



# *Serra GB*

## *focus*

### *August 2021*



*“Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart,”  
Luke 2:19*

To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support priests in their sacred ministry.

To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church.

To assist its members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God’s call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

*Consider joining our Serran apostolate contact the editor Alex Duncan: [serra.glasgow@aol.com](mailto:serra.glasgow@aol.com)*

*Under the patronage of the His Eminence Most Reverend Vincent Cardinal Nichols*

*For more information visit: [www.serragreatbritain.org.uk](http://www.serragreatbritain.org.uk)*

## August The Immaculate Heart of Mary.



*“Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart,” Luke 2:19*

“The most beautiful biblical text about Mary’s heart is the Magnificat because it reveals to us the wondrous riches of Mary’s humble heart. Her heart sings the praises of God, the song of the history of salvation for all God’s people.”

The real roots of the devotion to Mary’s Heart is found in Like’s gospel 2:19 where reference is made to Mary’s heart.

Our Lady Herself tells us at Fatima mentioning her Immaculate Heart in her second apparition to Lucia. She told her she would stay on the earth after her cousins went to heaven since Jesus wishes you to make me known and loved on earth. He wishes also for you to establish devotion in the world to my Immaculate Heart. Our Blessed Mother also told her, I will be with you always, and my Immaculate Heart will be your comfort and the way which will lead you to God. Jesus wants to make her known and loved with devotion established in the world to her Immaculate Heart..

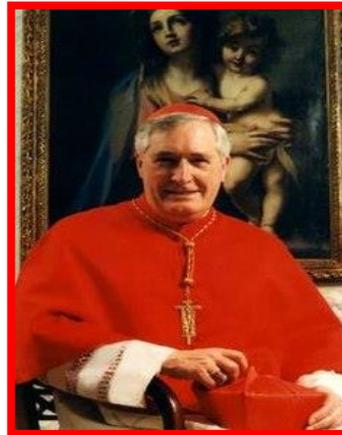
*My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.*

*The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.*

*He puts forth his arm in strength  
and scatters the proud-hearted.  
He casts the mighty from their thrones  
and raises the lowly.*

*He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy,  
the mercy promised to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his sons for ever. Amen*

## 20 years ago the church in Scotland lost one great man, priest, bishop and Cardinal.



When young Thomas Joseph Winning was ordained a priest in St John Latern’s Basilica in Rome in December 1948 he had no inkling that he would return one day as a Cardinal. As he said: *“No way. I had no ambition even to be a parish priest. To me what mattered was working among the people as a priest”.*

To those Serrans from all over Great Britain and beyond who met him on numerous occasions, the Cardinal above all else was a man of the people, a people’s priest, friendly, unpretentious and totally unfussy and not averse to playing truant as was the case when he and a few Serrans including my wife went off on a jolly in Denver, Colorado (Serra International convention 1998) while I had to attend a board meeting...hmmm. It would be wrong to assume that his laid back attitude denoted an easy going attitude to modern morality as many politicians of that day learnt to their costs. The Cardinal had many strong views on such matters relating to the social teaching of the church and was not afraid to express them at the highest levels.

The following year Cardinal Tom hosted the 1999 Serra International Convention in Glasgow with great acclaim. Our theme for that convention was “Our journey to the Father.” In his opening address to our visitors from all over the world he noted *“You are here to reflect and pray, to form strategies on how best to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. I am certain that the Holy Spirit will crown your efforts with his inspiration”.* Cardinal Tom was with us each day of that convention and at the end lead all in a chorus of “Will ye no come back again”. No matter where we travel, to this day, Serrans remember him as a great Cardinal. It seems quite appropriate that our prayer for Cardinal Tom today should be for “His journey to the Father”. Such great memories.

To the Serrans of Glasgow and Great Britain he was not only our Episcopal Advisor and patron, he was our friend.

