



Serra Club of Southwest Denver

NEWSLETTER

May 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**
- **May 31, 2025 at 7:00 AM – Serra Global Rosary for Vocations**
- **June 12, 2025 at 9:00 AM – Affirmation Mass, Christ the King Church, Evergreen**
- **June 16, 2025 at 10:00 AM – Serra MEETS on-line video speaker/presentation**
- **June 26 through 29 – Serra International Convention, Kansas City, MO**
- **June 27 – Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests**
- **June 28, 2025 at 7:00 AM – Serra Global Rosary for Vocations**

TRAVELING CROSS

May 2 – May 16: Bruce Keller

May 16 – June 6: Jim Hastert

June 6 – June 20: Suzanne Reinert

June 20 – July 18: Lou Ann Bauer

ATTENDANCE & GUESTS

May 2, 2025 – 26 members and 3 guests attended the meeting. Our guests were Jan McCasland and our speakers, Ms. Christine Hoyer and Deacon Tim Kenny.

May 16, 2025 – 24 members and 2 guests attended the meeting. Our guests were Jan McCasland and our speaker Patrick Mulaney.

DEACON'S CORNER

May 2, 2025

Due to the upcoming conclave of cardinals who would select the next pope, Deacon Don provided us some information regarding popes and cardinals in his typical quiz format. We learned there have been 266 popes. The first pope was Peter and the second was Linus. Pope Francis served for 12 years before passing at the age of 88. The oldest pope was Leo XIII who died at the age of 93-1/2 years. There are

252 cardinals in the Roman Catholic Church. Italy has the most cardinals with 51 of which 17 can vote. (Cardinals more than 80 years of age cannot vote.) The U.S. has the second most cardinals with 17 (10 of which can vote). Pope Francis appointed 108 of the 135 cardinals who will be eligible to vote. The youngest cardinal is Mykola Bychok from the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and is 45 years old. The pope is typically selected from those cardinals doing the electing. Any unmarried Catholic man can be selected as pope although no lay person ever has been. In 1378 AD, the Archbishop of Bari became Pope Urban VI. The longest conclave in history lasted nearly three years (1268-1271 AD). The conclave will begin on May 7 and include cardinals from 94 countries. Of the 266 former popes, 83 are saints. All of the first 35 popes and 52 of the first 54 popes were martyred for the faith.



Deacon Don Schaefer

May 16, 2025

Deacon Don started his talk by noting May 15 was the feast day of St. Isidore the Farmer, the patron of farmers and rural communities. St. Isidore worked his entire adult life for a wealthy landowner outside Madrid, Spain. He was known for his love of the poor, and there are accounts of Isidore supplying them miraculously with food. He had a great concern for the proper treatment of animals. He died May 15, 1130. He was declared a saint in 1622 with Saints Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Avila, and Philip Neri. Together, this group is known in Spain as "the five saints." Deacon Don then discussed St. Simon Stock whose feast day is May 16. Legend has it that the name Stock, meaning "tree trunk," derives from the fact that, beginning at age twelve, he lived as a hermit in a hollow tree trunk of an oak tree. It is believed he went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land as a young man where he joined a group of Carmelites with whom he later returned to Europe. Simon Stock founded many Carmelite Communities, especially in university towns such as Cambridge, Oxford, Paris, and Bologna. He helped to change the Carmelites from a hermit order to one of mendicant friars. Simon Stock's lasting fame came from an apparition he had in Cambridge, England on July 16, 1251 at a time when the Carmelite Order was being oppressed. The Virgin Mary appeared to him holding the brown scapular in one hand. Her words were: "Receive, my beloved son, this scapular of thy Order; it is the special sign of my favor, which I have obtained for thee and for thy children of Mount Carmel. He who dies clothed with this habit shall be preserved from eternal fire. It is the badge of salvation, a shield in time of danger, and a pledge of special peace and protection." The Church has approved eighteen different kinds of scapulars. The best known is the woolen brown scapular known as the Scapular of Mount Carmel that the Virgin Mary bestowed on Simon Stock. Deacon Don finished by noting Pope Leo XIV welcomes a different group of people to Rome each week as part of the Jubilee Year celebration. This week the "Eastern Catholic Churches" were the welcomed group. The Eastern Orthodox Church split from the Roman Catholic Church in 1054 AD (think Constantinople, Turkey). There are many "churches" of the Eastern Orthodox Church in western parts of Asia. Eighteen of these churches have returned to the Roman Catholic Church and are known as the Eastern Catholic Churches. The Holy Father welcomed their representatives in Rome this week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 2, 2025

