

Serra Club of Kamloops Diocese— Charter Celebration, Friday October 27, 2017

INDUCTED MEMBERS OF SERRA CLUB OF KAMLOOPS DIOCESE Back L-R: Mario Biscardi (Serra International), Vila Nova Carvalho (Serra Vancouver), Jerry Skalski, Tom Ouellette, Albert Leduc, Lawrence Beaton, Tony Bradwell, Frans Vander Woning, Daniel Raymond, Rev. Fr. Paul Simms (Chaplain), Garry Mayhew Front L-R: Deacon Paul Murphy, Margaret Ouellette, Teofila Beaton, Mark Lopianowski, Ewa Lopianowski, Penny Leduc, Most Rev. Bishop Joseph Nguyen (Spiritual Leader), Marianne van den Heuvel, Marlene Rombough, Ed Rombough, Annie Benson, (missing: Pat Benson)



The new Serra Club of Kamloops Diocese held their celebration at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Kamloops, BC on October 27, 2017 with a Celebration of the Eucharist, induction of members, installation of officers and a banquet. Guests included representatives of Serra International Council and of Serra Clubs of Vancouver and Fraser Valley West. The Kamloops Catholic Men's Choir led singing during the Liturgy.

Bishop Joseph Nguyen celebrated the Mass with four Diocesan priests as concelebrants. In his homily, Bishop Joseph referred to the Gospel reading (Luke 5:1-11) and emphasized the mission of Serrans, and, indeed, of all Christians, to act with humility and trust in Jesus "...to help him with his work in his Church," as did Peter. He called on the new Serrans to respond to the great need in our Church today and encouraged them to "never give up" and to involve Jesus in their efforts to "pay out (their) nets in action" and allow God "to bless us beyond our dreams."

Following the Final Blessing, Mr. Vila Nova Carvalho, President of Vancouver Serra Club and Past-President of Serra Canada Council, inducted nineteen members into the Serra movement and installed the officers and Chaplain Rev. Father Paul Simms for the Serra Club of Kamloops Diocese. He also honoured Bishop Joseph as Spiritual Leader of the Serra Club of Kamloops Diocese.

The new Serrans, representing several parishes within the Diocese, pledged to accept the objectives and purposes of

Serra. Deacon Paul Murphy, President and the other officers were called to "dream big dreams and to set challenging goals" and "to help (Serra) members to fulfill their vocations to service and to promote, foster and preserve vocations to the priesthood and religious life." Bishop Joseph blessed the members and officers and led them in praying an Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Sixty people attended the banquet to celebrate the new Serra Club. Dignitaries and guest speakers included Mr. Vila Nova Carvalho, President of the sponsoring Vancouver Serra Club, Mr. Leo Ilomin of Fraser Valley West Serra Club, Mr. Mario Biscardi, President-elect Serra International Council, Most Reverend Joseph Nguyen and Deacon Paul Murphy. In his acceptance speech, Deacon Paul committed the members of Kamloops Diocese Serra to work diligently to achieve the objectives defined by Bishop Joseph, namely: to have seven Diocesan seminarians by 2022, to establish a Vocation Committee in each parish, and to establish a Vocation Club in each Catholic school in the Diocese.

Serra is an international Catholic lay organization for the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, for the affirmation of vocations, and for the spiritual development of its members. The Serra Club of Kamloops Diocese was established "in-formation" on May 27, 2017 with sponsorship from Serra Vancouver. Serra membership is open to all practicing Catholic lay men and women and deacons. For membership information, please contact: Mr. Albert Leduc (250-577-3462 / albertleduc@hotmail.com).