



## Serra Club of Boulder County

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

May, 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

President-Elect: Peggy Morrow

Secretary: Dori Fitzgerald

Treasurer: Ed Husler

V.P. Vocations: Bill Fitzgerald

V.P. Membership: Stan Peterson

V.P. Programs: Lillian Price

V.P. Communications: Nancy Harris

V.P. Affirmation: Ed Theiss

Parish Liaison:

Club Trustees: Vern Rogowski, Jerome Higgins

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



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#### **Greetings!**

Just wanted to say 'Thank you' to all members for your support and encouragement in the past year. Looking back on the year, even with the Pandemic and the Zoom meetings, it went by rather quickly.

At the last meeting, it was great to see people in person (around 15). It's a feeling of being almost normalized. May will be a busy month. May 7<sup>th</sup> we will have the induction of our new members. Hopefully, most of the members will be able to come

and meet our new members and show your support. Fr. Mark Kovacik, our chaplain, will help with the induction ceremony. We also will be voting for the next year's club officers. At the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting we will be installing next year's officers. Incoming District 6 Governor, Ralph Hooyboer, will conduct the ceremony.

Club is still in need of **Parish Liaison** volunteers (need at least 5). The job description is simple and can be very rewarding. You get to know the pastor and his parish assistant of that particular parish or parishes – you may need to take on two parishes. 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

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the info for his parish. You can do it for other parishes. No need to attend Board Meetings unless you want to do so. *You will actively be promoting vocations.*

**Pray about helping with one 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](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**

### **April 2 – Club Meeting**

The Boulder County Serra Club meeting of April 2 was cancelled because of Easter Holy Week. Easter Sunday was celebrated on April 4.

### **April 16 – Club Meeting**

The Serra Club of Boulder County had our first live mask-to-mask meeting on April 16, and it was wonderful to actually see attending members in person. Zoom was still available for those who were unable to attend. Additionally, we were uplifted by another vocation story via video from Fr. Robert L. Wedow, pastor of St. Scholastica Church in Erie.

Fr. Rob began his narrative by asking us to “please just listen closely”. He told us that his being a part of the St. Scholastica parish began a long long time ago in a place called Littleton, Colorado where he was born and raised. His family lived only two houses away from the Catholic church they attended but he didn’t know what God was doing in his life.

He and his young friends who played in the oversized church parking lot used to gather their stuffed animals together for a marriage ceremony where he played the priest role, decked out in his father’s bathrobe.

Disruption entered the family when his parents decided to divorce, and Fr. Rob ended up spending his final years of high school living with his father. The college he had picked to attend was very expensive; too much for even his father to afford. Then, he happened to see an ad on television that said: if you join the military, your college expense would be covered.

Fr. Rob chose the Navy! At the time, his prayer life was insignificant. During boot camp, the company commander informed the recruits who were of various faiths or none, that they would be attending services together. It was Fr. Rob’s first experience of the universal church. The chaplain told the assembly “if you want to be confirmed, come to me”. Fr. Rob didn’t know what confirmation was but he asked. After that, he began receiving instructions on Saturday mornings and was finally confirmed. His non-Catholic friends began asking questions for which he had no answers thus began Fr. Rob’s evangelization.

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Fr. Rob then had to seek out the Educational Service office in order to make arrangements for future college expense aid. While in the office, he noticed information on the different military academies and thought he might like to attend the Naval Academy. He was told, "Oh, you'll never get in there." Nevertheless, he was given the application to apply to the Naval Academy. At this point, God gave Fr. Rob the ability to compose his first prayer:

"O God, lay this piece of paper across someone's desk so I can go to the Naval Academy."

Fr. Rob shared some incidents that occurred in his life that he later realized was God leading him to his vocation. One time he was on a date with a girl he really liked so they parked and began making out. It was short lived as a voice in his ear said, "That might be nice but I want you to be a priest." It was very unsettling as Fr. Rob did not intend to be a priest.

Another time, after Fr. Rob had graduated from the Academy and been sent to his first duty station, he became friends with another naval officer who fixed Fr. Rob up with the girlfriend of his fiancée. The girl's father happened to be a major in the U.S. Marine Corp. and a Catholic. Fr. Rob and the girl, at her suggestion, said the rosary together on their first date. She also invited him to the ordination of a friend who, later, after the friend was introduced and they talked, said to Fr. Rob, "maybe God wants YOU to be a priest". Fr. Rob was surprised and, once again, denied it to himself.

