



Serra Club of Boulder County

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

April, 2021

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joys of returning to Colorado!

Christ has risen! This is a Blessed Easter Season – Most of the churches were open, so different from a year ago. Some of us were able to meet with our families for brunch or dinner and even shed our masks, all because of having the vaccine.

Despite Easter joy, I have some distressing news. We do not have members to fill the empty officer slots. I am hopeful that there

President-Elect: Peggy Morrow

Treasurer: Ed Husler

V.P. Membership: Stan Peterson

V.P. Communications: Nancy Harris

Parish Liaison:

are members who are willing to step forward and say 'yes, I can do that'. You will not be alone, you can always request help from other trustees as needed. You can also pick a partner and work together in the position. It is more interesting and fun working with someone else. If critical positions are not filled, I'm not sure our club can carry on our mission. We need to work actively promoting vocations: *Remember without a priest there is no Eucharist!*

Positions that are open:

VP for Vocations: responsible for dispersing vocational information to parishes in our club and other vocational efforts. The vocational information is handed down to the clubs via USA Council. Information is sent out by email to the club VP for Vocations; example is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Information sent out may include a bulletin insert, information to be used in children education, and an outline for a Homily. The decision is made by the priest of that parish if he wants to use the information. The VP for Vocations would

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gather info and give to Parish Liaisons who would disperse to the assigned parishes. (We need Parish Liaisons –read below) Club needs some **Parish Liaison** volunteers (need at least 5). Maybe they can work as the previous Liaisons. The job description is simple and can be very rewarding. You should get to know the pastor and his parish assistant of that particular parish or parishes – you may need to take on two parishes. You need to discuss with them what you would like to do. When the VP for Vocations has vocation related articles at certain times of the year, you would contact that pastor and/or assistant with the information inquiring if they want to use it in their parish, whether it is appropriate for the youth group or the whole parish. It is their decision if they want to use it. You may forward articles via email or deliver in person. Deacon George Thierjung from St Francis of Assisi has volunteered to receive the info for his parish. You can do it also. No need to attend Board Meetings unless you want to do so. *In a small way you will actively promoting vocations.*

VP for Communications: you would communicate a short synopsis of the events that took place at the club meetings, the important upcoming events the members should be aware off. The upcoming birthdays and anniversaries of the members, religious and seminarians. (You'll get help with the dates, etc). The Newsletter usually goes out end of the month, so you have the date/time for the following month.

Pray about helping with any of these positions, even if it is for one year. St. Junipero Serra, pray for us. Call me for more info: 303 444-2874 (Sue Husler)

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

St. Joseph, pray for us

Membership Dues from Ed Husler

Thank you to 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 few 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.

Recent Past Events

March 5 – Club Meeting

At the Boulder County Serra Club Zoom meeting of March 5, attending Serra club members were presented with a thought-provoking video lecture by Dr. Randall Smith, archaeologist and bible professor as well as international director of Christian Travel Study Programs (CTSP).

Dr. Smith takes his listeners through Psalm 23 and the analogy of God, the loving and caring shepherd to His people and the shepherds tending their flocks in the land of Israel. While living in Israel, Dr. Smith took two weeks to camp in the hills with the shepherds and their sheep and to observe and learn the relationship between the shepherds and their herds to

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understand the full meaning of Christ's Psalm 23.

When the shepherd is out in the desert with his flock and it is daylight when everything is safe and visible, he lets his sheep roam about. However, when darkness begins to settle, he moves closer to be amongst them, to watch over and protect them. So it is with God and his people. As we wander into the dark valley, God is with us, to comfort and speak truth, to show us the way. Jesus said He would leave the 99 to go after the one. When you are feeling alone, that is when he is searching just for you.

To get sheep to lie down at night for rest is a major hurdle for shepherds. The shepherd knows the sheep must have four things, and he provides them. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." The shepherd makes sure that the sheep are fed. He tickles their stomachs to ensure they are full. He checks to make sure their mouths are wet. If not, he retrieves water from the wineskins and forces it down their throats. He cleans their noses of parasites and their throats of leeches. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures."

Sheep will not lie down if they feel unsafe. They are very afraid of running water as the weight of their wool will drag them down and cause them to drown. "He leadeth me beside the still waters." Sheep frighten easily. If a stranger enters their midst when they are lying down and vulnerable, they will rise immediately and prepare to run. They trust only the shepherd and will follow his lead. "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness."

The shepherd must constantly move his sheep to new grazing areas in order to keep them busy foraging for food and to keep them from becoming bored and biting each other. "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."

The shepherd has a relationship with his sheep. He loves them and, therefore, is diligent in his care for them. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Dr. Smith's talk brought light to Psalm 23. The comparisons of shepherd to sheep and God to His people were very insightful. Once again, Boulder County Serra attendees were availed by words which give us food for thought.

