



April 2025

SERRA CLUB of PORTLAND BULLETIN

Serra Club 3 / District 1S / Pacific Northwest Region

www.serraportland.org

SERRAN CALENDAR

- Wed, Apr 2 11 AM Board Meeting
 Noon Serra Meeting
 Speaker: Fr. Chi- Nhan, Parochial Vicar
 at St. Pius X
- Wed, Apr 16 Noon Mass
 Serra Meeting
 Speaker: TBA
- Tue, May 6 Priests Appreciation Dinner
 Portland Golf Club
- Wed, May 7 11 AM Board Meeting
 Noon Serra Meeting
- Wed, May 21 Noon Mass
 Serra Meeting
 Speaker: Fr. Rito Guzman MSpS
 Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew Catholic Church
- June 25-29 International Serra Convention
 Kansas City, KS
- Sep 28 Sisters' Appreciation Luncheon

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 1 Religious Brothers Day
- May 11 World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- June 21 Diaconate Ordination
- June 27 World Day of of Prayer for the
 Sanctification of Priests
- June 28 Priest Ordination, Mount Angel
- Jul 1 St Junipero Serra
- Aug 11-14 Quo Vadis Days
- Sep 28 Priesthood Sunday
- Nov 2-8 National Vocation Awareness Wk

President's Message

Gee Whiz! How well do we face our numerous hurdles of promoting vocations to the religious and consecrated lives? It is so easy to get overwhelmed and depressed with our challenges; however, maybe we have to look within ourselves to find the solutions. It is great we Serrans devote much time to prayer. However is our prayer true prayer? Pope Francis says we need three things for our prayer to be effective. We need **Faith**. Very often prayer is merely rote, but it must come from the heart, not just spoken words. Secondly, we need **Perseverance**. Many seek graces "now." Grace comes in God's time. True faith Perseveres and we must persevere. And finally, we need **Courage**. We need the Courage to stay there persistently praying and asking and going ahead. I emphasize the words "going ahead" here. The virtue of Courage is so necessary for apostolic action but also prayer. We Serrans certainly need to be people of faith, prayer, and **Action**.

Saint Junipero, Serra Pray For Us

Paul Harris

President, Serra Club of Portland

Don't forget to RSVP to the
ANNUAL PRIEST APPRECIATION DINNER
Tuesday, 5 PM, May 6, 2024
PORTLAND GOLF CLUB
5900 SW Scholls Ferry Rd, Portland, OR

Serra Club of Portland

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Trustees 1 yr - Gary Wilhelms
 2 yr - vacant 3 yr - Daniel Okapal
Foundation Rep Dan Jones

Reflections from March 5 Serra Meeting : Hope & Faith

Bishop Thomas A. Daly

Episcopal Advisor to the US Serra Council



Serra International posts great and insightful videos on their website, and this one was no exception....On the January Serra Speaks podcast, Bishop Thomas Daly talked about how to maintain hope in this fractured world and divided Church. He defined **hope as reality grounded in faith**, as opposed to optimism, which is out of touch with reality and merely wishful thinking. Our faith demands that we ask ourselves, "Who is Jesus in our lives?", as Jesus asked his disciples and apostles in Matthew 15:16, "Who do you say that I am?" We are to reflect on what Jesus calls us to do.

We live in difficult times. **Faith is a gift encountered and rooted in the Lord**, not only for us but also for our priests. Upon examination, there are ten reasons why priests leave the priesthood: during formation of the seminarian: difficulty in living celebrate chastity; lack of honesty in formation with seminary personnel; men ordained despite votes of no by faculty staff; a childhood background of abuse and neglect; overbearing staff highly discouraging a seminarian from leaving; professing a promise to stay in spite of an interior lack of "being called"; a lack of integrated seminarian formation; no true honesty to confessors; and finally as priests, lack of priestly fraternity, (withdrawal into a secret life); and failure to daily pray the Divine Office and offer Mass.

The most effective way to grow in holiness is to **be men and women of prayer** and pray from our own unique experience, which will be different from those of the religious and priests. Even our five minutes of prayer in our busy family lives may be just as efficacious. Our family life should come first. **Our lives should be authentic and reach out to others** within our communities and the world. To learn more and listen to this podcast, go to this link: [Bishop Thomas A. Daly Episcopal Advisor to the US Serra Council](#).

Reflections from March 19 Serra Meeting : The Propaedeutic Program

Fr. Michael Niemczak, Mount Angel Seminary



Our speaker Father Michael Niemczak, is the son of Polish immigrants, growing up in Poland, Colorado, New York, and Albuquerque. He attended seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, OH, and the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He was ordained in 2016 for the Diocese of Santa Fe, where he served as parochial vicar, pastor and vocation director. During that time he earned a Masters in Psychology. In 2023 he was assigned to the faculty at Mount Angel Seminary, where he now coordinates the new Propaedeutic stage of the seminary experience, helping the seminarians to thrive in their discernment and formation.

