



Serra Club of Boulder County

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

October, 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: 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:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Remember Serran Bill Bowe who was the club's treasurer for a number of years and then moved to South Carolina; he will be reinstated as a Serran of our club. He enjoyed our club members and speakers and would like to keep abreast of what is happening in our club and District. So welcome back, Bill!

Thank you for your patience during this time of COVID-19 as we have changed our meeting times. In October we will still have the meetings at 12:45 after the 12:10 Mass. This will again be in the backyard of the SHJ rectory. The board will discuss what we will do in November when the snow flies.

Don't forget the two big events; first, the Virtual FOCUS fundraiser and the event's speaker. If you do not purchase any items at the auction, you may consider a donation to the CU Catholic students for all that they do on campus. The other event is the Virtual District 6 Convention to be held on Oct. 12. You should have received an informative flyer and will be receiving more info on how to log in to the meeting. There is a great slate of speakers. Consider this a mini retreat.

Greetings, I would again like to welcome our new members whom we had inducted at the last two meetings. Also, a "thank you" to our Chaplain, Fr. Mark Kovacik and Fr. Tomislav Tomic for helping with the inductions.

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You may review the board minutes and the newsletter on our club website:
www.serraclubbouldercounty.org

If you missed this before, you may check out the video on orientation to the Serra organization which was done by Serra International for new members. It is well done, a nice refresher. It is now posted on the club website:
www.serraclubbouldercounty.org/membership

Mary, Mother of Vocations, pray for us St.
Junipero Serra, pray for us

Recent Past Events

September 4 – Club Meeting

Induction of four new members to the Boulder County Serra Club took place at our Sept. 4th meeting in the backyard of the Sacred Heart of Jesus rectory in Boulder. The ceremony included SHJ pastor and Boulder County Serra club chaplain, Fr. Mark Kovacik who asked the Lord to look with favor upon the Serrans gathered and bless their apostalate. He affirmed their commitment of always praying, promoting and helping priestly and religious vocations.

Fr. Mark then handed each new member a lighted candle as a reminder of the day of their baptism and as a symbol of Jesus as the “light of the world”. He asked them to pledge their time, effort and prayers for the encouragement and preservation of vocations.

The new inductees are Glen Porzak, Jim and Judy Heines and Conrad Kuwalok.

Each member was asked to give a brief reason for joining Serra club.

Glen came to Boulder in 1966 as an undergraduate at CU. He then became a member of SHJ Church and was most recently asked to join the Serra club.

Judy and Jim were former members of Serra. They were also members of SHJ Church for 47 yrs. – they have been married for 58 yrs. – and, not long ago, downsized and moved to a community where they became members of Immaculate Conception Church. They decided that rejoining Serra club would help them to integrate into their new parish. We are certainly glad to have them back.

Conrad attended junior high school in Boulder until his family relocated to Canon City where he attended the Abbey. Conrad and his wife moved back to the Boulder County area 15 yrs. ago and are members of St. Francis of Assisi Church. When Conrad was approached to join Serra club he was eager to do so as he believes Serra’s mission is of great importance to the Church.

September 18 – Club Meeting

Our speaker for the Sept. 18th club meeting, Deacon Dave Arling, was introduced by our parish liaison, Peggy Morrow, as they are longtime friends from their days of fulfilling a ministry of bringing Eucharistic services to a Denver women’s prison.

Deacon started out his talk by thanking the Serran members for their wonderful

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encouragement of vocations and expressing his pleasure at seeing so many of us. He quoted the Bible, Matthew 9: "the harvest is great but the laborers are few".

Deacon Dave not only substitutes as a teacher in schools but he became a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church so as to be a part of bringing people to the Church.

He, his wife and three sons moved from Pueblo to Broomfield in 2007.

Deacon Dave spoke to us about his middle son, John, who was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in the 9th grade but whose diagnosis has since been changed to schizophrenia. John is faithful at taking his meds but he is still tormented by voices. He is 37 yrs. old now and lives at home – still devout to his faith. It is very important for John to find purpose in his life and, with the help and direction from his father, he cuts out, paints and assembles lovely creche scenes for Christmas yard/porch displays. The small company has now branched out and are offering smaller scenes and picture carvings of the Holy Family and saints to be displayed in the home. The work has been a Godsend for John and other workers with disabilities.

Deacon Dave found his way to the diaconate through his contacts with many other inspirational deacons who were filled with the Holy Spirit, always smiling. He was first recruited to take the Eucharist to a hospital for the mentally ill. Following that ministry, he began to teach high school (Centennial) English to students

locked away in prisons – youths convicted as adults.

Deacon Dave feels he has much for which to be grateful, especially after receiving his Holy Orders when he was notified that he was to be assigned to his very own parish, Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church in Broomfield.

PRIESTS CORNER

Religious Life and Married Life

Religious life and marriage are both vocations: something to which God calls a person. The Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony are directed toward the salvation of others. In serving others we contribute to our own salvation. In losing our life for the good of others we discover our life. Let us listen to God each day and cooperate with Him in building up the kingdom of God.