March 19 – Club Meeting

Once again, Boulder County Serra club members attended our second monthly meeting via Zoom, and once again, we were blessed with an outstanding program.

Our March 19 meeting featured two speakers: Fr. Daniel Ciucci, parochial vicar of St. John the Baptist Church in Longmont and longtime parishioner, Aljus Kakoonis.

Fr. Dan began by telling us that during the Lenten season is a time that he likes to think of as "confession palooza" when confessions are offered frequently in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Fr. Dan admitted to almost badgering his flock to go to confession as "it is such a beautiful

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thing". Therefore, when a parishioner such as Mr. Kakoonis decides to return to confession after an absence of 50 years, it is a joyous occasion. The generosity of Mr. Kakoonis in his willingness to share the experience of emotions in undertaking this decision were appreciated by all Serrans in attendance.

Mr. Kakoonis revealed that he began to think about and desire a return to the sacraments that he had known and experienced in his youth. He knew that our "sins are forgiven" with confession, and he wanted back "into the swing of things" in his faith. Mr. Kakoonis also recalled an incident from high school when the priest had told the class about a man who had returned to confession after an absence of 35 years. He thought, with shame, well, I certainly beat that record.

When Fr. Dan inquired, "What was it like for you to come back to confession?", Mr. Kakoonis replied that he was very anxious, that it was very frightening to come back. He was particularly fearful because so much happened during that length of time. He had been married but it had been a civil ceremony and, therefore, God had never approved or witnessed the union. By giving up confession, he gave up his opportunity to receive other sacraments.

Fr. Dan asked, "What was it like preparing for confession after all that time?" Mr. Kakoonis responded, "pretty frightening". He thought he might have to spend a week in penance. Worse case scenario; he thought he might not be forgiven. Mr. Kakoonis added that doubting God was "a silly thing". He said if you ask for forgiveness, it will be given, and God is all

knowing and all forgiving. He told us to go and sin no more. Crossing that bridge, for me, makes it easier to go to bed at night.

Fr. Dan propounded that we all fear rejection; that opening yourself up to another person (in the case of confession, the priest), allowing yourself to be known and then having to face the possibility that the person, after knowing you, may not love you. Mr. Kakoonis added, that one of the things that plays in your heart having been away and done things against God, that God might not forgive me. But, you eventually take the chance that he will – that's faith!

Fr. Dan asked, "Were there other themes that got you to go to confession?"

Mr. Kakoonis said that it helped that Fr. Dan encouraged his return by telling him to just start coming up to communion even though you cannot receive. Mr. Kakoonis was worried people would question why he was coming up to the altar but he did it anyway. Then, he increased his prayers, began reading the Bible and saying the rosary. He finally overcame his fear of rejection by Father and his own self-rejection. His family is thrilled, and he is at peace!

Fr. Dan said his mission is to pastor people towards Jesus. As a priest, he feels "fatherly pride" in those who come to confession. "Not going to confession is like not breathing."

Mr. Kakoonis says, "you better be prepared in life for death, and what can happen if you aren't."

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PRIEST'S CORNER

Christ is Risen! He is truly Risen! This Easter Season we rejoice because our Savior Jesus has conquered sin and death. His resurrected life reveals to us that the love of God is greater than all evil. Jesus, who loves us so much that He gave His blood for us, is at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us and to send us the gift of the Holy Spirit; a Spirit that is Divine, eternal, Love itself. Happy Easter!

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.

*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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

April Members Birthdays

April 5 – Connie Christoff

April 14 – Ramon Jesch

April 18 – Sue Husler

April 22 – Bob Serafin

April 24 – Dick Padrnos

April 24 – Mike Taylor

April 29 – Betsye Feauto

April Members Anniversaries:

April 14 – Keith & Rosemary Ames

April Seminarian Birthdays

April 13 – Eric Eccleston

April 16 - Jhan Pierre Sainea

April 25 – Filipe Colombo da Silva

May 3 – Daniele Arienzo

April Religious Anniversaries

April 2 – Dcn Karl Matz – retired

April 21 - Very Rev. Michael Carvill (1990)

May 1 – Dcn Ronald Darschewski (1979)

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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

Apr 2-10 – Novena to Divine Mercy
Apr 16 – **Club Meeting (after 7 am Mass) in-person Jubilee Hall**
Apr 24 – District 6 meeting
April 24-25, 2021 – World Day of Prayer for Vocations
April 24 – Webinar Officers Training
April 26 – (a repeat) Officers Training
May 7 – Club Meeting – Jubilee Hall after 7am Mass – induction of new members
May 21 – Club Meeting – Jubilee Hall – induction of new club officers
Oct 7-10, 2021 – Serra's 78th SI Convention in Chicago
Oct 22-23 – District 6 Convention in Colorado Springs
Jan 13-16 – Serra Rally Dallas/Fort Worth
July, 2022 – SI 79th Convention, *Toronto, Canada*

Our Next Serra Meets: April 10, 2021
Please join us for our next installment of "Serra Meets" with Most Reverend Bernard Hevda, Archbishop of Saint Paul in Minneapolis.

