



## *Serra Club of Boulder County*

District 6, Club #723 Region 13  
Chartered September 29, 1990 *Chaplain: Fr. Mark Kovacik*

March, 2021

Club Meeting Times: 1st Friday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of *each* month following the 7:00 a.m. Mass at SHJ. Selected member chefs bring breakfast *for* those present. Bring a friend and encourage them to join our club.

*President:* Sue Husler

*Secretary:* Dori Fitzgerald

*V.P. Vocations:* Bill Fitzgerald

*V.P. Programs:* Lillian Price

*V.P. Affirmation:* Ed Theiss

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Our club has again joined the *Missionaries of St. Junipero Serra Membership contest*. As you remember last year, our club installed seven new members; we received a \$204.71 discount on our US Council/SI dues. The contest is already underway as of July, 2020. Each club had to sign up again to participate and be eligible for the Benefits. It is important that each member recruits people to the Serra membership.

*President-Elect:* Peggy Morrow

*Treasurer:* Ed Husler

*V.P. Membership:* Stan Peterson

*V.P. Communications:* Nancy Harris

Parish Liaison:

**We need more people praying together for an increase to the priesthood and religious life.** It is not just the VP of Membership to carry this out on their own. If you know of someone who would be interested in Serra, let Stan Peterson, club's VP of Membership, know. We welcome two new members; Mary Ellen Thorne and Nohemi Scott. Cannot wait until we can all start meeting in-person.

I have voted for the Serra US Council Officers. A slate of officers for 2021-2022 was approved at the recent US Council Board meeting and sent to club presidents by email for approval. I voted for each candidate that was presented for those particular offices. God Bless those for accepting to be a candidate for a Council office and to carry out the Serra work.

There will be a club 'ZOOM' meeting March 5 at 8:30 AM, followed by a board meeting.

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You may review the board minutes and the newsletter on our club website:

[www.serraclubbouldercounty.org](http://www.serraclubbouldercounty.org)

Mary, Mother of Vocations, pray for us,  
St. Junipero Serra, pray for us, St. Joseph,  
pray for us

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## Recent Past Events

### February 5 – Club Meeting

At the February 5, 2021 Boulder County Serra club 'ZOOM' meeting, attending members were very pleased to welcome Sr. Sharon Ford, Director of the Office of Consecrated Life at the archdiocese of Denver. Sister Sharon is a Religious Sister of Mercy (RSM).

Born and raised in Omaha, NE, Sister Sharon believes her life changed when she was allowed to decide what high school she would like to attend. She decided to attend Mercy High when she first heard the words from a song, "If you're easy and pleasant to meet, you're a Mercy High girl!" which was sung when she was preparing to take her entrance exams.

When Sister Sharon first came to Denver to teach, she thought she had made a mistake in wanting to be a teacher. She wasn't "looking for angels" at St. Joseph High School in Denver but not quite what she experienced either. She had been looking forward to teaching all the wonderful "classics" and, instead, found herself teaching the non-classics such as "True Grit". But it all worked out!

Now, as the Director of Consecrated Life, Sister Sharon acts as liaison between the archdiocese of Denver and various religious institutes, consecrated virgins, secular institutes and associations of the faithful.

There are currently 72 special ministries of religious, three of which are contemplative orders. The contemplative orders are: Sisters of Charity, Sisters of Life and Little Sisters of the Poor. Consecrated virgins are expected to be independent. They do not take a vow of poverty but take a vow of chastity. Besides teaching and nursing, the sisters have jobs, as now there is one working with the Red Cross, one as a freelance speaker, a parish administrator, a Walmart worker, a counselor, and an archbishop's secretary who moved with Archbishop Chaput when he was sent to Philadelphia. The sisters range in age from 22 years to 100 years.

Sister Sharon was asked by Serra members about two nuns formerly located in the Boulder County area: Sister Georgeann who, according to Sister Sharon, is "still keeping students on their toes" and Sister Josette who is still going strong, teaching the organ.

On February 2, 2005, Sr. Sharon was named by Pope John Paul II to be a recipient of the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontificate award which recognizes extraordinary service to the Church and the papacy.

### February 19 – Club Meeting

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God (with Lillian's assistance) keeps blessing the Boulder County Serra club with wonderful speakers. Our 'ZOOM' meeting on February 19 featured Fr. Jason Wallace who the club has been praying for since his horrific bicycle/truck collision last year.

