



Serra Club of Boulder County

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

December, 2019

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: Bill Fitzgerald

Secretary: Stan Peterson

V.P. Vocations: Nancy Sorenson

V.P. Programs: Lillian Price

V.P. Affirmation: Ed Theiss

Club Trustees: Vern Rogowski, Jerome Higgins

President-Elect: Sue Husler

Treasurer: Ed Husler

V.P. Membership: Mari Camacho

V.P. Communications: Nancy Harris

Parish Liaison: Peggy Morrow

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



an extra effort in the month of December to remember Christmas for what it is..... a celebration of the birth of Jesus and NOT a holiday like any other. I shall not offer you happy holiday wishes but rather MERRY CHRISTMAS! I urge you all to express the same words to all you greet!

Bill Fitzgerald

As we rapidly approach the Holiday season, I urge all of us to keep in mind the true meaning of the Holidays.

Did you know that Thanksgiving when translated into Greek is Eucharistia? So the body and blood of Christ is truly the meaning of Thanksgiving!

We all have much to be thankful for in our lives. We as Serrans are "extra blessed" in that we practice and support our Church more than many Catholics. Let us all make

Recent Past Events

November 1 – Club Meeting

On Friday, November 1, the Serra club of Boulder County enjoyed our annual visit and update regarding FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) from Luke Hicks, a FOCUS missionary from the University of Colorado campus.

Serra Club of Boulder County

Luke began his college education at Texas A & M studying industrial engineering with the desired goal of making lots of money. In his fifth year of school, he met up with some FOCUS missionaries which led to FOCUS camp and onward to his involvement as a FOCUS disciple.

Discipleship in FOCUS means meeting new students on campus, winning them over, building them up and teaching them about their faith, and, finally sending them out to do the same. This way the Church, through the activities of its missionaries, can gather and preserve more souls on campus to become leaders in the Church and keep it active in the future.

At the beginning of the University of Colorado academic year, a kick off mass called “Mass on the Grass” is offered. This past year over 700 students attended.

In order to win the students over, FOCUS missionaries need to develop real relationships with them. They do this on a daily basis, initially starting out with frequent lunches, asking about their classes, joining in their favorite activities such as working out or skiing and inquiring as to what exactly is going on in their lives.

Eventually, missionaries began teaching the students about how to pray, about the saints’ lives and about how to increase their faith through bible studies

At the University of Colorado, Luke tells us, 20 bible study sessions are offered, five run by missionaries and the rest run by students. The sessions meet once a week, with approximately 120 students taking part. Almost 200 students attend weekly mass.

FOCUS also offers an annual conference where some of the best Catholic speakers help attendees “dive deep into their faith for five days”. This year the conference will be held in Phoenix and is called SOS. So far, 40 students have signed up, with a goal of 50.



FOCUS also offers mission trips and, this year, they will be taking 20 students to Israel and Jordan.

Since the founding of FOCUS, over 600 missionaries have joined the priesthood or religious life and many have gone on to lives as lay persons, as Luke says, “wanting to do the Lord’s will”.

As FOCUS missionaries, they are required to fundraise their salaries 100%. Funds raised from the annual St. Therese dinner are used to send missionaries on the mission trips. Salaries must come from donations and sponsorships.

November 15 – Club Meeting

Peggy Morrow, the Boulder County Serra club parish liaison and parishioner of St. Scholastica Church in Erie, introduced the new Boulder County Serra website to the

Serra Club of Boulder County

members in attendance. Peggy broke the presentation into four groupings:

1. The process she went through in order to develop the site.
2. What an individual will find when visiting the site.
3. Maintaining the site.
4. What future possibilities may be offered on the site.

First of all, Peggy sought out answers as to what other Serra clubs do on their websites, and what tools would be necessary to develop our own site. Peggy consulted the archdiocese and district Serran representatives. She also checked out general sites.

Next, the website inception involved the site itself and what can be discovered by visiting the site. After a short historical introduction to Serra club and its namesake, the visitor can proceed through the various pages beginning with "About Us" and continue on to "Events", "News", "Vocations", "Membership", "Prayers", "Parishes", and finally, "Contact Us". Each page features the Serra logo at the top and links to additional information at the bottom.

There is a link under "Parishes" which, in addition to the names of all parishes in the Boulder County Deanery, leads to Serra Spark which, in turn, offers tools for all the parishes to use in order to further vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The third step is to find the individual who is willing to maintain the site. It is a time-consuming task to update websites; add, delete and edit.



Peggy has done an outstanding job setting up this site for Boulder County Serra club, and let's all pray that we can find a volunteer willing to maintain it.

