

Region 12 SERRA International

SEPT. 29, 2010

NEWSLETTER

Dick Petersen—Regional Director

Fellow Serrans: Eleven Serrans from Region 12 attended our Serra International convention in Anchorage. We represented the region well. I want to thank all the Northwest people who attended and helped. Everyone chipped in to lend a hand and worked with the Serra International people every day to help things go smoothly. We had great speakers and good dialogue with other Serrans from around the world. Dan Jones, with help from some of the rest of the Northwest team met with a group of folks from Anchorage, who want to be part of a Serra Club of Anchorage. I truly believe that, with God's help, we will have a Serra Club in Anchorage.

Several members of the Serra International Board and the USAC Board met informally. Only good things will come out of this meeting. I am proud of Joe DeLoy, USAC President, and the effort he put forth in Anchorage.

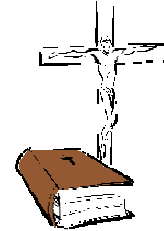
Important dates to remember and put on your calendar:

SPRING LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

April 8-10, 2011 in the Tri-Cities,

FALL CONFERENCE

September 30 – October 2, 2011 in Tacoma



God Bless. Dick Petersen, Region 12 Director

Dan Jones, Vice-President Vocations USAC

As Vice-President of Vocations of United States Council of Serra (USAC), Dick Petersen asked me to address two issues:

First, **COLLEGE CONNECTION FOR CATHOLICS** which now has over 1000 colleges on line and over 300 Serra clubs participated in 2010. This year, the Portland Serra Club sent packets to 150 graduating seniors from 5 Catholic high schools and one parish. The overall cost to run this program for USAC is approximately \$15,000 which was a little more this year because of setting up the WEBSITE plus establishing a contract with NET to provide labor to put the packets together for us.

This is a great program that was started by the late Dick Stolly and now has been taken under the wing of Judy Cozzens. I am asking all participating Serra Clubs to now make a voluntary contribution to USAC for College Connection for a minimum of \$100. I am also going to propose that that some cost be passed on to the participating clubs in the future. When College Connection was started there was a charge of about \$1.00/per student when the complete packet was printed & sent to the Serra Club. The process has greatly improved and the service is better and quicker. We are serving many more students and there was no charge this year for the packets which were emailed to the clubs. The clubs were responsible for printing and mailing the packets. I would propose that a minimal charge seems appropriate!

Second, remember we are asking all Serra Clubs to initiate one **NEW VOCATION ACTIVITY** in their club this year. To document Best Practices we have asked several people to write in more detail their best practice for promoting New Vocations. So far we have written up:

CALLED BY NAME - Margo Geddie of Texas
QUO VADIS DAYS - Jerome for the Archdiocese of Seattle
VOCATION ROUND UP - from Baker Diocese
YOUTH IN MINISTRY RECOGNITION - from Tiffin, Ohio
FOCUS 11 (VOCATIONS RALLY) – From Region 12



Some of these are in the process of being published in the Serran Leader and Serra Magazine. I also have electronic copies available if anyone would like to review. **WHAT IS YOUR CLUB'S NEW VOCATION ACTIVITY?**

Dan Jones, VP Vocations/USAC



DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Jack Robinson, Governor 1-N

After assuming the position of District Governor 1-N on June 1 of this year, I immediately formed a team of advisors: my wife Janet (Cascade), Carol and Leo Costello (Seattle), Jim Murphy (Sno-King), Andy Tassani (Cascade), Dick Thorpe (Everett), and Phil Philbrick (Seattle). I knew I would need all the help I could get to fill the shoes of Phil, my predecessor. The team and I met for our first meeting on July 8 and decided on two immediate objectives.

The first objective is to re-vitalize the Eastside Serra Club of King County. With the able assistance of Bernie Kaifer, the President of that club, we will be making a presentation to the pastors of churches in the Eastside Deanery sometime in the Fall (perhaps in November) to solicit their assistance with our plan to recruit new members.

The second objective is to establish another Hispanic club; this one in the Snohomish area north of Seattle. The team and I expect to request support, including the identification of a "host" parish for such a club, from members of the Snohomish Deanery in the near future.

In addition to continuing to support programs to increase vocations (e.g., Quo Vadis, seminarian dinners, etc.) and efforts to honor our priests and religious, I am encouraging activities aimed at the third objective of the Serra movement; namely, to increase our own individual spirituality, to become better Catholic Christians. I thus have begun to promote the saying of the "Nine Day Novena to Blessed Junipero Serra". Possibly, the novena may result in God granting that additional miracle that is required for the Holy Father to canonize our patron.