- **Stanton La Breche:** asked parish liaisons to request a bulletin insert or announcement for prayers for World Day of Prayer for Vocations (May 11) at their respective churches. He also distributed a sign-up sheet for our club's Vocation Cross Prayer Kit. Please sign up if you have not done so yet.
- **Ben Cobos:** announced the next Affirmation Mass will be at St. Frances Cabrini Church at 9:00 AM, Thursday, May 7th. Breakfast will follow Mass at Las Dahlias restaurant. Ben also noted the Serra Trust Fund board approved a significant grant request to Totus Tuus for this year.
- **Karen Mandolfo:** prepared a church bulletin to be inserted in the St. Frances Cabrini bulletin regarding World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Parish liaisons are free to use Karen's insert for their parish bulletins.
- **Tony Schaffhauser:** Thanked Fr. Tom Scherer for being our Retreat Director. He advised us that he will be looking at dates for our club attending a Colorado Rockies game this summer.
- **Paul Boucher:** advised us he will be collecting donations for Birthline at our next club meeting on May 16 and will deliver the donated items to Birthline in his truck.
- **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)

May 16, 2025

- **Ken Krug:** reminded us the Serra International Convention will be held in Kansas City, MO June 26-29, 2025. Members of other Serra Clubs in our area are interested in carpooling to the event. Ken also mentioned the Serra District 6 Conference will be held at Queen of Peace Church in Aurora, CO on September 12-13, 2025. Ken also mentioned we are looking at attending a Rockies baseball game. Possible date is Sunday, September 28 when they play the San Diego Padres.
- **Ben Cobos:** told us the next Affirmation Mass will be Thursday, June 12th at Christ the King Church in Evergreen. Mass is at 9:00 AM. He also passed a greeting card for our Spiritual Bouquet for Rev. James Fox.
- **Stanton LaBreche:** advised us Archbishop Aquila announced the "Called By Name Vocations Campaign". Nominating a young man in Called By Name is a great way to put him on a path towards greater peace and clarity about his vocation. If you know a young man (age 15-30s) who loves the Lord and may be open to learning more about the priesthood, you can submit his name and contact information at denver vocations.com/called. Ben Cobos noted this campaign is a derivative of the software program the Serra Trust Fund helped fund through a grant.
- **Karen Mandolfo:** requested our individual and collective support for this year's Priest And Seminarian Appreciation Day to be held at The Ridge at Castle Pines on Monday, June 23. She provided hand-outs giving details on what support options are available and how to contribute. More information can be found at <https://CatholicRadioNetwork.ticketspice.com/pasad-2025>
- **Bruce Keller:** reminded us he will be presenting our Serra Club talk to the Lydias Group at All Saints Church on Tuesday, May 20 at 10:00AM. All members are welcome to attend. Bruce also mentioned our club is considering hosting our Annual Picnic on Priesthood Sunday, September 28. We will try to coordinate with our associated seminarians and parish priests and invite them to attend.

2025 CLUB OFFICER ELECTIONS

The nomination of candidates for our Serra Club's board for next year was held at the May 2 meeting. The following were nominated to serve on the Serra Club Board (July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026):

President-elect	Ben Cobos
Secretary	Karen Mandolfo
Treasurer	Bruce Keller

Vocations Vice President	Stanton La Breche
Affirmations Vice President	Henry Nieto
Programs Vice President	Paul Boucher
Fellowship Vice President	Tony Schaffhauser
Membership Vice President	Joe DeLoy
Communications Vice President	- open for a volunteer or nomination -

Ken Krug will serve as our President and Diane Schreiber will continue on the board as Past President.

