



Serra Club of Boulder County

District 6, Club #723 Region 13

October, 2019

Chartered September 29, 1990 *Chaplain: Fr. Mark Kovacik*

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



The month of October is set aside to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4. St. Francis who was born in the 12th century is the patron saint of animals and the environment, and in many states including Colorado, children bring their pets to church to be blessed. As for being blessed...our speaker at the September 20th meeting was himself

bleamed and in turn blessed us with a fascinating slide show and presentation for his 50 years of climbing including his three trips to and his ascent of Mount Everest. His description of his personal encounter of a near death experience was riveting and his recovery clear proof of his being blessed by God.

Remember that our District 6 Convention is being held Monday evening, October 14th and Tuesday, October 15th.

Archbishop Aquila will be the keynote speaker on Monday. I encourage any and all of you to attend!

Recent Past Events

Serra Club of Boulder County

Serra Club was blessed this month to experience two very diverse but amazing speakers.

September 6 – Club Meeting

Our first talk was presented by Maria Fullinwider whose passion for missionary work led her to Bacita, Nigeria to provide support for St. Brendan’s Catholic Hospital.

Bacita is located within the African bush country and is populated by a Muslim majority. So much of the government in that part of the world is corrupt which makes opening, equipping and running a hospital a particularly difficult endeavor.

The initial cost to get the hospital up and running was \$100,000. While the hospital is still dirty and ill-equipped, the staff, consisting mostly of native nursing personnel, volunteers and, often, no doctor, manage to treat up to 300 people a day. People often travel on foot, sick or injured from as far away as 2 ½ miles to seek help. Malaria is a major problem and kills so many children in that part of the world that many parents arrive seeking help for their seriously ailing babies.

Since the hospital’s establishment in 1979, hospital missionaries and volunteers have managed to complete the maternity ward, children’s ward and chapel. The work is ongoing. Ms. Fallinwider appealed to Serrans for any financial help that they may be able to offer as she emphasized

that it is “incredible what these people do with nothing”.

If any Serrans are interested in making a tax deductible donation to the hospital, please make a check payable to:

**Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church
(Bocita Mission on memo line)
6739 So. Boulder Rd.
Boulder, CO 80303**



Serrans were also visited by Luke Hicks, FOCUS team leader for the University of Colorado campus who will be returning in November to give a speech to our members. He was present on the 6th to remind us to attend the annual FOCUS fundraiser, the St. Therese dinner, to be held on October 4th at Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church and to also receive a check in the amount of \$1000, Serra Club of Boulder County’s donation to FOCUS’ C.U. campus ministry.

Our third visitor was Fr. Warli Castro, our former parochial vicar from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church who is now pastor of Holy

Serra Club of Boulder County

Cross Catholic Church in Thornton. It's a very multifarious community consisting of not only Americans but Mexicans, Vietnamese, Africans and other ethnicities.

Since his arrival in Thornton, the church has increased its attendance from 1000 registered families to 2300 to 2500 people. Thus, there was an immediate need to remodel the current church and increase seating capacity from 300 to 600 souls. "Now," Fr. Warli stated, "I must pay for it."

He is holding a festival next weekend at the church and was visiting we Serrans in Boulder County in order to sell raffle tickets to a drawing. By the looks of things, Fr. Warli appeared to have made a very profitable trip to Boulder.



September 20 – Club Meeting

Our second principal speaker of the month, Glen Porzak, was introduced by

Stan Peterson as "the most devout and generous person he has ever met".

Mr. Porzak is a local practicing attorney, a Sacred Heart of Jesus parishioner and, for many many years, a dedicated mountain climber. According to Mr. Porzak, climbing is a "sport of moments", climbers "conquistadors of the useless" as climbing a mountain is to reach a place (the summit) just to look. Not to mention, the mortality rate is 10%. For Mr. Porzak, climbing for him was not just the camaraderie although that was a major attraction but the place where he has always felt closer to God.

Mount Everest, located in the Himalayas in Nepal, reaches just over 29,028 feet. Mr. Porzak who has climbed Everest three times, the first time in 1981, then again in 1989 and 1990, laughingly claims that he is "glad I climbed when I did as Everest is increasing in height $\frac{1}{4}$ " a year". On Porzak's first climb, his group were the only climbers on the mountain. Nowadays, it's common to find 500 to 1000 people on the mountain during climbing season, many lacking the necessary experience and often ill-prepared.

