



Serra Club of Boulder County

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

September, 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:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



general meeting on **September 4**. Mass will be at 7AM, followed by the meeting outside in the back of the priests' residence. Sorry, we will not have breakfast at this time, if you like bring your own brown bag. We will have coffee and some sweet rolls. This is if you feel comfortable coming. Bring your own facial mask.

Priesthood Sunday is Sept 27, this is a special day set aside to honor our priests; to affirm the role of our priests. So make a special effort to make your parish priest feel truly appreciated and special. *Without the priest the mass could not be offered and Sacraments could not be celebrated.*

Since we will not have an Affirmation Dinner for the priest and religious this year, we decided to send them, this month, cards of 'thank you' and gratitude for their vocation. Ed Theiss has been busy finding all the addresses of the priest and religious. You may now review the board minutes and the newsletter on our club website.

www.serraclubboulder.org

Recent Past Events

Greetings, would like to invite the club Serrans to come and welcome the new Serran members who will be inducted at the

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Also you may check out the video on orientation to the Serra organization which was done by Serra International for new members. It is well done, a nice refresher. It is now posted on the club website:

www.serraclubbouldercounty.org/membership

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

Recent Past Events

August 7 – Club Meeting

The Boulder County Serra Club meeting of August 7, 2020 featured, via Zoom, Drs. Tim Gray, Professor of Sacred Scripture, and John Sehorn, Assistant Professor of Theology, from the Augustine Institute. Their discussion regarding the “Eucharist in Light of the Jewish Passover” was very informative and fascinating. The Jewish Passover and sacrifice is highly important to understanding Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. What Christians celebrate in the Eucharist is deeply connected to the Passover.

It is very important to comprehend how Passover shapes the Jewish identity. In the book of Exodus, the Israelites, God’s chosen people, cry out to the Lord for help from their slavery and persecution by the Egyptians. The Lord remembers his covenant with their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and takes pity on them. At this time, God calls out to Moses from the burning bush that he must go to Pharaoh and ask to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. This is the first time God binds his name to his own people when Moses

asks who should I say sent me and God answers “I am who am.”

When the Pharaoh refused to release the Israelites, the Lord sent down ten plagues, the final one being the death of every first-born in the land. The Israelites first-born would be saved by a sacrifice, the first Passover ritual. The ritual involved the sacrifice of a year old male sheep, without blemish. The blood was to be applied to the doorposts of every Israelite house and, thus, the plague would “pass over” the house. That same night, the lamb must be roasted and eaten and, any left over, must be burned up. It was very important that they must consume the sacrifice (the offering) as “it is one of communion with God”.

The Lord said this day shall be a memorial feast which all generations shall celebrate. The Passover sets them on the journey but they are not yet to the Promised Land.

The mass brings both events together – the last supper and the celebration. We are already celebrating what God has done for us but still have to walk our life to one of purity.

August 21 – Club Meeting

The Boulder County Serra Club was fortunate to have as our guest speakers at the August 21, 2020 meeting, two of our seminarians from Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Denver, Carlos Mejia and Wilfred Kone.

Carlos is from Honduras and is in his second year of theology. He grew up in a very poor family where he witnessed violence within the inner family. Carlos

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felt that God didn't care or, maybe, even exist. He questioned God as to why, if you are a good person, you still suffer. Carlos was suffering and felt that to be happy, he would need a good career and money. I was leading a double life, hiding my unhappiness from people.

Carlos attended the university to study engineering. He received good grades and had many admirers among his friends but their approval was not making him happy. He had faith in his church and his school but still he was not happy.

His parents persisted and told me that "God loved me as I am!". Suddenly, my life changed drastically. I saw a life of suffering was a blessing; I saw that Christ was always there with me. I came to know that my sufferings allowed me to know the Lord. I realized that God does not judge me but loves me despite my sins.

I asked God, "Do with my life as you want.". "To follow the Lord is the best thing", said Carlos. I am on a very important mission. I see God's help in your support.

"I am very happy!"

Wilfred is from the Ivory Coast, the western part of Africa. He loves Colorado because it is very different from his homeland which is always hot. Colorado has many changes of climate.

Wilfred knew he was interested in a vocation from the age of seven but his father would not allow it. His father felt it was a manipulation by the Church; that it

arose from Wilfred's imagination, something from his feelings.

Wilfred graduated from the university at age 25. He decided to enter the seminary but it was difficult for him to abandon a career. Wilfred said that because "God has always been faithful to me, that's how I was able to accept." His interactions with the Neocatechumenal community strengthened his resolve.

