



Serra Toronto Downtown Club

Autumn Newsletter November 2025

UPCOMING SERRA TORONTO DOWNTOWN CLUB EVENTS

Event	Date	Location	Registration
November General Meeting	Wednesday, November 19, 2025	St. Basil, Mass at Noon followed by lunch and speaker in the Hall, Cheryl Ann Smith from Madonna House	
Enculturation Lunch, welcoming new Priests to the Archdiocese	Thursday, November 27 Mass at 12 Noon followed by lunch	Pastoral Centre 1155 Yonge St	Serrans and Guests Purchase Lunch Ticket at the November 19 meeting, \$50.
Christmas Social Gathering	Wednesday, December 17	12 Noon Mass at St Basil followed by lunch at the Manulife Building	Members no charge, Associate members and guests \$25 at the door
Ordinandi Dinner	Tuesday, March 24, 2026	Pearson Convention Centre, Brampton Limit of 20 people First come, first served	To reserve, email Tony Stanco stancotony@gmail.com and bring cheque for \$100 to November 19 General meeting

Members are encouraged to participate in all the upcoming events. Please note the details in the chart above.

Chaplain's Message Father Matt McCarthy

"Praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life can resemble much of what the Apostles experienced immediately prior to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Right before his Ascension, Jesus did not instruct them to start getting busy with the work of evangelization, but first...to wait, to watch, and to pray with Our Lady - all this for an undisclosed time. Eventually, when the time was right, they experienced an explosion of the love of God the Holy Spirit, and a superabundance of his gifts. But the requirement for such a blessed event was simple - to wait, pray, and trust.

It's perhaps when our prayers for vocations or for any other intention seem to go unheard, that we ought to look to the Apostles and Our Lady as models of perseverance and patience. The Lord has promised, through various saints, to bring about a new springtime of vocations. When will this happen? There are signs of it already beginning; but the fullness of it will only be experienced when God deems the time right. Until that time - we follow the model of the Apostles and our Lady in the days leading up to Pentecost: waiting, watching, and praying for an abundance of labourers for God's harvest."

In Christ, Fr. Matt McCarthy

President's Address

Anne McQueen

My thanks to the Executive members of the Serra Club of Toronto Downtown. They are dedicated, lively in discussion and fervent in their prayers for our community. The prayers of all members have sustained and helped us discern our direction under the excellent guidance of Neil MacCarthy our VP of Programmes. Together, let us express sorrow along with immense gratitude to the selfless dedication of our Treasurer, Tony Ercolani and Trustee, Brian Green as they step away from the duties that served us so well and for so long. May the Lord keep them in the palm of His hand.

Do consider attending 1st Friday Mass (12:10pm) which is followed by Adoration and the Rosary at St Basil's. Perhaps we can gather in the central pews and pray together in submission to all of God's graces. We can walk a little while afterwards in the bright sunshine.

The often quiet and comforting faith that I have witnessed from each of you has been a personal joy to me.

Our many heritage nations have brought us our Canadian Catholic identity that serves as the backbone of our community. May we in turn look out to troubled nations in our world knowing that through prayer, tolerance towards each other and hope in the benevolence of our God that an untold number of blessings is a constant for many.

Prayer for Priests and Religious

Almighty and loving God,
 I praise and thank you for the priests
 and religious
 Who serve our Archdiocese.
 Keep them close to you,
 Lest the enemy prevail against them.
 Inspire them to be fervent in prayer,
 So that they are never tepid in Your
 presence.
 May the gift of the Holy Eucharist always
 be for them the foundation of their
 prayer, their hope, their joy
 And their consolation.

I especially pray for the priests and
 religious dearest to me.
 The priest who baptized me,
 The priests who have absolved me from

my sins.
 The priests who brought Your precious
 Body and Blood to me
 In Holy Communion and all those
 Who have instructed me, nursed me
 Or encouraged me in any way.
 I remain indebted to them.

O Jesus, keep all of them close to
 Your heart
 And bless them abundantly in time and
 eternity.
 We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
 Amen

Holy Mary, Mother and model of all
 vocations, pray for us.
 Saint Therese, patroness of vocations,
 pray for us.

Program Report

Neil MacCarthy

It continues to be a busy time for the Serra Club of Downtown Toronto. Our winter/spring meetings included a wide range of speakers, from Michelle Brylowski from the Office of Formation for Discipleship, speaking about the historical nature and relevance of the Year of Jubilee to Sr. Theresa Morrison, Missionary Sister of the Precious Blood, speaking on the Jubilee Theme, "Pilgrims of Hope".

March Speaker

Carissa Douglas

In February we welcomed mother of 15 children, Carissa Douglas, to speak about her role as mother, wife and children's author and animator.



April Speaker

Gabriel Marania

Gabriel Marania of the Office of Vocations spoke to us about the Totus Tuus program and its importance in fostering Vocations. See the note from Gabriel Marania below:

"Thank you again for having me—it was a pleasure to attend your meeting and share about the Mission of Totus Tuus.

I've attached the invitation for our Commissioning Mass, which will take place on July 5th at 12 noon at St. Peter's. Please feel free to share this with the other Serra Clubs across the GTA. I also wanted to see if your club might be open to sponsoring the Benedictine crosses that we present to our missionaries as a sign of their commissioning. They are \$18 each and we would need 24 if possible for a total of \$432. Let me know your thoughts, and thank you again for your support."