Fr. Jason grew up in Broken Arrow, OK, just your normal kind of "ornery kid" who loved his Mom, Dad and siblings, who loved to play sports, who in middle school loved to have girlfriends.

When Fr. Jason was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the night before Thanksgiving, he told his Mom that his ankle hurt and his mother, like many mothers before her, said, "oh, you probably just twisted it while playing ball." He woke up in the middle of the night screaming with pain. Drs. and multiple tests followed and he was soon diagnosed with rheumatic fever. Fr. Jason spent many weeks at home in bed because his legs were so swollen, he was unable to walk. He was told by the drs. that he would never be able to play sports again, that his heart might end up with a hole in it and that he might even die.

His family used to pray together occasionally. He began to pray to God that "if you make me better, I'll be anything you want". I'll be a churchman, a farmer, a fireman, anything. He didn't really want to be a priest because he thought priests were guys who just couldn't get girls.

His parish priest began visiting him while he was bedridden and turned out to be his best friend in high school. He anointed Fr. Jason while he was sick. He told him he needed to read the Bible and pray. After

that, Fr. Jason grabbed his First Communion book, turned to the page about saying the rosary and decided to pray a decade every day. (It took 3 min.) Soon he increased it to three decades and, finally, the whole rosary once he discovered it only took 15 min.

Fr. Jason prayed every day throughout high school. He felt that Mary helped him to meet her son, Jesus. He attended daily Mass except on the days he had sports. He began to go to daily confession. The priest had told him that 'the Blessed Mother is the way we need to look at women'. Fr. Jason began praying the rosary every day. He soon asked his mother to join him and they prayed it together which gave them a special bond. Fr. Jason said, "the Blessed Mother gave me consolation in my heart". Thirteen of his friends from high school converted.

One day, he asked the one friend he had that had not converted, Zack, to drive across town with him so that he could go to confession. When asked why they had to drive across town to do this, Fr. Jason replied that he had done something he was too ashamed to confess to his best friend. After the confession, he revealed to Zack that he felt like the words in a song sung by Clint Black, "I'm leaving here a better man by knowing you this way." Of course, Clint's song was about a woman but Fr. Jason was talking about his relationship with Christ. When they got into the car and Fr. Jason turned on the radio, the song that was playing was "I'm leaving here a better man by knowing you this way" sung by Clint Black. Zack was pretty mind boggled!

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Fr. Jason credits his best friend, his parish priest, with teaching him how to be a man, how to lead a virtuous life. This friend told him that the greatest thing you have as a man is to 'keep your word'.....do that with people and with God. Fr. Jason said that seminary takes many years but it is filled with beauties as well as sufferings. When Fr. was told his ordination would take place on November 25, 2004 (Thanksgiving Day), the anniversary of the start of his terrible illness, he felt that it was a confirmation of his vocation.

Fr. Jason gave us a brief overview of his terrible accident in 2020 when he was riding his bicycle down a hill about 40 mph when it slid on loose dirt and hit an SUV pulling a camper head on. He was sucked under the vehicle but was somehow miraculously thrown out into the road (thus escaped being hit by the camper).

Many people stopped to help. Father remained conscious and asked one good samaritan to please pray with him. He made an Act of Contrition and they said a Hail Mary. He lost a great deal of blood and knew his back and shoulder were injured due to the extreme pain but could move his legs so he knew he was not paralyzed. In the helicopter sent to transport him to the hospital, he felt himself drawn into a dark gray circle. It was terrifying! He first thought he might be in Hell, then possibly purgatory. He again prayed a Hail Mary and, by that time, had reached the hospital and been rushed to surgery. When he was then surrounded by blue light and could see himself on the operating table, he knew the Blessed Mother was with him.

Fr. Jason spent 35 days in the hospital. He is still in recovery and will be for a while. His tail bone was completely broken off and drs. have still not figured out how to reattach it.

He is now teaching for short periods of time at St. John Vianney Seminary as he rehabilitates. When asked what the hardest part of this recovery period is, he replied, "not being with parishioners and their families" and when asked about the easiest part, he replied, "working with young men striving to be holy".

## PRIESTS CORNER

The Church gives us the forty days of Lent to prepare for Easter. Perhaps we have not been faithful to our Lenten promises. This can actually help us because Lent is a time to recognize that we need a Savior, a Messiah. We will then have 50 days to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ who conquered sin and death to give us a new heart and a new spirit.