The Propaedeutic Stage is a shift in the formation of future priests lasting one to two years. There is not a definite timeline for the formation process. It is based on each individual's growth. Previously the first year of seminary was more focused on studies than it presently is. In 2016 Pope Francis presented the plan for the Propaedeutic Stage. It is now more of a spiritual and human formation year. It is about the formation of the men's relationship to Jesus and the Church.

The greatest goals of the Propaedeutic year are growth in self knowledge and awareness, getting to know one's self, one's strengths and weaknesses, to acquire the virtues necessary for the rest of the formation, to drop some unhealthy habits or attachments, and to follow the Lord freely into the next stage, that of discipleship. In that first year they have a light academic schedule, while learning to balance prayer, study, socializing, and exercising. They do a lot of activities as a group – daily Mass, holy hour, morning and evening prayer. Throughout the year they learn who they are and are able to discern freely, "Is this something the Lord is calling me to?"

PRIESTS

BIRTHDAYS

4/04	Rev. Rev. Suresh Amalraj Rev. Francisco Bringuela Rev. William Oruko, AJ
4/05	Rev. David Jaspers
4/06	Rev. John McGuire
4/07	Rev. Joseph Barita, ALCP
4/08	Rev. John McGrann Rev. Christopher Siluvai Rayan
4/9	Rev. Matthew Knight
4/10	Rev. Donald Gutmann
4/12	Rev. Mario Rodríguez García, MSpS
4/13	Abbot Gregory Duerr (ret.) Rev. Cary Reniva
4/14	Rev. George Bernard, CSC Rev. Raul Marquez
4/17	Rev. Edgar Eloy Rivera-Torres
4/19	Rev. Michael Gilson, SJ
4/20	Rev. Michael Belinsky, CSC Rev. John Henderson Rev. Francis Saleth, HGN
4/21	Rev. Dieu Tran, SDD
4/22	Very Rev. Anthony Joseph Alles, MMJMJ
4/26	Rev. Edgar Panoga Benedi-an, OSM Rev. Paulinus Mangesho, ALCP Rev. Michael Walker
4/28	Rev. Martin King Rev. Vidal Martínez, OSM Rev. Fredy Bonilla-Moreno

APRIL

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

4/1	Rev. Michael Belinsky, CSC Rev. Bob Loughery, CSC
4/3	Rev. Wilibaldo Gutierrez Herrera
4/06	Rev. John Donato, CSC Rev. Nik Guiney, CSC Rev. Tyler Kreipke, CSC
4/07	Rev. Thomas Hosinski, CSC Rev. Timothy Weed, CSC
4/09	Rev. Mark Ghyselinck, CSC
4/13	Rev. Edwin Obermiller, CSC Rev. Jeffrey Schneibel, CSC
4/16	Abbot Nathan Zodrow (ret.)
4/18	Very Rev. Charles McCoy, CSC
4/19	Rev. Ignatius Kissel, OSM
4/21	Rev. Randy Rentner, CSC
4/25	Rev. Charles Gordon, CSC
4/26	Rev. Paul Jeyamani
4/28	Rev. Arthur Wheeler, CSC
4/30	Rev. Paul Ybarra, CSC

SISTERS BIRTHDAYS

4/01	Sr. Robin Stephenson, CSJ
4/04	Sr. Angeline Sohler, SSMO
4/10	Sr. Thuy Doan, SSMO
4/17	Sr. Mary Peter Duyck, OSF
4/18	Sr. Donna Marie Chartraw, OSB
4/18	Sr. Rita Watkins, SSMO
4/20	Sr. Cecilia Thanh Tu Doan, MTG
4/22	Sr. Juana Gutierrez, SSMO
4/23	Sr. Rene Foster, OSB Sr. Regina Rausch, OSB
4/25	Sr. Anne Clare Keeler, FSE
4/25	Sr. Anna Nguyen, SSMO

Support Vocations! Send a card ~ Say a Prayer
Let our priests and religious know **WE CARE!**

Link to:
[Oregon Catholic Directory](#)

Congratulations!



The new leadership team for the SSMOs were elected this past month at their Chapter of Affairs Meeting: Sr. Michael Francine Duncan, Superior General, Sr. Juana Gutierrez, Sr. Julie Doan, and Sr. Krista von Borstel, Vicar, who will all step up on July 29 in their new roles guiding their order over the next five years.

Belonging to God's Holy Family

We may at times think that we are all alone in our troubles and difficulties, but the saints as well had their challenges in life. Our last speaker Fr. Michael Niemczak spoke at a recent retreat at Mount Angel Abbey, along with Br. Cyril Drnjevic and Tomasz Misztal, about *Belonging to God's Holy Family*, focusing on bringing healing into our lives and using the saints as concrete examples for us:

The Ulma Family of Poland, relatives of Fr. Michael, beatified in September, 2023; (Mount Angel artist Tomasz designed the Ulma Family memorial.)

Saints Louis & Zellie Martin, parents of Saint Thérèse, as young adults did not intend to marry. Both were rejected when they applied to religious orders; later married, parents of 5 religious.

Saint Basil the Great, among 3 generation of saints, credited his grandmother Saint Macrina the Elder for her influence in his life.

Saints Monica & her son Augustine, with whom most of us are familiar. May these saints teach us how to bear our daily burdens with love.