When Wilfred came to the seminary, "God willing", it was with the desire to serve. He had always been impressed by the lives of the saints. His experience at seminary has been "fantastic". "The Lord heals and gives new life." says Wilfred. "He is patient when I get discouraged, and he gives me strength."

Wilfred is continually grateful for those who have sacrificed their time for him to enter into his vocation.

PRIESTS CORNER

On September 14, we celebrate the Triumph of the Cross and the following day, we celebrate Our Lady of Sorrows. We may question why we have suffering in our lives. It is helpful to remember that the beloved Son of the Father and the Blessed Virgin Mary were innocent and without sin and yet both suffered tremendously during their life here on earth. Let us unite our suffering with theirs for the salvation of the world.

God bless,
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.

One mass, so far, has been set up for the seminarians at SHJ in 2020. The date is: 11/16. If you are unable to attend on that date, please say a prayer/rosary for them.

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

September Members Birthdays

Sept. 7 – Ed Theiss

Sept. 8 – Joe Davis

Sept. 10 – Msgr. Bob Amundsen

Sept. 16 – Dave Perkins

Sept. 10 – Pauline Higgins

September Members Anniversaries:

Sept. – Sharon & Wayne Stetson (1962)

September Seminarian Birthdays

Sept. 28 – Carlos O. Mejia

September Religious Anniversaries

Sept. 25 – Fr. Emmanuel Osigwe (2004) at St. Martin, SHJ

Sept. 27 – Dcn. Martin Hetzel (1980) Nativity

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

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

Upcoming Events

Sept 4 – Meeting at SHJ Induction of new members

Sept 26 – 27 – Priesthood Sunday

October 12 – District 6 ‘Zoom’ Convention

October 24 – District 6 Council meeting ‘Zoom’

Nov 1 – 8 – National Vocation Awareness Week

Jan 14 – 16, 2021 – Serra Rally

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

April 24 – 25, 2021 – World Day for
Vocations

Jan, 2021 Serra Rally

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 September, 2020 – MEN SAINTS

Saint Januarius – 272 AD – 305 AD
(Feast Day – September 19)

Saint Januarius was the Bishop of Benevento and is the patron saint of Naples. He is believed to have been martyred during the persecution of the Christians under the Roman emperor, Diocletian.

The bishop went to visit two deacons and two laymen in prison. Having interceded for their release, he was then imprisoned himself. They were thrown to the lions but when the animals did not attack, they were beheaded.

His fame rests on the relic, allegedly his blood, which is kept in two glass ampoules behind the altar of the Chapel of Treasure in Naples.

During the day of his feast day, September 19, the vials are exposed to the public where the blood becomes liquid during the

prayers of the faithful. Quick liquification is considered good luck, delay or failure taken as bad omens. The vials are also exposed to the public on December 16 and the first Sunday in May. The blood has been tested frequently but, to date, scientists have not been able to explain this miracle.

Saint Jerome – 347 - 420
(Feast Day – September 30)

Saint Jerome was born to well-to-do Christian parents, probably near modern Slovenia. His education began at home but was continued in Rome when he was about twelve. A serious scholar, he frequently studied Latin literature and visited the catacombs. Near the end of his education, he was baptized.

Saint Jerome was a biblical translator, monastic leader and is traditionally regarded as the most learned of Latin fathers.

He lived as a hermit for a time and then decided to become a priest. He served as secretary to Pope Damasus I and also established a monastery in Bethlehem.

He is particularly known for his Latin translation of the Bible and is considered a Doctor of the Church. His influence has been far reaching and profound, especially in the early Middle Ages. He was a learned scholar and a sound traditionalist. His correspondence is an exciting source for the historian.

Saint Peter Claver 1581 – 1654
(Feast Day – September 9)

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Saint Peter Claver was born in Verdu, Spain and entered the Society of Jesus in 1602. Five years later, he was sent to Colombia as a Jesuit missionary to aid the enslaved Africans who were kept in miserable conditions aboard ships and in pens in Cartagena. He dedicated the rest of his life to alleviating their suffering.

Accompanied by interpreters, he boarded every incoming slave ship where he nursed the sick, comforted the terrified, tended to the dying and taught religion. He baptized 300,000 captured individuals but did not lose sight of them after they left the ships. He also visited the plantations to encourage their faith and plead for humane treatment from the masters. During visits, he stayed in slave quarters, refusing hospitality from slave owners.

South America was the chief slave market of the New World which caused Saint Peter to declare himself “slave of Negroes forever”. He eventually earned the title of “apostle of the Negroes”.

Saint Peter Claver never returned to his homeland and died in Cartagena in 1654. He was canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1888.