As a high school freshman at Mount Angel Seminary, Father Bernard Sander, OSB, introduced me to Pope Leo XIII's famous encyclical, “Rerum Novarum”, which was written in 1891. To honor Fr. Bernard's many contributions to our diocese I have presented this message which is about Pope Leo XIII. He was Pope from 1878 to 1903 – the third longest tenure (after Pius IX and John Paul II). Pope Leo XIII was born on March 2, 1810. He was the sixth of seven sons and was ordained a priest on December 31, 1837. He was well known for his intellectualism. He held doctorates in theology, civil Law, and cannon law. He was consecrated Bishop at the age of thirty-three and was elevated to Cardinal in 1853 by Pope Pius IX. When Pope Pius IX died on February 2, 1878, Cardinal Pecci was elected Pope in the subsequent conclave on the third ballot. He chose the name, Leo XIII.

As Pope, Leo XIII worked to encourage understanding between the Church and the modern world. He reasserted the scholastic doctrine that science and religion co-exist. To emphasize that point he re-founded the Vatican Observatory. He was the first Pope to have a sound recording of his voice and to be filmed on a motion picture camera. He also opened the Vatican secret archives to qualified researchers.

Pope Leo XIII worked to reconcile the Catholic Church with the working class. In the encyclical, “Rerum Novarum”, he outlined the rights of workers to a fair wage, safe working conditions, and the right to form labor unions. The encyclical addressed for the first time social inequality and social justice issues with Papal authority.

Pope Leo XIII was also a strong admirer of the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas. In the encyclical, Aeternis Patris, he provided a charter for the revival of the theological system based on the thoughts of Aquinas to be used in priestly formation at seminaries and for the laity at Catholic Universities.

Of the eighty-five encyclicals issued by Leo XIII eleven were on the rosary, earning him the title of “Rosary Pope”. In an encyclical issued on the fiftieth anniversary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception he stresses Mary’s role in the redemption of humanity. In the encyclical, “Annum Sacrum”, he dedicated the entire human race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He also established June as the month of the Sacred Heart, and encouraged first Friday devotions. Pope Leo XIII was born in the 19th century and died in the 20th century. He died on July 20, 1903, at the age of 93 – the oldest of all Popes.

Mary, Mother of Vocations and Saint Junipero Serra, Pray for us.

Art Diederich, President
10TH ANNUAL VOCATIONS RALLY

Serra Clubs of Portland and Tualatin Valley supported the 10th Annual Vocations Rally held at St Anthony’s in Tigard on Thursday, March 16. The rally provides 6th grade students an opportunity to spend a day with Priests, Brothers, and Sisters. There were almost 500 students attending this event. The morning starts off with music and games. Then the students break off into three groups and interact with a panel of speakers; explore various vocations and then have lunch. There were high levels of enthusiasm and a great way to learn about discerning their own vocation.
ANNUAL SERRA PORTLAND ARCHDIOCESE SEMINARIAN APPRECIATION DINNER SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2017

Portland Serra Club and Tualatin Valley Serra hosted our Archdiocese Seminarians and families for an appreciation dinner at St. Patrick’s on Saturday, April 1. The evening started with a wine social which gave Serrans an opportunity to chat with several of the Seminarians and their families. The social was followed by a wonderful meal. Everyone enjoyed the food and conversation.

The event was well attended with about 15 seminarians and a few family members plus 5 discerners and more than 50 Serrans from Portland and Tualatin Valley Clubs.

During the course of the evening, Portland Serra Club President, Art Diederich, presented each of the seminarians (and the young men discerning for their vocation) a copy of Handbook for Serrans Called to Holiness. This book is a Serran’s guide to the spiritual life.

Father Jeff Eirvin, invited each seminarian to say a few words about themselves. It’s a great way to get to know the seminarians and learn about their discernment stories. The Serrans truly enjoyed this opportunity to hear from each of these fine young men. It was a great way to conclude the event!
April 5 - Brother William Dygert C.S.C. is the Superintendent of the Catholic schools in the Oregon diocese. He gave a very informative presentation to Serrans at the April 5 meeting. He elaborated on the continual need to recruit students and qualified teachers to each of our Catholic schools. He made available materials which included precise information on the enrollments and financial conditions of our Catholic Schools in the Portland Archdiocese.

