



Serra Club of Southwest Denver

NEWSLETTER

January 2022

< 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 29, 2022 at 7:00 AM – Serra International Global Rosary**
- **February 2 & 5-6, 2022 – World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life**
- **February 10, 2022 at 8:00 AM – Affirmation Mass at Notre Dame Church**
- **February 12, 2021 at 10:00 AM – Serra MEETS on-line video presentation**
- **July 14-17, 2022 – Serra International Convention in Toronto, Canada**

TRAVELING CROSS:

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

February 4 – February 18: Ralph Hooyboer
February 18 – March 4: Dennis Lebar

ATTENDANCE & GUESTS:

January 7, 2022 (25 members and 3 guests attended the meeting). Our guests were Deacon Phil Crist and his wife from St. Bernadette and our speaker, Father Tom McCormick.

January 21, 2022 (26 members and no guests attended the meeting).

DEACON'S CORNER

January 7, 2022

Our chaplain, Deacon Don, quizzed us on the Feast of Epiphany, noting epiphany means manifestation of the Lord. Epiphany is the “official” end of the Christmas Season (12 days after Christmas day). According to tradition, 3 wise men came to pay homage to the Lord bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Gold denotes the kingly role of Jesus Christ, frankincense denotes the divine nature of Christ, and myrrh foreshadows the death of Christ.) We also learned the patron saint of pawn brokers is St. Nicholas and the patron saint(s) of physicians include St. Luke, St. Rafael, and St. Damian. Catholic Worker communities of the Catholic Worker Movement operate 187 houses of hospitality for the homeless. Hospitality is one of the twelve values of the Benedictine Order. For this reason, Benedictines will accommodate one seeking shelter at one of their monasteries.



January 21, 2022

Deacon Don briefly recounted some history of St. Junipero Serra including Serra's 250 mile walk across Mexico from Vera Cruz to Mexico City with an injured leg. After 18 years in the missions of Mexico, St. Serra accompanied the Spanish military to California. After establishing numerous missions in California, Serra made the 900-mile trip to Mexico City (on his yet bad leg) to settle great differences with the military commander. He arrived at the point of death. The outcome was substantially what St. Serra sought: the famous "Regulation" protecting the indigenous people and the missions and the basis for the first significant legislation in California, a "Bill of Rights" for the indigenous Americans. St. Serra protected, loved, and cared for the indigenous people of California. Deacon Don then noted the previous day had been the feast day for St. Sebastian and recounted the martyring of St. Sebastian who served as captain of the Roman Emperor Diocletian's body guard. In 286 AD Sebastian was exposed as a Christian. The emperor ordered Sebastian to be tied to a stake and used for target practice by archers. Sebastian was pierced with numerous arrows and left for dead, but survived the attempted execution. After recovering from wounds, he returned to surprise the emperor and upbraided him publicly for mistreating Christians. The surprised emperor then ordered Sebastian to be beaten to death. St. Sebastian is the patron saint of soldiers and athletes. Finally, we learned that Moses is mentioned more than 700 times in the Old Testament, an apostate is a baptized Catholic who rejects the faith, St. Vincent is the patron saint of wine growers, a sodality is an organization of lay persons dedicated to piety, and the appropriate title used to address the pope is "Your Holiness".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 7, 2022

- **Henry Nieto:** Thanked the Fellowship Committee for organizing the club's Christmas Party.
- **Dixie Schulte:** Distributed prayer cards to attending club members. The cards include prayers and information about our club on one side and a listing of the priests at the 16 parishes affiliated with our club on the other side. The club printed 1000 cards to be distributed to our 16 affiliated parishes and any interested parishioners or prospective club members.
- **Karen Mandolfo:** Advised us she has recently updated the club roster. Anyone wishing a color copy of the roster can contact Karen.
- **John Scruggs:** said the next Affirmation Mass will be on January 13 at the noon Mass at All Souls. Lunch will follow at Romano's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria on Windemere north of Littleton Blvd.
- **Tom Scherer:** will speak at our next meeting about his plans for this year's membership campaign.
- **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 21, 2022

- **Ralph Hooyboer:** told us Catholic Schools Week is celebrated during the last week of January each year. This year's theme is Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.
- **John Scruggs:** announced the next Affirmation Mass will be on Thursday, February 10 at 8:00 am at Notre Dame Church. Breakfast will follow the mass at Rosemary's Café.
- **Richard Schwappach:** advised us Fr. Isidore Orjikwe, Parochial Vicar at Light of the World Church will be our speaker at the February 4 meeting. He will speak of his experiences in Africa.

PROGRAMS

January 7, 2022

Father Tom McCormick was our speaker today. Fr. McCormick is a retired priest who was ordained in 1959 in Lincoln, NE by Bishop Samuel Casey. He describes himself as “God’s spoiled kid”. He began his priesthood in a parish east of Lincoln, Nebraska and supported the cause of African Americans during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960’s. In 1965, he participated in the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama with Martin Luther King to protest voter registration restrictions. He also participated in the civil rights and farm worker’s movement of Cesar Chavez in California. Fr. McCormick embraced the spirituality of Blessed Charles de Foucauld (who is to be canonized this May) in an organization called the Fraternity of Priests. His spiritual community was a group of a half dozen priests involved with social issues who lived simple lives, met one day each month for a “review of life”, and shared scriptures. A celebrant of littleness, Fr. McCormick pointed out the simplicity and littleness of the birth of Jesus Christ (we celebrate at Christmas) as an extremely little manifestation of God. Fr. McCormick also spoke of the upcoming Synodality the Pope is undertaking. The Church is listening and hoping to hear how it can reconcile divisions in the Church and reach the many people who have fallen away from the Church. He also shared a bit about his living accommodations at the Elijah House located at the John Paul II Center.



Father Tom McCormick



Serrans at Romano’s after Affirmation Mass at All Souls Church

January 21, 2022

Our speaker was Tom Scherer, VP of Membership for our club. Tom began with a review of the declining number of priests and increasing Catholic populations in the U.S. based on data from CARA, Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University (cara.georgetown.edu). He then spoke of the ongoing need for the club to increase membership and presented a strategy to do so. Our hope is to gain one member from at least four of the eight parishes affiliated with our club who do not currently have a representative in the club and to gain one additional member from each of the four parishes that currently have only one member in the club. This outreach will require the participation and prayers of all members in the club to support the parish liaisons and members of the engaged parishes. Tom also mentioned the current membership contest of Serra International that is offering financial incentives for clubs that can increase their membership by five members or more. Tom reminded us, “Our prayers are strong and our need is great”.

2021 CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's Christmas party was held on Tuesday, December 21 at Café Jordano in Lakewood, CO. The mood was festive, the food was excellent, and a good time was had by all. Festivities included a white elephant gift exchange... with actual white elephants!



Serra Club of Southwest Denver 2021 Christmas Party at Café Jordano in Lakewood, Colorado

PRIEST/ DEACON ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Dcn Roberto Rodriguez Cruz

February 25, 2017

St. Anthony of Padua



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.