



Serra Club of Southwest Denver

NEWSLETTER

January 2025

< **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**
- **January 25, 2025 at 7:00 AM – Serra Global Rosary for Vocations**
- **February 2, 2025 – World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life**
- **February 13, 2025 at 8:00 AM – Affirmation Mass, St. Jude Catholic Church**
- **February 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM – Serra MEETS on-line video speaker/presentation**
- **February 22, 2025 at 7:00 AM – Serra Global Rosary for Vocations**

TRAVELING CROSS

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

February 7 – February 21: Tom Scherer
February 21 – March 7: Pat & Pasquale Girolamo

ATTENDANCE & GUESTS

January 3, 2024 – 28 members attended the meeting.

January 17, 2024 – 28 members and 8 guests attended the meeting. Our guests included 5 parishioners from St. Bernadette Church and our speakers, Sr. Mary Nelle Gage and Ruth Routen.

DEACON'S CORNER

January 3, 2024

Deacon Don noted this day was the feast day of The Most Holy Name of Jesus. (Ironically, our club normally meets on first and third Fridays at Holy Name Church in Sheridan, but this day we met at St. Bernadette Church in Lakewood.) He provided us some information on the history of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Hail Mary prayer. The rosary's origins can be traced back to the medieval period when illiterate monks recited The Lord's Prayer (Our Father) 150 times daily while their literate fellow monks were praying the 150 psalms. They used small stones to help count the

number of prayers. Eventually they placed the “beads” on strings, so they could move about while praying. Then a devotion to Mary took hold in the Church and people read the verses regarding the Annunciation and the Visitation from the gospel of St. Luke. (First two sentences of the Hail Mary.) Then a prayer for Mary to be with us at the time of death was appended to the prayer. In 1261, Pope Urban IV added the name of Jesus to the end of Elizabeth's words (2nd sentence). St. Bernardine of Siena was a Franciscan preacher who was known for his devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. St. Bernardine devised the symbol IHS (the first three Greek letters in the name of Jesus) of Gothic letters on a blazing sun. He promoted devotion to the name of Jesus by suggesting that the monogram of Jesus' name, IHS, be placed over the gates of cities and above the doors of homes. Holy Name Church in Sheridan was originally named St. Patrick Church in 1894, but was renamed Holy Name Church in 1960 to avoid confusion with St. Patrick Church in Denver. Deacon Don then talked about the year 2025 as a Jubilee Year in the Church. A Jubilee Year is a holy year of indulgences and forgiveness to be celebrated with joy. Every diocese has a designated Jubilee pilgrimage site. The pilgrimage site for the Archdiocese of Denver is the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Denver. The Jubilee Year has its origins in the Old Testament. Ancient Israel was to observe a Jubilee Year every 50th year. In the Jubilee Year, all debts were to be erased, all Hebrew slaves were to be freed, and land was to be restored to the possession of the original tribe/family it had been assigned. The jubilee was to be a year for the Israelites to re-establish a proper relationship with God and with each other. The first Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church was declared by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300 AD. He granted full remission of sins for those who confessed their sins and made a pilgrimage to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. In the Church, jubilee years were originally celebrated every 100 years, but then began to be celebrated every 50 years, and are now celebrated every 25 years. Deacon Don then led us in the Jubilee Prayer. <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/preghiera.html>



Deacon Don Schaefer

January 17, 2024

Deacon Don was unable to attend our meeting this day due to health issues. Our club meeting was held at St. Bernadette Church after the 8:00AM Mass. We gathered as a club to attend the daily Mass and remained a while after Mass to pray with Fr. Joseph McLagan before the Blessed Sacrament.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 3, 2024

- **President Diane Schreiber:** told us for Catholic Education Week, on February 5 starting at 9:00AM, our club will be taking Polaroid pictures of the students at Notre Dame School using the priest and nun face-cutout panels. Approximately 200 students are expected to participate. Diane also reminded everybody to check the status of their Safe Environment Training certification. Certifications need to be

renewed every five years. The refresher course can be taken on-line. Check with your parish to determine your status.