God bless,
Fr. Mark

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

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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

October Members Birthdays

October 16 – George Morzinski

October 22 – Nic Christoff

October Members Anniversaries:

October 12 – Nancy & Larry Sorenson (1963)

October Seminarian Birthdays

October 31 – Manuel Alarcon

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, Angie McCann, Deacon George Theirjung

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

Upcoming Events

October 2 – General Serra meeting at 12:45 following the 12:10 Mass at SHJ; board meeting to follow

October 2 – Virtual FOCUS Fundraiser

October 12 – District 6 Webinar Convention

October 16 – General Serra meeting at 12:45 following the 12:10 Mass at SHJ

October 24 – District 6 Council meeting 'Zoom'

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)?"

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MONTH OF October, 2020 – WOMEN SAINTS

Saint Maria Faustina 1905 - 1938
(Feast Day – October 5)

Helena Kowalska, known as Saint Maria Faustyna Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament, was born in Poland on August 25, 1905, the 3rd of ten children. The family whose father was a carpenter were poor but very religious. Throughout her life, Saint Faustina experienced visions of Jesus and recounted conversations with him regarding the Divine Mercy devotion.

At the age of 20, she joined a convent in Warsaw and, eventually, took her final vows and became a Sister of Mercy. With the help of a priest, she commissioned an artist to paint, based on her visions, the first Divine Mercy image. This same priest celebrated Mass, the second Sunday following Easter, in the presence of the painting and, later, as established by Pope John Paul II, it became known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

The purpose of the chaplet prayers for mercy are threefold: to obtain mercy, to trust in Christ's mercy and to show mercy to others.

Sister Faustina was diagnosed with tuberculosis twice but was finally overtaken by the disease at the age of 33. She died on October 7, 1938 and is buried at Krakow's Basilica of Divine Mercy.

She is venerated in the Catholic Church as a Christian mystic and was canonized on

April 3, 2000 at St. Peter's Square, Vatican City by Pope John Paul II.

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque 1647 – 1690

(Feast Day – October 17)

Margaret Mary Alacoque was a French Roman Catholic nun and mystic who promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in its modern form.

Sister Margaret was born in 1617 in Burgundy France, the only daughter of a family with several sons. From early childhood, she showed an intense love for the Blessed Sacrament. At the age of nine, she practiced, in secret, severe corporal mortification until she was confined to bed for four years at the onset of rheumatic fever. At the end of this period, it is said that she made a vow to the Blessed Virgin to consecrate herself to religious life and was then, instantly, restored to perfect health.

She entered the convent at age 24 (May, 1671) but was subjected to many trials to prove the genuineness of her vocation and was not allowed to take her vows until August, 1672. Sister Margaret Mary was described as being humble, simple and frank but, most of all, kind and patient.

She began receiving visions of the Sacred Heart in December, 1673, visions which continued for 18 months. The visions revealed the form of devotion, the chief features being reception of Holy Communion on the first Friday of each month, Eucharistic adoration during a "Holy hour" on Thursdays and the

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celebration of the “Feast of the Sacred Heart”. She was instructed to spend an hour every Thursday night to meditate on Jesus’ “Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane”.

Saint Margaret Mary died in October, 1690. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XV in 1920.

When her tomb was canonically opened in July, 1830, two instantaneous cures took place. Her body rests in the chapel at Paray, France, and many striking favors have been obtained by pilgrims from all parts of the world.

Saint Ursula and Companions - believed to have died in 383 AD

(Feast Day – pre-1970 General Roman Calendar October 21)

There are many legends around martyred Saint Ursula and her 11,000 (some historians believe due to an error in translation, it may have been only 11) virgin travel companions.

One of the most popular legends relates that Ursula was the daughter of pious King Dionotus who received a request to supply wives for the settlers of a newly found region, and he sent his own daughter as a bride for the leader.

Some historians have argued that Ursula was completing a holy pilgrimage through Europe’s holy sites to Rome before her marriage while others claim that the ships on which the women were traveling were caught in a storm and shipwrecked far from their intended destination.

However they arrived at their destination of Cologne after three years, they were met by Huns who had captured the city and bore a hatred of their faith and, thus, put Ursula to death with an arrow and beheaded her companions.

What is known for sure is that the Roman Senator Clematius built the church of St. Ursula in Cologne in memory of the martyrs and their leader. The church was granted Basilica status by the Pope in 1920. An inscription on church walls, dating from the 4th or 5th century AD indicates it is the site of the Roman cemetery which housed the bones of St. Ursula and the 11,000 virgins, a number of which are still enshrined in the Basilica today.

The martyrology over the years has changed the story multiple times but Saint Ursula became one of the most widely revered saints in 20th century Europe.

One of the earliest religious orders founded during the counter reformation was that of the Ursalines in 1537. They are dedicated to the education of girls.

Whitelands College founded in 1841 by The Church of England’s National Society as a teacher training college for women has as its patron, St. Ursula.

St. Hildegard of Bingen, a German Benedictine abbess, writer, composer and Christian mystic has composed many chants to St. Ursula.

Christopher Columbus named the Virgin Islands after St. Ursula and her martyred companions as did Ferdinand Magellan

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when he rounded the cape at the Straits of Magellan. He named it Cape Virgenes.

There are many Anglican churches dedicated to her in the United Kingdom, Switzerland, the United States and the Caribbean.

Elizabeth of Schonou, a German Benedictine visionary (1129 – 1164) experienced visions revealing St. Ursula's martyrdom.

In 1969, St. Ursula's Feast day was reduced by the Catholic Church to observances in certain localities.