



**The Serra Club of Arlington**  
*Minutes for Tuesday 06 February 2024 | Luncheon Meeting*  
*The Portofino Restaurant | Arlington, Virginia*



**GUEST SPEAKER – FATHER THOMAS NGUYEN – PAROCHIAL VICAR, ST LEO THE GREAT, FAIRFAX, VA**

On May 14, 2016, having completed his seminary formation at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in the Archdiocese of Denver, Fr. Thomas Tuan Nguyen was ordained a priest for the diocese of Bui Chu, Vietnam. His priestly motto is “Nil nisi te, domine – Nothing but you, o Lord,” an answer of St. Thomas Aquinas to the Lord when the Lord asked him what he would want to be rewarded for all his writings and laboring in the Church.

Following his ordination, his bishop sent him to the Catholic University of America for further study in philosophy while being in residence at St. Agnes parish in Arlington. Upon completion of the Master/Licentiate in philosophy and with the permission of his ordinary, Fr. Thomas Nguyen was assigned to St. Leo the Great in Fairfax where he has been serving as a parochial vicar since February 2020.

**Highlights:** Father Nguyen had many observations, advice and thoughts on his vocation path. In somewhat random order:

- Serrans are of generous heart and want to make people happy. Noted that generosity holds society together – be it family, neighborhood, community, etc.
- Generosity is the disposition of the person giving of one’s self. Everything Fr. Nguyen had was received from his family ....and by extension, the Eucharist. Consider, “This is My Body” is generosity. You can never beat God in His generosity.
- Vocation began with his grandmother who sowed the seeds of his vocation, but his parents objected to his vocation path. He was the first in the family to have a vocation, followed by his older brother, who became a priest. Noted that usually the one who sows the seeds of fruit never sees the fruit.
- Vacillated back and forth to Vietnam and Denver to study, while reflecting on his Bishop’s words, “Our Lady sent you out and will bring you back.” He felt like he was signed up for “the order of perpetual study.”
- Met couple who’s great grandson paid for half of his Catholic University tuition. This convinced him there is nothing more powerful than generosity.
- Thanks Serrans for their support. ....a drop of water into the wine to transition into Christ’s blood.
- We’ll be like Mary and stand at the foot of the Cross. Let it be done by the will of God and trust.
- Calling not to become “something” but become “someone.”
- Life – to “light a candle.” Treat world like a village and become one.