

Serra Club of Boulder County

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

February, 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: 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:

V.P. Communications: Nancy Harris

Parish Liaison: Peggy Morrow

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Catholic liturgical calendar has moved into what it calls "Ordinary" time. The Church's meaning of Ordinary time is somewhat different from what we as lay people consider ordinary. The times we live in are far from being ordinary as most would define the word. The Catholic Church is losing members at a rate at least twice as fast as other Christian religions. About 13% of American adults profess themselves to be "former" Catholics! Only a small percentage of our seminaries' incoming "classes" come from the U.S.A. It has never been more important in our lifetime to dedicate a prayer to renewal of the Catholic faith. If your parish has an Adoration Chapel, I urge all of us to make an effort to spend some regularly

dedicated time to praying there for Catholicism!

Bill Fitzgerald

Recent Past Events

January 3 – Club Meeting

Since the speaker for Boulder County Serra Club's January 3 meeting was Lisa C Kukura, JD from the Catholic Foundation, Father Mark gave a brief introduction on the benefits Sacred Heart of Jesus school receives from its association with the foundation.

Lisa, the gift planning director for the Catholic Foundation which was created in 1998 by Archbishop Chaput, is a wife, mother of four adult children, a graduate of West Virginia University and a lawyer. She came to Serra to talk with members regarding estate planning and gifts that they may plan to bequeath to their church

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.....gifts that will keep on giving “beyond your lifetime” (the theme and motto at the Catholic Foundation).

Lisa, while no longer practicing law, meets with individuals in order to help them with their estate planning goals such as providing for loved ones, reducing or eliminating probate costs, preparing for possible future incapacitation, ensuring that their chosen charitable organizations are gifted and, ultimately, providing them with peace of mind.

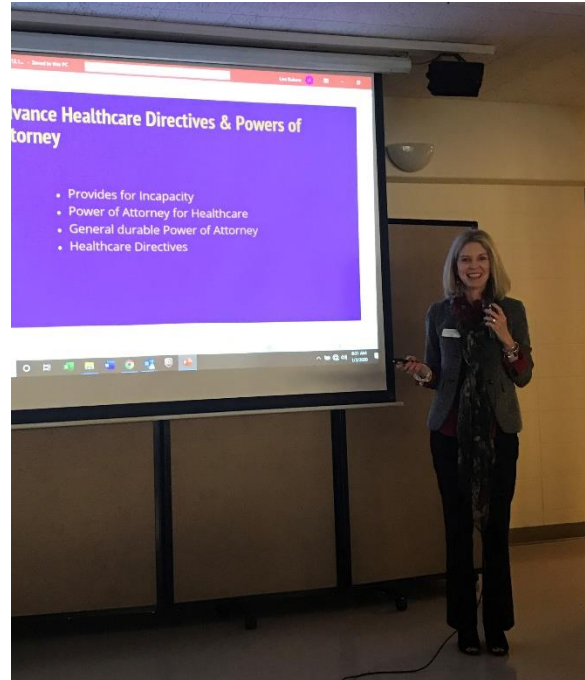
Lisa will not only inform as to estate plan options such as a will, trust, ect. but will facilitate the completion of estate documents and, when the time comes, the proper distribution of the estate.

Donors will be fully informed regarding types of gifts. Beneficiary designations are flexible and may be changed at any time.

Going through the Catholic Foundation which supports Catholic parishes, schools, seminaries and other charitable organizations will become a spiritual gift for your family and your community.

Serran Terry Gallagher also spoke briefly about the Sacred Heart of Jesus school as a beneficiary of the Catholic Foundation as well as the SHJ Foundation which has been in existence for 25 years. Both foundations support school scholarships as well as facility updates, ect.

SHJ school was built in 1900 with early enrollments of approximately 600 students. Nowadays, enrollment hovers at around 200 students. The school was initially staffed by BVMs, then Benedictines. Four Jesuit priests and four



Benedictine priests were fostered by SHJ school. That speaks well for Catholic school preparation.

January 17 – Club Meeting

Deacon Chris Considine, a transitional deacon from St. John Vianny Seminary, who is scheduled for ordination in May, 2020, was the Boulder County Serra Club speaker for the January 17 meeting and what a speaker he was!

Deacon Chris first wanted us to hear his story and how he arrived at his desire to be a priest and, then, how all Catholics are called on to “bring souls to heaven”. He told us we all have stories and those stories begin and end with God.