His third incident happened when Fr. Rob was serving on the USS Sterett. There were a lot of performance pressures occurring on the ship as it was being prepared for an important "standards inspection". Fr. Rob had been working many hours when, in the act of crossing the mess deck on the way to make a repair, the chaplain (a Protestant) caught sight of him and yelled, "I need to tell you something. I was praying to God last night and He told me that He wanted you to be a priest." Fr. Rob became very angry and said, "Who have you been talking to?" He couldn't believe this because the only person with whom he had discussed this subject was the priest during confession. At this time, he had charge of fifty men who at their next military assemblage, stood at attention with "cheesy grins" on their faces as if to say, 'we know what the chaplain said to you'.

Fr. Rob finally composed his second prayer:

"Okay, God, I'm doing this for You but if this doesn't work out, You have to get me a good job."

Fr. Rob called the Director of Vocations in Denver and asked for an application package to seminary. At the same time, he asked for the official Naval discharge papers. Both take approximately one year to finalize.

Fr. Rob told us that seminary was not at all as he had expected. The academics were, once again, very difficult but God helped him and others helped him. He had been an alcoholic. God helped him to end that.

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Things changed! Fr. Rob said that  
“Seminary was the the greatest conversion  
period of his entire life!”

## PRIEST’S CORNER

May is the month of Mary. I believe that  
behind every vocation, Mary has been  
working in a quiet, humble manner,  
perhaps even unknown to the person.  
Mary is a mother to each one of us but in a  
special way to religious. Let us thank God  
the Father for sharing the mother of Jesus  
with us and ask her to intercede for the  
Church in a special way this month so that  
the Church may experience a second  
Pentecost. She was the first to experience  
Divine life dwelling within her.

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.

\*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**

### **May Members Birthdays**

May 14 – Rosalie Garcia

May 16 – Ed Husler

May 19 – Keith Ames

May 21 – Bill Bowe

May 25 – Rosemary Ames

May 28 – Vern Rogowski

### **May Members Anniversaries:**

May 27 – Nic and Connie Christoff

### **May Seminarian Birthdays**

May 3 – Daniele Arienzo

May 29 - Dcn. John Paul Almeida

### **May Religious Anniversaries**

May 1 – Dcn. Ronald Darschewski (1979)

May 9 - Dcn. John Pontillo (1987) (IC)

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May 12 – Fr. Tim Hjelstrom (2007) (St. Louis)

May 13 – Fr. Daniel Ciucci (2017) (St. John)

May 13 – Fr. Peter Mussett (2005) (St. Tom's)

May 13 – Fr. Shaun Galvin (2017) (IC)

May 13 – Fr. Michael Freihofer (2006) (Mead)

May 14 – Fr. Hernan Florez (2005) (St. Theresa)

May 14 – Fr. Humberto Marquez (2005) (St. John)

May 14- Fr. Terry Ryan (1977) (SHJ)

May 14 – Fr. John Dellinger (2005) (SHM & St. Martin de Porres)

May 16 – Fr. Juan Hernandez (2020) (St. Tom's)

May 19 – Fr. Tomislav Tomic (2018) (SHJ)

May 21 – Fr. Grzegorz Wojcik (2011) (St. William)

May 21 – Fr. Jose Saenz (2004) (St. Augustine, Brighton)

May 26 – Dcn. Oscar Del Villar (2007) (IC)

May 26 – Dcn. John Wehrman (2007) (St. William)

## Newly assigned priests:

Rev. Matthew Magee – Parochial Vicar at St. Thomas Aquinas

Rev. Ron Cattany – Guardian Angels – Mead

Rev. Daniel Ciucci – pastor at Most Precious Blood in Denver

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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, Helga Riedl, George Morzinski, Marcus Poulin-(Annette & Chase), Matthew Hibel, Angie McCann, Deacon George

Theirjung, Fr. Jason Wallace, Jim Heinze, Nancy Sorenson, Ron Myers

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

## Upcoming Events

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 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*

**Our Next Serra Meets: Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 10 a.m. Mountain Time**

Fr. Frank Donio, S.A.C., is Executive Director of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men of the USA. He will speak on ways to foster and support vocations to religious priesthood.

