



## *Serra Club of Boulder County*

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

November, 2020

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

*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:

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Greetings, I would like to start off by saying 'Thank you' to those who have responded to the 'No Golf Tournament' fundraiser and the monetary collection for the Seminarians' Christmas gift which will be given to the club assigned seminarians in December. Right now there are 25 seminarians at the Redemptoris Mater although there may be six additional by December. If you have not participated in this fundraiser and would like to do so, it is not too late. This is optional.

Hope you are all staying well and thank you for your patience during this time of COVID-19 as we will again change our meeting times. Due to an increase in COVID cases we will resume the 'Zoom' only meetings in November. The board will discuss what we will do in December and if we will have a Christmas gathering.

The Club has received a grateful 'Thank you' note from the CU FOCUS missionaries/ students. The Club had donated \$500 to their October fundraiser.

The January Serra Rally has been cancelled, however, they will have a one hour

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presentation of each of the speakers via webinar each month for six months. The first one will be Dec. 12. Each one will be announced prior to the webinar.

I have started distributing the 'Little Blue Book' for Advent to Club Members as I see them. Advent starts the last Sunday in November.

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

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## **Recent Past Events**

### **October 2 – Club Meeting**

Lillian Price, Vice President of Programs for the Boulder County Serra Club, presented a program at the October 2 meeting called Mission and Ministry of the Church.

Lillian pointed out that the Christian Church means different things to many people. She noted that the Church's mission and ministry have been shaped by many historical images and, therefore, there are many different ways that the Church can be experienced.

The entire life of Jesus is the foundation of the Christian Church. As he gathered his followers and revealed himself to them, the Church was being born. As the Church has grown so has its understanding of how to express the Word of God to others. Today, its mission encompasses a set of images born out of both the Old and New Testaments and a rich history which

includes teachers, servants, martyrs and great writers.

The catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that the Church is One, the Church is Holy, the Church is Catholic and the Church is Apostolic. We profess this in our Creed.

From the very beginning of his public life, Jesus invited people to follow him. As they listened to his message of God, the coming of the Kingdom and the promise of new life, his followers formed communities that became the Church. Today we carry out our relationship with God by the way we treat one another.

### **October 16 – Club Meeting**

The Boulder County Serra Club has been doubly enriched for the second time this year by having two outstanding speakers at a single meeting.

Our first speaker, introduced by Peggy Morrow at the October 16 meeting, was new mother of six and western coordinator of FOCUS, Hilary Draftz.

Hilary attended the University of Colorado from where she graduated with a degree in film studies. She was drawn into the small community of FOCUS while only in her freshman year. She became acquainted with FOCUS missionary, Annie Powell, who founded the outdoor outreach program for junior and high schoolers and who, eventually, became Hilary's mentor.

Hilary loves sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and considers herself a testimony to Christ.

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Hilary spoke to us regarding the transformation in young adult behaviors since the 1970's which has increased exponentially since 2010; much of it due to an evolution in their methods of communication. Their isolating forms of interaction have led to pseudo (counterfeit) personalities. This leaves our young people feeling left out and lonely. The suicide rate keeps increasing, especially among girls.

Hilary observed that "the human person was created by God for personal relationships, first to God and then to others" ..... "to share in a self-giving life". She said that the human heart has not changed; it was meant to be in personal relationships. There is a need for community.

Hilary believes that young adults are recognizing this need (particularly emphasized in the time of COVID-19). They are finding ways to interact – becoming friends with Catholic FOCUS missionaries who they see on campus doing such things as throwing frisbees together. This search for interaction is also

bringing back young people who have left their faith.

Hilary admits that the experience of FOCUS in the time of COVID is like running an obstacle course but believes its existence on the C.U. campus since 1998 as well as other campuses nationwide has had a profound impact on the lives of many young Catholic and, often, non-Catholic students.

(Oh, and in case you're wondering, Hilary and her husband became, since the first part of this year, the foster Mom and Dad to a family of six sibling daughters.)

