



Serra Mensajero

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January 2021



My dear Serrans,

The Baptism of the Lord reminds us that Jesus Christ is the Beloved Son of God. He is the Light of the nations and the Lord of all creation. He subjected Himself to baptism in the Jordan, making holy the waters of our own Baptism. Our Lord shows us how we, too, must seek and follow that call from Our Heavenly Father so that we may do His will. Jesus gives us His grace to struggle against the very tempting voices of the world that may distract us from our true vocation. All of us have a calling or vocation from God. This is part of our baptismal call to a life of holiness in the service of God and neighbor as a member of Christ and His Church. As Serrans, we are called to nurture vocations within the Church, particularly the call to the sacred priesthood. We do this primarily through prayer and through the practice of our faith in our respective vocations. But we also can continue to encourage children, grandchildren, parents, and grandparents to speak about the living out of our baptism as well as discernment of our vocation. I encourage our parochial school children as well as our faith formation children to always pray for their vocation to work in the Church. It is through the faith and works of all the members of the Church that others can be reminded to consider their vocation.

Christmas Season Ends—Ordinary Time Begins: The Christmas Season officially ends with the Baptism of the Lord. Ordinary Time begins on January 11th. There will be a pause in Ordinary Time on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lent-Easter Season. Ordinary Time is anything but "ordinary." During these in-between weeks, we may focus on the mysteries of Our Lord, contemplating His teachings, His passion, death, and resurrection. Sundays are the anchor in Ordinary Time and are special opportunities for grace so that we can be renewed in faith. All Sundays are Holy Days of Obligation, calling each of us to fulfill our duty to attend and participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Let us keep the Sabbath Day "holy" first by giving to God our time at Holy Mass. God will continue to give us Himself in the Sacred Mysteries of our faith. Then, let us spend Sundays sharing the gift of faith within our families.

I want to thank all members of our North Dallas Serra for the many prayers for us priests and for our seminarians. Those prayers help to sustain us in the good work that God has begun in us. I would like to extend to all of you my prayers and thanks as we begin this new calendar year of 2021.

In Christ,

Fr. Michael Guadagnoli

Upcoming Events

Due to the current constraints on assemblies, our monthly meetings are replaced by a Zoom rosary.

Meeting ID: 828 6523 4114
Passcode: 971947

Serra Mensajero is the monthly newsletter for North Central Dallas which reports activities, provides news to members, and supports Club goals.

Editor: Dawn Epping
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Visit these Serra web sites

North Central Dallas Serra Club
www.ncdserraclub.com

Serra USA Council
www.serrausa.org

Fellow Serrans,

Happy New Year! How blessed we were to have had the "Bethlehem Star" appear in our night sky right before Christmas, something that has not been visible in almost 800 years. During this challenging time, we may certainly say that its light is a symbol of Christ, the light of the world.

And as we celebrate the Epiphany, we are called to recognize our Savior in our families, our friends, our neighbors and others we come into contact with daily. Let us join each other in prayer and action in support of our Seminarians, priests and all those called to the consecrated life. If you have personal prayer requests, please let me know and I will share them with our Serra sisters and brothers so that we can be united in prayer for each other.

We have wonderful Saints and feast days to celebrate as we begin this New Year: The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory Nazainzen, The Epiphany of the Lord, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. John Neumann, St. Andre Bessette, St. Raymond of Penyafort, The Baptism of the Lord, St. Hilary, St. Fabian, St. Agnes, St. Vincent, the Conversion of St. Paul, Sts. Timothy and Titus, St. Angela Merici and St. Thomas Aquinas. May we imitate their example of holiness as we serve our Lord by service to our neighbor.

Please mark your calendar for two important dates:

- Saturday, Jan. 16, 11:00 a.m. – **Serra Meets** webinar with Episcopal Advisor Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto speaking on vocations. Go to <https://bit.ly/3ocukrb> for information from Serra International.
- Monday, Jan. 18, 7:00 p.m. - Join us in praying the Rosary for vocations We will be sending out Zoom information closer to that day. It is a great chance for us to "see" NCD members and visit virtually at the same time we would be gathering for our usual monthly meal and meeting.

In St. Junipero Serra,

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year,

Darwin

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V.P. Vocations
Mike Holmes

V.P. Membership
Will Alt

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PRAY FOR THE HEALING POWER OF GOD FOR:

Tom Demarest	Leo Heiting
Mike Holmes	Ed Johnson
Mary LaFave	Pete LaFave
Lou Neeb	Katy Warren

January Anniversaries

Dennis & Dawn Epping	7
Mark & Lisa Venincasa	19

January Birthdays

Fr. Guadagnoli	11
Dan O'Connell	11
Gregory McCurry	14
Barbara Johnson	19
Kathi Thompson	22
Ralph Armstrong	24
Tony Schmidt	26

The Survey Results Are In

By Will Alt, VP of Membership

On behalf of the Board of Directors we thank all of you who responded to the membership survey in December.

If you have not yet replied, feel free to do so. We appreciate your feedback and comments.

A total of 41 members were sent a survey. 20 of you responded. Thank you again.

Some points noted include:

Clearly 75% or 15 of 20 respondents wish to continue dinner meeting at the Canyon Creek Country Club.

Relative to meetings, it seems like everyone appreciates good speakers, Priests, especially newly ordained, deacons, seminarians, seminary rectors, diocesan officials and other religious were most preferred. We are fortunate to have had some excellent presenters in the past.

A number of you expressed a desire to discuss club business at the dinner meetings with involvement of more members.

There was a strong desire to support recruitment of younger, new members and welcome guests to meetings. And many expressed the desire to work to achieve this.

Likewise the desire for more interaction among members such as First Friday Mass, more communication, increased presence in parish vocation awareness programs and promotions was expressed to include increased activity during the Covid.

These points and others are to be discussed (or have been) at the January Board meeting. The focus will be "how to engage now so as to be prepared for the "post-Covid" days. Your continued feedback and suggestions are welcome.

31 Club

The 31 Club is a commitment by Serrans to attend Mass or say the rosary to pray for vocations on a specific day each month. If interested in participating, contact Dawn Epping (dawn.epping@yahoo.com).

1 st Larry Montz	8 th Sylvia Windham	14 th June Cooper	19 th Barbara Johnson	26 th Dawn Epping
2 nd Barbara Johnson	9 th Peter LaFave	15 th Don Simoneaux	20 th Tony Schmidt	27 th Chris Taylor
3 rd Bill Crowley	Mary LaFave	16 th Darwin Hutchison	21 st Will Alt	28 th Bill Larsen
4 th Meg Haerr	10 th Vicki Dean	17 th Rob Larriviere	22 nd Kathi Thompson	Dan O'Connell
5 th Bob Baillargeon	11 th Jim Duffy	Ann Larriviere	23 rd Kathi Thompson	29 th Kay Hogan
6 th John Fitzpatrick	12 th Dennis Epping	John Fitzpatrick	24 th Ralph Armstrong	30 th
7 th Bill Condon	13 th	18 th Tom Demerest	25 th Mary McGraw	31 st