**Cardinal Tom was laid to rest in the crypt of  
St Andrew’s Cathedral, Glasgow. June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001  
Requiescat in pace, Cardinal Tom  
<https://fb.watch/6c2Ljd9GfR/>**

## “Young People are the Now”.



### Our last Serra GB conference of 2019 On the theme of Christus Vivit

At our conference of 2019 young people in their late 20's/30's related their stories of the different vocations in their lives. Their talks, commitment to faith, their happiness, and sincerity were inspirational. They are indeed the now of our church.

Before I move onto the younger people let me tell you about the current membership of our Serra clubs here in Great Britain. I joined Serra in Glasgow in 1983 in my early 40s and today I am still one of our newer members. In Liverpool founded in 1964 we still have original members and in the North of England we have some very senior citizens, some of 50+ years of service and commitment to our mission. That in itself is a tremendous recommendation particularly when clubs of all types are suffering membership losses, even golf clubs. Yes! we do have younger members in our newer clubs but we could do with more. All of the aforementioned are still to this day committed to our mission. During this lockdown it is important to note that some are anxious and cannot wait to return to our normal meetings, hopefully in this month of August.

#### **Why that commitment? You may ask.**

Serra internationally is in its 86<sup>th</sup> year and our church needs, for more religious vocations has not changed. Our Catholic population worldwide is increasing, some 1.3 billion people today and growing. There is the belief that our mission to encourage priestly and religious vocations is as important to our church today as it was back in 1935. That is certainly supported by the backing we have from the 'Congregation for the Clergy' to which we are aggregated.

#### **Understanding!**

If I were returning to my school days I would have been more interested in learn the subjects that I enjoyed and bring them to bear on my future career. Enjoying and appreciating your faith is a similar process of learning and understanding. The number of times we have heard the word 'boring' from our younger population is countless. Could that be the lack of understanding and knowledge of our faith? Over these many

years our members have come to appreciate our faith more fully by listening to our chaplains and speakers and being involved in our church and Catholic faith. That is the understanding we gain by being Serran!

#### **Friendship!**

I once, while visiting our Serra clubs in Africa noted that "You grow in Serra you grow in your faith, you enjoy your faith" and in a humorous or flippant manner added that "and when you die you will have a good turnout at your funeral". In reality that is quite true because the relationship built over many years is based on that strong bond and friendship not just in your locality but nationally and dare I say it internationally. You can bump into Serrans anywhere in the world. We exist in 46 countries worldwide.

#### **Common bonds!**

The opportunity, should you wish, to travel and experience other cultures is eye opening. I have travelled to Rome with my wife and experienced papal audiences. We have travelled to the USA, Asia, Africa and beyond, met the hierarchy of these countries and made friends here and international. We have visited them they have visited us. It doesn't happen just like that but commitment to our apostolate creates opportunities.

#### **The different cultures!**

In countries where Serra is very strong like Brazil, families are in Serra, Serra can be in the family. In Thailand where Buddhism is the predominant faith Serra creates the opportunity for faith development and learning for the many converts to Catholicism and Serra thrives and is growing.

So, how about here in Europe and specifically Great Britain. It is hoped that we can develop as in many other countries that ethos of learning about our faith, appreciating the Eucharist, creating that bond of friendship, with our bishops, priests and religious and our young people and importantly to assist our Bishops and vocations directors and encourage further vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Many years ago, 1990s if I recall, in Dallas, Texas the first Young Serra Club was formed with the intention of joining the main Serra clubs of that area. It didn't happen! While committed to our mission, they developed their own lives friendships, marriages, etc and today still have their members not so young but still Serran.

Encouraging young people in our faith cannot only prepare them to become future leaders in commerce, industry and professions but help develop their own vocation in life and in society, but also allow them to contribute to the church in many ways, as altar servers, readers, choristers, eucharistic ministers and even that divine possibility of a religious vocations. This is seen many times in the Bible, as God often used young people to do great things. God used Timothy to lead the Ephesian church when he was a teenager.

