



Serra Club of Southwest Denver

NEWSLETTER

December 2021

< **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 18, 2021 at 7:00 AM – Serra International Global Rosary**
- **December 21, 2021 at 3:30 PM – Serra Club Christmas Party at Café Jordano**
- **January 8, 2021 at 10:00 AM – Serra MEETS on-line video presentation**
- **January 13, 2021 at Noon – Affirmation Mass at All Souls Church**
- **January 13-16, 2022 – Serra Rally in Irving (Dallas), TX**
- **February 2 & 5-6, 2021 – World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life**

TRAVELING CROSS:

December 3 – December 17: Bruce Keller
December 17 – January 7: Karen Mandolfo

January 7 – January 21: Hugh Wilson
January 21 – February 4: Phil Ryman

ATTENDANCE & GUESTS:

December 3, 2021 (30 members and 2 guests attended the meeting). Our guests were Don Marion from St. Mary (Littleton) and Paul Baucher from All Souls.

December 17, 2021 (30 members and 6 guests attended the meeting). Our guests were Robbie Nieto, Maria La Breche, Annette Lana, Joanne Schwappach, Paul Baucher, and our speaker Michael Sinnett.

DEACON'S CORNER

December 3, 2021

Our chaplain, Deacon Don, wished us a holy Advent Season. He provided some information regarding the growth of the Church around the world based on 2019 data. The most growth is occurring in Africa where the Catholic population grew by 8 million people in 2019 and now represents 19% of the total population. Asia also saw a lot of growth in the Church where 3% of the 4.5 billion people are Catholic. Worldwide, the Church grew by 15 million people in 2019. (...and the number of priests is declining).

Deacon Don mentioned the ongoing retreat that the archdiocese of Denver is undertaking. Last week the topic of creation was presented and this week the topic of capture will be presented. We are captured by sin and need a rescuer. The *Denver Catholic* includes a video regarding one of the pastors in the archdiocese with each e-mail. Sunday, December 12, Fr. Daniel Cardó will be filmed at Holy Name Church for this project. Fr. Cardó has a new book titled, The Art of Preaching, which is currently available. Deacon Don finished with two questions: Who is the patron saint of lovers? Who did Peter attack in the Garden of Gethsemane? (Ans: St. Rafael (archangel), and Malchus (a servant of the High Priest)).



December 17, 2021

Deacon Don was not able to attend the meeting, so a short time was spent soliciting prayer requests and saying a prayer for the intentions offered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 3, 2021

- **Henry Nieto:** Mother Cabrini Shrine is having a fund-raising event to support remodeling at the shrine. Henry has a flyer with details. Catholic Charities will be collecting donations for the Samaritan House at the December 17 club meeting. More information on appropriate items to donate to the facility that serves women was handed to members at the meeting. Donations made by check should be made to Catholic Charities. The next board meeting will be held on December 16.
- **Pat Lana:** told us Earl Potter sprained his ankle and tore some tendons. He will be in a boot for a couple weeks and asks for prayers.
- **John Scruggs:** said the next Affirmation Mass will be on December 9 at the 8:00 am Mass at Christ on the Mountain Church followed by breakfast at the Homestead Golf Course restaurant.
- **Tom Scherer:** is hoping to promote the “31 Club” prayer program in parishes with an adoration chapel. Tom feels those who attend adoration regularly might be interested in participating. Tom also sought interested members who would be willing to interact with an individual seminarian to provide encouragement and support.
- **Ken Krug:** stated the Serra Club Christmas Party this year will be on Tuesday, December 21 from 3:30 pm until 6:30 pm in a private room at Café Jordano. A white elephant gift exchange is planned.
- **Ralph Hooyboer:** Provided *Seminarian Calendars* for all parish liaisons. He hopes to have a calendar displayed in each of the 16 parishes with which we are affiliated. He also mentioned on Dec. 11 at 10:00 am Bishop Thomas Daly, the Episcopal Advisor for Serra US Council, will be featured on the Serra MEETS monthly on-line meeting. The Serra Rally will be held in Dallas, TX Jan. 13-16, 2022. If two club members attend the Serra Rally, the Club Chaplain can attend with no registration fee.
- **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)

December 17, 2021

- **Henry Nieto:** noted Serra brochures, prayer cards, and other information are always available at the back table at club meetings for member use in orienting guests or recruiting new members. The club recently sent donations to the Serra Trust Fund in memory of Dave Schulte, Louise Potter, and Gerry

Auerbach. Al Ruybal will be the commentator at the 9:00am Christmas Day Mass at Christ on the Mountain Church.