Fr. Mark

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## Masses for Seminarians

The club will be setting aside monies for masses for our seminarians once a month. If any club member is planning to attend or visit another church and would like to schedule a mass for the seminarians themselves, feel free to go ahead and do so but please notify the other club members.

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\*June 23, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church, 715 Cabrini Drive, Lafayette

## Prayer for Seminarians

Father, thank You for the generosity of our seminarians.  
Safeguard them as they prepare for the priesthood.  
Keep all evil far from them so they become strong Christian men who are faithful to prayer, diligent in their studies, open to spiritual direction and docile to all aspects of seminary formation.  
Above all, enflame their hearts with love so they will be ardent and gentle shepherds for your Church.  
We make this prayer through the great High Priest, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

Remember to pray for vocations, especially an increase to the priesthood; by dedicating a Mass, a rosary or an hour of adoration.

## NOTE FROM TREASURER ED HUSLER

Thank you to all members who have submitted payment towards the membership dues which are now due for the New Year. Our board has decided that the dues will remain the same as last years at \$77 per person. Please make your check to Serra Club of Boulder County. Mail your check to : Ed Husler, 297 Fourmile Canyon Drive, Boulder, CO 80302.

Also, 'Thank you' to all who have donated to the 'No Golf Tournament' fund raiser. This will help our budget for the coming year. You who have donated will be

receiving their thank you letter for tax purposes.

## LETTER OF THANKS

Dear Boulder Serra Club,  
We wish to express our deepest gratitude for your very generous Christmas gift to our Seminary. We truly appreciate your ongoing support and we assure you of our constant prayers.  
Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!  
Peace, Formators and Seminarious from Redemptoris Mater Seminary

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries March Members Birthdays**

March 2 – Stan Peterson  
March 3 – Brenda Davis  
March 7 – Terry Gallagher  
March 15 – Lillian Price  
March 26 – Hank Barth

## **March Members Anniversaries:**

None

## **March Seminarian Birthdays**

March 2 – Daniel Ramirez  
March 25 – Daniel Viana Pereira  
March 29 – Karoro Temate

## **March Religious Anniversaries**

None

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**Prayer list:** Please pray for those in need of healing: Fr. Greg Ames, Rosemary Ames, Tiki Theiss, Teresa Christoff, Lorna Christoff, Chase Curfman, Jeanette Denfeld, Audrey Kenney, Elaine Middleton, Helga Riedl, George Morzinski, Marcus Poulin-(Annette & Chase), Matthew Hibl, Angie McCann, Deacon George Theirjung, Fr. Jason Wallace, Jim Heinze

**And for all men and women and young people discerning a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life**

## Upcoming Events

Mar 11-19 – Novena to St. Joseph  
Mar 13 – 10AM ‘Serra Meets’ speaker on webinar\*\*  
Mar 14 – Daylight Saving Time resumes  
Apr 2-10 – Novena to Divine Mercy  
Apr 4 – Easter  
Apr 24 – District 6 meeting  
April 24-25, 2021 – World Day for Vocations  
Oct 7-10, 2021 – Serra’s 78<sup>th</sup> SI Convention in Chicago  
Oct 22-23 – District 6 Convention in Colorado Springs  
Jan 13-16 – Serra Rally Dallas/Fort Worth  
July, 2022 – SI 79<sup>th</sup> Convention, *Toronto, Canada*

**\*\*Next Serran online speaker will be Father Luke Ballman, a priest of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, who is Executive Director of the U.S. Bishop’s Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations (CCLV). He is a regular speaker at the Serra Rally and reports especially on trend data regarding new priesthood and ordinations. A link to join the webinar will be sent closer to that date.**

**‘SERRA MEETS’ Our US Council Episcopal Advisor, Bishop Tom Daly, who spoke on Fe. 13, will give 10-15 minute weekly pre-recorded Lenten reflections which will be posted on the Serraus.org website each week during Lent. There will also be email reminders.**

## Note from US Council

Regarding the Seven-Serrans Prayer Teams. All diocesan Vocations Directors in the US are now covered by a Seven-Serrans Prayer Team for the coming year!  
Thank you to clubs and individual Serrans who are participating in this gift of prayer for our vocations directors.\_

***THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT WORDS IN VOCATIONS’ AWARENESS, according to the late Bishop David Choby, Bishop of Nashville: “HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BEING A PRIEST (OR RELIGIOUS SISTER)?”***