*“Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith and purity”. Timothy 4:12*

It must be the work of Serra to assist our Young people to be the ‘Now in our Church’ and society through guidance, not to be part of our older Serra Clubs but for us to guide them in our apostolate and allow them to create their own Serra groups and ethos.

Many years ago, mid 1990’s, I had the opportunity to form a youth group which came about when one evening during a meeting with some Serran friends there was a noise outside my home created by a few boisterous youths. In a moment of annoyance I challenged them and to cut a long story short we started a youth group which eventually had around 50 members. We hired a school hall, formed committees run entirely by the young people of the group comprising a full committee structure of presidents, treasurers, secretaries etc. That was successful. Games, debating, football, employment interview preparation and other activities were the order of Tuesday nights. “Should we have women priests or ministers” that was a lively debate, amazingly the girls didn’t like that idea and I dare say today may have been different considering changes in society.

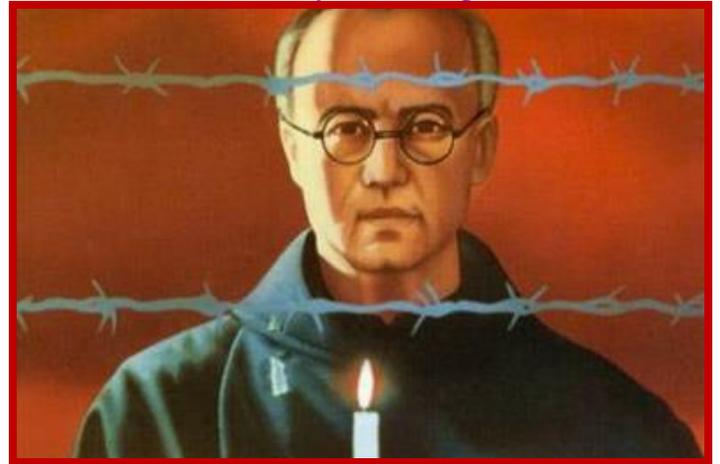
Today while outside gardening people come up to me and say “Hello”. I respond wondering who they are. “My name is ..... I was in the youth group”. They have changed, the once boy and girl youths have changed, they are older with work and families. How time passes, “What are you doing now?”. I ask. It is very rewarding to hear their stories. That could be our legacy to our younger Catholics, to know that they grow and become successful in their lives. Be their vocation to the priesthood, consecrated religious life, married, family or single but hopefully and prayerfully in a strong faith life Is Serra in our families? Do not be afraid to change. be challenged.

*"Please, keep pressing forward! Forward in hope, forward with your mission, ever looking beyond, opening new horizons, making room for the young and preparing the future."* Extract from the message of Pope Francis from his talk to Serrans in Rome 2017.

*Alex..... Past president Serra International*



## St Maximilian Kolbe Feast day 14<sup>th</sup> August



St. Maximilian Kolbe was born as Raymund Kolbe on January 8, 1894, in the Kingdom of Poland, part of the Russian Empire. He was a Polish Conventual Franciscan friar and a martyr in the German death Camp of Auschwitz during World War II.

The Apostle of Consecration to Mary. Much of his life was strongly influenced by a vision he had of the Virgin Mary when he was 12.

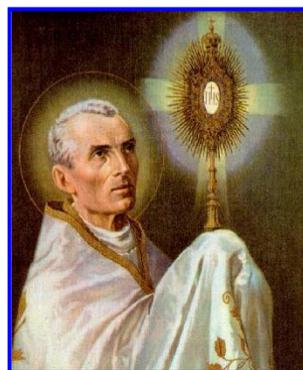
*“That night I asked the Mother of God what was to become of me. Then she came to me holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked me if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity, and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both”.*

In 1918, he was ordained a priest and continued his work of promoting Mary throughout Poland. Over the next several years, Kolbe took on publishing. He founded a monthly periodical titled, "Rycerz Niepokalanej" (Knight of the Immaculate). He also operated a religious publishing press and founded a new Conventual Franciscan monastery at Niepokalanow, which became a major religious publishing center.