- **Ben Cobos:** told us the next Affirmation Mass will be January 9th at St. Anthony of Padua Church at 8:00 AM. Breakfast will follow at Looking Good Restaurant. Ben also proposed the club undertake a pilgrimage to the Basilica for the Jubilee Year.
- **Stanton La Breche:** asked all parish liaisons to return their report on their parish activities to him by January 11, 2025. Stanton also offered posters to the parish liaisons regarding upcoming discernment events in the archdiocese for posting in our affiliated parishes.
- **Tony Schaffhauser:** is planning the annual club retreat. He is hoping Fr. Tom Scherer will be facilitator and will try to coordinate a date with him for a day in late April.
- **Deacon Don Schaefer:** announced the Funeral Mass for former club member Dawn Kendall will be held at Notre Dame Church on Friday, January 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM.
- **Karen Mandolfo:** set up an example table of Serra Club materials that can be set up after masses in our affiliated parishes. Parishioners can be encouraged to participate in the “31-Club” and Vocation Cross prayer programs and be offered literature regarding discernment, praying for vocations, and other means of fostering vocations in their parish and families. She is seeking feedback regarding the interest in setting up this type of display and the amount of materials we need to procure to support the effort.
- **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)

January 17, 2024

- **Ben Cobos:** advised the next Affirmation Mass will be at St. Jude Church at 8:00 AM, Thursday, Feb. 13th. Breakfast will follow.
- **Phil Ryman:** reminded us quarterly dues payments can be brought to a club meeting or mailed to him.
- **Stanton La Breche:** asked the parish liaisons to send him their reports on their progress towards meeting this year’s goals.
- **Tony Schaffhauser:** said he is planning our annual retreat for April 24 or 25 or a day in the following week. Mother Cabrini Shrine will be the location. He has not yet determined the facilitator. If you have a recommendation for a retreat facilitator, please let Tony know.

PROGRAMS

January 3, 2024

To kick off this Jubilee Year of 2025, Mr. Paul Boucher led us all in a rosary for vocations.



Sister Mary Nelle Gage

January 17, 2024

Our speaker was Sister Mary Nelle Gage, of the religious order Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross. Sr. Mary began by thanking us for praying for vocations and leading us in the Loretto prayer, "O Suffering Jesus, O Sorrowful Mary". She is a native of Augusta, Georgia and grew up in Texas before graduating from Loretto Heights College in 1968 and becoming a religious sister. Sr. Mary Nelle recounted working in Viet Nam with Vietnamese orphan children in the 1960's. Her main purpose in speaking to us was to recount for us the history of the Sisters of Loretto who served at Loretto Heights school/college for more than a century and the fate of the cemetery on that site. She began with a brief history about the arrival and early years of service in Denver of the Sisters of Loretto. When Fr. Machbeuf was sent to Denver from Santa Fe in the mid-19th century to serve the booming area of newly arriving gold and silver miners, he requested sisters to teach the children. Six Sisters of Loretto came from San Francisco in response to that request. They opened a school on August 1, 1864 located at 15th and California in Denver. The cemetery at Loretto Heights was consecrated in 1912 during the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Loretto. At that time, ten sisters were reburied from Calgary Cemetery located near the Botanical Gardens in Denver. Eventually, 62 sisters were buried at the cemetery on Loretto Heights. In 1969, Denver asked that no more burials occur at Loretto Heights. In 2012, for the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Sister of Loretto, five cemetery markers that were severely deteriorated were replaced with new concrete markers. The former college campus land was sold to a developer in 2018 putting the cemetery at risk of degradation. After several years of unsuccessful effort trying to engage an organization to provide perpetual care for the cemetery, the Archdiocese of Denver agreed to exhume the 62 bodies buried in the cemetery and bury them at Mt. Olivet Cemetery next to 21 bodies of Sisters of Loretto already buried at Mt. Olivet. The process began in June, 2022 and took three months to complete. Each sister received a new handmade oak casket for reburial. Shrouds were made by several local parish sewing/quilting ministries. The exhuming involved archeologists from Metro State College and Colorado University. Artifacts discovered during the exhuming were salvaged and recorded. Students from Machbeuf and Holy Family High Schools escorted the bodies/coffins to their new burial site during the burial ceremony while Sisters of Loretto read personal biographies of the sisters being reinterred. The large stone crucifix located in the Loretto Heights Cemetery also moved to Mt. Olivet and will be rehabilitated before being permanently installed there. The one-third acre of land the Loretto Heights cemetery occupied will be converted to a memorial garden as part of the open space included in the planned development for the former college campus.

PRIEST/ DEACON ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

There are no ordination anniversaries in the month of February.



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.