



Region 12 SERRA International

JULY 31, 2011

NEWSLETTER

Dick Peterson - Regional Director

Dear Serrans - I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirit.

The Fall Regional Conference is fast approaching – September 30 through October 2, 2011. Please plan to attend that event at the La Quinta in Tacoma. This is the absolute best time to meet and greet fellow Northwest Serrans. There will definitely be great speakers, Christian fellowship, and a fun time. Mike Strong has sent out information on the program and registration forms. Take advantage of the early registration and be sure to contact the hotel directly for your room reservation. We hope to have Kurt Metyko, USAC President with us for this event. I hope to see **YOU** there.

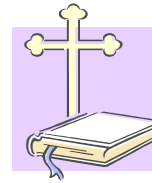
We continue to show slight increases in membership. Two clubs in District 1-N have been revitalized – East Side and Everett, and we have two potential clubs – one in Snohomish and one in Thomas Moore Parish. We are still looking at Idaho, and are starting to explore the Walla Walla area.

We will soon have completed three very successful Quo Vadis programs in Region 12. They have become standard-bearers for this program in the USA. Great work by all our Serrans and Seminarians who help put this program together. Well over two hundred young men will have attended.

We have three new bishops in Washington. We are deeply honored to have them, and let's continue to do what we do for Vocations and parishes. You all do great things because we love the Lord, our Catholic Faith, and one another.

God Bless,

*Dick Petersen,
Region 12 Director*



Dan Jones - Vice President, Vocations, USAC Board

By now most of you have seen a summary of the activities and decisions from the Ottawa Serra International Convention. Progress yes....but slowly. Your USAC executive committee continues to have communication with several bishops and officers of Serra International.

One great bit of advice from Bishop Gary Gordon of Whitehorse Canada (who was our keynote speaker and gave a wonderful down to earth talk) was he said it is **WE** (United States Council of Serra) and **US** (Serra International) and not we and them! All Serrans in the United States are part of both organizations. So keep the faith - we will get there and we need to keep promoting vocations.

Please consider doing one new activity this next year in addition to what you are already doing. Everyone is doing great with Quo Vadis Days. How about College Connection for Catholics, Focus 11 (Vocations Rally) or promoting Vocation Committees/Contact Person in the parish? What new activity will your club choose?

Blessed Junipero Serra – Pray for us!

*Dan Jones
USAC VP Vocations*



DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS

Jack Talbott, Governor 1-S

MY TWO CENTS - At the Serra International Convention in Ottawa July 7-10, every club in Region 12 was represented by delegate or proxy, a superb record. In spite of requests by Cardinal George and Bishop Christiansen, the spiritual advisors of both Serra International (SI) and the USA Council (USAC), for SI to drop the lawsuit against USAC, the outgoing Board of SI voted to continue the suit at least through the hearing on July 20 which is upon us. I have no information on actions of the incoming board.

The Delegates passed an amendment making SI Board and Executive Committee meetings open to all Serrans except for litigation and personnel employment matters by a near unanimous vote. The delegates also voted nearly unanimously to request the SI Board to drop the suit against USAC and mediate the differences. Many U.S. clubs have elected to withhold SI dues until the lawsuit is settled.

The SI financial statements revealed that it has lost about \$88,000 in the past year and is operating on a Credit line loan which is near its limit. Their CPA was uncertain about the continuing viability of SI.

Ottawa is an interesting city with much interesting architecture and beautiful landscaping and a canal for boating in the summer and ice skating in the winter. It has a beautiful Gothic Cathedral Basilica of Notre Dame, where all the Masses were held. We all were given the most gracious treatment by our Canadian hosts.

But we here in the Pacific Northwest have a mission to cultivate vocations to the priesthood and religious life which merits our vigorous support.

Jack Talbott
District Governor 1S



Tom Crossan, Governor 1-E

We are well into the new 2011-12 Serran year and yet the old year is not too far behind. This transition time had many notable events including ordinations to the priesthood. 4 men for the Spokane Diocese on May 26 at Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral in Spokane; and 2 Jesuits on June 11 at St. Aloysius Church, by Gonzaga University.

On May 31, Bishop Joseph Tyson was installed as Bishop of the Yakima Diocese at Holy Family Church in Yakima. My wife Colleen and I were fortunate to attend this very special, glorious and historical event for the Yakima Diocese. I was able to greet Bishop Tyson personally and assured him of the prayers and support of the Serra clubs in district 1E. We look forward to working with Bishop Tyson and Bishop Cupich and remember with gratitude the past relationships with retiring Bishop Sevilla. May God bless them all. Events such as these encourage and renew us as Serrans to continue the work of fostering and promoting vocations for our church.

Another popular vocation-fostering program in our region 12 is Quo Vadis Days which has enjoyed some success in attracting our youth to consider the priesthood as their life-long vocation. In the east, July 11 thru July 14, about 50 youth from the Spokane area and a bus-load of about 45 from the Tri-Cities and Yakima area attended a Quo Vadis Days camp at Zephyr Lodge in Liberty Lake, east of Spokane.

In late May and June I was privileged to conduct the installation of club officers and enjoyed meeting and breaking bread with the members of all three clubs in District 1E. Now, we look forward to the work of fostering and affirming vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life with a variety of events and programs unique to each of our clubs in 1E.