Kolbe also founded monasteries in both Japan and India. To this day, the monastery in Japan remains prominent in the Roman Catholic Church in Japan.

In 1936, Kolbe's poor health forced him to return home to Poland, and once the WWII invasion by Germany began, he became one of the only brothers to remain in the monastery. He opened up a temporary hospital to aid those in need. When his town was captured, Kolbe was sent to prison but released three months later.

## **Saint Peter Julian Eymard August 3rd** *In the presence of the Blessed Sacrament*



Born in La Mure d'Isère in southeastern France, Peter Julian's faith journey drew him from being a priest in the Diocese of Grenoble in 1834, to joining the Marists in 1839, to the founding of two religious institutes: the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament for men and the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament for women.

In his life, Peter Julian coped with poverty, his father's initial opposition to Peter's vocation, serious illness, a Jansenistic overemphasis on sin, and the difficulties of getting diocesan and later papal approval for his new religious community.

His years as a Marist, including service as a provincial leader, saw the deepening of his Eucharistic devotion, especially through his preaching of Forty Hours in many parishes. Inspired at first by the idea of reparation for indifference to the Eucharist, Peter Julian was eventually attracted to a more positive spirituality of Christ-centered love. Members of the men's community which Peter founded alternated between an active apostolic life and contemplating Jesus in the Eucharist. He and Marguerite Guillot founded the women's Congregation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. Peter Julian Eymard was beatified in 1925 and canonized in 1962, one day after Vatican II's first session ended.

For 150 years, the Blessed sacrament Fathers our priests, deacons, and brothers have reached all continents of the globe and continue the mission begun by St. Eymard, the Apostle of the Eucharist.

We believe that Christ in the Eucharist has the power to effect a radical transformation in our society and in all people. The Eucharist motivates and strengthens us to work for the establishment of Christ's Kingdom on earth.

We proclaim the reality of God's love in the Eucharist by our "gift of self" to Him and our brothers and sisters. By prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and an active apostolic life, we strive to make Christ in the Eucharist better known and loved. In all that we do, Christ in the Eucharist is our inspiration and the center of our personal and community life.

We seek to understand all human reality in the light of the Eucharist, source and summit of the life of the Church."

We are an apostolic group of men and women. Our mission: To assist the Church in its efforts to form Christian communities whose center of life is the Eucharist;

Kolbe refused to sign a document that would recognize him as a German citizen with his German ancestry and continued to work in his monastery, providing shelter for refugees - including hiding 2,000 Jews from German persecution.

On February 17, 1941, the monastery was shut down; Kolbe was arrested by the German Gestapo and taken to the Pawiak prison. Three months later, he was transferred to Auschwitz.

Never abandoning his priesthood, Kolbe was the victim to severe violence and harassment. Toward the end of his second month in Auschwitz, men were chosen to face death by starvation to warn against escapes. Kolbe was not chosen but volunteered to take the place of a man with a family. When he was asked by the Nazis commander of Auschwitz extermination camp why he wished to take the place of a Polish father and Maximilian Kolbe gave only one reason: 'I am a Catholic priest. I want to die in place of this prisoner'.

For millions the bleak image of the gates of the Nazi extermination camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau have come to symbolize an age of genocide. The commemoration of one Christian man who died there, in light of the destruction of six million Jewish lives between 1941-1945, may give us reason to hesitate. But Maximilian Kolbe, who died as prisoner 16770 in Auschwitz-Birkenau, is much remembered in the Christian Church. He offered his own life to save a fellow prisoner, Franciszek Gajowniczek, condemned to death by the camp authorities after a successful escape by a fellow prisoner.

It is said during the last days of his life Kolbe led prayers to Our Lady with the prisoners and remained calm. He was the last of the group to remain alive, after two weeks of dehydration and starvation. The guards gave him a lethal injection of carbolic acid. The stories tell that he raised his left arm and calmly awaited death. It is said during the last days of his life Kolbe led prayers to Our Lady with the prisoners and remained calm.

