



ST. SERRA CLUB OF COLORADO SPRINGS
NEWSLETTER – July 2023
“Always forward, never back”

President Janet Zabukovic’s Message



Dear Fellow Serrans:

After a very rainy and cool spring, summer is finally here and has brought hot days, green grass, flowers, warm sunshine, and azure blue skies. But sometimes summer also brings not such great weather in the form of oppressive heat, damaging winds, heavy rains, hail, thunder, and lightning. As I was looking for inspiration for this month’s article, I was struck with the similarities between summer and life. Sometimes, life goes along full of sunshine and warmth and beauty, and sometimes life seems to be caught directly under the ominous, dark clouds of a torrential thunderstorm. It’s easy to be joyful and optimistic when the sun is shining, but it can be challenging to do the same when you’re being rained on!

I was thinking about this as I listened to my good friend and her husband deal with the loss of a man who played a pivotal role in their lives. And, again I thought about it as I was dealing with the cancer diagnosis of a young man from my parish that is much loved. It’s hard not to think about why bad things happen to good people, but we shouldn’t let ourselves get mired down in sorrow or anger or any of the other natural emotions that accompany upsetting news.

It is exactly when we are living our lives under a raincloud that we most need our faith and most need to pray. It is at those times that we often turn to our Priests for help in finding peace of heart, when we most need to go to confession to help us remember that God is God and we are not and to be reconciled to God, when we ask our Priests for their guidance in helping us to accept the turbulence and trust in God’s plan for us.

Imagine if we didn’t have our Catholic faith and our Priests to turn to, Priests to hear our spiritual pain and struggles and guide us, Priests to *in persona Christi* absolve us of our sins and encourage us as we move forward.

Whether you are currently living your life under warm, sunny skies surrounded by beauty or you are currently living under a raincloud, let’s all of us remember to take time to pray for our Priests and Seminarians and to thank God for them answering His call to serve God and the people of the Church.

Jan Zabukovic

Prayer List

Continue to pray for all our members, especially: Linda and Joe DiBenedittis, Loretta Bocast, Janet Clouse, Rudy Legleiter, Mary Hayes, Joan Gawlik and her family, and Bishop Richard Hanifen. Pray also for the repose of the soul of Betty Plush, and for Tom Plush, who is in rehab.

1st Thursday Prayer Hour – July 6

Please join us for the **Serra Prayer for Vocations Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet.**

Monthly from 11:00am - noon on the first Thursday.

We have **in-person** prayers at **St. Mary's Cathedral.**

Prayers begin at 11am; you are welcome to stay for Mass at 12:10pm.

The Rosary and Chaplet is also available on-line by zoom for those who cannot come in-person. The link to the zoom meeting is below.

Thursday, July 6 at 11:00am

<https://zoom.us/j/9955357113>

Click on "Join a Meeting"

Enter Meeting ID: 995 535 7113

Annual Seminarian Summer Luncheon Tuesday, July 18, 2023

(This picnic takes the place of our monthly 3rd Thursday gathering.)

Please join us as we host our current and new Seminarians at the St. John Henry Newman Center and Chapel! Our Seminarians are finishing their summer assignments and will start their Retreat with Father Kyle after this luncheon. They will soon be heading to Seminary and turning their attention to their studies. Let's give them a proper send-off! We will start at 11:30am with adoration, followed by Mass at noon. The food for the luncheon will be graciously provided by Yvonne and Jerry Schaefer (affectionately known as "Y & I"), but we need a headcount, so please respond to the email address below by July 15th!

For more information or to RSVP, contact: SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net

Serra Meets – July 8 with David Rinaldi



David Rinaldi, President of NET Ministries, will be our speaker. His talk will be "Cultivating Hearts for Vocations."

Join David Rinaldi on Saturday, July 8, at 10:00 MST.

David is originally from Connecticut and graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1989 with a B.A. in Communications. He serves as the President of NET Ministries, the national organization that challenges young Catholics, through relational ministry, to follow Christ and embrace a life of community in the Church. David holds a Master's Degree in Theology from Ave Maria University and has 30 years of ministry experience with youth and young adults. He and his wife Linda have three teenage sons and live in South St Paul, MN. [Click to Join the Webinar](#) Passcode: 853558

For more info: <https://serraus.org/serra-meets/>

Annual Priest and Seminarian Appreciation Day!

