



Serra Club of Southwest Denver

NEWSLETTER

June 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**
- **June 26 – 29, 2025 – Serra International Convention in Kansas City, MO**
- **June 28, 2025 at 7:00 AM – Serra Global Rosary for Vocations**
- **July 10, 2025 at 8:30 PM – Affirmation Mass at Our Lady of the Pines Church**
- **July 15, 2025 at 9:30 AM – Vacation Bible School Photos at St Jude Church**
- **July 21, 2025 at 10:00 AM – Serra MEETS on-line video speaker/presentation**

TRAVELING CROSS

June 6 – June 20: Suzanne Reinert

June 20 – July 4: Lou Ann Bauer

July 4 – July 18: Paul Boucher

July 18 – August 1: Joe DeLoy

ATTENDANCE & GUESTS

June 6, 2025 – (18 members attended the meeting.) Several members were attending the 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of Christ on the Mountain parish.

June 20, 2025 – (26 members and 3 guests attended the meeting.) Our guests were Jan McCasland, Richard Stika, and our speaker, Fr. Anthony Phan.

DEACON'S CORNER

June 6, 2025

Deacon Don continued from our prior meeting in May with further information related to this year's Easter celebrations. He noted at this year's Easter Vigil in France, almost 11,000 adult catechumens entered the Church. Both France and the United Kingdom have begun to see some revival in the Church. He mentioned a study that said 41% of "church-goers" in the United Kingdom between ages 18 and 24 are Catholic. This is a very high percentage given the Catholic population in the United Kingdom is relatively low. The decline of Christianity has also abated in the United States. In the diocese of Orlando, 800 people joined the Church at Easter. Phoenix had 700, Salt Lake City had 480, and Vancouver had 720 join the Church at Easter. Deacon Don then quizzed us to see if we knew what

speaker at this year's Serra International Convention (taking place at the end of June) received a Citizen's Award for Bravery from the U.S. Department of the Interior for helping to save a family in danger of plunging into a waterfall in Glacier National Park. He is Bishop Thomas Daley from the diocese of Spokane. He also asked if we knew who is the Episcopal Advisor for Serra International. He is Thomas Cardinal Collins from the diocese of Toronto who is a specialist in the Book of Revelations. Deacon Don then talked a bit about Pentecost that marks the end of Easter Season. He quizzed us on the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude, Understanding, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. Deacon Don then related some information regarding the Catholic Charismatic Renewal that began in 1967. In the late 1800's, Saint Elena Guerra, an Italian religious sister who died in 1914, wrote twelve confidential letters to Pope Leo XIII to persuade him to increase devotion to the Holy Spirit in the Church. In 1900, she asked the pope to consecrate the twentieth century to the Holy Spirit which the pope did. The Catholic Charismatic Renewal is yet ongoing in the Church today.

June 20, 2025

The Serra Club of Boulder County invited Deacon Don to attend their meeting this day, so in his absence we heard from Julie Keller about her meeting with Mary Richards, Director of Family Evangelization at St. Jude Catholic Church. Ms. Richards was interested in engaging parish families in praying for vocations. Julie showed her some of the Serra Club resources available to encourage religious vocations and discussed the SPARK (Serra Promotion And Resource Kit) website www.serraspark.org. This publicly accessible website contains a couple dozen programs with supporting resources that can be used in parishes to promote religious vocations. Julie told us about her assembly of a Vocations Prayer Kit for classrooms of St. Jude's religious education program. The kit includes a large stand-up crucifix, Serra International's The Harvest is Abundant booklet of several dozen prayers for vocations (available from www.serrastore.org), a journal, and some laminated sheets with prayers for vocations all contained within a fabric zippered case that is easy for children to handle. The hope is to have the Vocations Prayer kit passed among students in the religious education class on a weekly basis, so the student can take it home and use it with their family to pray for vocations for the week. Julie mentioned Ms. Richards hoped to have the religious education students participate in a greeting card making project for Priesthood Sunday. Our Serra Club will be using our priest and nun face-cutout panels to take polaroid photos of the St. Jude vacation bible school attendees next month.

