



Serra Club of Southwest Denver

NEWSLETTER

February 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**
- **March 11, 2025 at 10:00 AM – Club Presentation to The Lydias at All Saints Church**
- **March 13, 2025 at 8:00 AM – Affirmation Mass, St. Jude Catholic Church**
- **March 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM – Serra MEETS on-line video speaker/presentation**
- **March 29, 2025 at 7:00 AM – Serra Global Rosary for Vocations**
- **April 24, 2025 at 8:30 AM – Serra Club Annual Retreat, Mother Cabrini Shrine**

TRAVELING CROSS

February 7 – February 21: Tom Scherer

February 21 – March 7: Pat & Pasquale Girolamo

March 7 – March 21: Ralph Hooyboer

March 21 – April 4: Ken Krug

ATTENDANCE & GUESTS

February 7, 2024 – 29 members and 3 guests attended the meeting. Our guests included Jan McCasland, Elaine Archer, and our speaker, Msgr. Tom Fryar

February 21, 2024 – Our Serra Club meeting was canceled this day due to inclement weather.

DEACON'S CORNER

February 7, 2024

Deacon Don presided over an induction ceremony for two of our newest members, Pat Girolamo and Joe Chocole, Welcome to the club Pat and Joe. Due to a bit of laryngitis, Deacon Don came with a few “one-liners”. President Diane read them for our benefit:

Don't put a question mark where God has put a period.

Many folks want to serve God, ...but only as advisors.
It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.
You don't change the message. The message changes you.



Deacon Don Schaefer

February 21, 2024

Our club meeting was canceled this day due to inclement weather.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 7, 2024

- **President Diane Schreiber:** reported the picture-taking event with the students at Notre Dame School using the priest and nun face-cutout panels for Catholic Education Week on February 5 went well. Approximately 225 students participated.
- **Ben Cobos:** told us the next Affirmation Mass will be February 13th at St. Mary Church in Littleton at 8:15 AM. Breakfast will follow at Littleton Café. Ben passed around a “spiritual bouquet” card for members to pledge prayers for the pastor at St. Mary Church.
- **Stanton La Breche:** brought several issues of the Knights of Columbus’ Columbia periodical for review by club members. He pointed out the back page articles in each issue that narrates a priest’s or nun’s personal vocation story.
- **Tom Scherer:** Let us know his son, Fr. Tom Scherer, will be facilitator for our annual retreat currently scheduled for April 24, 2025.
- **Deacon Don Schaefer:** informed us there have been three women from Holy Name to join the Poor Clares cloister in Roswell, NM
- **Karen Mandolfo:** told us she received a \$100 donation to our Serra Club from the St. Frances Cabrini Church’s Ladies of Charity group.
- **Bruce Keller:** told us he will be giving a presentation about our Serra Club to The Lydias group at All Saints Church on Tuesday, February 18 at 10:00 am. All are welcome to attend.
- **Ben Cobos:** reported three of the four men the Serra Trust Fund helped reside at the Bosco House will either be in the seminary or applying to the seminary for next year.
- **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)

February 21, 2024

Although we had no meeting this day, the following announcements were to be made...

- **President Diane Schreiber:** Club member surveys were turned in by 19 members. There is yet time to include your input. E-mail your survey responses to Diane, so your voice can be included. We will discuss the results of the survey at a future club meeting.
- **Ben Cobos:** the next Affirmation Mass will be at St. Jude Church at 8:00 AM, Thursday, March 13th. Breakfast will follow at Sunrise/Sunset restaurant.
- **Phil Ryman:** updated the Club Roster in Club Express. Log into Club Express and see if your information is shown correctly.
- **Stanton La Breche:** received a couple more liaison reports and asked the remaining parish liaisons to send him their reports on their progress towards meeting this year's goals as soon as possible. Stanton is collecting electronic files of Serra Club graphics in order to forward them to the liaisons, so they can submit them to their parish bulletin editors for inclusion in the parish bulletins. We need a parish liaison at St. Anthony of Padua and at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Let Stanton know if you can help with that.
- **Bruce Keller:** our Serra Club presentation to The Lydias group at All Saints Church has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 11 at 10:00 am. All are welcome to attend.
- **Tony Schaffhauser:** our annual club retreat has been tentatively set for April 24 at Mother Cabrini Shrine. Optional Mass begins at 7:30am, optional coffee is available at 8:30am, and the retreat will begin at 9:00am. Father Tom Scherer will be the facilitator. Cost will be \$35.00 and includes coffee and lunch. Spouses, friends, and prospective club members are welcome. Invite someone to join us.
- **Paul Boucher:** we are planning to discuss the club survey results at our next meeting on March 7. A Serra Club advertisement will be included in the Community Events section of the bulletin at All Souls Church. All Souls' Deacon Kelvin Brath has been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for him
- **Ken Krug:** this year's annual Vocations Walk will be held at Mother Cabrini Shrine on October 11.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION



Serra Club of Southwest Denver Chaplain Deacon Don Schaefer and President-elect Ken Krug inducting new members Pat Girolamo and Joe Chocole into the club and our mission

PROGRAMS

February 7, 2024

Retired Monsignor Tom Fryar joined us this day as our speaker. He was raised in Nebraska and Iowa and came to Denver 51 years ago to attend St. Thomas Seminary. He recounted some of the changes he

has seen in Denver over those 51 years; notably, the role and demise of St. Thomas Seminary and the beginnings of Redemptoris Mater and St. John Vianney Theological Seminaries. Msgr. Fryar pointed out the number of priests in the archdiocese who came to Redemptoris Mater Seminary as missionaries. He told us some of the beauty of going to the seminary is visualizing oneself with the people of a parish as a homilist, as a spiritual director, and as a good priest serving parishioners. You don't see yourself working in an office, but a lot of the time, that is what he ended up doing. He started out as a Vocations Director. He spent 35 of his 47 years as a priest working in an office. He often accompanied the archbishop to perform Confirmations (known colloquially as "being out on the Chrism Trail"). He thinks he has presided over more than 10,000 confirmands. He often advised newly ordained priests to be aware of how the people of their parish can help form one's priesthood. He told us he had lived in 13 different rectories during his 47 years as a priest, so he now encounters many acquaintances from many different parts of the diocese as a retired priest. He has experienced many people who are distressed that their children do not attend church. He recommends praying for our children and grandchildren and said he has observed through RCIA/OCIA classes that many seeking membership in the Church were raised by parents who did not attend church. He suggested we should encourage talking about vocations at home and around the dinner table. It is one thing to talk about vocations at church, but it is another thing to talk about vocations at home with family. Young people should see priests and religious in our homes and communities in addition to at church. Referencing the upcoming Sunday readings, he noted in all three readings, God calls those who consider themselves unworthy. He also gleaned from the readings that God comes to us. We should be open to God in every setting of our lives throughout the day and throughout the week rather than thinking we need to go to church to be with God.



Msgr. Tom Fryar

February 21, 2024

Our scheduled speaker was Shayla Elm to speak about the Christ In The City organization. We hope to reschedule Ms. Elm soon for an upcoming meeting.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AT NOTRE DAME PARISH

February 5, 2025

Our Serra Club of Southwest Denver hosted picture-taking sessions at Notre Dame Parish on February 5 to help celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Children attending Notre Dame School enjoyed receiving a Polaroid picture of them appearing in priestly vestments or a religious habit. We are happy to offer this activity to interested parish programs.



Children at Notre Dame Catholic School line up to get their polaroid pictures taken

PRIEST/ DEACON ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

There are no ordination anniversaries in the month of March.



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.