



**Serra Club of Arlington VA**  
*Minutes for Tuesday 04 November 2025 | Luncheon Meeting*  
*St. Ambrose Catholic Church | Annandale, Virginia*



**GUEST SPEAKER – Father Noah Morey, Director of Vocations, Catholic Diocese of Arlington**

Mary Petrino introduced Father Morey who recently was appointed the Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Arlington. Mary noted she first met Father Noah back in 2019 and assured him of our prayers for his success in his new position.

Father Noah Morey grew up in Seattle, the sixth of eight children. He was home-schooled, served as an altar boy, played baseball and soccer in high school and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. After graduating from Christendom College, with a degree in Theology, he taught Latin and History at Chelsea Academy in Front Royal, before entering Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. Upon his ordination as a priest in 2015, he spent four years as a parochial vicar at All Saints in Manassas, VA before serving for six years as chaplain at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria.

Currently, Father Noah serves as Director of the Office of Vocations for the Diocese of Arlington, where he oversees the seminarians in formation and counsels young men and women discerning their vocation to holiness. He has an older brother who is a Benedictine monk and an older sister who is a Carmelite nun, and 28 nieces and nephews. He enjoys playing all sports, and reading Scripture, history, biographies, and the occasional whodunit mystery.

Father Noah relayed a number of observations on vocations in general and, of course, here in the Diocese of Arlington.

- There are reasons for hope as there are 40 seminarians for our diocese studying at three different seminaries. He also has met about 70 young men so far who have expressed interest in learning about prayer and discernment. He noted these prospective candidates express the desire to serve and many are already praying regularly. But, he notes it is truly about the quality of the men in formation, not the numbers.
- Father Noah has found there are a lot of good things happening all around the country concerning vocations. He learned this reality firsthand at the NCDVD (National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors). More tools and resources are available, for example, the Director for the Chicago Diocese has put together a “how to” or best practices thesis or book.
- Our Diocese is blessed as most dioceses do not have a full time Director of Vocations.
- A baseball fan (he lamented the playoff loss of his Seattle Mariners), he compared the institutions that form seminarians to the pitching staff of a baseball team. The Home is the starting pitcher that fosters the candidate in the early innings. The parish is like a middle reliever which supports the middle innings and the vocations director is the closer. Each institution is very important in the formation of the seminarian.

- A lot of good families are nurturing vocations in the home. He appreciates the many people at the parish level, including the Serrans, offering their prayers which are invaluable.
- Father noted how the support that Bishop Burbidge provides is invaluable. He noted his office is on the same floor as the Bishop's office in the Chancery. Bishop Burbidge meets with each candidate and gives each of them his personal cell phone number and lets them know he is available for them directly.

Father Noah tells young men discerning a call to the Priesthood to do three things:

- Spend time in prayer, especially Eucharistic adoration. You begin to reflect the rays and heat of God's grace and love this way.
- Speak to priests about their lives and discernment.
- Get involved at the parish in volunteering.

Father said all of us can do these three things as we strive to grow in holiness.

Finally, Father Noah suggests two prayers for candidates. Pray the prayer of Solomon from the Old Testament: "Give me wisdom that I might know right from wrong". And, the First Letter to the Corinthians, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gives the growth" (1Cor 3:16). We need to be faithful to the planting and watering and God will bring the growth in his time.

Mary presented Father Morey with the Serra medal that had been touched by a first-class relic of St, Juniper Serra as a gift from the Serra Club of Arlington.