CLUB of PORTLAND BULLETIN

Serra Club 3 / District 1S / Pacific Northwest Region

SERRAN CALENDAR

Wed, Sep 3 — 11 AM Board Meeting
Noon Serra Meeting
Speaker: Fr. Gary Smith, SJ
Ministry in Old Town and the County Jail

Wed, Sep 17 — Noon Mass
Serra Meeting
Speaker: Jeanette Grimaldi, SEEL

Sept 28 — Sisters' Appreciation Luncheon

Wed, Oct 1 — 11 AM Board Meeting
Speaker: Melliza Palazo
USAC Kansas Convention

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

Wed, Nov 5 — 11 AM Board Meeting
Noon Serra Meeting
Speaker: TBA

Wed, Nov 19 — Noon Mass
Serra Meeting
Speaker: Katie Jo LaRiviere
Ass. Professor of Literature, Mt. Angel
Topic: Hazelnut Catholic and research

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sep 23 — 10th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Junipero Serra

Sep 28 — Priesthood Sunday

Nov 2-8 — National Vocation Awareness Wk

President's Message

Quo Vadis Days

Reflecting on Quo Vadis, we are reminded of Peter's question, "Where are you going?", as he faced uncertainty and doubt. Similarly, many young men today are discerning their vocation, seeking direction and purpose in their journey of faith. We have the blessing to serve these young men, offering them not only food and presence but also support and encouragement.

By welcoming and caring for them, we are fostering a culture where discernment is nurtured and where they realize they are loved and valued. This act of service helps create an environment where they can listen more clearly to God's call, confident that they are accompanied by a community that cares deeply for their spiritual well-being.

In essence, as we serve these young men, we are not just feeding their bodies but also sowing seeds of trust, love, and support—guiding them forward in their journey, no matter where it may lead.

Saint Junipero Serra, Pray for Us,

Melliza Palazo President, Serra Club of Portland

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	

Quo Vadis Days Aug 11-14

Young men from the ages 15-18 came together at the Father Bernard Youth Center in Mount Angel to attend Quo Vadis Days held August 11-14, 2025. In the above photo to the left are the 26 seminarians gathered for lunch before the retreat. In the center photo are 55 high school attendees. To the right are Fr.Justin Echevarria, Fr. Efrain Razo, Deacon Tristan Schubert, and Fr. Anselm Flores, OSB. Our current president of the Portland Serra Club, Melliza Palazo and her daughter Melaudie, assisted the Archdiocese of Portland and the seminarians in the organization and food preparation of the event.

Melliza Palazo and Melaudie visited two seminarians at Bishop White Seminary in Spokane, WA. In the photo above next to the women are Josiah Dauvin, Fr. Lucas Tomson, STD, (new Rector of Bishop White Seminary,) Noah Maffett and Fr. Kyle Ratuiste, Vice-Rector and Dean of Men.

CELEBRATE PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28!

MARK YOUR Calendars!
Serra Rally
Jan. 22-25, 2026 in St. Louis

BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Rev. Mark Bentz
Rev. Mark Ghyselinck, CSC
9/2 Rev. William Dillard
Rev. Valentine Gasparraj
9/05 Rev. Nik Guiney, CSC
Rev. Gary Zerr
9/06 Rev. Michael Johnston
9/11 Rev. Paul Materu, ALCP
9/12 Very Rev. Charles McCoy, CSC
9/16 Rev. Pedro Arteaga, MSpS
9/15 Rev. Miguel Figueroa-Farias
9/17 Rev. Bob Loughery, CSC
Rev. Charles Zach
9/18 Rev. Richard Rossman
9/19 Rev. Theodore Prentice
9/21 Rev. Jack Mosbrucker
9/25 Rev. Teresio Caldwell, OSB
9/27 Rev. Msgr. Gerard O'Conner
9/28 Rev. Niall O'Riordan, OJSS

Link to: Oregon Catholic Directory

FEAST DAYS

9/4 Sr. Rebecca Pirkl, OSB
9/8 Sr. Juana Maria Gonzalez, OCD
Sr. Mary, OSF
9/27 Sr. Mary Vincent Nguyen, OSF
9/27 Sr. Maria Gabriel Standfield, OSF

