

# Serra Rally 2019, Ventura, California, The annual National Conference for Serra Leadership

Last update October 26, 2018

## Answers to your most recent questions.

### WHO should attend the 2019 Rally?

The Serra Rally is an annual leadership training and inspiration event hosted by the USA Council for the benefit of all United States Serra Clubs and their leadership. It is our hope and goal that each Serra club will send at least two club leaders to the annual Rally. The Serra Rally is ideal for Club Presidents, president-elect, all club officers, district governors, district governor elects, district council members, USA regional directors and Serra International Board members, Chaplains, all local Serra members of the host diocese and host clubs, and any interested Serran. <https://serraus.org/serra-rally-2019/>

**Keynote speakers:** Major addresses by Fr. Gene Hemrick, author and Catholic commentator, Cardinal Michael Collins, Christina Lamas (NFCYM) and Fr. Ralph O'Donnell (USCCB). As is the custom of previous Rallies, we have selected top speakers to address the vocations challenges of today's church. Topics addressed will include Youth and Youth Culture; How to hear the Vocational Call of God in an image saturated, fast food culture; Serra, Spirituality; Vocations: Successes and challenges; Reignite your club membership; Vocations panel, real life experiences in religious formation; Formal presentations of the work of Laboure Society and Newman Connections; and inspiring personal accounts of active, local religious leaders and priests. You will not be disappointed.

### HOW to get there:

**AIR TRAVEL:** Most will fly into one of three area airports: Los Angeles (LAX) Burbank (BUR) or Santa Barbara (SBA). Most major airlines fly direct or connect to LAX, especially international attendees, and you'll probably find your best air fares flying into LAX. Burbank is competitive and particularly available to Southwest Airline passengers, among others. Finally, Santa Barbara is the closest to Ventura (38 miles) but has limited major airline access. Still, it has competitive rates for some destinations --- in particular, Serrans coming from the Pacific Northwest, with low-cost direct flights from Portland and Seattle on Alaska Airlines.

**SHUTTLE: Getting from the airport to Ventura Beach Marriott.** The Rally hotel in Ventura is approx. 70 miles from both Los Angeles International Airport or Burbank Bob Hope airport and 38 miles from Santa Barbara. **SHUTTLE SERVICES:** This Marriott hotel does not supply in-house shuttle service. However, there are at least two reliable shuttle services that are recommended: Road Runner Shuttle (<https://www.rrshuttle.com/index.html>) and Smart Shuttle ([www.smartshuttle805.com](http://www.smartshuttle805.com)). One-way cost from LAX and BUR to the Ventura Beach Marriott is approx. \$70-80 for the first person, and \$10 for each additional person on the same reservation. Shuttle reservations can be made up to 24 hours in advance. Note: There is no cost savings by making a round trip shuttle reservation. The same shuttle services also serve Santa Barbara. Average travel time by shuttle from LAX or Burbank to the Rally hotel is 1 ½ hours depending upon traffic. Santa Barbara travel time to Ventura is approximately 45 minutes --- a beautiful, ocean-side ride.

**CAR RENTAL:** Car rentals can be made at all three airports. We have negotiated a reduced daily parking rate at the Marriott of \$7.00 per day. There will be no need for a car during the Rally days.

**WALKING:** (<https://missionwalk.org>) While there is an interesting and growing, organized manner to “Walk the California mission trail,” that has been gaining popularity over the past decade, I don’t recommend it to most Serrans. There are a few exceptions; you may be one of them. If so, be sure to plan your trip so that you are walking through Mission San Buenaventura on January 17-20, 2019. Then stop and join us along your journey. The rest of us will take a motorized vehicle.

