



The Serra Club of Arlington
Minutes for Tuesday 07 March 2023 | Luncheon Meeting
The Portofino Restaurant | Arlington, Virginia



**GUEST SPEAKER – FR. JUAN PUIGBÓ, PASTOR AT ST. LEO THE GREAT CHURCH
IN FAIRFAX, VA**

Fr. Juan Puigbó, a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, was ordained to the priesthood in Venezuela on March 24, 2001. He holds a Sacred Theology Licentiate in Systematic Theology from The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC., a Master in Marriage and Family from Universidad de Navarra, Spain, and a Doctorate in Family Sciences from Instituto de Enlaces Educativos, México. Fr. Puigbó has been the Director of Hispanic Pastoral Affairs for the Archdiocese of Washington (2004-2007), the Director of Sol Vocational Institute, Washington (2007-2010), the United States Superior of the Diocesan Laborer Priests (2006-2010), and the Arlington Chaplain of the Spanish-speaking Cursillo Movement (2008-2018; 2021-Present). He has also been the Parochial Vicar at All Saints Parish, Manassas and Administrator of St. Gabriel Mission, Manassas Park (2010-2021) and Parochial Vicar at Christ the Redeemer Parish in Sterling (2021-2022). Fr. Puigbó is currently the Pastor at St. Leo the Great Church in Fairfax, VA. He is the founding director of the Vocare Foundation with services for marriages and families and the Fiat Lux Society, a private association of clergy and laity, and founding member of the Mater Dei Homeschool Program. He is also a member of the Theological and Liturgical Commissions of the Diocese of Arlington. Fr. Puigbó is the author of several books and has been hosted by TV and radio shows.

Highlights: Fr. Juan Puigbó's centered around his Faith and trust in God and how God shapes one's path in life according to His plan. Below are some of the insights and examples:

- Once becoming a priest, he spent 12 weeks at Christ the Redeemer then transferred to St Leo's on January 4th. Fr Puigbó's plan was on another transfer. But God twists your plan and soon Fr Puigbó's found himself assigned as Pastor of St Leo's.
- What pleases God and His way, we must obey.
- Story of his experience on a retreat where he thought by getting up before 3am he would be able to pray only to find many other priests were up early. When he asked why, he was told, "they are waiting for Jesus to come back."
- Story of his experience working in the retreat garden, eating only once a day, and found himself exceptionally hungry and not focused on the task at hand. When conveying this to his superior, he was told that "hunger is but in the mind" and was told to pray. Furthermore, he was told that, "unless you make prayer a part of your life you won't be free from hunger."
- Pray always to praise God. Pray to Jesus. Make Jesus part of who you are.
- His sister, Maria Lisa is a spouse of Jesus/Virgins
- Ask of his greatest challenge, his response was once he became Pastor of St Leo's, it was a full year of learning and being able to minister to people.
- Noted that lay people are ready to serve.
- Noted the need for vocations awareness inside Spanish families.
- Tasks at St Leo's include once a month jail visits with Mass and confession. Arduous training program includes being able to score 100% on the tests.