To climb Everest, the climbing party must first travel to the Kingdom of Nepal, to the capital city of Kathmandu. The dominant religions found in Nepal are Hinduism in the lower regions and Buddhism in the upper regions although, according to Mr. Porzak, there was a Catholic church there.

Sherpas, people who migrated from Tibet and Mongolia 500 years ago, seem particularly well suited to the high

Serra Club of Boulder County

altitudes due to genetic adaptation and are renowned for their hardiness and expertise. However, they wait for the head Lama, after prayers and contemplation, to predict a climb to be either “good karma” or “bad” karma. If he predicts “bad karma”, Sherpas will not go.

One of the worst dangers in climbing Everest is the Kumba ice fall, a glacier which lies at an altitude of 17,999 ft., not far above base camp. Ice falls are constantly moving, creating wide cravasses. They can only be crossed by laying ladders across them. Falling ice and avalanches present further danger in trying to navigate the ice fall. High winds and blizzard conditions increase already hazardous conditions.

On Porzak’s successful climb to the summit, a storm ensued and the climbers, wisely as it turned out, made the decision to return to base camp at the 28,500 ft. level. The storm lasted 11 days, and then the sun came out. The trek back up took four days. It was 30 degrees below zero, with only 35% oxygen at 29,000 ft. Mr. Porzak said his feet and toes hurt from the lack of oxygen. But, he finally made it to the top of Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth.

Fourteen mountain peaks stand taller than 8,000 meters (26,247 feet). All fourteen eight thousanders are located in Nepal, India, Pakistan and China.

While Everest is the tallest, the most dangerous is Annapurna, located in Nepal, and rising to 26,545 feet. Mr. Porzak tells us that every passionate mountain

climber’s wish is to reach the summit of all fourteen of the tallest mountains in the world.



Upcoming Meetings:

Friday, October 4, 2019

Senite Sahlezghi, director of Marisol Health – Boulder/Lafayette - Topic: Women’s Health Services

Chefs: Nancy Harris and Sue Husler

Friday, October 18, 2019

Bob Brockish - Topic: Military Chaplains

Chefs: Jerome and Pauline Higgins

Friday, November 1, 2019

Luke Hicks, FOCUS - Topic: FOCUS Update

Chefs: Arlin (Chuck) Meis and Mary Ann Hibi

Friday, November 15, 2019

Peggy Morrow - Topic: SCBC Website

Chefs: Nancy Sorenson
Cathy and Vern Rogowski

Serra Club of Boulder County

PRIEST'S CORNER

Juan Junipero Serra started California's mission system in 1769 and oversaw the establishment of the State's first nine missions. Serra and many of his fellow missionaries were university professors. They brought the Catholic faith to Native Americans and taught them about agriculture. Let us ask him to intercede for us so that we may have the grace to bring the faith to others and give our lives for the benefit of others.

God Bless,

Fr. Mark

GENERAL SERRA NEWS by Sue

October Serra Tidbits

Reminders: The FOCUS dinner Evening with St. Therese is October 4th at Sacred Heart of Mary.

Bring "God's Stuff" and cookies to the next Serra meeting on Oct. 4th for the Focus 11 event.

If you haven't registered for the District 6 Convention, you still can do so. Consider this your fall retreat, as there will be some great spiritual speakers.

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

October Members Birthdays

Oct. 16-George Morzinski

Oct. 22-Nic Christoff

October Members Anniversaries:

Oct. 12-Nancy & Larry Sorenson (1963)

October Seminarian Birthdays

Oct. 31-Manuel Alarcon (1st Theo)

October Religious Anniversaries:

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

Upcoming Events

October 4- FOCUS St. Therese Banquet
October 10 & 11-Focus 11, Girls at Holy Family, Boys at the seminary

October 14th & 15th

Serra District 6 Convention

Archdiocese of Denver Bonfils Hall

Includes dinner Monday: breakfast & lunch Tuesday

GREAT SPEAKERS -\$120.00 per person

Registration form at bottom of convention

Serra Club of Boulder County

handout

November 3-9-National Vocational
Awareness Week

February 2, 2020-World Day for
Consecrated Life

May 3, 2020-World Day of Prayer for
Vocations