



Saint Serra

## Saint Serra Club of Colorado Springs

*"Always forward, never back"*



### ST. SERRA CLUB OF COLORADO SPRINGS NEWSLETTER August 2023

#### President Janet Zabukovic's Message



Dear Fellow Serrans:

Summer is often a time of the year when we step away from some of the whirlwind of activity that happens during the other seasons. Most kids are on break from school, days are longer and filled with outside activities, and many people take a vacation to "get away", to relax and rejuvenate and have some fun. Thinking about summer started me thinking about the need to retreat more often from the hectic pace of daily life, not only in the summer but also throughout the year, in order to spend purposeful time with God.

There are many times in the Bible where we read about Jesus retreating to pray. What better model for us than that of Jesus going off by himself to spend time with the Father? For me the most powerful image is his time in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane before the Roman soldiers seized him. When I think about this poignant image, I am reminded that I need to more frequently step away from daily life and find quiet time to spend with God, to read his Word, to ask for guidance, to offer thanks and worship, to pray, and to quiet my thoughts so that I can listen for God's voice. Our relationship with God is meant to be mutual- we not only need to talk

with God but also to listen for his voice. It's hard to do either of those things if we don't disconnect from the loudness and busyness of the world.

Thanks to all our members who helped make our Summer Seminar Luncheon successful. Special thanks to Jerry and Yvonne Schaefer for the delicious food. It was so joyful to talk with our returning seminarians and meet five of the new seminarians. There will also be a seminarian returning to formation after a period away. We are excited to host a luncheon in August for the religious sisters in our diocese. Please read the newsletter for more information on that event. September will bring our membership luncheon, which will be hosted by Bishop Golka. Please prayerfully consider names to submit as potential members so that we can send out personal invitations. Our membership VP, Pat Van Matre, will be collecting names of potential members at our August gathering.

Let's make it a point to carve out some quiet time to spend with God praying for our seminarians and for our priests and other religious. Let's also remember to pray for all those discerning and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life- more men and women to hear God's voice and answer yes!

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 pray for her husband Tom Plush.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Prayer Hour – August 3

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, August 3 at 11:00am**

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

Click on "Join a Meeting"

Enter Meeting ID: 995 535 7113

### Serra Meets – Sat, August 12, 10AM CST with Dale Ahlquist



**Dale Ahlquist**, President of the Society of G. K. Chesterton and co-founder of Chesterton Academy, will be our speaker. His talk will be "Growing Our Own Priests."

**Dale Ahlquist** is President of the Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton, creator and host of the EWTN series "G.K. Chesterton: The Apostle of Common Sense," and Publisher of *Gilbert Magazine*. The author of five books, editor of twelve, Dale has been called "probably the greatest living authority on the life and work of G.K. Chesterton." He is a Senior Fellow of the Chesterton Library at London. An internationally renowned speaker, Dale has given more than 700 lectures at universities, conferences, and other institutions, including Yale, Columbia,

Cornell, Notre Dame, Oxford, the Vatican Forum in Rome, and the House of Lords in London. He is also the co-founder of Chesterton Academy, a classical high school in Hopkins, Minnesota, which is the flagship of the Chesterton Schools Network, which now includes 50 high schools worldwide. In 2020, he received a Presidential appointment to serve on the National Board of Education Sciences.

[Click to Join the Webinar](#)

Passcode: 853558

<https://zoom.us/j/95992451924?pwd=RFdzZjgybDk0VVIKVIhyYXNlNkpkUT09>

## **Sisters' Appreciation Luncheon, August 17, 2023!**

The Serra Club invites you to join us as we celebrate the Sisters of the Diocese with our annual Appreciation Luncheon at the St. John Henry Newman Chapel and Catholic Student Center!

11:30AM Adoration, Noon Mass, followed by Lunch.

Food will be graciously provided by Jerry and Yvonne Schaefer, our own "Y and I"!

Please make plans to join us!

**RSVP by Wednesday, Aug 9**

Please contact us at [SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net](mailto:SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net)

## **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 are asking members to join the Programs Committee to help ensure the lunch is efficiently handled each month. We need lots of help with setup, serving, cleanup, and tear down.

