NEWSLETTER

Serra Club of Colorado Springs

February 2, 2012

"Always forward, never back"

Dear Serrans,

We're looking forward to the Annual Serra Dinner at Giuseppe's Old Depot at 6pm on February 2nd. We will not have a Serra Meeting that morning. If you have not signed up for the dinner, please give me a call at 447-1999. Our speakers are Bishop Sheridan and Serra District 6 Governor, Sue Husler. This is a great time for Serra fellowship. Bring your spouse or other guests.

A program we have briefly discussed at our last two meeting is the "Serra Unity in Prayer and Action." This initiative is called "Pray for Priests Year 2012." The recommendation is that both Serrans and non-Serrans cultivate the practice of praying for a particular priest by name every day for one year. So, please join this important effort in Thanksgiving to God the Father for the gift of the priesthood, the gift of our priests to the Church.

There is a Serra Blog at battleforthecoreoftheworld.blogspot.com. Another blog is the Catholic Register at http://www.ncregister.com/blog/staff-bloggers/. Also, Serra's own YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/SerraVocations. Serra also has a Facebook site. These will keep you busy!

The 70th 2012 Serra International Convention will be in the Diocese of Providence located in Rhode Island. Dates are June 21-23. If you wish more information, let me know.

One of my favorite statements about Catholicism is the following:

"The Catholic Church is a large ship crossing the sea and underway part of the crew disagreed with some of the ship's rules and built rafts from lumber of the ship; abandoned the large ship, starting off on their own. The further way they moved the more radical they were. Some new rafts were made from material from the other rafts and each time they became more removed from the main ship. The first ship carried its crew to the foreign shores much more easily than any of the rafts that were adrift at sea." This is an interesting analogy of the True Church and the reform churches.

The USA Serra Council and Serra International court proceedings continue. An exchange of challenges was given to the court on January 17th. No additional information has been forthcoming.

Longtime member Ian Rutherford has left the club and we will miss him. Susan DeFosset will be taking Ian's place in Communications.

A Nomination Committee has been formed to for next year's officers. Please be open to serving if you are contacted. As we say, the only time you can say "no" is when you are asked to join Serra!

Mary, Mother of Vocations, pray for us

God Bless,

Dave O'Keeffe
President

SerraUS versus Serra International

After writing the February Presidents Letter, Serra Club Presidents throughout the US received a letter from the Serra International (SI) President, Thomas A. Wong, dated January 19, 2012. Contrary to what we believed regarding a possible law suit or mediation, the letter stated that "the SI Governing Board voted 12/12/2011 to withdraw its approval of Serra's National Council (USAC)."

The letter also indicated that this action was called for in the "Omaha Agreement" December 3, 2007. This statement appears to be in error since this issue was not agreed to in the "Omaha Agreement."

The letter appears to have a number of discrepancies which I have discussed last night (1/26/2012) with several past and present USAC officials, only one of which had seen the 12/19/2012 letter. Without going into further detail, I'll have copies of the SI letter available at the February 2nd dinner. In addition, I will be attending a District 6 meeting in Denver on January 28 where this issue will be discussed.

The Colorado Springs Serra Club Board of Directors voted months ago to not pay SI dues until this issue was resolved. This new, non-transparent, unilateral decision from SI needs further discussion by your board and members as well as District 6 and USAC officers.

SERRA UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2	**Annual Serra Banquet at Giuseppe's Depot (no morning meeting)**
February 5	**World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life**
February 16	**Serra Club meeting** and lunch following 12:10 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral Center, 22 W. Kiowa.
Marcy 1	**Serra Club meeting** and breakfast after the 7 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral Center, 22 W. Kiowa. New members will be installed.
March 15	**Serra Club meeting** and lunch after the 12:10 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral Center, 22 W. Kiowa.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

February 4	**Rev. James Baron** birthday
February 10	**Rev. Brian Roeseler** birthday
February 10	**Rev. Myron Flax**, OFM Cap ordination anniversary
February 13	**Rev. Cyrus Gallagher**, OFM Cap ordination anniversary
February 17	**Rev. Dennis Grabrian** birthday
February 23	**Rev. Onyema Okorie** birthday
February 25	**Rev. John Krenzke** birthday
February 25	**Rev. Anthony Gagliardo** ordination anniversary

VOCATIONS CORNER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 is World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. Give thanks to God for those sisters and brothers who have taught you, counseled you, and modeled for you the Christ-centered vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. If you know any consecrated religious, call them up and wish them a happy day or send a thank-you note to those who work in your parish. A complete packet of liturgy, homilies, intercessions, and prayers are available to pastors and liturgists at www.serraus.org. Let's celebrate this vocation! (Call 719-593-9735 for more ideas.)

ARE YOU READY FOR LENT? If not, consider offering up an hour a week of your valuable time to the Lord in Adoration. Spend the time asking the Lord what He would like from you this Lent. Pray for vocations, especially for those who are struggling to find the right path. Give thought to your own path and see where you might take the advice of St John the Baptist and "make straight the way of the Lord". No matter how you spend your time with Jesus, you will not "lose" that hour; you will gain an eternity.

SIEMPRE ADELANTE,

CHARLENE

MEMBERSHIP BY HELENE KNAPP

I hope many of you will put an announcement in your church bulletin about our Anniversary dinner on Feb. 2 and assure your congregation that guests are welcome. Give your own name as contact and mention that Bishop Sheridan is the guest speaker. We need a good turnout for the bishop and our district governor.

SPEAKERS

On February 2, Bishop Michael Sheridan and Serra District Sue Husler will speak at the Serra anniversary dinner. On February 16, Stan Vanderweres will speak about his civilian observation in Iraq.

