

What is

SERRA INTERNATIONAL?

Founded in **1935** in Seattle



Over **1,100 Serra clubs** have been chartered in **46 countries** around the world

Serra's global lay vocations apostolate is made strong by over **20,000 members**

Members of Serra are lay Catholic men and women of all ages and backgrounds who ensure the future of our Church by **creating a "culture of vocations."**



OUR MISSION IS THREE-FOLD:

- 1.** Promote and support vocations to the ministerial priesthood of the Catholic Church as a particular vocation of service and support priests in their sacred ministry.
- 2.** Encourage and promote vocations to the consecrated life in the Catholic Church.
- 3.** Assist members to recognize and respond, each in his own life, to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit.

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN?



On February 15, 2005, **Serra International** officially chartered the **Serra Club of Arlington VA**

More than 50 members in parishes throughout the Diocese meet monthly to promote the work of the Diocesan Office of Vocations.

For more information about membership in this organization supporting priestly and consecrated life vocations, please contact

The Serra Club of Arlington, VA
Vice-President for Membership
membership@serraclubarlington.org

For club activities and history, visit the website:
www.serraclubarlington.org

For more information about discerning a call to the priesthood or consecrated life, please contact:

The Office of Vocations
Catholic Diocese of Arlington
200 North Glebe Rd., Suite 901
Arlington, VA, 22203
703-841-2514
www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARLINGTON



HELP PROMOTE VOCATIONS

to the Priesthood
and Consecrated Religious Life



What is a “CULTURE OF VOCATIONS?”

A culture of vocations is an attitude and social environment which uplifts and promotes vocations to the Catholic priesthood and religious life.

A culture of vocations aims to enforce the idea that while the priesthood and religious life are holy and mysterious callings from God, they are as valuable, vibrant and celebrated lifestyle choices as any other career or profession.



We Are officially recognized by the Holy See

The Vatican recognizes Serra International as **THE GLOBAL LAY APOSTOLATE FOR VOCATIONS** in the Catholic Church. Ours is the only lay organization aggregated to a primary pontifical work. A pontifical work is an organization instituted by the Vatican to advance a particular goal of the Catholic Church.

In 1941, Pope Pius XII created the Pontificum Opus Vocationum Sacerdotalium (The Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations) to encourage and coordinate efforts to promote vocations to the sacred priesthood of the Catholic Church. Serra International was aggregated to this work in 1951.



Aggregation to this pontifical work reflects not only specific support from the Vatican for our mission, but also confers special spiritual benefits on all Serrans.

How do Serra clubs SUPPORT and ENCOURAGE this culture?

Awareness

Serrans coordinate events and programs that raise community awareness of the gifts of religious life.

Affirmation

In ways big and small, Serrans affirm the lives and works of those who have already answered the call to religious life.

Invitation

Serrans are not afraid to ask: “Have you ever considered a calling to the religious life?”

Prayer

St. Pope John Paul II said “Prayer moves the heart of God.” The foundation of all Serran efforts is prayer for vocations.



BEHIND AND BEFORE EVERY VOCATION to the priesthood or to the consecrated life there is **always the strong and intense prayer of someone:** a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community... This is why Jesus said: “Pray therefore the lord of the harvest,” that is, God the Father, “to send out laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:38).

Pope Francis

World Day of Prayer for Vocations, April 21, 2013

Our Patron, SAINT JUNÍPERO SERRA

Serra clubs take their name from Saint Junípero Serra, the 18th-century Spanish Franciscan missionary to Mexico and California. Called by Pope Francis “the Great Evangelizer of the West,” our patron founded 19 missions along the West Coast that grew into many of California’s greatest cities.

Like Saint Serra, the Serrans of today put faith into action.

Called by God to encourage a culture of vocations that supports the birth and maturation of priests and religious who make possible the Sacraments and works of mercy that define our faith, Serrans ultimately work to ensure the future of our Church.