The final aspect of our site involves the possibilities over time of adding pages such as a photo gallery or analytics.

Upcoming Events:

This is a wonderful month for celebrations. As Serrans, this type of commemoration is especially meaningful to us.

We have been invited to the 50th anniversary celebration of Msg. Robert Amundsen's ordination to the priesthood. The event will begin with 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 22, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 715 Cabrini Drive, Lafayette followed by a reception at Nuoci Hall.

As you may recall, Fr. Bob has led our annual Serran retreats more than once, and they have always been illuminating, spiritually inspiring and very rewarding.

Serra Club of Boulder County

Fr. Bob's parish, Immaculate Conception, has commissioned a bronze statue of Mother Cabrini to be erected in the circle drive in front of the church. Anyone who would like to honor Fr. Bob in a special way might consider donating to the Mother Cabrini Statue Fund.

St. Francis Xavier Cabrini (Mother Cabrini) who was canonized in 1946 was the first American saint. She is the patron saint of immigrants and hospital administrators. During some of her mission work to orphans, she frequented the area in Lafayette on the very land where the current church is located.

Hopefully, many Serrans of the Boulder County club will take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Fr. Bob for years of service for our souls.

Upcoming Meetings:

The usual Friday morning meeting which would have been scheduled on Dec. 6, 2019 was cancelled as Serra Club of Boulder County will be holding their annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Center.

All members and their spouses or significant others are invited.

The Friday, December 20, 2019 meeting has also been cancelled due to the Christmas celebrations.

PRIEST'S CORNER

A vocation to the religious life is sometimes referred to as a sacrifice. God does not need anything from us; He is God. His desire is to share blessings with us. The more we open ourselves up to God, the more He is able to share with us. Any "sacrifice" we make for God is only to receive a much greater gift. As we approach the Christmas Season, let us recognize what the baby Jesus reveals to us: by giving ourselves away, we become more of who we are.

Christmas Blessings.

Fr. Mark

Save the Date

Christmas Concerts

Carols & Dinner

REDEMPTORIS MATER
ARCHDIOCESAN MISSIONARY SEMINARY
DENVER, CO - USA

Friday, December 20th
Dinner 6.30-7.30 pm ◊ Concert: 7.45 pm

Saturday, December 21st
Lunch 12.30-1.45 pm ◊ Concert: 2.00 pm

Sunday, December 22nd
Dinner 5.30-6.30 pm ◊ Concert: 6.45 pm

Monday, December 23rd - at St Louis Parish, Englewood, CO
Dinner 5.30-7.00 pm ◊ Concert: 7.45 pm

Suggested donation:
\$45 per person; groups of 3 or more \$40 ea.;
family discount, children \$25 ea.
(Please make checks to *Family of Nazareth*)
Limited seating available - purchase early!

For Tickets:
Step 1: Reserve tickets by calling the RM seminary at:
303-733-2220 or by e-mail: DenverRMSXmasConcert@gmail.com
Step 2: Pay by credit card at rmsdenver.org/donations/
or mail a check to:
Redemptoris Mater Seminary
3434 E. Arizona Ave.
Denver, CO 80210

Serran Invitation from Redemptoris Mater Seminary

Serra Club of Boulder County

GENERAL SERRA NEWS by Sue

Would like to thank all who gave a donation towards the Christmas gifts for the Seminarians. They will be delivered the weekend of the Christmas concert. If you have not donated, it's not too late. You may bring the donation to the club Christmas party on December 7.

The Serra Rally is returning to Ventura, CA on January 16-19, 2020; theme is "Creating A Culture of Vocation". There are pre- and post-trips available with guides. The Rally promises top-notch lay and religious speakers. You receive a discount of \$55 if you register before December 16, 2019. The website is: serraus.org/sera-rally-2020/

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December Members Birthdays

Dec. 10-Chuck Meis

Dec. 11-Bill Fitzgerald

Dec. 20-Jerome Higgins

Dec. 25-NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Dec. 30-Cathy Rogowski

Dec. 31-Nancy Harris

November & December Members

Anniversaries:

Dec. 21-Ed & Tiki Theiss (1968)

Nov. 25-Bob & Donna Farrell

December Seminarian Birthdays

Dec. 8-Peter Bravicale

December Religious Anniversaries:

Dec. 1-Fr. Mark Kovacik, V.F. (2007) (SHJ)

Dec. 19-Msg. Bob Amundsen (1969) (IC)

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

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

Future Events

February 2, 2020-World Day for Consecrated Life

May 3, 2020-World Day of Prayer for Vocation