

## What is Serra Club?

### History and Organization

In 1935, in Seattle, Wash., four Catholic friends began to meet regularly over a meal to discuss how their Christian values could be lived out in their professional lives. Within months, they decided on an additional focus: encouraging vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

They chose as their patron St. Junipero Serra, the “Apostle of California.” Born in Spain, on the island of Majorca in 1713, and starting his mission in Mexico, St. Serra founded and established nine of the celebrated 21 missions on the “El Camino Real”; from San Diego to San Francisco, converting thousands of the native population.

Growing to more than 800 clubs in more than 36 countries, *Serra International* was formed to provide consistent governance, bylaws and operation for the growing organization. Serra International has authorized several larger countries to organize their own Councils, the largest being the National Council for the United States. Dues are collected for ongoing operations of Serra and the national Councils.

### Mission Statement

To foster and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life;

To develop appreciation of the ministerial priesthood and of all religious vocations in the Catholic Church;

To further Catholicism by encouraging members, through fellowship and education, to fulfill their Christian vocations to service.

## The Serra Club of Dallas

The Serra Club of Dallas was chartered on March 17, 1948 by Serra International as the 31<sup>st</sup> Serra Club in the United States to actively support the mission of Serra.

Over the years our club grew in membership and geography, fostering the development of four additional clubs supporting the parishes in the Dallas Diocese:

- Serra Club Dallas (downtown & south),
- Metro Club (mid Dallas),
- North Central Club (north Dallas),
- University of Dallas Club (UD).

Our combined mission supports 69 parishes and five missions, 110 diocesan priests, 79 religious priests, 170 deacons, 10 brothers and 95 religious women within the Dallas Diocese.

The Dallas Diocese today includes more than 1.26 million Catholics, a ratio of roughly one priest for every 7,000 Catholics. When our club was chartered, there were about 200,000 Catholics in the diocese. The need and call for additional clergy is growing not only worldwide but within in our diocese.

In living our Serra mission statement, we can positively affect the overall health of vocations within our diocese. More simply, we can:

- Constantly pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood;
- Promote an increase in vocations by supporting the diocesan efforts;
- Actively contribute and participate in the support of our priests and vocations as allowed by our time, talent and treasure.

## Activities: Pray, Promote, Support

***First Friday Mass and Breakfast:*** We celebrate Mass for vocations and have breakfast every month.

***Third Friday Lunch:*** We meet for lunch, featuring a Catholic speaker, every month.

***31 Club:*** Members attend Mass on their specific day each month to pray for vocations and clergy.

***Vocation Awareness Program:*** We sponsor and assist an awareness and discernment program for vocations every spring.

***Mass at Holy Trinity Seminary:*** We celebrate Mass with seminarians periodically.

***Juanita Ramirez Altar Server Appreciation Lunch:*** We sponsor and attend a lunch to honor parish-chosen altar servers, their families and clergy every spring.

***Religious Women Appreciation Brunch:*** We sponsor and attend a lunch to honor our consecrated women.

***Dallas Parish Support:*** Club members support an assigned parish clergy.

***Social Events:*** We host an Advent Mass and Dinner each year and periodic Social Hours.

### ***Serra Prayer for Vocations***

***O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant, we beseech You, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, St. Joseph her spouse, St. Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase in laborers for Your Church, fellow laborers with Christ, to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever, Amen.***

## Member Participation

- **Review the New Member Binder:** Become familiar with the Club, bylaws, and Serra International ([www.serrainternational.org](http://www.serrainternational.org)).
- **Sign Up for the 31 Club:** Attend Mass on a designated day each month to pray specifically for vocations.
- **Participation on First and Third Fridays:** These events are the pillars of our monthly vocation and fellowship agenda. Members are encouraged to make attendance a priority.
- **Contribution at Events:** When you attend an event where clergy or seminarians are present, you are contributing to the Mission, They see you and know we care,
- **Attend at Least One Board Meeting:** Meetings are open to all members. Learn more about the operations of our Club and committees,
- **Volunteer for a Committee:** If you see a committee of particular interest, request to become a member of that committee,
- **Wear Your Name Badge:** This will help new and veteran members.
- **Wear Your Serra Pin:** “Fly the Colors” to promote Serra.
- **Learn the Prayers:** Include them in your daily prayers. It is a great way to focus on our missions,
- **Dues:** Like any other organization, Serra lives on the financial support of its membership.
- **Attend Mass at Holy Trinity Seminary:** Celebrate and share Mass with dedicated young men discerning their vocation for Christ and the Church. You will be impressed with the focus of these young men.

## Seminary Support

Dallas is extremely fortunate to have one of the best Catholic seminaries in the U.S. located at University of Dallas in Irving. Holy Trinity Seminary (HTS) is an undergraduate institution where incoming freshmen and others without a college degree begin their formation and discernment for the priesthood.

Majoring in Philosophy, most of the seminarians start their eight-year ordination journey at HTS. Their HTS formation is a four-year, disciplined process mentored and taught by a faculty of dedicated priests.

We have a great opportunity to interact with the seminarians and faculty through participation at Mass, plus formal and informal events at HTS.

In addition to HTS, Serra actively supports Redemptoris Mater Seminary, an international seminary whose vocations come forth from the Neocatechumenal Way. Once ordained, these seminarians become diocesan priests under the authority of the Bishop of Dallas.

## Supporting Our Clergy and Religious

Our club’s commitment to supporting our clergy and other religious is paramount. Their tireless effort deserves our gratitude and appreciation. Offering a prayer during the day, a thank you after Mass and a call to our supported parishes are ways we offer encouragement.

## Get to Know Us

Ask a Serran or visit our website if you would like to explore the mission of Serra. We also publish a monthly newsletter we can email to you that details our ongoing activities and events.

Revised November 1, 2021

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**Serra Club of Dallas**

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**Charter # 31**

**Charter Date: March 17, 1948**

**[www.serradallas.org](http://www.serradallas.org)**