On July 10th, the Catholic Radio Network will host the **Colorado Annual Priest and Seminarian Appreciation Day** at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Littleton. In addition to a day of friendly competition of golf, tennis, other games, and relaxing meals, the priests and final-year seminarians are gifted with a new, tailored suit or winter coat. Last year, our St. Serra Apostolate donated \$350.00 to sponsor a suit. If you would like to donate money toward a suit, please contact Ray Gentilini, Serra Treasurer, at SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net. Our Board approved covering any difference so that we'll have enough funds to provide for at least one suit for our holy men.

Welcome to our new Serra Members!

We're thrilled to welcome our new supporters of vocations!

Michael Larsen
Michael Lehnertz

Fran Rutherford
Larry Rutherford

Mike Schell
Patricia Schell

Luncheon Helpers Needed!

In addition to our Mass and our guest speakers, an important aspect of our monthly Serra programs is LUNCH. As such, we will be asking for members to join the Programs Committee to help ensure the lunch is efficiently handled each month. For our Tuesday July 18th gathering, we will be hosting the seminarians before they head off for their summer retreat. The food for the luncheon will be graciously provided by Yvonne and Jerry Schaefer ("Y & I"). Since we expect about 60 people to attend, we need lots of help with setup, cleanup and tear down. Likewise in August when we host the Sister's Appreciation Luncheon.

Please contact us to sign-up at SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net. Thank you.

Rite of Candidacy, July 21, 2023

Five seminarians, James McCann, Mark Rocco, Vincent Smith, Kevin Ward, and Joshua Wojcik, will receive the Rite of Candidacy from Bishop Golka at the Cathedral on July 21 at the 12:10 Mass. This signifies their readiness to continue with their studies as they enter First Theology. Please pray for these men as they progress on their journey to the Priesthood!

SAVE THE DATES!! Upcoming Serra Club Events

Aug 17 Sisters Appreciation Luncheon – Food provided by "Y&I"
Aug 25 Newman Center Welcome dinner for College Students
Sept 21 Membership Recruitment Lunch with Bishop James Golka
Oct 14 District Six Convention (state of Colorado), will be held at St. Thomas More Church in Lone Tree/Centennial area south of Denver. (NO monthly gathering in October.)

Support Vocations!! Tell young men you know about:

The Catholic Diocese of Colorado Springs – Priest Vocation Discernment Retreat

SAVE THE DATE: Have you ever thought about becoming a priest? On Saturday, July 22, the Diocese of Colorado Springs will host a half-day retreat and invites men between the ages of 12 - 45. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the discernment process and determine if God is calling you to a priestly vocation. The retreat will be held at the St. John Henry Newman Center located at 4785 Stanton Rd, Colorado Springs, near the campus of UCCS. The retreat starts at 2:00PM and will focus on the discernment process and will have presentations by priests and laity, Adoration, Reconciliation, and Mass followed by the K of C grilling hamburgers and brats for the attendees. Please extend this invitation to your friends, family, and parishioners and refer questions and RSVPs to Mike at mlehnertz@icloud.com by July 17, 2023.

Dress is Business Casual.

Ordination to the Priesthood – June 10, 2023

Congratulations to Fr. Thomas Pressley!



Ordination- Photo by Mikel-Gamber Photography



First Mass- Photo by kayleetoole.pixieset.com



Fr Pressley is assigned to St. Patrick in Colorado Springs.

Ordination- Photo by Mikel-Gamber Photography

June 15 Gathering with Speaker Jamie Crane



Jamie Crane, Director of Stewardship and Development, and Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Colorado Springs, is leading a Vocation Appeal for Bishop Golka (primarily focused on Seminarians) in the Fall of 2023. Jamie gave a presentation of how this can coordinate with the work that Serra does.

Seven Serran Prayer Program

Several years ago, the Serra US Council established a prayer program to ensure every vocation director in the US has at least one Serran praying for him for one hour each day of the year. Each Serra Club was asked to organize seven-member teams whose members agree to commit to one hour of prayer (Mass, Holy Hour, rosary, or other prayers) each week in support of their Vocation Director. The St. Serra Apostolate of CO Springs prayer team has been praying for Fr.

