



# *Serra Club of Southwest Denver*

## *NEWSLETTER*

### *November 2024*

#### < **Calendar of Upcoming Events** >

- **Club Meetings Every First and Third Friday of each month at 7:30 AM in the St. Agnes Center at Holy Name Church**
- **November 30, 2024 at 7:00 AM – Serra Global Rosary for Vocations**
- **December 7, 2024 at 3:00 PM – Annual Christmas Party, St Jude Church**
- **December 12, 2024 at 8:10 AM – Affirmation Mass, Notre Dame Church**
- **December 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM – Serra MEETS on-line video speaker/presentation**
- **December 28, 2024 at 7:00 AM – Serra Global Rosary for Vocations**

#### **TRAVELING CROSS**

**November 1 – November 15: Julie Keller**  
**November 15 – December 6: Bob Bucheit**

**December 6 – December 20: Harry & Diane Schreiber**  
**December 20 – January 3: Phil Ryman**

#### **ATTENDANCE & GUESTS**

**November 1, 2024 – 26 members and 1 guest** attended the meeting. Our guest was our speaker, Ms. Lynn Reed.

**November 15, 2024 – 27 members and 2 guests** attended the meeting. Our guests included Jan McCasland and our speaker, Everett Fritz of Andrew Ministries.

#### **DEACON'S CORNER**

**November 1, 2024**

This All Saints' Day (Solemnity of All Saints) our club attended Mass at Holy Name Church. We held our typical club meeting after mass in the St. Agnes Center at Holy Name. Deacon Don began the meeting by providing us some historical background on All Saints Day. Church celebrations honoring martyrs began in the fourth century. Pope Boniface IV consecrated the Pantheon in Rome to the Virgin Mary and all the Martyrs on May 13, 609AD. He established both All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

All Saints' Day was celebrated on May 13 and other days (e.g. Easter Friday or after Pentecost) across various locations. The holy day was eventually established on November 1 by Pope Gregory III in the mid-eighth century. The May 13 celebration was abandoned. The day became a holy day of obligation by decree of Pope Gregory IV. Deacon Don recounted the veneration of a relic of St. Jude that Holy Name Church hosted. 1500 people came to venerate the relic. Because St. Jude is the "Apostle of the Impossible", Deacon Don led us in a prayer while we offered intentions for "impossible" causes. We also acknowledged our recently deceased club members, Tony Jimenez, Paul Bonnsetter, and Norbert Brady with our prayers for them.



Deacon Don Schaefer

#### **November 15, 2024**

Deacon Don started with a few notes regarding the Saint of the Day, St. Albert the Great. St. Albert was a Dominican Priest, a Bishop, a Doctor of the Church, and a mentor to St. Thomas Aquinas. Then we were quizzed on the Works of Mercy.

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy: Feed the hungry, Give drink to the thirsty, Clothe the naked, Shelter the homeless, Visit the sick, Visit the imprisoned, and Bury the dead.

The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy: Counsel the doubtful, Instruct the ignorant, Admonish sinners, Comfort the afflicted, Forgive offenses, Bear wrongs patiently, and Pray for the living and the dead.

Deacon Don then turned to history and quizzed us on the dates of various significant events in the history of the Church including those related to the acceptance of Christianity by the Romans and Emperor Constantine, interactions with Islam, the schism between Rome and Constantinople, and St. Junipero Serra's arrival in Mexico.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **November 1, 2024**

- **Diane Schreiber**: reminded us to include our prayer requests on the club's prayer intentions list that Karen Mandolfo maintains. She also announced **Ben Cobos** received the **U.S. Council Serra District 6 Convention Vocations Affirmation Award** at the annual District 6 Convention held on October 26. Congratulations Ben on a job well done.

- **Phil Ryman**: told us he had obtained a certificate of liability insurance covering club activities at Holy Name Church and St. Jude Church.

- **Ben Cobos**: told us the next **Affirmation Mass** will be at **All Souls Church on Thursday, Nov. 14** at their **noon Mass**. Lunch at Romano's Pizza Restaurant will follow the Mass.