St. Maximilian Kolbe died on August 14 and his remains were cremated on August 15, the same day as the Assumption of Mary feast day. This day recalls the spiritual and physical departure of the mother of Jesus Christ from the earth, when both her soul and her body were taken into the presence of God.

**The Church needs heroes, the world needs heroes, is God calling you to be a Catholic priest, missionary or consecrated religious.**

**Have you ever asked or answered the question?**

To allow the mystery of the Eucharist to take hold of our lives so completely that we will live this mystery fully and proclaim its meaning through various apostolates;  
 To respond to the hungers of the human family with the riches of God's love manifested in the Eucharist;  
 To strive to make Christ in the Eucharist better known and loved through prayer in the Presence of the Eucharist and an active apostolic life;  
 To proclaim the Eucharist as a powerful force of renewal for Church and Society.  
 We commit ourselves to carry out this mission in collaboration with the laity.  
 We combine prayer and work in order that the entire world may be totally transformed into the people of God the Body of the Lord and temple of the Holy Spirit. In solidarity with those who are working for genuine human advancement, we are alert to the social implications of our actions.

"We are called to live as a Eucharistic community, we seek, by our vocation and way of life, to give a more explicit witness to the life of Christ which springs from the Eucharist".

*Serrans at an annual retreat with Fr Peter Dowling of The Blessed Sacrament Fathers*



**Our Catholic population is increasing. We need more priests and religious, their numbers are declining.**

**You, by joining Serra can assist in a more formal way of attracting vocations.**

**You can join us at our masses for vocations.**

**You can be involved in the many events we promote to assist our bishops and vocations directors.**

**You can further develop your faith by being involved in discussions and listening to talks on faith subjects. You can become a friend of those who are likeminded in the propagation of our faith.**

**You, most importantly, can join us in prayer for vocations. Contact us through our website or listings at the end of this newsletter.**

**Don't just sit there, You can join us.**

**Do we need more reasons to be Serran?**

## Does your parish have "Adoration for Vocations"



*St Pope John Paul II's campaign entitled "In Response to His Holiness, Worldwide Adoration for Vocations." In October 2004 the Holy Father blessed six monstrances representing the six continents, which were distributed for travel throughout the world establishing this programme, now a Serra event in many parishes throughout the world*

Browse through the resources page on our website, to help you focus on prayers for vocations during that special time with Our Lord. Let us pray for all men and women who are contemplating their future work and lives. May they consider Our Lord's call in their lives.

## A Serran "Rosary for Vocations"

Downloaded [here](#); or our web site: [resources page](#). Consider, praying the Rosary at our Zoom meetings with the intercession after each decade. **Mary, Mother of vocations. Pray for us.** Finish with our Serran Prayers for vocations:



*" I invite you to pray the rosary, and to carry it in your hands or in your pockets. The recitation of the rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary. It is a contemplation on the stages of the life of Jesus our Saviour with his Mother Mary. It is a weapon that protects us from evils and temptations. "*

## Serra International Rosary for Vocations

*On the last Saturday of every month, you are invited to join the world in a recitation of the Rosary for vocation. Next Rosary continues Saturdays, Aug28th, Sept 26th at 2.00pm GMT thereafter the last Saturday of every month in 2021. Join us free, Access Code: 314-315-981.*

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/314315981>



## Chatter No 59

## The Holy Father's Vocations Message 2021 "The Dream of Vocation"

For 14 months, of lockdown we have been entertained with stories from our North Cheshire Serran Gerard Humphries and after that time he is still telling stories. Commitment?

Dear Serrans and friends,

After many years I returned to Arley Hall grounds on a day out accompanied by my wife Elizabeth my eldest son and his wife. It was a perfect day, sun, with a slight breeze. We spent hours in the beautiful grounds. I won't try to describe the garden, the many paths, and such a lot of each. But if you have never been to Arley Hall you really ought to go.