Our second dynamic speaker was Deacon John Stapleton, a transitional deacon from St. John Vianney Seminary, currently on assignment at St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish, Boulder.

Deacon John shared his story of discernment to a religious life with our Serran members. His is a story of perseverance. Our Serrans love to hear discernment stories as it fires up our enthusiasm for our Serran mission.

Deacon John said he heard his "calling" at a young age but it got lost. Deacon John had grown up in the faith. After he started Colorado State University, he began going to Adoration and became turned on "like fire". He went to speak to his pastor, Fr. Crisman, of St. John of Assisi parish in Longmont. Fr. Crisman believed Deacon John might have a vocation and invited him to meet with the seminarians at St. John Vianney seminary. During his discernment period, Deacon John was required to take a psychological evaluation (a necessary

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requirement during discernment). He was told by Fr. Crisman that based on his evaluation, he was not ready. Deacon John was only 20 years old at this time. Deacon John was disappointed.....he had even broken up with his girlfriend and thought he was ready.



He began working in the hospitality industry, got promoted, incurred many debts and became distracted by the secular life but he was missing something, was very unhappy. He heard a small voice telling him to move back home and he did. Deacon John got a job and paid off all of his debt. He began volunteering. He dated but did not feel like giving himself to that. Best of all, he experienced the joy of working with the youth at St. Johns.

Still, he kept hearing his calling during the rosary. One Easter, at age 27, he talked again with Fr. Crisman who told him "you're ready now". God had told him that he needed to give things up and give more to God. Deacon John said, "God has been patient with all my struggles – even in seminary".

Deacon John is 34 now. The Saturday before Ash Wednesday he was ordained a

transitional Deacon. His biggest devotion is to the Blessed Mother and God still speaks to him during his daily rosary.

## PRIESTS CORNER

God is in control of everything; He holds in existence everything that exists. If God did not love something, He would not have created it. Every hair on your head is counted and there is not a sparrow that falls without God knowing. God's love is greater than we can imagine and He is closer to you than you are to yourself. Place everything in His hands and do not be afraid. God takes good out of bad. In the end, Jesus is victorious. You can trust Him.

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,

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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**

### **November Members Birthdays**

November 5 – Dori Mooney-Fitzgerald

November 20 – Joe Calabria

November 24 – Betty Jancosek

November 24 – St. Junipero Serra

November 30 – Jim Heinze

### **November Members Anniversaries:**

November 25 – Donna & Bob Farrell (1988)

November 27 – Cathy & Vern Rogowski (1957)

November 28 – Sue & Ed Husler (1964)

November 30 – Brenda & Joe Davis (1974)

### **November Seminarian Birthdays**

November 9 – Teekeke Anterea

November 19 – Patricio Chuquimarca

November 24 – Jose Manuel Ruiz

### **November Religious Anniversaries**

December 1 – Fr. Mark Kovacik (2007)

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**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, Angie McCann, Deacon George Theirjung, Fr. Jason Wallace, Gil Garcia, Vern Rogowski

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

### **Upcoming Events**

Nov 1 – 8 – National Vocation Awareness Week

Jan 14 – 16, 2021 – Serra Rally

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

April 24 – 25, 2021 – World Day for Vocations

Jan. 14 – 16, 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 November, 2020 – MEN SAINTS**

**Saint Martin de Porres 1579 – 1639**  
**(Feast Day– November 3)**

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Saint Martin was born to a freed woman of Panama who was of African and native descent and a Spanish nobleman. His parents never married, and he inherited the features and dark complexion of his mother. He was reared in poverty after his father abandoned the family and, thus, his mother apprenticed him, at the age of 12, to a barber-surgeon.

After a few years as a medical apostolate, Martin applied to the Dominicans to be a "lay" helper. After nine years, his example of prayer, penance, charity and humility led to the prior of the monastery, defying the law against acceptance of Africans and Native Americans, ermitting Martin to take vows as a member of the Third Order of St. Dominic. When he was 24, Martin was allowed to profess religious vows as a Dominican lay brother. It is said he refused several times to have his status elevated and, therefore, never became a priest. When his convent was in debt, he implored them, "I am only a poor mulatto, please sell me."