The Spokane and Tri-Cities Clubs will be focusing on outreach and new-club building in Walla Walla and Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene in North Idaho this coming year. Of course there are the events affirming vocations that our clubs do successfully each year such as golf, brunches, & dinner which say "we appreciate you" to our priests and men and women religious. It is safe to say these are cherished events we all look forward to. A very special and important event which I recommend and encourage all to attend is the Region 12 Conference in Tacoma Sept 30 thru Oct 2. See you there! There is much work to be done, let's do it well.

Blessings to all,
Tom Crossan, District Governor 1E



DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS

Jack Robinson, Governor 1-N

- ✠ On May 5, my wife, Janet, and I met with our newly-appointed Archbishop J. Peter Sartain to discuss Serra activities among the 7 clubs in District 1-N and some near-term plans (including the revitalization of the Eastside club and a new club at St. Thomas More parish in Lynnwood). He was very supportive and assured us that the Archdiocese would not be charging any fees at any camp used for Quo Vadis. He is very familiar with Serra having once been a Serra club chaplain.

Having learned he eschews purchased gifts, I presented him with a Spiritual Bouquet of hundreds of Masses and prayers offered by members of the Cascade Serra club for his intentions. He was visibly touched. I also gave him a copy of the "Nine- Day Novena to Blessed Serra" for his personal use and asked him to pray it asking for the second miracle required for Serra's elevation to Sainthood. He said he would do that. I also gave him enough "Take Five" magnet stickers for his staff which he said he would distribute.

If he is available, he agreed to officiate at Charter Night Celebrations for new clubs, warning that he is booked solid for 5 to 6 months in advance. He is a holy, refreshing, personable, warm guy. We are blessed to have him as our spiritual shepherd.

- ✠ Jan Shrodes, the Secretary of the Cascade Serra Club, is Chairperson of the Extension Committee for a new club-information at St. Thomas More Parish in Lynnwood. Jan has added 8 parishioners from that parish to her committee. Several meetings have been held so far and an information and membership recruitment dinner meeting is planned for August 19 at the parish hall. It appears that this new club may be a multi-cultural one.
- ✠ Proxies for all 7 clubs were transmitted to delegates from Region 12 to the SI convention in Ottawa, Canada.
- ✠ Arrangements were made for a nice article which appeared in a recent issue of the Archdiocesan newspaper "The Progress" regarding the efforts of Roberta Tassani and her Committee from the Cascade Serra club on the College Connection Program.
- ✠ Fr. Edgar Sanchez, Pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Bothell, has reported that very little interest has been shown by his fellow pastors in the Snohomish Deanery regarding supporting a Hispanic Serra club at this time. I am disappointed but have consequently decided not to spend any more time and effort on this club at this time.
- ✠ Carol Costello (Seattle Serra Club) reports the Eastside Serra Club was chartered in 2002, but after about a year of service the club fell on difficult times with membership challenges, and chose to combine their efforts with the Seattle Club. Archbishop Emeritus Alex J. Brunett, prior to his retirement, asked that we make every effort to get the Eastside Serra Club up and running again. Towards that effort, Wednesday July 13, Fr. Ramon Santa Cruz, pastor of St. John Mary Vianney Parish, Kirkland, WA hosted a dinner to introduce Serra Club to his parish. Fr. Santa Cruz was recently appointed Chaplain of the Club by Archbishop J. Peter Sartain.

The dinner was extremely well attended, 67 people, by both parishioners from SJV as well as Seattle and Eastside Serrans. Speakers included Bernie Kaifer, President of the Eastside Serra Club, Fr. Ramon, Fr. Paul Magnano and Carol Costello. At the end of the evening, attendees were asked to indicate their interest in joining the club - applications for nine new members were taken. Others indicated they are interested, but wanted to think about it or consider the financial commitment. One of the couples attending had a son who is attended Quo Vadis this year. The next meeting will be Sept. 14 at SJV. Fr. Ramon is very excited and certainly enthusiastic about the club's future.

- ✠ The following item, taken from an article written by Monika Ellis OSB, was provided by Phil Philbrick of the Seattle Club:

Eight young women attended the first annual VIVA! Vocation Retreat at St. Placid Priory of the Benedictine Sisters in Lacey, Washington on July 9 and 10, 2011 to discern and explore a call to religious life as a vowed Sister. The retreat weekend was collaboratively planned by the Seattle Archdiocesan Vocation Team and sponsored by the Serra Clubs of Western Washington. The collaboration between the Archdiocesan Vocation Team and the Serra Club helped to build a spirit of support during the planning period as well as the retreat days. The women attending VIVA! were moved by the fact that communities of Sisters and Serra Club members were praying for them while the retreat progressed.

- ✠ The Archdiocese of Seattle's 11th Annual Quo Vadis Days took place July 21 through 24 at Camp Hamilton near Monroe, WA. Approximately 110 young men attended. Meals for all 4 days were provided by the following clubs: Seattle, Columbia, Tacoma, Everett, Sno-King, Hispanic Club of Renton, and Cascade.

God bless us all. Take Five!

Jack Robinson, Governor, District 1-N