On this occasion I went incognito. I had met and dined with Lord and Lady X on a previous occasion, many years ago.

An invitation came to me by post, for me and a 'lady partner'. I didn't know what I had done or was expected to do to be worthy of such an occasion. At that time I was a widower, so I asked a beautiful confident daughter-in-law to come with me. We had to dress 'formally'. Arriving there we were met by a man who took our car to the carpark, and we advanced and rang the bell. It was opened immediately by a poshly dressed butler, who took us to the reception room. He threw open the door and announced "My Lord, Lady, ladies and gentlemen, Please welcome His Hon (etc) and Mrs Humphries. (obviously the name of my d-i-l) About a dozen people all looked us, and I could see their surprise, no doubt thinking 'he's done well to have wed such a girl who must be 40 or so years younger than him 'No doubt they assumed she had got a 'sugar-daddy. As soon as we could I introduced my d-i-l. But Lord X was obviously taken by my d-i-l and they chattered together about the gardens and the architecture of the house. Indeed eventually he asked her would she like to come upstairs and see his------. No he did not say etchings. There were some very old windows. I went upstairs with them.

At some stage I asked how he had any contact with me. He then told me that he was trying to raise money for retired gardeners. He said he sat down with "WHOs WHO, and saw I was mentioned as having gardening as a hobby. His guess was not daft, because after such entertainment I could not do other than subscribe to his cause.

God bless you. Pray for priestly vocations. *Gerard*

Reflecting on this year "The year of St Joseph" Saint Joseph suggests to us three key words **Dream, Service and Fidelity** for each individual's vocation. The Holy Father inspired by the life of St Joseph interpretes these three key words.

The first word Dream, everyone dreams of finding fulfilment in life. We rightly nurture great hopes, lofty aspirations that ephemeral goals – like success, money and entertainment – they cannot satisfy. If we were to ask people to express in one word their life's dream, it would not be difficult to imagine the answer: "to be loved". It is love that gives meaning to life, because it reveals life's mystery.

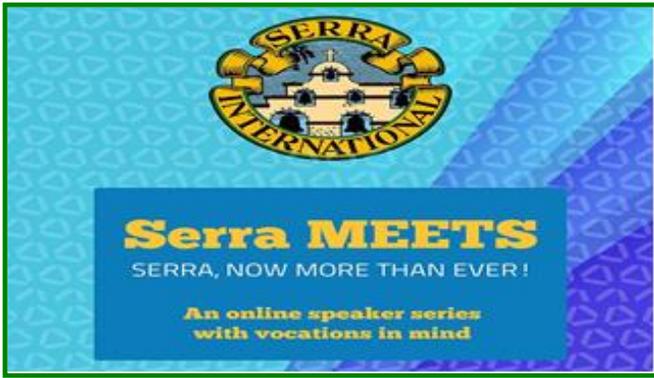
The second word, Service marks the journey of Saint Joseph and that of vocation. His service and sacrifices were only possible, however, because they were sustained by a greater love: "Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity. Indeed, we only have life if we give it; Saint Joseph has much to tell us in this regard.

The third word Fidelity. Joseph is the "righteous man" who daily perseveres in quietly serving God and his plans. At a particularly difficult moment in his life, he thoughtfully considered what to do. He did not let himself be hastily pressured or yield to the temptation or act rashly, simply following his instincts or living for the moment. Instead, he pondered things patiently. He knew that success in life is built on constant fidelity to important decisions. This was reflected in his perseverance in plying the trade of a humble carpenter that made no news in his own time, yet has inspired the daily lives of countless fathers, labourers and Christians ever since. For a vocation – like life itself – matures only through daily fidelity.

Read the full text of the Holy Father's [message](#) or visit our News and Events page on our [website](#).

