



Region 12 SERRA International

JANUARY 7, 2011

NEWSLETTER

Dick Petersen - Regional Director

I hope everyone had a joyous Holiday Season. We have a lot of wonderful things happening in Serra..... a large contingency from the Northwest will be flying to Chicago for the USAC Super Weekend January 12th through 16th. The weekend gets an early-kick off on Thursday with District Governor & Regional Director Training. The Governors will be sending out a report when they return. Keep us in your prayers.

I would like to remind everyone that all clubs need to nominate a slate of officers for 2011-12 which can be voted on by the clubs by end of February. We need the list of new officers sent to your District Governor, myself, USAC, & Dan Jones. Please include with all officers name, address, phone, and e-mail address. I will share my copy of the officers list with Celine to provide a mailing list for the upcoming **Spring Leadership Planning Conference April 8-10**. The mailings need to go out a month in advance if possible, so we need the new officers lists by the first week of March.

Spring Conference provides vital training and is also a chance to meet and interact with officers of other clubs. I encourage all clubs to send their officers to give them a head start on their training. Friday April 8th and 9th is for all officers and Sunday, April 10th is for Presidents and President-elects. It will be held at Holy Spirit Parish in Kennewick, WA. If you have any questions, please call Celine Petersen, President of the hosting Serra Club of the Tri-Cities at 509-582-8738. Additional information and registration forms will be forthcoming.

God Bless,
Richard Petersen
Region 12 Director



Dan Jones - Vice President, Vocations, USAC Board

The Staff at the United States Council of Serra in Chicago (USAC) does terrific work for the members of Serra in the US. They are always available from the phone or email and provide quick responses to questions and requests. We probably won't really appreciate Ed Verbeke sufficiently until he retires. Once you serve on the USAC Board you really begin to appreciate his knowledge and skills. He is also highly respected and admired by other organizations that promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our Catholic Church.

Peter Cunningham, Anne de Courtenay, and Jan Cholke take care of membership, publications and many other supporting activities. I can honestly say that I am amazed at the amount of work these four people do to serve the 11,000 members of Serra. Next time you talk or email USAC, please tell them **Thank You** for all the great work they do for us!

You can always review the USAC publications **The Serra Leader** and **Serra USA** online. To keep costs down sometimes the publications are electronic only. All the Vice Presidents have great material at their finger tips with USAC manuals available online. When was the last time you have reviewed the USAC web site www.serraus.org. I highly encourage you to take advantage of the wonderful tools available online.....check it out today!

Dan Jones
USAC VP Vocations



DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Tom Crossan, Governor 1-E

Our three Serra Clubs in Eastern Washington have successfully completed their activities, programs and events for the first half of the year and all have succeeded in attracting new members. I (along with other Serrans from Spokane and Yakima) accepted the invitation from the Tri-Cities Club to be part of their 10-year Charter Anniversary celebration. Their club was chartered on October 17, 2000. My wife Colleen and I along with Mike Doohan and Tom Sokol (a charter member of the Tri-Cities club) attended from Spokane. Mr. & Mrs. Roy Bush attended from the Yakima Club - the sponsoring club. This was a great party and it was heart-warming to be with our Serran brothers and sisters at this very special time.

We shared with each other our vocation programs and events that continue to be successful in promoting, encouraging and affirming vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In the Spokane diocese the Quo Vadis Days program grows in popularity. This program is presented and conducted by Diocesan priests and seminarians led by Fr. Darrin Connal, Director of Bishop White Seminary. A total of 68 young men attended last summer from Spokane, Tri-Cities and Yakima. From that group, one young man is discerning a vocation to the priesthood and is at Bishop White Seminary.

An immediate goal for District 1E is **new club formation** with 2 particular locations in mind: the southeast area of the Spokane Diocese by Walla Walla; and the north Idaho panhandle by Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls. Early in 2006 Bishop Driscoll Bishop of the Diocese of Boise (includes all of Idaho) indicated his desire to Mike and Winnie Doohan to have at least 3 Serra clubs in the diocese starting with the Coeur d'Alene area. The Spokane club would be the sponsor and outreach to 3 parishes began by contacting the Diocesan Director of Vocations and the pastors of the 3 targeted parishes. In 2006 the Spokane Serra Club was busy with the planning and conducting of the Serra International Convention held in Spokane and the new club outreach was placed on the back burner for a while. On March 20, 2007 Serra Club information was presented to approximately 20 pastors and deacons from the northern deanery of the Boise Diocese and was positively received. Co-chairs were going to head up the task but with assignment changes and other dynamics within the diocese the momentum died. Martin Weber (President of the Spokane club) and I will work together and restart that outreach.

Next week I will attend the USAC Super Weekend in Chicago and return invigorated and ready to hit the road (as soon as the snow and ice melt). My plan is to visit The Yakima club and, of course, the Regional Spring Conference in Kennewick April 8-11. I hope and look forward to seeing you all there.

Blessings,
Tom Crossan
District Governor 1E



Jack Talbott, Governor 1-S

My visits to 3 of the 4 clubs in this district shows an excellent level of activity with multiple projects planned or underway. This has been most encouraging! You may have heard there were some excellent presentations at the Serra International Convention in Anchorage—notably Cardinal George. There was, however, no report on any progress in acting to implement the Omaha Accords. It seems that the only way to influence the Serra International Board is to place Serra International dues payments in escrow until action taken by the Serra International Board demonstrates progress. So far it appears that the Serra International Board has not been acting in good faith. Let us pray for them, but not forget our main mission is to support and promote new vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Jack Talbott
District Governor 1S



DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Jack Robinson, Governor 1-N

- ✚ A presentation to the Eastside Deanery of the Archdiocese of Seattle was made on Nov. 3, 2010. As a result, Fr. Ramon Santa Cruz, Priest Administrator, St. John Mary Vianney Parish, in Kirkland, expressed his desire to be the Chaplain of a revitalized Eastside Serra Club. An extension Committee will be formed to assist Fr. Santa Cruz in conducting an aggressive membership campaign.
- ✚ To encourage the establishment of a second Hispanic Serra club, this one in the north side of the Archdiocese, a presentation to the Snohomish Deanery is planned for later in January.
- ✚ A member of the Hispanic Serra Club of Renton translated the “ Nine Day Novena to Blessed Serra” into Spanish. It was sent to Ed Verbeke for inclusion in materials available from USAC.
- ✚ Father Francis Thumbi, Priest Administrator of St. Thomas More Parish in Lynnwood, has expressed his desire to be the chaplain of a new club at his parish. An Extension Committee has been formed to assist Father Thumbi to establish that new club.
- ✚ The newly- installed Archbishop of Seattle, J. Peter Sartain, attended the annual Christmas Party in honor of our Archbishop on December 10. The party was hosted by the Seattle Serra Club and was attended by almost 200 Serrans from the area.
- ✚ I was particularly pleased that about a dozen members of the Hispanic Serra Club of Renton and their Chaplain, Father Gary Zender, were among those attending the Archbishop’s Christmas Party. From the beginning, I have prayed and hoped that once an Hispanic club was formed the members would soon begin associating with other Serrans in the Archdiocese — becoming one big, happy, holy, Catholic family promoting vocations and honoring our clergy. My prayers have been answered.
- ✚ I continue to promote activities relating to the third objective of Serra, namely, increasing our own spirituality. One practice I have suggested I call “ Take Five” - whereby each Serran spend at least 5 minutes each day praying for vocations and for the intentions of fellow Serrans.

Jack Robinson
District Governor 1-N