No additional nominations were made at the Serra Club meeting on May 16. All nominated members listed above were elected to the 2024-25 Serra Club Board during the May 16 club meeting. Congratulations to our future board members and thank you for your service to the club.

SERRA CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

New Serra Club member Pasquale Girolamo, from St. Frances Cabrini Church, was inducted at our May 16, 2025 club meeting. Congratulations Pasquale and welcome to the club.



Pasquale Girolamo inducted by Acting President Ken Krug and Deacon Don Schaefer

PROGRAMS

May 2, 2025

Ms. Christine Hoyer, Senior Director of Gift Planning and Deacon Tim Kenny, Director of Gift Planning from The Catholic Foundation of Northern Colorado were our speakers this day. The Catholic Foundation was established in 1998 as a fiduciary for current and deferred major gifts and endowments to Catholic organizations. They help provide for the long-term financial support of ministries and parishes within the Archdiocese of Denver. The goal of the foundation is to facilitate charitable giving and protect assets for donors after they have left this world (legacies). They provide options and ideas for people to leave a financial legacy to support Catholic ministries and other charities of their choice. These gifts support every parish and Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Denver, the seminaries, and more than 600 apostolates throughout and beyond the archdiocese. Types of gifts may include real

estate, stocks, life insurance, beneficiary deeds, commercial properties, businesses, and other complex or simple financial instruments that the foundation can help administer after the owner's death. Assets are kept separate from the archdiocese in order to provide greater financial security. Gifts can arrive to the foundation from wills and trusts, retirement accounts, charitable gift annuities, and beneficiary designations. A popular method of passing funds is by beneficiary designation where the Catholic Foundation is listed as one of the beneficiaries of one's bank, retirement, or other type of financial account. The foundation administers Donor Advised Funds that allow donors to designate grant recipients from the fund while providing tax advantages and administrative advantages. The Catholic Foundation also provides parishes administrative resources and legal services to get the most from financial gifts. The Catholic Foundation assets are invested in Catholic-friendly and morally responsible funds. Foundation assets have grown at a very competitive rate over the years. Donors to The Catholic Foundation are enrolled in a society. Members of the society receive monthly invitations to breakfast meetings, receive prayers for their intentions at an annual Mass, and have 30 masses celebrated for them after their death. Deacon Tim Kenny recounted a story of a parish in a low income neighborhood whose annual collection was about \$80,000 and was designated as the recipient of a trust of unknown but supposedly nominal value. The gift turned out to be a \$700,000 amount that the parish was able to use to nearly double its annual funding and also undertake a long-desired project to install stained-glass windows in the church. Ms. Hoyer and Deacon Kenny discussed the tax advantages of Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRA retirement accounts, Charitable Gift Annuities, and Donor-advised Funds. Last year, The Catholic Foundation administered 3800 grants from donor-advised funds. For more information, you can visit their website: www.thecatholicfoundation.com



Christine Hoyer & Dcn Tim Kenny



Patrick Mulaney

May 16, 2025

Our speaker this day was Mr Patrick Mulaney, Senior Development Director of Christ is the City in Denver, CO. Mr. Mulaney thanked our club members for the work we do to foster vocations within the Church and expressed his hope that at least one of his five sons might benefit from our prayers and choose a religious vocation. He mentioned three priests who were very influential in his early years and his discerning of a vocation including one who made clear that having a relationship with Jesus Christ could happen in the Catholic Church. He observed that priests who engage in relationships with their