THANK YOU CATERERS

Thanks in advance to Eve Hart who will provide breakfast on February 16th.

SAINT OF THE DAY: February 23
St. Polycarp
(d. 156)

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna (modern Izmir, Turkey), disciple of St. John the Apostle and friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century.

St. Ignatius, on his way to Rome to be martyred, visited Polycarp at Smyrna, and later at Troas wrote him a personal letter. The Asia Minor Churches recognized Polycarp's leadership by choosing him as a representative to discuss with Pope Anicetus the date of the Easter celebration in Rome—a major controversy in the early Church.

Only one of the many letters written by Polycarp has been preserved, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi in Macedonia.

At 86, Polycarp was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the saint's body burned. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr's death. He died in 156.

WE HAVE A SERRA WEBSITE!!!
http://www.diocs.org/Vocations/SerraClub.aspx

QUARTERLY CALENDAR

3/4/12 Bishop Michael Sheridan birthday
3/1712 Rev. Patrick Battiato birthday
3/21/12 Rev. Brad Noonan birthday
4/3/12 Seminarian John Stearns birthday
4/5/12 Rev. Donald Dilg, CSC ordination anniversary
4/12/12 Seminarian Jason Keas birthday
4/12/12 Seminarian Erin Kochivar birthday
4/16/12 Rev. Stephane Dupre, FSSP birthday
4/17/12 Rev. Francisco Quezada birthday
4/18/12 Rev. Vincent Kuna, CSC ordination anniversary
4/20/12 Rev. Michael Butler birthday
4/26/12 Rev. Donald Dilg, CSC birthday
4/27/12 Rev. Mark Zacker birthday5/1/54 Rev. Francis Maher ordination anniversary
5/4/12 Rev. George Fagan birthday
5/9/12 Msgr. Ricardo Coronado-Arrascue birthday
5/9/12 Msgr. Ricardo Coronado-Arrascue ordination anniversary
5/11/12 Rev. Richard Dunphy, SJ ordination anniversary
5/11/12 Rev. Edward Kinerk, SJ ordination anniversary
5/14/12 Rev. James Klein birthday
5/15/12 Rev Patrick Battiato ordination anniversary
5/17/12 Rev. Kirk Slattery ordination anniversary
5/19/12 Rev. John Auer ordination anniversary
5/21/12 Rev. Kenneth Przybyla ordination anniversary
5/24/12 Rev. John Toepfer, OFM Cap ordination anniversary
5/25/12 Rev John Krenzke ordination anniversary
5/27/12 Rev. Ernest Bond ordination anniversary
5/27/12 Rev. Donald Brownstein birthday
5/28/12 Rev. Lawrence Brennan birthday
5/29/12 Rev. David Price ordination anniversary
5/29/12 Rev. Timothy Corbley, IV DEI ordination anniversary
5/29/12 Bishop Michael Sheridan ordination anniversary
5/30/12 Rev. Dennis Grabrian ordination anniversary
5/30/12 Rev. Bogdan Siewiera ordination anniversary

5/30/12 Rev. Gregory Golyzniak ordination anniversary
5/31/12 Rev. Michael Butler ordination anniversary
5/31/12 Rev. Andrzej Szczesnowicz ordination anniversary
5/31/12 Rev. Joseph Halloran ordination anniversary
5/31/12 Rev. William Vollmer ordination anniversary

PLEASE WRITE OUR SEMINARIANS

(You can also contact the seminarians through the future priest website at www.futurepriest.com.)

Greg Bierbaum, Blessed John XXIII National Seminary, 558 South Avenue, Weston, Massachusetts 02493

David Boroff, pastoral year at St. Paul's, 9 El Pomar Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906 dgboroff@yahoo.com (760)831-4151

Michael Patrick Buckley, Kenrick Glennon Seminary, 5200 Glennon Dr., St. Louis, Missouri 63119-4330 Tounces2@earthlink.net

Michael Holmquist, Kenrick Glennon Seminary, 5200 Glennon Dr, St Louis, Missouri 63119 mholmquist@gmail.com (719)229-0701

Jason Keas, St. John Vianney Seminary, 1300 S. Steele St, Denver, Colorado 80210 (719)331-7768, jmkeas@yahoo.com,

Erin Albert Kochivar, St**.** Gregory the Great Seminary, 800 Fletcher Road, Seward, Nebraska 68434-8145 kochivar.kochivar@gmail.com

Sean Michael McCann, St**.** Gregory the Great Seminary, 800 Fletcher Road, Seward, Nebraska 68434-8145 irishseanrc@hotmail.com

Peter Morgan, St. John Vianney Seminary, 1300 S. Steele St, Denver, Colorado 80210**,** peter.morgan@archden.org

Geoffrey Christopher Phelps, St. John Vianney Seminary, 1300 S. Steele St, Denver, Colorado 80210 geoffrey.phelps@gmail.com

Joshua Quintana, St. Gregory the Great Seminary, 800 Fletcher Road, Seward, Nebraska 68434-8145 (719)238-495 6 Joshua.A.Quintana@gmail.com

Eric Rasmussen, c/o Bishop Michael Sheridan Diocese of Colorado Springs, 228 N. Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 usceric@yahoo.com

John Stearns, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, 5200 Glennon Dr., St. Louis, MO 63119-4330 john-stearns@hotmail.com

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Mondays prior to Colorado Springs Serra Club meetings (1st & 3rd Thursdays): deadline for your submissions to CS Serra Club Newsletter
(monica@rgdawson.com719-531-9565)