

Dallas Serra Speaks

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Serra Mission: Promote and support vocations to the ministerial priesthood and consecrated life in the Catholic Church

From the President



Ah, another year has begun. For many of us oldsters, the years seem to pass more quickly and don't last nearly long enough. Year 2025 was one to remember: new U.S. President, new direction for our country, new President and officers of our Serra Club.

The Vocation Awareness Program weekend last year was successful with many attendees and, hopefully, many vocations to the priesthood and religious life. After all, praying for and supporting vocations is our mission. Thanks to our VAP Committee representatives, **Steve Mentosana** and **Fab**

Maceda.

The Altar Server Awards event in November was spectacular. **Corbin Bain, Bill Koch**, and yours truly served on the committee led by Fr. Mark Garrett, diocese vocations director, for this diocese-wide event. There were 47 Award recipients and nearly 1500 family and friends in attendance at Bishop Lynch High School. Vicar General Fr. Arthur Unachukwu concelebrated Mass with Fr. Garrett, who presented the individual awards to the altar servers. There were lots of smiles and enthusiasm, and a very nice article in the Texas Catholic.

This year is already looking good. Our theme for 2026 is growth, so start planning now to invite a friend to First Friday Mass or Third Friday Lunch. Our goal for the year is 10 new members.

I wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

In Christ.

Richard

Dr. Richard Joseph, President Serra Club of Dallas

Serra Club of Dallas

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Vocations		dallasvocations.org

From the Editor



As we begin this new year, may it be a time of renewed faith, hope, and charity. Let us entrust the months ahead to God's providence and strive to grow closer to Christ through prayer, service, and fellowship. May the Lord bless you and your families with peace and joy throughout the year.

Corbin Bain - Editor

Calendar

January 16, 2026	Serra Club of Dallas Monthly Luncheon
February 6, 2026	First Friday Mass & Breakfast
February 20, 2026	Serra Club of Dallas Monthly Luncheon
March 6, 2026	First Friday Mass & Breakfast
March 20, 2026	Serra Club of Dallas Monthly Luncheon
April 3, 2026	First Friday Mass & Breakfast
April 17, 2026	Serra Club of Dallas Monthly Luncheon
May 1, 2026	First Friday Mass & Breakfast
May 15, 2026	Serra Club of Dallas Monthly Luncheon
June 5, 2026	First Friday Mass & Breakfast
June 19, 2026	Serra Club of Dallas Monthly Luncheon
June TBD, 2026	Vocations Awareness Program

Altar Server Award Event November 8, 2025



More than 450 altar servers from parishes across the Diocese of Dallas gathered Nov. 8 with family and friends for a Mass recognizing recipients of the 2025 Serra Club Altar Server Awards.

The annual awards are the initiative of Serra Clubs in the Diocese of Dallas, including the Serra Club of North Central Dallas, Serra Club of Metropolitan Dallas, **Serra Club of Dallas**, and Serra Club of University of Dallas.

During his homily for the Mass, Father Mark Garrett, who serves as the vocations director for the Diocese of Dallas, expressed his gratitude to the altar servers for their ministry, which is rooted in a desire to draw close to Christ.

“We need you by our side. We need you helping us. We need you helping the people of God. Help us do this well, for the sake of the salvation of souls,” Father Garrett said. “Brothers and sisters, thank you for your work ... thank you for your service.”

He noted that the foundation for many who have discerned a vocation to the priestly or religious life began with a deep connection to the faith they felt through being an altar server.

“If you have a vocation, it’s going to begin there. It’s going to begin with that relationship with the Eucharist. It’s going to begin with your relationship with the Mass,” Father Garrett said. “It’s going to begin with the proximity that you can find by being as close as possible to this place of sacrifice, and when you serve at the altar, that is where you are.”

Father Garrett shared that his own vocation began as an altar server.

“I would not be a priest today if I had not first served at the altar,” he said. “That invitation opened the doors to what service in the Church means.”

He encouraged the altar servers to see their ministry as a call to conversion and deeper relationship with Christ.

