



The Serra Club of Arlington VA
Minutes for Tuesday 03 September 2024 | Luncheon Meeting
The Portofino Restaurant | Arlington, Virginia



GUEST SPEAKER – FATHER RICHARD DYER, PASTOR, ST THOMAS À BECKET CHURCH, RESTON, VA

Introduction: Our Guest Speaker is Reverend Father Richard Dyer, Pastor of St. Thomas à Becket Church in Reston, Virginia. Father Dyer was born in Buffalo, NY into a military family and graduated from the University of Notre Dame as an Air Force ROTC officer. Prior to discerning his call to the Priesthood, Father served in the Air Force for four years, started work for a defense contractor, returned to Notre Dame for an MBA, and then worked for a power company in Virginia. In 2006, Father began his studies for the Priesthood at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary; and was ordained early in 2011 so his dying father could attend. His father passed away the very next day as Father Dyer was offering his First Mass of Thanksgiving. Since ordination, Father Dyer has served as a Parochial Vicar at Blessed Sacrament Church (2012-2016); at St. Charles Borromeo Church (2016-2019); and at St. Veronica Church (2019-2023) before being named Pastor in 2023 at St. Thomas à Becket Church in Reston.

Speaker Highlights: Father Dyer began his remarks with heartfelt thanks to the Serrans for the graces of their prayers for his vocation. In large part, those prayers and God were “in charge” of the events that guided him through his university and military roles, advanced studies, and finally a call to the Priesthood.

Father noted that the Diocese of Arlington is very blessed by the vocations of many holy priests who inspire other vocations. In 1997, Father rediscovered his faith, in part due to the influence of Reverend Father Jerome Fasano, who moved the tabernacle back to the center of the church. That “goosebump moment” that brought the Real Presence of Our Lord back to the center focus changed Father’s life. Recalling how Father Fasano brought him into closer contact with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, Saint Therese of Lisieux, and Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, Father Dyer reflected on the many ways these saints acted in his life to inspire his future vocation.

Father credited Serra Club of Arlington members Debbie and Glenn Cooper with the story of his Ordination Chalice, which they had purchased without knowing that it would be given to Father years later. Father also recounted the story of his First Mass of Thanksgiving, which was offered on December 28, 2011, at the time his own father passed away.

Father Dyer reflected on the “psychology behind the ontology” of the Sacred Priesthood that configures the heart of a priest to Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest. In the thirteen years since his ordination, Father recounted the extraordinary graces he has received. Some have come through mission trips with Commissioned by Christ in Peru. Other have come through his ministry as Pastor. Most of all, Father stressed the need to live in the present moment, and pray to the God described in Saint Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor 13) – the Father of Love, not the Father of Lies.