- **John Scruggs:** told us the next Affirmation Mass will be on Thursday, January 13 at 12:00 pm (noon) at All Souls Church. Lunch will follow the mass.

- **Suzanne Reinert:** reminded us the Serra Club Christmas Party this year will be on Tuesday, December 21 from 3:30 pm until 6:30 pm in a private room at Café Jordano. The \$29 cost to attend can be paid at the door. Suzanne also explained what a white elephant gift exchange is.

PROGRAMS

December 3, 2021

Our speakers today were club members Dennis and Elaine Lebar. They presented a brief history of the Church's celebration of The Nativity of the Lord and spoke about the meaning of Christmas. The birth of Jesus Christ was not celebrated as a holiday in the early Church until the 4th century. In 350 AD, Pope Julius I selected the date of December 25 for the celebration of Christmas. This date is thought to have been selected to displace pagan rituals performed at this time of year and counter the dark days of the winter solstice with a celebration of the coming of the "light of the world". In the early 17th century, Oliver Cromwell led religious reformers concerned with decadence in orthodox churches who canceled Christmas celebrations as part of their reforms. (Afterwards, King Charles II restored Christmas celebrations.) John Smith recorded that in the settlement of Jamestown, Christmas was enjoyed by all. The very orthodox Pilgrims in New England did not celebrate Christmas and Boston outlawed Christmas festivities from 1659 to 1681. In the 19th century, America reshaped the celebration of Christmas from a rowdy carnival type festival to a more family-centric religious celebration. This perspective recognizes the fundamental reason for celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ—namely, the recognition that out of love for us, God humbled Himself to become man and live with us and die for us in order to save us from the bondage of sin. While pop culture considers the single day of December 25 to be Christmas, the Church celebrates Christmas as a season which extends well past December 25 and includes themes of family and The Epiphany. The Christmas season celebrates the coming of Jesus into our lives, not just historically, but even now as the Word of God residing in our flesh and blood to continue the story of God's plan for our redemption. God, through Jesus, has become part of the human family. Jesus, born in a stable to a simple family and first seen by shepherds, we recognize as God's Glory made manifest.



Dennis and Elaine Lebar



Michael Sinnett

December 17, 2021

Our speaker was Michael Sinnett, Vice President of Shelters for Catholic Charities. Mr. Sinnett began by thanking our club members for their past and current generosity referencing the donated items members brought to the meeting for Samaritan House. He recalled his prior meeting with us was by virtual conferencing due to the CoViD pandemic and said the CoViD pandemic was the most challenging event he has had to work through in his entire career managing shelters for the homeless. Catholic Charities recently has added three full-time shelters to accommodate the need for sheltering in Denver and meet CoViD related social distancing and health protocols including a 270 bed facility for women at 48th Ave. and Colorado Blvd. They have hired more than 150 employees. They now have the capacity to serve 500 overnight stays and are seeing 400 women per night even as the weather remains mild. They have eight facilities including one in Greeley and one in Ft. Collins. With the aging population, mental health issues are now the second most frequent debilitation while substance abuse remains the most frequent problem. Fourteen clinicians care for those with mental health needs. Mr. Sinnett said managing shelters is a fairly routine activity versus managing shelters during a pandemic. The staff is challenged daily through the disrupted interactions with clients and the occasional deaths caused by CoViD. This summer he had 146 job openings of the 600 staff he oversees. Limited funding results in limited salaries and difficulty competing with other employers for employees. CoViD outbreaks cause major disruptions to the volunteers' work schedules. The goal of the mission is to get people off the street and into stable housing. They offer an employment resource center for the employable which follows an ABC approach: A-- get **A** job, B-- get a **Better** job, and C-- get a **Career**. They also assist people to obtain disability payments if they are not employable in order to provide them with a stable source of income for housing. The city of Denver provides some of the funding to finance Catholic Charities' shelter program's \$21,000,000 annual budget, but Lakewood and other Jefferson County governments do not support the shelters. The need is great and expanding. For example, Marisol Home, housing single women with children, can shelter 16 women at one time while 80 women are currently on the waiting list for sheltering there.



Michael Sinnett, Catholic Charities' VP of Shelters, speaks at the Serra Club December meeting

PRIEST/ DEACON ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Rev	Javier Nieva, DCIM	January 8, 2000	Saint Mary
Dcn	John Tran	January 15, 2011	Christ on the Mountain
Dcn	Michael Grafner	January 25, 2014	Christ the King
Dcn	Mark Wolbach	January 25, 2014	Light of the World
Dcn	Joe Hensley	January 25, 2003	Saint Jude

*Joy to the World!
The Lord is come.*

Merry Christmas



Always forward, never back.

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.