2025 CLUB OFFICERS

From July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, the following members will serve on our Serra Club Board:

President	Ken Krug
President-elect	Ben Cobos
Past President	Diane Schreiber
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	Pat Girolamo
Secretary	Karen Mandolfo
Treasurer	Bruce Keller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 6, 2025

- **Diane Schreiber:** reminded us the Serra International Convention will be held in Kansas City, MO the weekend of June 26 through 29. She also mentioned the Annual Serra District 6 Convention will be held September 12 and 13 at Queen of Peace Church.
- **Ben Cobos:** advised the next Affirmation Mass will be at Christ the King Church in Evergreen at 9:00 am, Thursday, June 12th. Breakfast will follow at The Parkside Café in Evergreen.
- **Bruce Keller:** reported our Serra Prayer Request program presented to the Lydias Group at All Saints Church resulted in the Lydias adding the Serran Prayer to their list of prayers said at each meeting.
- **Julie Keller:** told us the St. Jude Religious Education Director requested our priest/nun cutout panels and picture-taking at the St. Jude Vacation Bible School on July 15. She passed around a sign-up sheet for those interested in participating.
- **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)

June 20, 2025

- **Diane Schreiber:** reminded us the Serra International Convention will be held in Kansas City, MO the weekend of June 26 through 29. She also mentioned the Annual Serra District 6 Conference will be held September 12 and 13 at Queen of Peace Church. If you have not received a "Save the Date" card for the District Conference, contact Ralph Hooyboer.
- **Diane Schreiber:** announced **there will be no Serra Club meeting on Friday, July 4** due to the holiday. She also requested that all members prayerfully consider a club committee to participate with in the coming year. Come to the July 18 meeting ready to sign up for a committee and get involved.
- **Julie Keller:** solicited volunteers to help with our priest/nun cutout panel picture-taking at the St. Jude Vacation Bible School on Tuesday, July 15. She passed around a sign-up sheet for those interested in participating.
- **Henry Nieto:** noted Christ on the Mountain parish is hoping to have our priest/nun face cut-outs picture taking event at their vacation bible school the week of July 14 – 18. Henry will try to arrange a day other than the St. Jude parish date. Volunteers to help will be solicited by e-mail once a date is set.
- **Hugh Wilson:** Asked for volunteers to help sign-up parishioners at Light of the World parish for their "31-Club" pray for vocations program. A volunteer or two is needed after each mass the weekend of July 12 - 13.
- **Ben Cobos:** said the next Affirmation Mass will be at Our Lady of the Pines Church in Conifer on Thursday, July 10 at the 8:30 AM Mass. Ben passed around a card for members to provide a "spiritual bouquet" of prayers for the pastor at Our Lady of the Pines Church.
- **Stanton La Breche:** reported the Archdiocese of Denver received 700 names of potential candidates for a religious vocation through their "Called By Name" campaign that was facilitated with software obtained through a Serra Trust Fund grant.
- **Tony Schaffhauser:** mentioned he is looking at a couple of dates in September for the Rockies game.
- **Karen Mandolfo:** noted 73 priests and 200 guests plan to attend this year's Priest and Seminarian Appreciation Day hosted by Catholic Radio. Serra Club raised \$2700.00 to support the event.

PROGRAMS

June 6, 2025

In lieu of a speaker this day, we watched a video of Chris Stefanick speaking at the National Eucharistic Congress last summer in Indianapolis, IN. Chris Stefanick is an internationally recognized great speaker. Watching his video is a great way to renew your zeal for the Lord and the Holy Eucharist. You can find it on youtube with this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LccklgQU8SA>

June 20, 2025

Our speaker today was Fr. Anthony Phan, Parochial Vicar at Light of the World Church. He was born and raised in Viet Nam. He provided us a view of our blessings from the perspective of one who experienced 27 years of poverty. He attributes his faith to his grandmother who raised him and took him to church daily when he was young. Fr. Phan told us he speaks contemporaneously from the heart and does not prepare notes. He spoke to us about being holy. He debunked two myths about being holy: 1) Only priests and religious can and should be holy, and 2) Being holy means being perfect in behavior. Fr. Anthony reminded us we are all called to be holy and should try to be holy. He cited many saints who were lay people. He also suggested many saints likely spent some time in purgatory, so were not perfect all their lives. Fr. Phan said holiness is being like Jesus Christ. To be holy, love like Jesus Christ loves. He emphasized that two people can help you in your pursuit of holiness: the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Holy Spirit is God Himself, **is love**, and is a sanctifier of souls. Baptism converts one into a temple of God. The Holy Spirit resides within the baptized person. The Blessed Virgin Mary is also a sanctifier. If being holy is being like Jesus Christ, then who can better help us achieve that goal than the mother who birthed and raised Jesus Christ. Mary knows how to help you be more like Jesus Christ. He said Mary will intercede for us as a mother watches out for her child. Regarding Mary's fiat, Fr. Phan said Mary knew God's request of her would result in a total and radical change to her life, yet Mary had faith in God and so said yes to God. Sometimes God's will is a mystery to us, but like Mary we should trust God and do His will. He suggested we all carry a rosary with us and recite it often. Fr. Phan recommended a book to read regarding the Holy Spirit: The Sanctifier: The Classic Work on the Holy Spirit, (2nd edition) by Archbishop Luis Martinez, published by Pauline Books and Media, 2003.



Fr. Anthony Phan

PRIEST/ DEACON ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

There are no known ordination anniversaries in the month of July.



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.