Deacon Chris’s family moved from Alaska (brrr!) where his older sister was born to Seattle, WA where Deacon Chris was born to Texas (very hot!) and, finally, to

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Colorado where he ended up attending the University of Colorado. On the way he had been schooled at a Jesuit high school in Texas, a school that Deacon Chris felt “helped grow the person” and where he first gave thought to becoming a priest.

However, there were hurdles along the way. From high school through his first couple years of college, Deacon Chris just knew he wanted to date and get married. He loved the college life and learned to be a very accomplished skier.

Then, during the next year, he decided to attend an annual University of Colorado Christian retreat called the “Buffalo Wing”. It was a great retreat filled with food, dancing, games and fun but also adoration and confessions. It was during his confession that Deacon (now Father) David Nix asked him if he had ever considered being a priest. He admitted that he had but that he felt he was too immature at that time to discern and that he had not “felt the alarm system in his heart” activate. But Deacon Chris started going to daily mass and confession every two weeks to a month and, soon, the waters calmed and peace came. He was ordained a transitional deacon on March 2, 2019.

Deacon Chris was asked about what he was most looking forward to as a priest. He promptly answered “confession”. He related the story of a time he was in Rome and went to the church where Saint Francis Xavier was entombed. St. Francis had heard many many confessions in his lifetime and, as a result, his arm from his elbow to his hand was incorrupt. Five hundred years later, the flesh was still there. Deacon Chris said, “Saving souls will open heaven.” He also shared that

celibacy, poverty and chastity were not the most difficult to overcome but that obedience which is the most intimate part of self, “your will”, was.

Deacon Chris shared many words of wisdom with us.....all very quotable. He started with how human beings are going to save the world with our redemptive suffering. Our purpose here today is to bring a reconciliation with God back to mankind. Every human, although they may not realize it, wishes to close the finite gap between the person and the infinite God. Everything is tied up in the epic of salvation. Does God need us? No, but he wants us! Everybody who is baptized is part of the Church. All Catholics are called on to bring souls to Heaven!



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Deacon Chris told us he has never felt more alive or more fulfilled since he started his journey to the priesthood. He said I "cannot express how happy I am". It shows Deacon Chris, it shows!

Upcoming Meeting:

February 7 – Club Meeting

Stan Peterson – Membership Recruitment
Chefs: Jeannine Myers and
Rosalie Garcia

February 21 – Club Meeting

Peggy Morrow - Catholicism
Chefs: Nancy Harris

PRIEST'S CORNER

Fathers

A father works to feed his children so that they can grow and does so with the support of his wife. A priest is a spiritual father who works to feed his spiritual children so that they can grow spiritually. He has the support of his wife which is his parish community. In both types of fatherhood, it is by losing one's life for the good of others that one receives life. A father is an icon of God the Father. Let us pray for priests and all fathers that they may fulfill their mission of helping people realize that they are sons and daughters of God the Father who loves them as they are.

God Bless,
Fr. Mark

GENERAL SERRA NEWS by Sue

No words of wisdom this month. We have been enjoying our month in AZ.

Some dates to remember:

Consecrated Life 2/2/20, World Day for Prayer for Vocations 5/3/20, Priesthood Sunday 9/27/20, National Vocations Awareness Week 11/1 thru 7, 20

Remember to pray for vocations, especially an increase to the priesthood; by dedicating a Mass, a rosary or an hour of adoration.

I have set up four Masses at SHJ for the seminarians in 2020. The dates are: 2/7, 5/15, 8/7 and 11/6. If you are unable to attend on that date, say a prayer/rosary for them.

2020 Dues

The Board has decided to hold the dues for 2020 at \$77.00 per member. Those of you that attend the meetings may bring your checks to the February 7 meeting. If you prefer to mail them, please hold off until mid-February and mail them to Ed Husler.

ALERT: We are also in need of a volunteer to take over the Vice President of Membership and more volunteers for breakfast chefs.

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

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to go ahead and do so but please notify the other club members.

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries

February Members Birthdays

Feb. 18-Bill Eck

Feb. 22-Dona Padros

Feb. 26-Nancy Sorenson

Feb. 28-Bob Gills

February Members Anniversaries:

February Seminarian Birthdays:

Feb. 7-Ianana Taranteuea

February Religious Anniversaries:

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

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

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 Vocations

June 25-28, 2020-Serra 78th International Convention, New Orleans, LA

THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT WORDS IN VOCATIONS AWARENESS,