



Serra Club of Boulder County

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

December, 2020

Club Meeting Times: 1st Friday and 3rd 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

Club Trustees: Vern Rogowski, Jerome Higgins

President-Elect: Peggy Morrow

Treasurer: Ed Husler

V.P. Membership: Stan Peterson

V.P. Communications: Nancy Harris

Parish Liaison:

Happy Advent Season

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Now that Thanksgiving has passed, it is time to get spiritually ready for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I'd like to thank Jerome for helping to pass out the 'Little Blue Books' for Advent.

As I had said previously, we will not have a Christmas gathering during these COVID times. There will be a general club meeting on Dec. 4, 8:30 A.M. – Zoom Meeting, followed by a board meeting.

The board has voted to donate \$250 to Serra International Foundation. They support a lot of worthy projects and issue grants to needy seminarians in various countries where they have been turning away young men because of lack of space or lack of funding. Individual members can also support the Foundation by check or credit card to: Serra International Foundation, 333 W. Wacker Dr., Ste. 500, Chicago, IL 60606

Because the January Serra Rally has been cancelled, you may listen to a presentation of each of the speakers via webinar each month

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for six months. The first one will be on Dec. 12. Each one will be announced prior to the webinar.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

You may review the board minutes and the newsletter on our club website:
www.serraclubbouldercounty.org

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

Recent Past Events

November 6 – Club Meeting

Via Zoom, the Boulder Serra Club meeting of November 6 was attended by 34 members. Outstanding!

This wonderful attendance may have occurred due to the fact that the club was fortunate to have as our speaker, District 6 Governor Rose Marie Stempf.

Mrs. Stempf shared with club members present an overview of the Serran District 6 convention held via zoom on Oct. 12. She acknowledged the award winners from the Boulder County Serra club: Stan Peterson, Vice President of Membership and Nancy Harris, Vice President of Communications. She also shared with us the highlight of the January 20 Serra Rally in Ventura, CA which focused on the vocations ministry amongst Latin/Hispanic people, especially youth in the United States. She also spoke about Serra's outreach to Hispanic Catholics.

Mrs. Stempf informed the club that many countries have changed their club names to St. Serra Club to designate away from the Sierra Club, a grassroots environmental organization.

She said all Serra clubs are being encouraged to meet online during the pandemic if only to pray the rosary together.

Mrs. Stempf seemed encouraged and shared with us a very hopeful sign for the Catholic Church – an increase in young people seeking to discern.

We were told that Michael Downey, USC Chair of the Leadership Committee is developing a national training program for club treasurers as some clubs inadvertently lost their exempt status last year.

And lastly, Mrs. Stempf enlightened us to the fact that there was a new Serra club formed in Oklahoma; that the Serra Rally scheduled for Jan. 14 – 16, 2021 has been cancelled and that she wanted to remind us to celebrate the “World Day for Consecrated Life” on Feb. 6 – 7, 2021.

The plethora of information shared by Mrs. Stempf was not only educative but interesting. So Boulder County Serra club scored once again with our speaker!

November 20 – Club Meeting

At our November 20 Zoom Boulder County Serra club meeting, Lillian Price introduced Fr. John Trambley, Vocations Director from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Certain Boulder County Serra club members as participants in “the prayer

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warriors” have been praying for Fr. Trambley once a week for one hour for one year. Each “warrior” takes one day to pray for the Vocations Director assigned to their club. Our club decided we all needed to meet our assignee, especially the “warriors” praying for him on the behalf of all members.

Fr. Trambley began his story of discernment and “calling” by first thanking very much the “warriors” for all of their prayers.

Although Fr. Trambley was born and, for the most part, raised in Iowa, his family were devoted skiers and often traveled to Steamboat Springs and Breckenridge in CO for ski vacations. However, Colorado snow weather was unlike Iowa snow weather – freezing, constant grey skies and dirty snow that refuses to melt. As a result, Fr. Trambley’s parents decided to move to a snowless warmer area, and they chose Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Fr. Trambley decided early on that he wanted to study things that were “fun” – not to spend his life behind a desk. These thoughts helped to turn his choices towards art and radio. After graduating with an arts degree, he managed to find work with a station in Albuquerque. He began as the “undercover Amishlike person” cutting naughty parts out of the movies; later, he was promoted to program director – “the mother of all desk jobs”.

During this time, Fr. Trambley attended mass and asked casual questions about the priesthood. He began to frequent “Theology on Tap” which was an organization formed in 2001 after 9/11.

Once a month, attendees gathered for fellowship, food and Catholic speakers. He made a point of talking with one of the speakers, a woman from Notre Dame whose topic was “Theology of the Body”. She inspired him to speak of his dissatisfaction with his current status. She responded that if he was not happy, perhaps he was being called to something else. He pondered over entering Christ in the Desert Monastery but decided monks get up too early in the morning.

Fr. Trambley had twice already avoided discernment weekends when he received a third invitation from an admired former Rock and Roll D.J., Fr. Gene. This time he discussed the opportunity with his father who said, “Just Go!”. It turned out to be great advice as he finally heard priests’ stories about how they were called to the priesthood and how you didn’t “have to have lived a perfect life. God uses your experiences to help in the priesthood. “. At this time, Fr. Trambley thought, “Sounds like a lot of work.”.

Finally, on Good Friday, he made a pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Chimayo. There he was told that “we think you have a vocation”. On Good Friday, 2005, Archbishop Sheehan invited Fr. Trambley to accompany him to a prison outside Santa Fe where the Archbishop displayed a religious relic (a piece of wood from the real cross) while they prayed with the inmates.