Besides his daily work in the kitchen and laundry, he cared for the sick, both in and outside the convent. He was known for his remarkable rapport with animals and, accordingly, refused to eat meat. Martin's life reflected extraordinary gifts: ecstasies that lifted him into the air, light filling the room where he prayed, bilocation, miraculous knowledge and instantaneous cures. He founded an orphanage for boys.

After his death at the age of 59, miracles and graces received when he was invoked multiplied so profusely that his body was exhumed after 25 yrs. It was found to be intact and exhaling a fine fragrance.

Pope Gregory beatified Martin de Porres on Oct. 29, 1837 and Pope John XXIII canonized him in Rome on May 6, 1962.

St. Charles Borromeo 1538 – 1584  
(Feast Day – November 4)

The Catholic Church's enduring history is not without confusion and corruption. But, even in moments of disorder, certain undaunted individuals will invariably arise to advance the faith with succinctness and demonstrate it in action. St. Charles Borromeo, a leading figure in the ecumenical Council of Trent, was a model of such leadership in difficult times.

St. Charles was born into a well-known and well-to-do family in northern Italy. His father was Count Gilberto Borromeo and his mother was Margherita de Medici whose brother was Cardinal de Medici, then Pope Pius IV. Charles was only 12 when he received tonsure, the official initiation into the ranks of clergy. After studying with tutors and then attending the University of Padua, Charles received the Doctor of Laws.

Within a few months of his uncle's election to the papacy, Charles, then 21, was called to Rome to help in administering the affairs of the Church. He was given the rank of cardinal to go with his position as personal assistant to the Pope. Pius IV made his nephew the secretary of state and relied on him to direct the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Council of Trent as well as handling of the affairs of Rome. In 1563, at the age of 25, he was ordained a priest and, at age 27, archbishop of Milan.

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Charles became one of the principal promoters of the Catholic Reform (known historically as the “Counter-Reformation”). He founded seminaries for the formation of priests; built schools, churches and hospitals and donated his family’s wealth to the poor. “Souls”, he often repeated, “are won on one’s knees”. Charles played an important part in bringing the Shroud to Italy from France.

After many years of hard labour, his health failed and he died at age 46. Saint Charles Borromeo was beatified by Pope Clement VIII in 1602 and canonized by Pope Paul V in 1610.

**St. Andrew Early 1<sup>st</sup> Century – 60 A.D.  
(Feast Day – November 30)**

St. Andrew was a native of a town in Galilee, son of John, a fisherman and older brother of Simon Peter. He was one of the twelve Apostles and is known as the “Protocletus” (the First Called) because he was the first Apostle to be summoned by Jesus. Andrew and Peter, like their father, were fisherman on the sea of Galilee. While symbolically Peter came to represent the Church in the West, Andrew represents the Church in the East.

Little is known about Andrew. In the gospel of Matthew, it is said that Jesus was walking along the shores of the Sea of Galilee when he spotted Andrew and Simon Peter fishing and said, “follow me and I will make you fishers of men”.

In the gospel of Luke, Andrew is not initially named but it is said that Jesus used Simon’s boat to preach to the multitudes and to catch a large amount of fish. Later,

it mentions another fisherman on the boat, and, subsequently that Andrew was Simon Peter's brother.

However, the gospel of John reveals that Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. When Jesus walked by one day, John the Baptist cried out, “Behold the Lamb of God!”. It is then that Andrew made the decision to follow Jesus.

It is believed that Andrew was one of the closer disciples to Jesus. It was he who told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes.

Andrew went to preach the Good News around the shores of the Black Sea and throughout what is now known as Greece and Turkey.

He was martyred by crucifixion on an X-shaped cross in Patras (Greece). He pleaded not to be crucified on a regular cross as Christ as he felt he was not worthy. He was not nailed to the cross but bound.