Save the Date: The District 6 Annual Convention will be held Friday evening, October 22, and Saturday, October 23 at new Newman Center in Colorado Springs. The theme is "A Call to Holiness Transcends Generations." The keynote speaker will be our US Council President, Richard Ariens. More details will be coming in the following months.

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 April, 2021 – MEN SAINTS

Blessed Anacleto Gonzales Flores
1888-1927
(Feast Day– April 1)

Blessed Anacleto Flores was the second of twelve children born to a poor family in Jalisco, Mexico. He was baptized one day after his birth.

As he grew, a family friend who was a priest recognized his intelligence and recommended sending him to a minor

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seminary. While there he studied diligently, excelled and earned the nickname of “Maestro” but he came to believe that he did not have a calling. Instead, he became a lawyer, a husband and a father of two children.

After leaving the seminary, Anacleto attended daily Mass, performed numerous charitable works including visiting prisoners, taught catechism and became a prolific writer. He joined the (ACJM) Catholic Association of Young Mexicans and became founder and president of Popular Union (UP), an organization of Catholics formed and committed to resisting persecution of the Catholic Church by dictator/atheist Plutarco Elias Calles.

Blessed Anacleto participated in non-violent resistance until the murder of four members of ACJM in 1926. Even then, he did not join the Catholic army fighting Calles but wrote pamphlets and gave speeches in support of the Catholic Cristeros (army). In seeking to crush the rebellion, the government arrested and brutally tortured Anacleto before executing him by firing squad on April 1, 1927.

Anacleto Gonzales Flores was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI as a martyr on November 20, 2005.

Saint Herman Joseph 1150 - 1241
(Feast Day – April 7)

St. Herman was born in Cologne, Germany to a noble family who had lost their money. At a very early age, he was known for his devotion to the Blessed Virgin and for his tendencies toward mystical experiences. He could be found almost

daily at the church of St. Mary in the capitol of Cologne on his knees praying to Mary and the child, Jesus.

According to legend, he once presented an apple, saved from his own lunch, to a statue of the Virgin and child. He was too small to be able to reach high enough but Mary bent down so that the child, Jesus, could reach the fruit.

At age 12, St. Herman entered the abbey of the Norbertines but, as he was too young to be accepted into the Order, he was sent to the Netherlands to study. Upon his return, he made his vows and was sent to perform pastoral duties and to make and repair clocks, an ability for which exhibited great talent.

St. Herman experienced visions of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and penned a number of mystical writings. He was humble and poor, patient and friendly to everyone. He was a model of obedience to his superiors. He wrote several hymns in honor of the Blessed Mother and St. Ursula and her Companions, all in a style full of feeling.

Later in life, he was appointed spiritual director to the Cistercian nuns with whom he had frequent contact. During the last Lent of his life, he was at the monastery of the Cistercians when he became gravely ill. He died the Thursday after Easter, April 4, 1241. His veneration began immediately after his death due to reports of numerous miracles at his tomb.

On August 11, 1958, his status as a saint of the Roman Catholic Church was formally recognized at Vatican City by Pope Pius XII.

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St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Monfort 1673 - 1716

(Feast Day – April 28)

St. Louis was born in Monfort-sur-Meu, France, the eldest surviving child of eighteen. He spent most of his infancy and early childhood on a farm purchased by his father, a Notary. At the age of 12, he entered the Jesuit College of St. Thomas Becket where his uncle was a parish priest. Upon completion of his ordinary schooling, he began the study of theology and philosophy. He was inspired to preach missions among the poor after listening to the stories of a local priest about his life as a traveling missionary.

St. Louis was ordained a priest in 1700 at the age of 27, and for some time thereafter, fulfilled the duties of chaplain at a local hospital.

His years of ministering to the poor and living a simple life sometimes caused him problems with Church authorities. He was a gifted orator and his preaching attracted thousands back to the faith. Father Louis encouraged daily Holy Communion; not the custom during those times.

His whole life was conspicuous for virtues: constant prayer, love of the poor, poverty carried to an unbelievable degree and joy in humiliations and persecutions.

St. Louis founded two congregations: Missionaries of the Company of Mary in 1715, for priests and brothers, and Daughters of Wisdom in 1703, women who cared for the sick. His book, "True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin" has become a classic for Marian devotion.

Worn out by hard work and accompanying illness, St. Louis died on April 28, 1716 at the age of 43.

Louis de Monfort was canonized by Pope Pius XIII in 1947 and is now being considered as a Doctor of the Church.