At 39 yrs. of age, Fr. Trambley entered seminary and at age 44 yrs. in 2010, he was ordained a priest. He currently works at St. Pius X high school and lives at Our Lady of Fatima in Albuquerque.

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Fr. Trambley told the Serrans “God has given me little blessings along the way.” He said the job of Vocations Director is to let Jesus be the Vocations Director. He said his work is to help men to learn if they are being called – help them discern the call!

Fr. Trambley ended his talk by saying that it is a huge challenge getting people to attend Mass on Sunday. He emphasized that there are many Catholics in New Mexico but they do not go to Mass on Sunday. Catholicism starts with people doing the basics. There seems to be so much distraction on Sunday.

PRIESTS CORNER

Each Christmas we celebrate the Incarnation: God has taken our flesh and lived among us. He continues to walk with us in our daily lives, above all in the Church. God is Savior, Redeemer, Messiah; He comes with power to save us. Let us rejoice and praise God this season, confident that there is nothing greater than His love for us as revealed in Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas,
Fr. Mark

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.

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December Members Birthdays

December 10 – Arlin (Chuck) Meis
December 11 – Bill Fitzgerald
December 20 – Jerome Higgins
December 25 – Nativity of our Lord
December 30 – Cathy Rogowski
December 31 – Nancy Harris

December Members Anniversaries:

December 21 – Ed & Tiki Theiss (1968)

December Seminarian Birthdays

December 8 - Peter F. Brancale
December 21 – Sebastian Rubio

December Religious Anniversaries

December 1 – Fr. Mark Kovacik (2007)
Serran Chaplain

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December 19 – Msg. Bob Amundsen (1969)
Retired

December 27 – Fr. Joseph Grady (2016)
Holy Family H.S.

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

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

Upcoming Events

Dec. 4 – General Club meeting/Board meeting

Jan. 1 – New Year’s Day – No meeting

Jan. 14-16, 2021 – Serra Rally-cancelled

Feb 6-7, 2021 – World Day for Consecrated Life

April 24-25, 2021 – World Day for Vocations

June 30–July 3, 2021 – SI Convention, Toronto, Canada

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 December, 2020 – WOMEN SAINTS

Saint Lucy of Syracuse Unknown – 304 A.D.
(Feast Day– December 13)

Lucy, known in Italian as Santa Lucia, was born in Syracuse, Sicily to a wealthy family or so it is believed as she lived so long ago that details of her life are scarce. She was beloved by the early Christians, however, as her name is prayed in the first Eucharistic prayer of the Mass. She had a wide following even before the 5th century.

According to apocryphal texts, Lucy spurned marriage and vowed to remain a virgin and devote her life to prayer and service to the Lord. An angry suitor reported her to Roman authorities as to be a follower of Christ was to commit a crime. When she refused to give up her belief in Christ, she was sentenced to death. According to some legends, the Roman authorities sentenced her to be removed to a brothel. That order was supposedly thwarted by divine intervention. She became immovable. Next she was condemned to death by fire by the flames did not touch her. Finally, her neck was pierced by a sword and she died. It is more likely she probably died as it was a period of persecutions for the faith.

St. Lucy is the patron saint of the blind or vision-impaired. Her name means “light”. She lived these words of Christ: “Your light must shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” (Matthew 5:16)

St. Virginia 1587 - 1651
(Feast Day – December 15)

St. Virginia was an Italian Roman Catholic born to an aristocratic but very pious

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family from Genoa, Italy. From an early age, Virginia desired to consecrate her life to God in the religious life. She was, however, pressured into an arranged marriage at the age of 15 and gave birth to two daughters. Her husband was a drinker and gambler and left her a widow five years later.

Lucy, dedicated her life to raising her children, prayer and works of charity but after her children were grown, she devoted herself to caring for the sick, elderly and abandoned. She founded a refugee center in Genoa in 1625 which quickly became overrun with the needy requiring her to find additional facilities.

She rented an empty convent in 1631 where, along with other women, she cared for the sick while instructing the other women in the faith.

Lucy constructed a church dedicated to Our Lady of Refuge and, before long, the women who worked alongside her formed into two congregations: Sisters of Our Lady of Refuge in Mount Calvary and Daughters of Our Lady in Mount Calvary.

Lucy retired and performed manual labor and begged for alms. She began to receive visions and thoughts/imaginations in the later years of her life.

She was canonized in St. Peter's Square, Vatican City by Pope John II in May 18, 2003.

**Paola Francesca Di Rosa 1813 - 1855
(Feast Day – December 15)**

St. Maria Crocifissa Di Rosa was born, one of nine children, in 1813 to a rich

industrialist in Brescia, Italy. She was educated by the Visitation Sisters in their convent in Brescia but left school when her mother died in 1824. She went to work in her father's spinning mill where she took notice of the working conditions. Encouraged by her father, she began providing for the material and spiritual needs of the female workers.

Her father began searching for suitors although she informed him she was not willing to marry until she became so upset, she confessed her disappointment to a priest. He spoke with her father and told him she had another vocation in mind.

St. Maria lived at home over the next decade while increasing her involvement with various forms of social work. During the cholera epidemic in Brescia during 1836, she went to work in a hospital while at the same time directing a home for mute and deaf women. In 1840, she gathered a small group of women to form a future religious congregation called Ancelle della carita.

St. Maria's focus was on caring for the poor and sick. She told her colleagues, "I suffer from seeing suffering."

St. Maria Crocifissa Di Rosa died at Brescia Hospital in 1855 after suffering from a prolonged illness. She was canonized on June 12, 1954 at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City by Pope Pius XII.

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