### **Prayer for Serrans**

*O Lord, we pray for our own vocation: give us strength in our faith so that we do not fall with difficulties and are able to be generous in Your service. Send us, O Lord, many active laypersons for the work of Serra for Vocations. Grant us a great friendship among ourselves, and make Your love grow in our hearts, so that we may help many to leave all and follow You. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Due to the success of this programme, we are continuing the Serra Meets virtual lectures from leading clergy and experts on the topic of Catholic vocations, designed to inspire you and keep you connected to our mission.

Past speakers included our Episcopal Advisor to Serra International His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins, Toronto, Canada, relating his experiences and criteria for accepting candidates for priestly vocations [listen to his talk](#)

The Success of Serra Meets is now a routine webinar broadcast each second Saturday of the month. Our Next Serra Meets speaker is the Right Reverend Bishop Frank Caggiano, from the diocese of Bridgeport Connecticut on August 14th, at 5pm, Each lecture will last one hour online. Our speaker for September 11<sup>th</sup> 2021, TBA.

Click [this link](#) to join our speaker.

Patterned after regular Serra meetings, Serra Meets events will open and close with prayer, speaker introductions, feature a notable keynote speaker(s), followed by a short business topic. As Covid restrictions ease, this is an opportunity for Serra clubs internationally to come together. Serra Meets is organized and hosted by the US Council of Serra International.

## The Serra GB Conference 2021

Following the cancellation of our 2021 Conference the board of Serra Great Britain can now confirm, with the expectation that Covid regulations will be eased, we will meet on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021 with our National Chaplain Father Anthony Cogliolo for Sunday Mass 10.30 at St Teresa's church Wilmslow, SK91LD. Thereafter in the function suite for our AGM, lunch, board meeting and presentations. Our meeting is open to all Serra GB members. Full details of our agenda can be obtained from our clubs or secretary; [here](#)

## Serra International Convention

SERRANS will meet in CHICAGO, OCT. 7-10, 2021  
REGISTER FOR THE CHICAGO 2021  
CONVENTION HERE.

As the world works to manage and control the pandemic affecting international travel, and in the interest of health safety of our Serrans all over the globe, the Serra International Board made the decision to postpone the Toronto June 2021 convention until next year.

However, as we expect most parts of the Serra world to be in a better position in terms of Covid-19 vaccinations and a decline in infection rates this Autumn, we have rescheduled a streamlined Serra International Convention in Chicago on October 7-10, 2021! The convention kicks off with the opening Mass at 5 pm on Thursday, Oct. 7, and concludes with the Mass at 8 am on Sunday, Oct. 10.

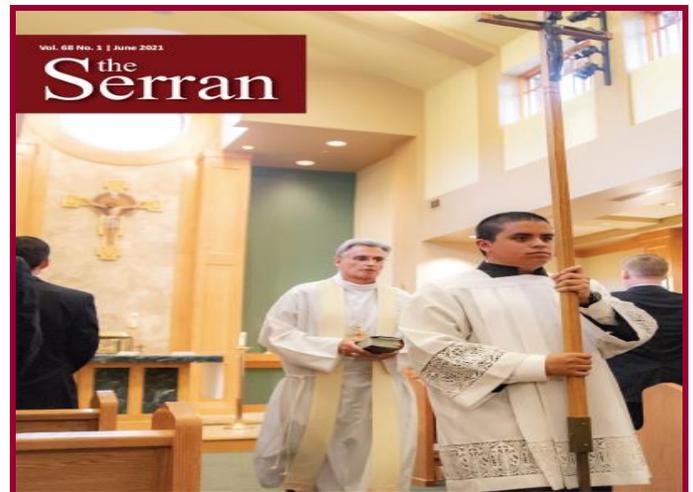
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## **"THE SERRAN" MAGAZINE**

MAGAZINE, JUNE 2021

Serra's USA Council Episcopal Adviser Most Rev. Thomas Daly, Bishop of Spokane, is helping to lead the charge on the current seminary system adapting to new Vatican requirements that will change the landscape of priestly formation. Find out about this, read a message to Serrans from Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, and more, in the June 2021 issue of The Serran. Click to download:

[https://www.serrainternational.org/sites/default/files/june%202021%20serran%20magazine\\_1.pdf](https://www.serrainternational.org/sites/default/files/june%202021%20serran%20magazine_1.pdf)





Vocations Ireland have formed a team with the U.K. to work on a European music project with Austria, Germany, Switzerland, The Netherlands and Croatia. We are hosting an online music competition with the theme of Vocation. This project is open for 18-35's. Visit our website [www.vocation-music-award.com](http://www.vocation-music-award.com) You will see and hear some of last year's winners and will see the caliber of the entries. Click on the English section for more details.