## MONTH OF March, 2021 – WOMEN SAINTS

**Saint Katharine Drexel 1858-1955**  
**(Feast Day– March 3**

Catherine Mary Drexel was born in Philadelphia, PA to a wealthy investment bank/philanthropist and his wife. Catherine’s mother died when she was only five weeks old. She and her sister were cared for by their aunt and uncle until their father remarried. The girls were educated at home by tutors and taken on periodic tours of the United States and abroad by their parents as their father felt

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they should have a good grasp of geography. As a young woman, Catherine was profoundly affected by the painful three year struggle from terminal cancer suffered by her stepmother.

At the age of 26, she traveled with her father and sisters to the western states where they witnessed the poverty and hardships of Native Americans on reservation lands. She wanted to help! Thus, she began her lifelong personal and financial support of missions and missionaries in the U.S.

After their father's death in 1885, Catherine and her sisters inherited substantial wealth which they continued to use to serve and aid Native American missions and to support African American education and upward mobility.

On February 12, 1891, Catherine Drexel professed her first vows as a religious sister, dedicating herself to working among Native Americans and African Americans in the western and southwestern states.

She took the name Mother Katharine, and, joined by thirteen other women, established a religious order, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. They lived in the Drexel summer home until a convent could be built.

Saint Katharine Drexel established 145 missions, 50 schools for African Americans and 12 schools for Native Americans.

She died at the age of 96 on March 3, 1955. Her cause for beatification was introduced in 1966. Two miraculous cures were

attributed to her intercession, one in 1974, one in 1994. Both cures involved deafness. Mother Drexel was canonized by Pope John Paul II on October 1, 2000, the first natural born U.S. citizen saint and the 2<sup>nd</sup> American saint.

Saint Colette 1381-1447  
(Feast Day – March 6)

Nicole Boellet was born in a French village to a poor carpenter and his wife who had been unable to conceive and bear a child. After praying to St. Nicholas for help, the wife became pregnant at 60 and gave birth to a daughter. She was named Nicolette by her parents which was later shortened to Colette.

After her parents died, Colette joined a Benedictine order as a lay sister. Becoming dissatisfied, she received the habit of the Third Order of St. Francis and became a hermit under the direction of the Abbot of Corbie, living near the abbey church. After four years of ascetic living (1402-1406), through several dreams and visions, she believed she was being called to reform the Franciscan Second Order and return it to its original Franciscan ideals of absolute poverty and austerity. In October, 1406, she turned to the Antipope Benedict XIII, recognized in France as the rightful pope, and he allowed Colette to transfer to the Order of the Poor Clares.

During her lifetime, she founded 18 monasteries of her reform. For these monasteries that followed her direction, she authorized extreme poverty, going barefoot and observance of perpetual fasting and abstinence.

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It was said that Colette performed numerous miracles including multiplication of food and wine and effecting cures.

According to legend, a local peasant gave birth to a stillborn. Fearing for the child's soul, the father took the baby to the parish priest for baptism. The priest refused as the baby was already dead. When the father became insistent, the priest told him to go to the nuns.

When Mother Colette was made aware of his situation, she took off her veil, given to her by the Pope, wrapped the child's body in it and told the father to return to the priest. By the time the father arrived back at the church, the baby was conscious and crying. The priest immediately baptized the child.

Colette was canonized on May 24, 1807 by Pope Pius VII. She is invoked by childless couples desiring to become parents and is the patroness of expectant mothers and infants.

## St. Photina Unknown (Feast Day – March 20)

(Appears in John 4) Jesus, on his journey to Jerusalem, had to pass through Samaria. Tired by this trek, he stopped to rest at a well located in Sychar on a plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son, Joseph. It was near noontime. A Samaritan woman came to draw water at the well, and Jesus asked her for a drink. When she answered, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" When Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me

a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you 'living water'. In Eastern Christian tradition, the woman's name at the time of her meeting with Jesus is unknown although she was later baptized as Photine. She is celebrated as a saint of renown.

As further stated in John 4, Saint Photina was quick to spread the news of her meeting with Jesus and through this many came to believe in him. Her continuing witness is said to have brought so many to the Christian faith that she is described as "equal to the apostles".

Eventually, her activities brought her to the attention of Nero who had her brought before him to answer for her faith. She was subjected to many tortures, then thrown down a dry well to her death.