parishioners save souls, foster priests, and help build families. Mr. Mulaney told us Christ in the City is a formation program for 18 to 28-year-old men and women. They serve chronically homeless people in Denver, CO and Philadelphia, PA. Poverty is a big issue that includes homelessness. Mr. Mulaney noted that we, as a culture, make great expense to “solve” poverty-- to attempt to “fix it”. Thus, surface needs such as food and shelter provision are met through expensive programs, but the core problems of broken relationships, lost personal dignity, and hopelessness are typically not addressed. These unaddressed core problems leave homeless people to cope in various ways often leading to other problems like addictions. Christ in the City missionaries walk the streets daily taking the same route 365 days per year to encounter the homeless on a daily basis. This allows them to build personal relationships with the homeless people along their route. Mr. Mulaney related two stories of homeless individuals helped by Christ in the City missionaries that enlightened us to the challenges they face and the ways missionaries help them to overcome these challenges. He noted that even if the homeless people they encounter die on the street, they will have had a relationship with someone who can provide them a funeral and pray for their souls with the hope of extending that relationship in heaven. Mr. Mulaney told us seminarians sometimes come and serve with Christ in the City. In doing so, they experience what it is like to eat only “donated” food and live in group housing. This provides them a good sense of what Pope Francis asked of priests: to be “shepherds with the ‘smell of the sheep’”. He finished by noting we are called to be relational rather than transactional and asked us to pray for priests that will be relational.

SERRA CLUB ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT

The Serra Club of Southwest Denver held its annual Spiritual Retreat this year on April 24 at Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, CO. The theme for this year was “Pilgrims of Hope”. Mother Cabrini Shrine is a designated pilgrimage site during this Jubilee Year, so many attendees took the opportunity to attend morning Mass and attain a plenary indulgence. Our Retreat Master, Rev. Tom Scherer, helped us to better appreciate that life is a journey and how God is interceding along our journey for our good.



Serra Club Members & Guests Attend Annual Retreat at Mother Cabrini Shrine

PRIEST/ DEACON ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Msgr	Peter Quang Nguyen	June	30, 1990 (35 years)	All Saints
Dcn	Joseph Vu	June	22, 2019	All Saints
Dcn	Charles Parker	June	12, 1999	All Saints
Dcn	Kevin Leiner	June	14, 2003	All Souls
Dcn	Martin Wager	June	24, 1989	All Souls
Dcn	Kelvin Brath	June	14, 2003	All Souls
Rev	David Allen	June	24, 1995 (30 years)	Christ on the Mountain
Rev	James Fox	June	30, 1990 (35 years)	Christ the King
Dcn	Robert Hoffman	June	20, 2015 (10 years)	Christ the King
Dcn	Don Schaefer	June	12, 2004	Holy Name
Dcn	Rick Montagne	June	4, 2005 (20 years)	Light of the World
Dcn	Jesse Taitano	June	26, 2021	Light of the World
Dcn	Joe Donahoe	June	10, 2000 (25 years)	Light of the World
Dcn	Ernest Martinez	June	17, 2017	Notre Dame
Dcn	Phil McNulty	June	24, 2023	Notre Dame
Dcn	Joshua Knight	June	24, 2023	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Rev	Eric Krager, FSSP	June	1, 2020 (5 years)	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Rev	Timothy Gaines	June	6, 1987	Our Lady of the Pines
Dcn	Rich Hamilton	June	22, 2019	Our Lady of the Pines
Dcn	George Linehan	June	26, 2021	Our Lady of the Pines
Dcn	Hal Goldwire	June	17, 2017	Saint Bernadette
Dcn	Patrick Smith	June	26, 2021	Saint Bernadette
Rev	John Paul Leyba	June	1, 2002	Saint Frances Cabrini
Dcn	Marc Nestorick	June	20, 2015 (10 years)	Saint Frances Cabrini
Dcn	Chet Ubowski	June	11, 1994	Saint Frances Cabrini
Dcn	Brian Kerby	June	24, 1989	Saint Frances Cabrini
Dcn	Spencer Thornber	June	26, 2021	Saint Frances Cabrini
Rev	Jeevan Prakash D'Almeida	June	12, 2010 (15 years)	Saint Frances Cabrini
Rev	Jason Thuerauf	June	5, 1999	Saint Jude
Dcn	Alan Spears	June	12, 1999	Saint Jude
Dcn	Mike Bunch	June	12, 2004	Saint Jude
Rev	Jaime de Cendra, DCIM	June	28, 2008	Saint Mary
Dcn	Steven Myer	June	24, 2023	Saint Mary
Rev	Ashely Lessard	June	24, 2023	Saint Mary
Dcn	Mike Seback	June	26, 2021	Saint Mary
Dcn	Ronald Roderick	June	14, 2003	Saint Paul



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.