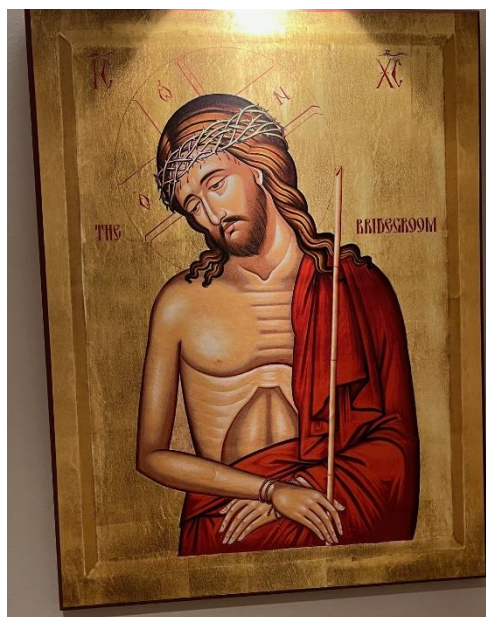
Installation of New Members

New members include Sandra, Andrea, Hermy and Marilu, seen in the picture below, they are in the front row in the centre, surrounded by Father Matt, Garry MacDonald, Nancy Crawford and President Anne McQueen.



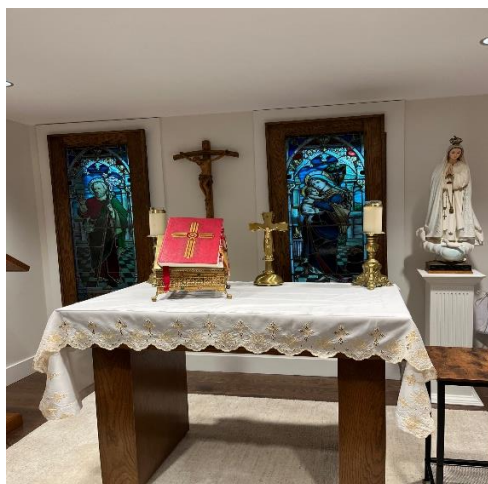
May Meeting Serra House

We also held our May 2025 meeting at Serra House with a beautiful tour and Mass with Fr. Charles Egbulefu.



June Speaker

Jonathan shared his vocation to sacred music and gave repeated thanks to his Mother for her encouragement.



Jonathan Michael



Program Report continued

Monthly meetings begin with Mass, followed by a light luncheon, remarks/business announcements from our President followed by our guest speaker. Members also have the opportunity to participate in the rosary at the end of our meeting if so desired. We were blessed to have two tables at this year's Ordinandi Dinner, in March, providing an opportunity to hear from the graduating "Class of 2025" from St. Augustine's and Redemptoris Mater seminaries.

We will continue to raise awareness of our club through bulletin announcements, personal parish connections and periodic "table displays" when welcomed by local parishes. We also have the Travelling Crucifix program and participate in the Serra "Coin" program to help plant the seeds of vocation with those who may be discerning a vocation.

Members help coordinate a First Friday Mass and Eucharistic Adoration at St. Basil's Parish sponsored by our club with our Vocations booklets utilized by participants along with a Rosary for Vocations. We continue to look for opportunities to connect more directly with members – a newsletter has been resurrected for our Club and we are also working on a welcome package for new members.

We continue to be blessed with members who embrace the spirit of Serra and share their gifts and talents in abundance to foster and pray for Vocations. As with our Serra motto, "Always Forward".

Gratitude for Service

Two Serrans on the Board are taking a leave from active service from the positions of Treasurer and Trustee. We are very grateful for their service and want to sincerely thank them for all their contributions throughout the past several years. On behalf of the Executive Board and all Club Members, we would like to thank Tony Ercolani and Brian Green.

Thank you to Tony Ercolani

Perhaps we can count on one hand the number of people that affect us so profoundly. As their legacy is forged under our watchful eye we become aware that it morphs into our very own and we are changed for the better.

This has been true of Tony, a natural educator who gives of his knowledge so freely and with humility. A person comes away knowing they are in good hands.

The role of Treasurer can indeed cause one to inadvertently swallow for the tasks laid out within a Serran 'year' are rich in complexity. Through them all, from year to year, Tony has welcomed what came to him with dignity, charm and an engaging smile.

We will remember Tony for all his help in preparing the many Altar Server Awards (October); the formidable number of newly ordained priests we hosted at the Enculturation lunch over the years (November); and the 'bartender' and bottle opener at our Christmas Socials. Tony would also deliver pizzas to our meetings and offered a kindly drive for those who needed a ride and picked up name badges in Vaughan for our new members.

His legacy is one of service not self-serving. May he cast a long shadow over us so we may continue to look to our fellow members with a welcome heart and acceptance.

Thank you to Brian Green

We would like to show our immense gratitude to Brian as he steps away from the role of Trustee for the Serra Club of Toronto Downtown.

He has selflessly helped out through many occasions whether a large format such as the Altar Servers Awards and the Christmas Socials or individually assisting Anne and her beloved guide dog, Hector.

Always polite and calm, never seeking attention for himself, he has been and will always remain a truly dedicated and prayerful Serran.

A leader due to the fact he could assess needs and be willing to act in a polite and respectful demeanour and always help even at the cost of his time and family life.

A person who all too readily accepted the burden of the expectation of a volunteer and fulfilled the role with consistent dedication and without fanfare.

We have been so blessed to have had such a mentor as Trustee and we pray for blessings and strength as he moves forward to serve our Lord in other ways.

2025 Altar Server Awards

Well done Serra Downtown Team!!! The Altar Server Awards held at St Paul's Basilica, 83 Power Street, on October 25 were a huge success.



Always Forward, Never Back