**WHEN to get there:** The Serra Rally is broken into pre-Rally, Rally and post-Rally sections.

- 1) **Pre-Rally activities** include semi-annual business meetings for both the Serra International and Serra USA Council Boards. These begin on Thursday, January 17 at 9:00 AM and are scheduled to run into the afternoon. Also, on Thursday, beginning at 1 PM, there will be a annual training for current and incoming District Governors. While this session is open to all, it is required for District Governors and District governor-elects, and optional and recommended for Serra Club Presidents and other members of active District Councils. **Serrans planning to attend either of these board meetings or Governor training are advised to arrive on Wednesday, January 16.**
- 2) **Committee meetings:** Beginning at 2:30 PM, there will be two back to back, (2:30 – 3:30-pm, and 4:00 – 5:00pm) concurrent sessions in which the four pillar national committees on Vocations, Internal Programs, Communications, and Membership will each hold a one-hour session of information and possibly committee work.
- 3) **Early arrivers**, there will be a mass celebrated on Wednesday, at 5 PM, at the Mission San Buenaventura. Evening meals on Wednesday will be on your own, with many great restaurants to choose from in Ventura.
- 4) **Rally Activities:** The formal portion of the Rally officially opens on Thursday afternoon with the Travelers mass, 5 PM, to be celebrated by Serra International Episcopal Advisor, Cardinal Michael Collins of Toronto Canada. The Travelers Mass will be held at the Rally Hotel. All attending Serrans are encouraged to arrive at the hotel prior to this mass. Following this mass will be a reception with refreshments, cash bar, and heavy hors d’oerves (appetizers for the non-French). The Rally will officially end after the Saturday night banquet at the hotel.
- 5) **Post-Rally activities:** For those who have opted (see below) to join other Serrans on the USA Council sponsored, Serra Northern Mission Pilgrimage, we will depart from the Rally Hotel via waiting motor coach. Estimated departure time is 12 noon on Sunday. The first mission stop will be Old Mission Santa Barbara. Those who join us on the Mission Pilgrimage, our last evening will be in San Francisco on Wednesday, January 23, 2019. Flights from San Francisco International Airport (SFO) should be arranged to depart on January 24 or later, depending upon your travel or vacation plans. <https://www.canterburypilgrimages.com/serra-international>

**Chaplains, Calling all Chaplains. Special rates and the popular “3 for 2” rate:** We will be repeating last year’s successful Chaplain invitation. The Rally is an ideal place to introduce new chaplains to Serra, its

history, legacy, spirituality and many vocations programs. Special registration rates apply for chaplains, including a standard reduced rate of \$200 for Chaplain Rally registration, and a further registration reduction to \$0 when the chaplain is accompanied by two paying Serrans from the same club. Hotel reservations are not included in this special offer and must be made separately. There will be a special Chaplains-only breakout session with Keynote speaker, Fr. Gene Hemrick, on Friday. Plus, opportunities to concelebrate all masses during the weekend. For those priests who need to return to their respective parish communities for weekend masses, the Chaplain-specific section will conclude Friday night, with more general Serra topics to be addressed during the Saturday sessions.

**District Governor and Governor Elects.** This year, updated training for District Governors and District Governor elects will be held on Thursday afternoon, from 1 PM to 4:30PM. This training is critically important for both current and incoming District Governors. All training sessions will be held at the Rally hotel meeting rooms. This information is also appropriate for Club Presidents.

**Committee work.** Important presentations and working sessions. All committees will offer a short working session profiling their current activities on Thursday afternoon. Beginning at 2:30 PM, there will be two one hour sessions with a short break in between, which the standing committees of Vocations, Programs, Communications and Membership will host. There will be two concurrent sessions. All Rally attendees are encouraged to attend and participate in these sessions.

**Pilgrimage to the Northern California Missions:** When will it start, where will it go, when will it end, why go? A first ever Serra USA Council sponsored motor coach tour and pilgrimage to the northern California Missions will begin on Sunday January 20 to Wednesday January 23. With departure from San Francisco area airports on Thursday January 24 or later. This will be an important opportunity to walk the steps where St. Serra walked and will include, among other highlights, a private insight into the archives of Mission Santa Barbara, the Queen of the Missions and a special mass at Carmel, at the gravesite of St Serra, in the Basilica of San Juan Carlos de Borromeo. All Serrans are invited to attend this pilgrimage, but in addition Rally attendees will benefit from a special reduced rate. **Reservations** must be made separately from rally registration at : (<https://www.canterburypilgrimages.com/serra-international>). Hosted by the USA Council of Serra International. Departure location: Rally Hotel, Ventura Beach Marriott. Option to join the trip in Santa Barbara on Sunday afternoon.

**Pilgrimage: Who can participate?** Serrans, family members, friends, ALL can join the Pilgrimage. The low cost for the Pilgrimage, which includes double occupancy hotels and two meals a day, is further discounted (\$100 discount) to those Serrans who attend the Serra Rally. The Pilgrimage is a separate event and is open to all.

STILL HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Registration and hotel questions: USA Council Office, John Liston, Nicole Klees or Sarah Knob.  
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Serra Pilgrimage: Ashley Heisdorf, with Canterbury Pilgrimages: [ashley@canterburypilgrimages.com](mailto:ashley@canterburypilgrimages.com) 800-653-0017 x 105

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