SISTERS

PRIESTS ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

9/3 Rev. Juan Pablo Patiño, MSpS
9/07 Rev. Godfred Ocun, AJ
9/9 Rev. Juan Pablo Patiño, MSpS
9/12 Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, OSB
9/13 Rev. Don Gutmann
9/19 Rev. Manuel Rosiles, MSpS
Rev. Alexandro Rubio, MSpS
9/24 Rev. Patrick Brennan

BIRTHDAYS

9/8 Sr. Maureen Niedermeyer, OSB
Sr. Clare Vandeceovering, SSMO
9/14 Sr. Anna Marie Vanni, OCD
9/15 Sr. Diana Jean Neumayer, SSMO
Sr. Agatha Radoli, OCD
9/23 Sr. Josephine Pelster, SSMO
9/24 Sr. Marilyn LeDoux, SSMO
9/26 Sr. Dorothy Rausch, OSB

Reflections from August 6 Serra Meeting : Refugee Resettlement

Tanja Brady , Catholic Charities of Oregon

From left to right: Mary Asmus, Tanja Brady, and Bruce Asmus

Tanja Brady is a first-generation American whose mother emigrated from Germany after WWII. Growing up in Michigan, Tanja was immersed in international experiences, from dinner-table conversations, studying abroad in high school, to earning a master's in international health and volunteering in Malawi. She moved to Oregon in 2014 to care for her elderly father. After seven years out of the workforce, she joined Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement as an AmeriCorps member. Tanja quickly rose to Refugee Self Sufficiency Lead, where she now stands as a compassionate guide and steadfast ally with refugees, walking hand-in-hand as they rebuild their lives and find hope here in Oregon.

Tanja began with pictures of her and her Catholic Charities colleagues meeting refugees at the airport, and then explaining the real meaning of the word refugee. A refugee is a migrant seeking entry from a third country, not their home country, not the country they flee to, but a third country. They demonstrate that they have been persecuted, or fear persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular group.

Catholic Charities has a long history of supporting refugees, which is one out of four service categories that it provides. In more recent times, refugees arrived in Portland from Cuba after Castro took over in the 1960's, then the Vietnamese followed in the 70's. Refugees that enter into the United States legally are registered as one of many different immigration statuses. **Asylum status** is given to people who have already entered the country or are at the border. **Refugee status** is granted to people outside of the US and granted before they arrive. **Temporary-protected status** can be granted by the government to people from specific countries facing extreme experiences. Ukrainians currently have this status.

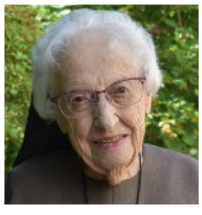
The case managers for Catholic Charities meet the new arrivals at the airport, help get them into an apartment furnished with the bare necessities and provide a hot meal and groceries for two weeks. Within the next 90 days the refugees attend twelve hours of cultural education to learn about life in the US, are enrolled in the food stamp program, have a medical exam and are given any missing vaccinations. In 2024 Tanja's department helped resettle 335 refugees, including people from the Congo, Syria, Afghanistan, and Myanmar. So far in 2025 they have helped only 5 people resettle. Because of the US government's temporary restrictions on immigration, there have been no more refugees arriving. There are over 25 million refugees worldwide, of which less than 1% get resettled in the US. Many end up in refugee camps in countries other than their own. They may be able to resettle in that country or apply to another country.

Our condolences to the families and religious communities of Sr. Helen Jean Brinkman, FSE, (Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist); Sr. Permelia "Alice" Weaver, SNJM (Sisters of Holy Names of Jesus and Mary); Sr. Teresa Gould, FH, (St. Francis Hermitage); and Sr. Catherine Trtek, SFCC (Sisters of Christian Community). May the love of the Lord shine upon them and their souls rest in peace. Click on their names to read their obituaries.

Sr. Catherine Trtek, SFCC

Born: Aug 31, 1936
Died: Jan 13, 2024

Sr. Helen Jean Brinkman, FSE

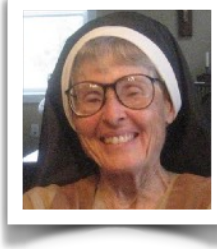


Born: Mar 7, 1928
Died: July 4, 2025

Sr. Permelia "Alice" Weaver, SNJM

Born: May 20 1932
Died: Aug 13, 2025

Sr. Teresa Gould, FH



Born: Feb 23, 1943
Died: Aug 12, 2025