Kyle the past year. If you are currently a member of the prayer team or if you have not participated and would like to commit to praying for Fr. Kyle and his work for one hour on a specific day every week, please notify Jan Zabukovic at JRZabukovic@comcast.net. Thank you for your consideration in participating in this very important ministry.

Thanks to all who have signed up for the 31 Club!

Your commitment to **attend Mass or pray a Holy Hour one day a month for vocations** will certainly strengthen present vocations as well as awaken new ones. If you have not joined the 31 Club yet, please choose one of the empty dates below and contact Charlene at SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net to be added to this roster.

31 CLUB ROSTER

DAY of the Month. Name

1. Rose Marie Stimpfl
2. Mary Ellen Castillo
3. Dennis and Jan Palsgrove
4. Ray Gentilini
5. Bill McNamara
6. Marty Broestl and Loretta Bocast
7. Mary Helen Miller
8. Nell Smith
9. Kathy Bull
10. Pat Van Matre

DAY of the Month. Name

11. Laura Jean Hawley
- 12.
13. Helene Knapp
- 14.
15. Joel Kostyrka
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
19. Charlene Pardo
20. Beth Pressley
21. Jerry Schaefer
22. Sue Harman

DAY of the Month. Name

23. Patty O'Connell
- 24.
25. Eleanor Gentilini
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
30. Jon and Claudine Duncan
31. Connie Pratt

International Serra Convention in Thailand

Eleanor and Ray Gentilini attended this meeting. Info and photos will be shared in the August newsletter!



Priest Ordinations for July 2023

Rev. Amlsom G. Gawed, OFM Cap July 11, 1999
Rev. James Williams August 2, 1997

Priest Birthdays for July 2023

Rev. David Volker	1-Jul
Rev. Dong Young (Augustine) Kim	5-Jul
Rev. Gene Emrisek, OFM Cap	16-Jul
Rev. Gregory Bierbaum	25-Jul
Rev. Don Billiard, OFM	28-Jul
Rev. Carlos Gallardo-Morales	2-Aug
Rev. Michael P. Buckley	3-Aug
Rev. William Kraus, OFM Cap	3-Aug
Rev. Kenneth Przybyla	6-Aug

Pray for Vocations!

We are asking all Serra members and friends to please take time to pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet for vocations on First Thursdays at 11:00am or any other time, at your parish or at home, even if you are not able to participate with us in-person or online.


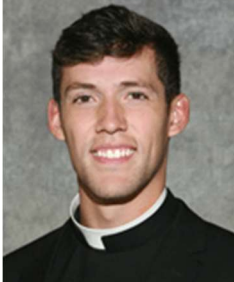




Serra Club Current Officers

President – Jan Zabukovic
Vice-President – Joel Kostyrka
Secretary – Marty Broestl
Treasurer – Ray Gentilini
VP Vocations – Jon and Claudine Duncan
VP Programs – Jerry Schaefer
VP Communications – Beth Pressley
VP Membership – Pat Van Matre
Trustees – Charlene Pardo, Eleanor Gentilini
And Rose Marie Stimpfl
Serra Foundation - Charlene Pardo
Newsletter Editor – Beth Pressley

Contact Beth to be added to our Newsletter email list at: medmep@sbcglobal.net

Contact Serra Club of Colorado Springs: SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net

Pray for our Seminarians Diocesan Seminarians and electronic calendar access:
<https://www.diocs.org/Offices/Office-of-Vocations/Priestly-Vocations/Vocations-Prayer-Calendar>

Seminarians	Name & Address	Email Address
	<p>Dcn. Anthony Ambuul Mt. St. Mary Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd. Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p>a.p.ambuul@email.msmary.edu</p>
	<p>Dominic Ambuul Mt. St. Mary Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd. Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p>d.j.ambuul@email.msmary.edu</p>
	<p>Dcn. Patrick DiLoreto Mt. St. Mary Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd. Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p>p.g.diloreto@email.msmary.edu</p>
	<p>James McCann Mt. St. Mary Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd. Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p>jimccann@email.msmary.edu</p>
	<p>Dcn. Sean O'Conner Mt. St. Mary Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd. Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p>s.p.oconnor@email.msmary.edu</p>
	<p>Fr. Thomas Pressley Assigned to St. Patrick in Colorado Springs</p>	<p>t.l.pressley@email.msmary.edu</p>

