

NEWSLETTER

November 3, 2011



Serra Club of Colorado Springs

"Always forward, never back"



On September 24th Jason Keas was installed as an acolyte with his class at the St. John Vianney Seminary. The next step in seminary formation is the ordination as a transitional deacon. Jason Keas and David are both acolytes and God willing be ordained transitional deacons in the spring in the Diocese of Colorado Springs.

Dear Serrans,

As we reach the mid-point of our Serra year we need to pause and review our accomplishments, look at our successes, and plan for activities during the next six months to achieve our objectives for increasing and supporting priestly and religious vocations. You might say we are receiving our mid-term report card and now need to see where we can enhance and increase our grades.

This past week we had a meeting with Bishop Sheridan and reviewed our activities and thanked him for his participation in the Walk for Vocations. Topics we discussed included objectives in the Bishops Pastoral plan that the Serra Club can help achieve. Among these were several important to our mission:

- To establish a Vocations Team in every parish
- To recruit members from across the diocese for the Serra Club
- To encourage communications with and prayerful support from parishioners for each seminarian

Bishop Sheridan plans to discuss the first objective and its importance with the parish priests. We will provide him with the Vocations Team "turn-key" package provided by member Charlene

Pardo to distribute to the parishes. Serra member action will be to follow-up with the priests to offer whatever assistance they may need.

The second objective is to recruit new members for the Serra Club. The Bishop suggested that we perhaps need to plan a special event meeting for potential members suggested by the pastors. We'll need to discuss this in greater detail to determine the feasibility and organization. Bishop Sheridan will help where he can.

The third objective, support for seminarians, is going well our Adopt a Seminarian program and 31 Club. The key question to ask ourselves is, "Do we have active 31 Clubs in all the parishes. We have great material available to assist each parish to put this plan in place. If your parish doesn't have a 31 Club we need to get started. Daily mass attendees are a great source. Ask your pastor for support from the pulpit.

We also discussed with the Bishop the need for a chaplain at our meetings. Fr. Brennan's schedule is very full and at best can only attend our afternoon meetings. We're working with him to identify an assistant.

We have, also, started another series of priest discernment interviews to be published in the Colorado Catholic Herald. Down the line we plan to publish another issue of "It Is a Great Life..." Recently, Fr. Ken Przybyla of St. Francis Parish and Fr. John Toepfer of St. Mary's Cathedral have been interviewed. "It Is a Great Life..." is an excellent program for individuals discerning a vocation. Be sure your pastor has an adequate number of books to distribute as the need arises. National Vocations Week is January 8th-14th.

Our speakers during October were excellent – Serra member Rich Cleveland discussed the Emmaus Journey organization and its evangelical mission. Bob Doerfler, Diocesan Chief Financial Officer explained thoroughly and in depth the Diocese finances. We now have a good idea of where the money flows.

Our Serra Board discussed our finances and at the present time we are healthy both in savings as well as day-to-day expenses. We do need all members to pay their dues. At this time we are only billing US Serra dues and not Serra International. The board has decided that at this time we will hold back on Serra International dues until there is a settlement of the dispute between USAC and SI.

Mary, Mother of Vocations, Pray for Us.

Yours in Christ
Dave O'Keeffe

SERRA UPCOMING EVENTS

November 3 **Club Meeting at 7:30 a.m.** following 7 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral Center, 22 W. Kiowa.

November 17 **Club Meeting following noon mass at St. Paul's Parish**, 9 El Pomar Road with Msgr. Bob Jaeger, pastor, officiating. Lunch will follow in the Julie Penrose Hall, provided by the St. Paul 31Club members. The speaker will be David Boroff, seminarian, who will share his vocation story. All members are encouraged to attend this inaugural meeting of "bringing our club" to parishes in the diocese.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

November 3 **Rev. Kirk Slattery** birthday
November 5 **Rev. Gus Stewart** ordination anniversary
November 26 **Rev. John Toepfer**, OFM Cap birthday
November 26 **Seminarian Geoffrey Phelps** birthday
November 29 **Rev. James Ponce** birthday

VOCATIONS CORNER

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED family, friends, and Serrans during the month of November. The Serra Club will honor our departed brothers and sisters by praying for them by name at the November 3 meeting. Pray especially for the deceased clergy and religious who catechized you and brought you the sacraments during their lifetime. Show your gratitude for their vocation by praying for them now.

A WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT WEEKEND will be held will be held November 5, 2011 from 10:00-3:30 in Denver. The Little Sisters of the Poor are sponsoring this retreat for single women 17-35 interested in a religious life and serving the poor. Please call Sr. Carolyn at 303.433.7221 for more information.

HOW DID YOU CELEBRATE Priesthood Sunday? Let me know which activities from our Priesthood Sunday suggestion sheet worked best in your parish. Which ideas would you use again? Which ones would you like to try next year? Positive and negative feedback welcome at csserran@comcast.net so we can improve the program for 2012.