I am happy to report that Ed Verbeke, USAC Executive Director, has agreed to pay the Hispanic Club of Renton to translate the nine day novena document into Spanish for their use and so it may also be added to the documents available from USAC for use by others.

Some additional items of interest:

The Everett Club, under the inspiration of their new Chaplain, Fr. Hans Olson, and the able leadership of their President, Dick Thorpe, received an award from USAC for their increased membership.

Six years since it started, due to logistical constraints, applications had to be limited to the 140 young men who attended the 2010 Quo Vadis Camp last June. The Bash, our most successful fund raiser, just raised about \$5,000 to support the 2011 Quo Vadis Camp.

Respectfully submitted:

John V. (" Jack") Robinson





DISTRICT GOVERNOR LETTERS



Jack Talbott, Governor 1-S

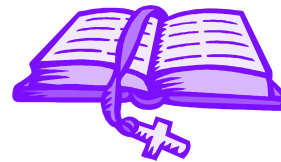
The 2010 Serra International Convention in Anchorage was impressive with two cardinals, seven bishops and archbishops, and scores of priests participating in the liturgies. Of particular pertinence were the remarks of Francis Cardinal George of Chicago who identified the primary enemy of the church today as secularism. He pointed out the several cycles in the Church's history which suggests that an era of growth is now or soon will be beginning. A theme ran through the convention; God is not calling fewer men to the priesthood or fewer women to religious life. Those called are not being given the support and encouragement they need to help them make that critical discernment and to follow the call to its culmination. We have a job to do in this area.

Our new president, John M. (Tomi) Asenuga (from Nigeria) has stated his goal of spreading Serra International all across Africa. There were 18 Nigerians attending and 40 more were denied visas by the USA State Department.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, we have to prepare for the observance of Priesthood Sunday which comes on October 31 this year. There is an excellent planning guide in the current issue of Serra Leader. I will be happy to send a copy to any one who needs it. Also, now would be a good time to get the planning guides for National Vocation Awareness Week in January, World Day for Consecrated Life in February, and World Day of Prayer for Vocations in April. These planning guides, prepared by the National Coalition for Church Vocations are available from USA Council of Serra for a small fee. Call 888-777-6681 to place your order. When you see the excellence of these planning guides you will be glad you did.

The Serra Club of Salem/Keizer deserves a pat on the back for treating 16 seminarians to a fun night of bowling. On October 1, the Portland and Salem/Keizer clubs will earn another star by treating seminarians to a hilarious round of shotgun golf with happy hour and dinner to follow.

Keep the Faith! Jack Talbott, Governor, 1S



Tom Crossan, Governor 1-E

The comings and goings of summer have subsided and Fall is definitely in the air. In our parishes and parish families it is back to regular and familiar routines with young folks back to school and off to college. Our 3 clubs in District 1E are in 2 dioceses, Spokane and Yakima and both dioceses are experiencing transition. Spokane has a new bishop in Bishop Blase Cupich, who was installed as the 6th Bishop of Spokane on September 3 at GU McCarthey Athletic Center in a magnificent liturgical event. Thousands were in attendance from all age groups including students from our catholic schools. Who knows, some may be inspired to consider a vocation as priest or religious as a result of being part of the Church at its best.

The Diocese of Yakima will soon be in that same transition as Bishop Sevilla awaits the appointment of his successor. In Seattle the successor to Archbishop Brunett was just recently named. Hopefully, we as Serrans will be energized and inspired to stay the course in our promoting and supporting vocations with new zeal.

In July a Quo Vadis Days was conducted at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center with 70 young men attending from both Spokane and Yakima Dioceses. Fr. Darrin Connall, Director of Bishop White Seminary, was assisted by seminarians, priests and deacons. Serrans did not assist physically but pledged financial support. One young man who attended is now a freshman at the seminary this year. The QVD program works to promote priestly vocations!

Looking to the immediate future we are looking towards new club promotion and building. As I visit our clubs this year I am sure this will be a hot topic. In Spokane we will be picking up where we left off in getting a new club going in north end of the Boise Diocese specifically in Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls.

As always, we will be vigilant about membership growth and retention with emphasis on retention. I look forward to working with our club presidents and boards. It is going to be a good year! *Always go forward, never turn back.*

Tom Crossan
Governor, 1E