Also launched is a new Newsletter entitled Vox aimed at young people and will come out 4 times per year. [Issue 1](#)

**It's just a joke**

The local bar was so sure that its bartender was the strongest man around that they offered a standing £1000.00 bet. The bartender would squeeze a lemon until all the juice ran into a glass, and hand the lemon to a patron. Anyone who could squeeze one more drop of juice out would win the money.

Many people had tried.... over time: football players, wrestlers, sportsmen, but nobody could do it. One day, this scrawny little fellow came into the bar, wearing thick glasses and a polyester suit, and said in a small voice, "I'd like to try the bet". After the laughter had died down, the bartender said, "OK"; grabbed the lemon; and squeezed away. Then he handed the wrinkled remains of the rind to the little fellow. But the crowd's laughter turned to total silence.... as the man clenched his little fist around the lemon.... and six drops fell into the glass.

As the crowd cheered, the bartender handed over the £1000.00 and asked the little man: "What do you do for a living? Are you a wrestler, a weight-lifter, or what?" The little fellow quietly replied: "I work for the Inland Revenue ". .....*Courtesy Maggi, Canada*

**“Grant me, O Lord, a sense of humor. Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke to discover in life a bit of joy, and to be able to share it with others”**

**Contact information for the clubs of Serra Great Britain**  
**District 60**

**Liverpool**  
We meet at 6.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Cenacle Convent, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Liverpool L15 6TW.  
email; [serra.liverpool@gmail.com](mailto:serra.liverpool@gmail.com) tel: 0151 724 6249

**Manchester**  
We meet 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays of the month 2pm at Our Lady's Parish Centre, Davyhulme Rd, Manchester. M41 7DS  
email; [serramanchester@gmail.com](mailto:serramanchester@gmail.com) tel; 01625 477215

**North Cheshire**  
We meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of month 2.00 pm at Christ Church, Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire. SK83Dye  
email; [serra.northcheshire@outlook.com](mailto:serra.northcheshire@outlook.com). tel; 01625477215 3876

**South Lancs**  
For further information on Serra club of South Lancs  
email; [secretary@serragreatbritain.org.uk](mailto:secretary@serragreatbritain.org.uk)  
or phone: 0151 724 6249

**District 62**

**South Hertfordshire.**  
We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month (except August) 7.30pm at Our Lady and St. Michael's Church, Crown Rise, Garston, Herts WD25 0NE  
email; [serrasouthherts.co.uk](mailto:serrasouthherts.co.uk) tel; 01923 661692

**District 63**

**Dunkeld**  
We meet last Tuesday of the month at 6 pm with Mass at 7pm at St Joseph's convent, Lawside Rd, Dundee DD36XY.  
email; [serra.dunkeld@hotmail.com](mailto:serra.dunkeld@hotmail.com) tel; 01382 322920

**Glasgow**  
We meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, August to June at 7.30pm Millhill, Cardonald and University of Glasgow Chaplaincy (as programmed)  
email; [serra.glasgow@aol.com](mailto:serra.glasgow@aol.com) tel; 0141 571 8313

**Paisley**  
For further information on Serra club of Paisley  
email; [secretary@serragreatbritain.org.uk](mailto:secretary@serragreatbritain.org.uk)  
or phone: 01505 321005



**Mary. Mother of vocations. Pray for us.**  
**St Junipero Serra. Pray for us.**

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