“It’s not just about proximity to the altar; it’s about showing the people of God what it means to love Jesus Christ,” Father Garrett said. “You witness to us what it means to love Jesus on the cross, to serve him, to accompany him.”

Father Garrett concluded by thanking the servers for their witness.

“Whether your future vocation is priesthood, marriage, or another call, it begins here with your relationship to the Eucharist and the Mass,” he said. “Thank you for your service in your parishes, schools, and communities. Thank you for helping show us what it means to love Christ.”

By Michael Gresham

The Texas Catholic



Fr. Arthur Unachukwu with an altar server award winner and Lawrence Neuhoff from the Metro Serra Club.



Our president **Richard Joseph** with Fr. Mark Garrett, Fr. Arthur Unachukwu, and leaders of the other area Serra Clubs.

Membership Update

It is with pleasure that we welcome **Andy England** as he rejoins the club after a hiatus. Welcome back Andy!



Vocations Update



MEET THE SEMINARIANS MONDAY Zak Zapletal

I grew up attending Catholic school and going to Mass with my family on Sundays, but I did not start thinking about the priesthood until my senior year of high school. At that time, I began to discern this vocation because I desired to serve other people in a selfless way. I eventually chose to enter seminary after high school. Through my own growth in discipleship, my desire for the priesthood continues to increase. It fills me with great excitement to be called by God to dedicate my life in service to His people. I wish to help them encounter the love of Jesus Christ and experience the peace and joy of the Catholic faith.

Our own **Zak Zapletal** (Bishop Lynch '18) is completing his studies at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans and will be ordained on April 25 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Plano. Please pray for Zak!



HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

August 19, 2025

Serra Club of Dallas
PO Box 600107
Dallas, TX 75360

Dear Serrans,

Thank you so very much for your very generous gift of \$1,000.00, made via check # 0000005190 dated August 8, 2025.

This gift will be used to address the transportation needs of the seminarians as they participate in programs and ministries throughout the Diocese of Dallas. Providing the men opportunities to interact with brothers and sisters in the community is vital to the formation program at Holy Trinity Seminary, which allows our seminarians to discern their calling to the priesthood and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church. Your ongoing support of our program is very much appreciated.

Please visit us at www.holytrinityseminary.org for current events, public Mass schedules, Spes Gregis information, and updates as the seminarians begin a new year of formation and studies.

We pray for all our benefactors and their intentions, and we are honored to include the Serra Club of Dallas in our prayers.

Gratefully in the Lord,

Fr. Vincent Anyama

Very Reverend Vincent C. Anyama
Rector

*Your support is invaluable to future of the
Priesthood. Thank You! — Fr. Vincent*

*No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation.
Please keep this written acknowledgement of your donation for your tax records.*



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COMPANION CARE HOME

St. Thorlak Companion Care home is a residential option for 3 males with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities living in a home with a caregiver. This home promotes a natural, family environment with stability and increased continuity of care. We currently have availability for one roommate.

Our mission is to provide a safe and affordable residence for special needs adults as well as support their desire to learn skills for independence preparing them to successfully thrive and contribute to God's world. By collaborating with their families, we strive to create a nurturing and compassionate environment that each individual is proud to call home.

Contact:

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The 31 Club

Club members listed below will attend Mass to pray for vocations every month on the date listed:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1-D. Sullivan | 16-G. Hoffman |
| 2-M. Goethals | 17-S. Jackson |
| 3-R. Joseph | 18-T. Moore |
| 4-M.Mentesana | 19-T. Campise |
| 5-D.Porting | 20-G.Mangelsdorf |
| 6-C. Kobdish | 21-M. George |
| 7-S. Polak | 22-S. Huff |
| 8-J. Koeijmans | 23-L. Colgin |
| 9-B.Minshall | 24-B. Koch |
| 10-D. Stevenson | 25-A. Schaar |
| 11-K.Walo | 26-T. Yoxall |
| 12-TV Mangelsdorf | 27-J. Kuntz |
| 13-E. Marhanka | 28-B. McDaniel |
| 14-T. Wandstrat | 29-A. England |
| 15-J. Shea | 30-S. Mentesana |
| | 31-C. Bain |