- **Stanton La Breche:** mentioned he would be traveling to Southeast Asia in the month of November and encouraged parish liaisons to celebrate Vocations Awareness Week and keep engaging with their associated parishes. He noted our Serra Club presentation was given to the That Man Is You group at St. Bernadette Church. The presentation was well received by the 15 men attending the meeting.

- **Tony Schaffhauser:** announced the annual **Serra Club Christmas Party** will be held at the Community Center at St. Jude Church on Saturday, December 7 at 3:00 pm. Liz Perry will cater the event. Choice of entrée is lasagna with sausage or baked chicken with green beans. He is seeking help with decorating and with managing a cash bar. A white elephant gift exchange is planned. (Gift exchange rules to follow)

### **November 15, 2024**

- **Dixie Schulte:** is coordinating "Saints" book deliveries from Steven DiIorio (ordered 1.5 years ago).

- **Diane Schreiber:** reminded us our **Christmas Party** will be held on **Saturday, Dec. 7 at 3:00 pm** in the **Community Center at St. Jude Church**. The attendance fee is \$20.00 per person. There will be a white elephant gift exchange.

- **Phil Ryman:** is collecting the \$20/person Christmas Party fee. Please bring your payment to him at the next club meeting, mail him your payment, or bring it to the Christmas party.

- **Ben Cobos:** said the next **Affirmation Mass** will be at **Notre Dame Church on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 8:10am Mass**. A spiritual bouquet will be given to Fr. Peter Mussett.

- **Karen Mandolfo:** passed around a thank-you card from Sr. Mary Catherine regarding our picnic. Karen also made available flyers from Mary's Homes of Hope.

**Paul Boucher:** Noted our next meeting will feature Terry Pelte from Catholic Charities. Bring items for the annual donation drive for Catholic Charities to the meeting on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.

- **Deacon Don:** told us he will lead our quarterly **Holy Hour for Vocations** in **Holy Name Church** after the **Dec. 6** club meeting.

- **Newsletter:** If you wish to have information included in the newsletter, please e-mail the information to Communications VP, Bruce Keller ([www.lakewoodkellers@q.com](mailto:www.lakewoodkellers@q.com))

## **PROGRAMS**

### **November 1, 2024**

Ms. Lynn Reed, OFS Director at Mary's Homes of Hope was our speaker today. Mary's Homes of Hope is located in Arvada, CO and provides a sanctuary of grace and healing for hurting women seeking a haven of peace and love. Ms. Reed was raised by her Catholic grandmother and converted to Catholicism in 1998. She is a member of the Franciscan Third Order for lay people. After joining the Catholic Church, Ms. Reed began going to Planned Parenthood every third Saturday of the month to pray with others for the mothers coming to the facility to get an abortion and for the lives of the unborn. She began to see that the women going into Planned Parenthood for an abortion were more often coming back out without having an abortion. She spoke with the women and found they were broken, unloved, uncared-for people. She gathered friends to develop an alternative to help these women. By the grace of God, someone came forward and bought a house to serve as a maternity home. The purpose of this home was to be a Christ-centered home for these women. After managing maternity homes for 18 years, Catholic Charities took over management of the maternity homes and Mary's Homes of Hope came to be. Ms. Lynn recounted some stories of pregnant women who have lived at their Christ-centered home and benefited from the unconditional love they received at the home. She told us abortion counseling is NOT a healthcare choice, but rather an exploitation of unloved desperate women needing help. Mary's Homes of Hope receives no government funding. They rely entirely on divine providence. She noted lots of homeless women are living on the streets or in cars despite having a job and without addictions or mental health issues. After seeing some women return to situations that led them to

problems, Ms. Lynn recognized they needed a permanent Christ-centered home for pregnant women, women with children, and single unattached women. The home had to be a Christ-centered home. She wanted the home to have a chapel. After 15 months, she was offered a house that a couple bought for them and she accepted and eventually obtained permission to have a chapel built on the property. After a recent pilgrimage to Mexico and the Our Lady of Guadalupe shrine, Ms. Reed decided she needed to make her property into a shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe. To find out more about Mary's Homes of Hope, check out their website: [www.maryshomesofhope.com](http://www.maryshomesofhope.com)



