



Serra Club of Southwest Denver

NEWSLETTER

December 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**
- **December 28, 2024 at 7:00 AM – Serra Global Rosary for Vocations**
- **January 9, 2025 at 8:00 AM – Affirmation Mass, St. Anthony of Padua Church**
- **January 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM – Serra MEETS on-line video speaker/presentation**
- **January 23-26, 2025 – Serra Rally in Miami, Florida**
- **January 25, 2025 at 7:00 AM – Serra Global Rosary for Vocations**

TRAVELING CROSS

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

January 3 – January 17: Tony Schaffhauser
January 17 – February 7: Harold Deering

ATTENDANCE & GUESTS

December 6, 2024 – 30 members and 3 guests attended the meeting. Our guests included Jan McCasland, Teresa Scherer, and our speaker, Mr. Terry Peltes.

December 20, 2024 – 25 members and 3 guests attended the meeting. Our guests included Theresa Scherer, Jan McCasland, and our speaker, Ms. Erin Scherer.

DEACON'S CORNER

December 6, 2024

Reflecting on this first week of Advent, Deacon Don provided some information on the saints whose feast day fell on this week in December. St. Nicholas (feast day, December 6) was a monk and a bishop. He lived in Turkey during the fourth century. He decided to literally walk in the steps of Jesus. Leaving his home in Turkey, he lived in a cave near Bethlehem. He is the patron saint of the village in which he lived in the Holy Land as well as being the patron saint of sailors, merchants, students, unmarried

people, Russia, Greece, and several other trades. He is associated with Christmas due to the traditional belief he secretly delivered generous gifts to poor families. St. Francis Xavier (feast day, December 4) was one of the founding priests of the Jesuit order. He lived in the 16th century. He was a missionary in India, China, Japan, and Malaysia. He is credited with having baptized thousands of people and is the co-patron saint of all the missionaries throughout the world. He is one of the 14 saints depicted in the stain glass windows of Holy Name Church in Sheridan, CO. Deacon Don advised us that we make a mistake to think these saints were much different than ourselves. He suggested the means to becoming a saint is to decide on a daily basis to discern and do the will of God.



Deacon Don Schaefer

December 20, 2024

After quizzing us about and providing some background information on popular Christmas carols, Deacon Don led us in singing a few carols. We learned “Silent Night” is the most recorded Christmas song in the world with more than 137,000 recordings of the song (and recording only began 100 years ago). The song was written as a poem by Joseph Mohr who had been trained in a seminary in Salzburg and was serving as a priest in a small Alpine village. Two years later he was assigned to St. Nicholas Parish in Oberndorf and befriended the church organist, Franz Gruber, who set the poem to music for use at a Christmas Midnight Mass in 1818. “O Come All Ye Faithful” was first published in a compilation of manuscripts by copyist, John Francis Wade in 1751 in England. The original song has been attributed to numerous people including St. Bonaventure (13th century) and King John IV of Portugal, but it is commonly believed the words were written by Cistercian monks. “Oh Little Town of Bethlehem” was written by Phillips Brooks in 1868. The song is popular in both Europe and North America, but is sung to a different melody in Canada and the U.S. from the melody used in England and Ireland.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 6, 2024

- **Ben Cobos:** told us the next **Affirmation Mass** will be at **Notre Dame Church on Thursday, Dec. 12** at their **8:10 am Mass**. Breakfast at Looking Good Restaurant will follow the Mass.
- **Tony Schaffhauser:** provided final details for the annual **Serra Club Christmas Party** to be held at the **Community Center at St. Jude Church on Saturday, December 7 at 3:00 pm**. Liz Perry will cater the event. He is seeking help with decorating. A white elephant gift exchange is part of the festivities.

December 20, 2024

- **Diane Schreiber:** is updating the club's phone tree and reminded everyone that when Denver Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, our club meeting is canceled. Diane also reminded us the Archdiocese's Safe Environment Training certification needs to be updated every 5 years. Refresher training courses can be found on the archden.org website. Check with your parish office to meet requirements for recertification. Club meetings in January may be relocated due to restroom maintenance scheduled for the St. Agnes Center at Holy Name. Further information will follow.
- **Deacon Don:** said former Serran, Dawn Kendall's, funeral is scheduled for 10:00 am on January 10, 2025 at Notre Dame Church.
- **Ben Cobos:** told us the next **Affirmation Mass** will be at **St. Anthony of Padua Church on Thursday, Jan. 9 at 8:00am Mass.** A "spiritual bouquet" will be given to Fr. Arturo Chagala.
- **Stanton La Breche:** asked all parish liaisons to update him on the progress they have made towards meeting goals set earlier this year. Stanton is seeking a volunteer to be our club/parish liaison at St. Anthony of Padua
- **Tony Schaffhauser:** is beginning planning for our club's annual retreat. The tentative plan is for an April event at Mother Cabrini Shrine.
- **Deacon Don:** reminded us he will be leading our quarterly **Holy Hour for Vocations in Holy Name Church** after the 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)