Each year the elementary schools focus on one content area in depth. This year schools reviewed the English Language Arts curriculum, using tools to assist teachers in refining instruction that will ensure the high achievement of all students. All of our archdiocesan schools are accredited for six year terms. Schools examine each aspect of the school to ensure their Catholic identity, academic excellence, and operational vitality.

Perhaps the best way to appreciate Catholic schools is to imagine the Catholic Church in the United States without them. How would it produce leaders? How would it serve immigrants? How would it provide educational opportunity to the poor? Catholic schools are the best means that the Church has to link young people with their Catholic faith.

Catholic education fosters the desire to seek wisdom and truth, the preferences of social justice, and the importance of recognizing ethical and moral grounding for behavior. The Catholic school has as its aim to form the entire individual. At the heart of a Catholic education are the concepts of faith, knowledge, and service. There are forty elementary and ten secondary Catholic schools in the Portland Archdiocese. The total enrollment is approximately 15,000.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Archdiocese of Portland - 82nd Annual Seminary Tea

The annual tea will be held Wednesday, May 3 from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Portland Golf Club located at 5900 SW Scholls Ferry Road. Admission fee is $35. All funds raised benefit Archdiocesan Seminarian Education.

To make reservations please call Mary Kay Beaudoin, 503-297-2994

Portland Serra Club Annual Membership Drive

Wednesday, May 17, 2017
11:30 Mass followed by social hour and lunch
Featured Speaker: Fr. Jeff Eirvin, Serra Chaplain and Archdiocese Vocations Director

All Serrans are asked to invite a friend!!
For more info contact Melliza Palazo at 503-804-6510 OR mellizapalazo@yahoo.com

SERRA MEETINGS

April 19, 2017
Mass  Noon
Lunch/Meeting
PROGRAM: Cathy Shannon, Office of Child Protection

May 3, 2017 - St. JOHN VIANNEY
Board Meeting  10:30
Lunch
Special social and luncheon honoring Retired Priests

May 17, 2017
NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE LUNCHEON
11:30 Social
Noon Lunch
PROGRAM: Father Jeff Eirvin, Chaplain

June 7, 2017
Board Meeting  10:30
Lunch/Meeting
INSTALLATION NEW OFFICERS
PROGRAM: Lynn Jones, Ministry of Encouragement

June 21, 2017
CHARTER DAY CELEBRATION
New Member Induction
Mass  Noon
Lunch/Meeting
Emcee: Ed O’Hanlon

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, April 16, 2017
Easter

Sunday, May 7, 2017
World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Sunday, May 20, 2017 11:00 am
Diaconate Ordination
St. Mary’s Cathedral

Saturday, June 3, 2017 11:00 am
Archdiocese Priest Ordination
St. Mary’s Cathedral

June 19, 2017—80th Anniversary
Official Charter Day Portland Club

June 19-22, 2017
Portland Archdiocese Quo Vadis Days
CYO Camp Howard

June 22-25, 2017
Serra International Convention - Rome

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Truth nourishes the soul. Untruth corrodes it!
Mahatma Gandhi

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
UPCOMING EVENT

Siempre Adelante
THE COURAGE OF VOCATION

Serra’s 75th International Convention
Rome, Italy | June 22-25, 2017

MAKE SERRA HISTORY IN THE ETERNAL CITY
Fellowship, Worship, Renewal, Inspiration

INCLUDING

PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
on Friday, June 23

STILL TIME TO REGISTER
BE A PART OF THIS ROME CONVENTION

Our own Dan Jones will be inducted as President of Serra International at this convention.
We’re hoping for record attendance from the USA and specifically Region 12!!

REGISTER NOW

Early Registration Discount: Register for the convention by May 15, 2017 and pay only US $300.00 (regular price US $400.00)!