



**The Serra Club of Arlington**  
*Minutes for Tuesday 02 April 2024 | Luncheon Meeting*  
*The Portofino Restaurant | Arlington, Virginia*



**GUEST SPEAKER – REVEREND FATHER PETER ST. GEORGE, PAROCHIAL VICAR, BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, VA**

Since he was four years old, Father Peter St. George wanted to become a priest. The fourth of seven children, one of his earliest memories was his excitement that the traveling statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary was brought to his family home in Ashburn, VA. Father St. George was pleased to be the guest speaker in the Easter Season, and to share not his own vocation story, but the story of a future saint, who came to his attention when he was studying with Reverend Father Michael Roach at Mount Saint Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD.

**Highlights:** *The Servant of God, Venerable Sister Blandina Segale SC* (born Rosa Maria Segale) was a Sister of Charity from the congregation founded by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Born on January 23, 1850, she and her family left the village of Cicagna, a small municipality in the region of Liguria, located about 16 miles east of the City of Genoa. In 1854, the family came to Cincinnati, Ohio where Rosa Maria eventually entered the Sisters of Charity and made her vows in 1868. Four years later, she was sent on mission to the West, where she became known as the “Nun with Spurs” and the “Fastest Nun in the West”.

During her time in the West, Sister Blandina served in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, New Mexico; in Trinidad, Colorado, and finally in Ohio. She founded three schools, working in catechesis and education. Through her extraordinary efforts, Sister Blandina ended the lynching in Trinidad; she stopped the infamous outlaw Billy the Kid; halted the Apache massacre and prepared many people for a holy death. Her motto was “Do whatever presents itself, and never omit anything because of hardship or repugnance.”

Father St. George asked the Serrans to consider Sr. Blandina’s vocation and mission tools which shaped her person along with her mission, many of which parallel what the Holy Father Pope Francis calls each of us to do today. She put her gifts and talents at the disposal of the Holy Spirit to move her service to the people of God. Her “theological tools” included her Apostolate, her Personal Mission, and her Spiritual Maternity, all of which she used to connect with those to whom she was sent.

- Apostolate: As one who was sent, Sr. Blandina brought the “agape” love of Christ to those “lost sheep” caught in sin. She was called to be with them, to bring the Father’s transforming love to them, to show them a path forward away from sin and toward holiness.
- Personal Mission: Her degree of “perfection” was the degree she lived the mission by use of her personality and talents. She realized God’s loving plan as the very source of freedom. It was the correspondence between “Mission” and the “Person” and her willingness to surrender to His plan for her life and the lives of those she was called to serve.
- Spiritual Maternity: Sr. Blandina embraced the mission of spiritual maternity, to receive love so as to give love. She was sensitive to the needs and the value of each human being, even though it might be difficult to love them.

Father St. George recounted several key stories from Sr. Blandina's life, including her personal intervention with many cowboys and criminals. In each of these encounters, she called upon the Lord to inspire her charity and courage in calling these men to conversion. She confronted them in their brokenness and brought them to a place of healing and love.

For more information about the Servant of God, Venerable Sister Blandina Segale, SC and the progress of her cause for canonization, here are several reference pages to visit:

- <https://sisterblandina.org/>
- <https://www.srcharitycinti.org/who-we-are/archives/historical-resources/servant-of-god-blandina-segale-sc/>
- <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/sr-blandina-the-nun-of-the-west-5828>
- <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/33170/nuns-guns-and-the-wild-west-the-extraordinary-tale-of-sr-blandina>