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**John Liston**

# Serra International



SERRA INTERNATIONAL  
Easter 2023

Message from the President of Serra International

Dear brothers and sisters in Serra:

He is Risen!

In 2017, our past Serra International president from Sienna Italy, Dante Vannini, opened his Easter address to Serrans around the world in this way:

“The month of April is a month of joy for all of us. In the northern hemisphere, it is the beginning of Spring as nature starts to awaken from its long hibernation. In the southern hemisphere, winter preparations are initiated. But regardless of the seasons, in this month all Catholics celebrate the greatest feast of the year: Easter with the Resurrection of Christ. We, too, as Serrans, must also celebrate the renewal of our lives and try to remove the greyness and the impoverishment of our humanity.”

Allow me to echo his welcoming message. On behalf of the Serra International Board, executive director John Liston and his support staff, and all the Serra leadership around the world, please accept our best wishes to you and your families for a Blessed and Happy Easter. As members of the Catholic faith community, we recognize what has been passed down through the ages, a faith which remembers and reverts on this day, God’s saving act through his Son, Jesus, of dying and rising for us all.

In 1956, Cardinal Samuel Stritch, past Serra Episcopal Advisor, reminded Serrans then (and of all ages) that while it is our Catholic Faith that unites us, for Serrans, it is from our common desire and a Serra requirement to grow in our faith that we find the energy and inspiration to “do the work of Serra.” Let us not get those two important pillars of what it means to be a Serran -- faith and action -- mixed up. Last summer, current Serra Episcopal Advisor, Cardinal Thomas Collins, repeated this same advice at the Serra International Convention in Toronto: it is from our growth as Catholics in prayer and study that we find the inspiration to act in support of our priests and consecrated religious.

Dear sisters and brothers, in addition to the Holy Father, on this holy day and always, please keep Cardinal Lazarus You Huang-Sik, Prefect of the Dicastery of the Clergy, in our prayers. On many occasions his Eminence and his predecessors, representatives of our direct connection to our Holy Church as an aggregated lay apostolate, have shown their friendship to Serra International. And finally, I remind you, please do not forget the good work and dedication to Serra of our Episcopal Moderator, Cardinal Thomas Collins, of the episcopal moderators of our 10 international councils, of our many bishops, priests, seminarians, and all religious and consecrated women and men.

I wish a Happy Easter to all of you, your families and to all those who love us. Mary, Mother of Vocations, and our patron, St. Junipero Serra, pray for us!

Serra International,  
Greg Schwietz,  
President

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