Seminarists	Name & Address	Email Address
	<p>Mark Rocco Mt. St. Mary Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd. Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p>mark-rocco@sggs.edu</p>
	<p>Vincent Smith Mt. St. Mary Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd. Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p>v.f.smith@email.msmary.edu</p>
	<p>Christian Vaca-Rodriguez Mt. St. Mary Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd. Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p>m.c.vacarodriguez@email.msmary.edu</p>
	<p>Kevin Ward Mt. St. Mary Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd. Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p>k.h.ward@email.msmary.edu</p>
	<p>Ian White Mt. St. Mary Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd. Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p>i.j.white@email.msmary.edu</p>
	<p>Joshua Wojcik Mt. St. Mary Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd. Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p>joshua-wojcik@sggs.edu</p>



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLORADO SPRINGS

July 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Transitional Deacons being Ordained this year
2 Military Chaplains	3 (St. Thomas) <u>Dcn. Thomas Pressley</u> Theology IV Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	4 The Holy Father and his intentions	5 <u>Patrick DiLoreto</u> Theology III Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	6 Fr. Dong Young (Augustine) Kim	7 <u>Joshua Wojcik</u> College IV St. Gregory the Great College Seminary	8 Retired Priests of the Diocese
9 <u>Sean O'Connor</u> Theology III Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	10 Leaders who form the Seminarians	11 Fr. Amlesom Gawed OFM Cap. , 7/11/99	12 Permanent Deacons in the Diocese	13 St. Gregory the Great College Seminary	14 The Church around the World	15 <u>Anthony Ambuhl</u> Theology III Mt. St. Mary's Seminary
16 Fr. Gene Emrisek, OFM Cap.	17 An increase in Vocations to the Priesthood	18 <u>Dominic Ambuhl</u> Theology I Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	19 Deceased Priests of the Diocese	20 <u>Mark Rocco</u> College IV St. Gregory the Great College Seminary	21 <u>Ian White</u> Theology I Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	22 All the Seminaries of the world
23 All men being Ordained this year	24 <u>Christian Vaca-Rodriguez</u> Theology II Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	25 (St. James) <u>James McCann</u> Pre-Theology II Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	26 Fr. Gregory Bierbaum	27 Holy Cross Novices	28 Msgr. Robert Jaeger , 7/28/90	29 Fr. Don Billiard, OFM Cap.
30 <u>Kevin Ward</u> Pre-Theology II Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	31 <u>Vincent Smith</u> Pre-Theology II Mt. St. Mary's Seminary					

Eternal Father, we lift up these seminarians and priests of our diocese. Sanctify them. Protect and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Underlined names are seminarians; Names in bold indicate the seminarian's birthday, and a priest's ordination anniversary

August 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	2 Fr. James Williams, 8/2/97	3 Fr. Carlos Gallardo-Morales	4 The Church around the World	5 An increase in Vocations to the Priesthood
6 All the Clergy of the world	7 <u>Vincent Smith</u> Pre-Theology II Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	8 (St. Dominic) <u>Dominic Ambuhl</u> Theology I Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	9 <u>Kevin Ward</u> Pre-Theology II Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	10 <u>Sean O'Connor</u> Theology III Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	11 <u>Patrick DiLoreto</u> Theology III Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	12 Fr. Gregory Golyzniak
13 Fr. John "Jack" Fitzpatrick	14 <u>Mark Rocco</u> College IV St. Gregory the Great College Seminary	15 Fr. Stephen Akujobi, 8/15/98 Fr. Brandon Berg, OFM Cap. 8/15/20	16 <u>Christian Vaca-Rodriguez</u> Theology II Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	17 <u>Dcn. Thomas Pressley</u> Theology IV Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	18 St. Gregory the Great College Seminary	19 Fr. Ricardo Rosales
20 Deceased Priests of the Diocese	21 Fr. Andrzej Szczesnowicz	22 <u>Joshua Wojcik</u> College IV St. Gregory the Great College Seminary	23 <u>James McCann</u> Pre-Theology II Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	24 <u>Ian White</u> Theology I Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	25 Fr. Jaimes Ponce , 8/25/01 Fr. William Kraus, OFM Cap. 8/25/73	26 Leaders who form the Seminarians
27 <u>Anthony Ambuhl</u> Theology III Mt. St. Mary's Seminary	28 Most Rev. James Golka	29 Permanent Deacons in the Diocese	30 Fr. Edward Kinerk, SJ	31 Holy Cross Novices		