PROGRAMS

December 6, 2024

Mr. Terry Peltes, Chief Programs Officer at Catholic Charities was our speaker today. Mr. Peltes thanked us for our donations of last year to Catholic Charities and expressed his wish that we could see how our donated items positively impact those who receive them. Responding to a question, he told us most of Catholic Charities' employees are not Catholic, but the diversity of employees adds richness to the organization. However, the leadership and administrative positions are ministerial positions who need to be Catholics and appointed by the archbishop. He then reviewed the annual impact report regarding all that Catholic Charities does within the archdiocese. He led us in the Catholic Charities prayer that includes prayer for the benefactors. Catholic Charities is organized into 12 ministries. Last year they assisted 115,000 people, provided 275,000 nights of shelter, and served 585,000 meals. The emergency assistance program helped more than 2000 families last year. By requiring people to engage in their programs in order to stay in their shelters, Catholic Charities is successful in helping people become independent. Of those staying in shelters of Marisol Services, 95% move to a stable housing situation. Of the children that participate in their early childhood education program, 33% live in a "homeless" situation—either on the street or in their car. St. Raphael Counseling provides counseling in Catholic Schools, in Catholic Charities ministries, and for other organizations in the archdiocese. Mr. Peltes' role is to integrate all the ministries of Catholic Charities to improve efficiency and effectiveness through the synergy of the ministries working with each other to serve clients. He mentioned how Catholic Charities worked with the City of Denver and provided Mullen Home as an emergency shelter for migrant families. That housing crisis has been mitigated and Mullen Home will now be converted to housing for Seniors. Mr. Peltes told us that there is sufficient overnight shelter to accommodate all single adults needing shelter in the Denver area, but the wait list for **families** looking for housing/shelter is more than 80 in number and families wait more than one year to get shelter. For more information about Catholic Charities and the many services they provide, see their website at www.ccdnever.org



Terry Peltes



Erin Scherer



Erin Scherer presenting

December 20, 2024

Our speaker this day was Ms. Erin Scherer. She is the daughter of our fellow club member, Tom Scherer and his wife Theresa and brother of Reverend Tom Scherer. Ms. Scherer shared with us some of her many experiences as a missionary in South America. She has been a missionary for more than 20 years serving in Mexico, Peru, and Guatemala. The theme of her presentation was “God is with us.” She worked in Guatemala at a migrant shelter along the Mexican border. In addition to the migrants at the shelter from South American countries, there were people from many other countries of the world. She relayed a heartwarming story of a joyful little girl who expressed her great joy despite the trying circumstances she and her family were experiencing. After college, Ms. Scherer went to work for Rostro de Cristo (Face of Christ) in South America and was trained by Jesuit Volunteers International. Their mission was to see the face of Christ in all people in all situations. They worked in many different situations. She learned about generosity and how to graciously receive by working with people who have very few material goods, but much humility and generosity. This was a lesson in giving despite the lack of any excess to share. Another story concerned a family that despite meager provisions always had a house full of neighbors. The woman of the house took care of the children in the neighborhood and provided food for her many “guests”. In the midst of poverty, there are always difficulties. One day Ms. Scherer experienced five very difficult problems others were experiencing and became overwhelmed, but after praying, she was enlightened by God that she was there not to solve the people’s problems, but rather to be with them in their difficulties. In Lima, Peru, she organized a youth group to prepare a Christmas celebration for a poor remote community. Several days before the event, she found herself way short of the needed provisions for the event. Nonetheless, over the next few days, God’s providence manifest in various people donating all the things needed to undertake the Christmas celebration including a surprising last minute mode of transportation to get the materials to the remote community. She left us with the challenge of seeking to see the face of Christ in the many people we see daily. Ms. Scherer is currently working with Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services at Mt. Olivet Cemetery speaking to various groups about pre-planning funeral arrangements and burials.

SERRA CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Serra Club of Southwest Denver held its annual Christmas party at St. Jude Church on December 7. Attendees enjoyed a catered dinner served by Liz Perry, a white elephant gift exchange, and each other's company and fellowship.



Serrans enjoy happy hour at their annual Christmas party in the Community Center of St. Jude Church.

Merry Christmas

PRIEST/ DEACON ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Rev	Javier Nieva, DCIM	January 8, 2000 (25 years)	Saint Mary
Rev	Juan Fernando Sardi Soto	January 25, 2023	Holy Name
Dcn	John Tran	January 15, 2011	Christ on the Mountain
Dcn	Michael Grafner	January 25, 2014	Christ on the Mountain
Dcn	Mark Wolbach	January 25, 2014	Light of the World
Dcn	Joe Hensley	January 25, 2003	Saint Jude



Always forward, never back.

Visit our Website: 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.