**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 Arians. More details will be coming in the following months.**

***THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT WORDS IN VOCATIONS' AWARENESS,***

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**according to the late Bishop David Choby, Bishop of Nashville:**

**“HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BEING A PRIEST (OR RELIGIOUS SISTER)?”**

**MONTH OF May, 2021 – WOMEN SAINTS**

**Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross or St. Edith Stein 1891 - 1942**  
**(Feast Day – May 6)**

Saint Teresa was born in Breslau, Germany (now Wroclau, Poland) to an observant Jewish family. She was the youngest of eleven children. She was a very gifted child and greatly admired her mother who was devout in her faith and taught her children to be critical thinkers. Her admiration did not prevent St. Teresa from becoming an atheist in her teenage years.

Moved by the tragedies of WWI, she took lessons to become a nursing assistant and worked in an infectious diseases hospital. After completing her PhD at the University of Freiburg in 1916, she obtained an assistantship at the university. Her field of study was philosophy.

After reading about the life of St. Teresa of Avila, she became drawn to the Catholic faith. She was baptized January 1, 1922 and wanted to become a Discalced (a strict order of Catholic friars and nuns who go barefoot or wear sandals) Carmelite nun. She was dissuaded by her Catholic mentor thus she became a teacher in Catholic schools. As a result of the requirement of an “Aryan certificate” for civil servants enforced by the Nazis in 1933, St. Teresa had to quit her position. She was then

admitted to the Carmelite order and took her final vows in 1938.

That same year, St. Teresa, along with her biological sister, Rosa (also a convert), was sent to the Netherlands for their safety. All Catholics of Jewish origin (244 people total) were arrested by the Gestapo on Sunday, August 2, 1942. They were sent to Auschwitz where they died in the gas chamber on August 9, 1942.

St. Teresa was canonized as a martyr and saint in 1942 by Pope John Paul II who called her a “seeker” and devotee to freedom and faith.

**Saint Rose Venerini 1656 - 1728**  
**(Feast Day – May 7)**

Saint Rose was born in Viterbo, Italy, the daughter of a physician. Following the death of her fiancé when she was only twenty years of age, her father persuaded her to enter the Dominican Monastery of St. Catherine where her aunt was a member. After only a few months, she was required to return home to care for her newly widowed mother.

She invited neighborhood women and girls into the home to recite the rosary in the evenings. She discovered how ignorant they were in their faith and began instruction.

Under the guidance of a Jesuit priest who convinced her that her vocation was to be a teacher and not a nun, Saint Rose opened a preschool for girls in 1685. Cardinal Barbarico invited her to oversee teacher training and administration of schools in his diocese. As her reputation

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grew, she was invited to organize schools throughout Italy, including Rome. Saint Rose had a gift for spirituous and persuasive speech. She often met opposition but was undaunted by difficulties when the service of God was in question.

Saint Rose died in Rome in 1728. Many miracles were attributed to her. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2006. The group of women she invited to prayer became known as the Venerini Sisters. They can be found to this day in Italy and the U.S, working among Italian immigrants.

### St. Mary Ann of Jesus of Paredes 1618 - 1645

(Feast Day – May 26)

Sister Mary Ann was the youngest child of eight born in Quito, Ecuador to parents descended from the nobility. From early childhood, she showed signs of a remarkable desirability for prayer, for subjugation, love of God and devotion to the Blessed Virgin. At the age of ten, she made vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Orphaned young, she was raised by an older sister and her husband.

Eventually, she became like a hermitess in the house, leading a life of prayer and penance, leaving only to attend church and perform charitable works. She established a clinic and school for Africans and indigenous Americans. The fast she kept was so strict that she only consumed an ounce of dry bread ever eight to ten days. The food that miraculously sustained her life was the Eucharist which she received at daily Mass.

She predicted the future including distant events, cured diseases by making the Sign of the Cross or sprinkling the ill with holy water.

Following a series of earthquakes, epidemics broke out, and she helped nurse the sick. She finally publicly offered herself for the salvation of her city. She died shortly afterward. Immediately, upon her death, there sprang from her blood and blossomed, a pure white lily. Even until today, she is called the “Lily of Quito”. Many miracles have been recorded by those who have invoked her intercession. She was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1950.