Lynn Reed



Everett Fritz

### **November 15, 2024**

Our speaker this day was Mr. Everett Fritz. His expertise is youth ministry and small group discipleship. He is the author of 4 books, including *The Art of Forming Young Disciples* and *One Disciple at a Time*. Mr. Everett has been working in youth ministry for more than 15 years and founded Andrew Ministries in 2015. His philosophy is to base youth ministry on discipleship small groups. Using this approach, Mr. Everett has seen an 80% increase in students who stayed Catholic in college. Through Andrew Ministries, he is helping youth ministry programs across the country become more effective. He began his presentation with some dire statistics: 79% of young Catholics who leave the Church, do so before their 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. In prior years, Catholics comprised 28% of the U.S. population. Today, they are only 25%. Only 19% of Millennials are Catholic and only 14% of Gen Zers are Catholic. A data analyst at FOCUS thinks that at this rate, Catholicism in the United States could collapse around the years 2050-2060. The good news is those young people who are remaining in the Church are passionate about their faith. They are capable and well-formed Catholics. FOCUS and universities are doing better at supporting Catholics. Mr. Fritz attended the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis this summer. He came away from the event (managed by young Catholics) excited by its success and the potential young Catholics have to contribute to the Church. In searching for reasons why young Catholics are leaving the faith, he found lack of catechesis is not the problem because media outlets now provide better access to good information on the faith than ever. Scandals and politics are not the problem. A young person's family may be problematic, but addressing the families that most need the support is difficult. The central issue for young people is they do not know anyone in the Church community and they feel they do not belong. In other words, young people's needs are not being met by the Church. Mr. Everett

reflected on the Church historically pursuing its mission by meeting the needs of people through corporal works of mercy like feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, building hospitals for the sick, and schools for educating the uneducated. Today, most people have these basic needs satisfied, but need personal relationships. He bases his interaction with youth on the concept of discipleship—faithful volunteers leading small groups of youth. He believes Jesus provided his apostles not only the message to spread, but the method for spreading the message by living with them in their small group. Jesus did not go all over the world to spread his message, but rather poured himself into his 12 apostles. Mr. Everett believes youth grow in the faith by following and learning from the example of practicing faithful Catholics. He has found that the only ministries that succeed with young people employ discipleship. You can learn more about how Andrew Ministries provides resources for Catholic youth ministry by checking out their website: [andrew-ministries.com](http://andrew-ministries.com)

## **SERRA DISTRICT 6 CONVENTION**

Serra International Rocky Mountain Region/District 6 held its annual District Convention in Castle Rock, CO the weekend of October 25-26, 2024. Sixteen Serrans from the Serra Club of Southwest Denver attended the convention held at St. Francis of Assisi Church.



Rev. Mark Zacker with the Serra District 6 Annual Convention Attendees  
at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Castle Rock, Colorado

## SERRA CLUB ANNUAL PICNIC



Serra Club of Southwest Denver members picnicking with Priests & Seminarians on Priesthood Sunday

# Happy Thanksgiving

## PRIEST/ DEACON ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Rev Rick Nakvasil  
Rev Jose Noriega, DCJM  
Rev Javier O'Connor, DCJM

December 24, 2005  
December 15, 1990  
December 15, 1990

All Souls Church  
Saint Mary Church  
Saint Mary Church



*Always forward, never back.*

Visit our Website: [SerraSWDenver.org](http://SerraSWDenver.org)

**Notes:** Comments and corrections should be emailed or sent to Bruce Keller, Communications VP. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the newsletter staff and not necessarily those of the Club. All or part of this newsletter may be copied if credit is given Serra Club of SW Denver Newsletter.