MEDITATION: The twelve apostles, the men handpicked by Jesus Christ to be his priests, were unaware that they had a vocation until the day Jesus called them. Although they were devout Jews, the apostles were laymen already gainfully employed in other industries (commercial fishing, tax collecting). They did not spend months in prayerful discernment before accepting the Lord's call; they just followed him. I imagine that it was only the Lord's own prayers long before and every day after he called them that made those men suddenly change the direction of their lives and ours. Your prayers for vocations can also change lives. Do not underestimate your role in the formation of priests, deacons, and religious that you pray for. Keep up the good work!

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**SIEMPRE ADELANTE,
CHARLENE (For more help or other ideas, call 593-9735)**

MEMBERSHIP by Helene Knapp

Priesthood Sunday gave all of us an opportunity to spread the word about Serra and to spread awareness of our club's mission. We must use all of these opportunities to stir interest in our club and promote membership. St. Paul Parish published my announcement in the bulletin, included prayers for our two priests in the Prayers of the Faithful, and after each Mass, a member of the parish council read a beautiful prayer, with the congregation raising arms in a blessing, and presented a gift to the celebrant. What did your parish do to honor your pastor? Why not give a report to Charlene so we can all be apprised of the efforts made in response to

her many suggestions? Since we have 10 parishes represented by our membership, we should have ten reports minimum. Let's all continue to try to bring guests to our meetings and to be pro-active for Serra in our parishes and church-related activities.

BREAKFAST CATERERS

Thanks in advance to Joan Gawlik who will provide breakfast on November 3rd and St. Paul's 31 club members who will serve us lunch at St. Paul's on November 17th.

SAINT OF THE DAY: November 2 Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

The Church has encouraged prayer for the dead from the earliest times as an act of Christian charity. "If we had no care for the dead," Augustine noted, "we would not be in the habit of praying for them." Yet pre-Christian rites for the deceased retained such a strong hold on the superstitious imagination that a liturgical commemoration was not observed until the early Middle Ages, when monastic communities began to mark an annual day of prayer for the departed members.

In the middle of the 11th century, St. Odilo, abbot of Cluny (France), decreed that all Cluniac monasteries offer special prayers and sing the Office for the Dead on November 2, the day after the feast of All Saints. The custom spread from Cluny and was finally adopted throughout the Roman Church.

The theological underpinning of the feast is the acknowledgment of human frailty. Since few people achieve perfection in this life but, rather, go to the grave still scarred with traces of sinfulness, some period of purification seems necessary before a soul comes face-to-face with God. The Council of Trent affirmed this purgatory state and insisted that the prayers of the living can speed the process of purification.

Superstition easily clung to the observance. Medieval popular belief held that the souls in purgatory could appear on this day in the form of witches, toads or will-o'-the-wisps. Graveside food offerings supposedly eased the rest of the dead.

Observances of a more religious nature have survived. These include public processions or private visits to cemeteries and decorating graves with flowers and lights. This feast is observed with great fervor in Mexico.

WE HAVE A SERRA WEBSITE!!!

<http://www.diocs.org/Vocations/SerraClub.aspx>

QUARTERLY CALENDAR

12/12/11 Rev Don Dunn birthday
12/13/11 Rev James Halloran (Ret.) birthday
12/17/11 Rev. Ernie Bond birthday
12/17/11 Rev. Rafael Torres-Rico birthday
12/18/11 Rev. Lawrence Brennan ordination anniversary
12/18/11 Rev. Brad Noonan ordination anniversary
12/18/11 Rev. Paul Wicker ordination anniversary

12/18/11 Rev. James Halloran, (Ret.) ordination anniversary
12/19/11 Rev. George Fagan ordination anniversary
12/19/11 Rev. Robert Epping CSC ordination anniversary
12/20/11 Rev. Donald Dunn ordination anniversary
12/20/11 Rev. Joseph Halloran (Ret.) birthday
12/21/11 Rev. Bogdan Siewiera birthday
12/22/11 Rev. Robert Newbury ordination anniversary
1/6/11 Rev. Jim Williams birthday
1/8/-1/14/11 National Vocations Awareness Week
1/18/11 Rev. C. Robert Manning ordination anniversary
1/9/11 Rev. Francisco Quezada ordination anniversary
1/21/11 Rev. Steve Parlet birthday
2/3/11 Colorado Springs Serra Club Chartering anniversary
2/4/11 Rev. James Baron birthday
2/4/11 World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
2/10/11 Rev. Brian Roeseler birthday
2/10/11 Rev. Myron Flax, OFM Cap ordination anniversary
2/13/11 Rev. Cyrus Gallagher, OFM Cap ordination anniversary
2/17/11 Rev. Dennis Grabrian birthday
2/23/11 Rev. Onyema Okorie birthday
2/25/11 Rev. John Krenzke birthday
2/25/11 Rev. Anthony Gagliardo 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

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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

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

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Joshua Quintana, St. Gregory the Great Seminary, 800 Fletcher Road, Seward, Nebraska 68434-8145 (719)238-4956 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

Mondays prior to Colorado Springs Serra Club meetings (1st & 3rd Thursdays): deadline for your submissions to CS Serra Club Newsletter (monica@rgdawson.com 719-531-9565)