Please contact us to sign-up at [SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net](mailto:SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net). Thank you.

## **Seminarian Summer Luncheon! – July 18, 2023**

We always enjoy spending time with our seminarians! On July 18, we had a special Mass at the John Henry Newman Catholic Chapel and Student Center for Serra members, our seminarians and their families. This was followed by a delicious lunch, with food provided by Jerry and Yvonne Schaeffer. Fr. Kyle and the seminarians went directly after lunch to their annual summer retreat.



Stephen Ambuul, Larry Rutherford, Vincent Staverosky



Christian Vaca-Rodriguez, Helene Knapp, Vincent Smith

## Rite of Candidacy, July 21, 2023

Five seminarians, received 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!



Moms Denise Wojcik and Joni Rocco present the gifts at Mass

Mark Rocco, Kevin Ward,  
Vincent Smith, Bishop James  
Golka, James McCann, and  
Joshua Wojcik.



## **SAVE THE DATES!! Upcoming Serra Club Events**

**Aug 17** Sisters Appreciation Luncheon – Food provided by “Y&I”

**Sept 21** Membership Recruitment Lunch with Bishop James Golka (See Below!!)

**Oct 14** Saturday -District Six Convention (state of Colorado), will be held at St. Thomas More Church in Lone Tree/Centennial area south of Denver. Friday Oct 13 - There will be an evening hospitality gathering at a nearby hotel (NO monthly gathering in October.)

**November** – Monthly Gathering for lunch; Program TBA

**December** – Christmas Luncheon with Seminarians and Families; date TBD

**2024-** Anniversary Dinner and Silent Auction – date pending.

**Jan 18-21** Serra USA Rally, Miami, FL

**Aug 8-11** Serra International Convention, New Orleans, LA

## **Membership Lunch with Bishop James Golka Sept 21, 2023**

Please join us for lunch with Bishop Golka!! Our Membership Recruitment Luncheon will be held at the St. John Henry Newman Chapel and Catholic Student Center  
11:30AM Adoration; Noon Mass; followed by Lunch.

**Serrans: Please Help our Ministry Grow!**

**More prayers and supporters are always needed and welcome!**

**Please provide 2 or more names of people you know who would be interested in joining Serra.**

**Send the following info for each interested party:**

**Name, Full Mailing Address, Phone, Email address, and Parish.**

**Email info by Aug 17 to [SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net](mailto:SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net).**

**Or- Mail info by Aug 15 to: Serra Club, 228 N. Cascade, CO Springs, CO 80903**

**Serra will send them an invitation to the lunch with the Bishop!**

## **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 them 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](mailto:JRZabukovic@comcast.net).

Thank you for your consideration in participating in this very important ministry.

## Serra International Convention in Thailand

Serra International Convention was held in  
Chiang Mai, Thailand, June 22 -25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Eleanor and Ray Gentilini attended this meeting. Eleanor shares her photos and insights.

--International Convention in Chiang Mai, Thailand - We had 3 Bishops and 3 Cardinals, including the Papal Nuncio for the region who is an American from Oklahoma. All the speakers were well-received and informative. Liturgies were beautiful. The Thai Serrans did a fantastic job with everything - entire set-up and operation, video, graphics, decorations, endless flowers, over-the-top hospitality.



Opening Mass



Opening Day Tour



Decorations

Entertainment





Opening day tours



Lots of Bishops and Flowers



Ray & Eleanor – at Elephant Sanctuary

## **Serra International Convention in Thailand (cont)**

### **Serra 80<sup>th</sup> International Convention - Ray and Eleanor Gentilini**

The Serra International Convention was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, June 22 -25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. On Thursday morning, all delegates were treated to a city tour of Chiang Mai, the second largest city in Thailand in the northern part of the country. We visited a most spectacular totally gold temple. The opening Eucharistic celebration, held at Sacred Heart Cathedral, was celebrated by Bishop Francis Xavier Arpondratana, Bishop of Chiang Mai and concelebrated by two other bishops and three Cardinals. Homily was given by Archbishop Peter Wells, the Apostolic Nuncio to Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam. Following the Mass there was a huge international banquet with entertainment by the students of the Sacred Heart School.

On Friday morning, Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Charles Bo, President of the Federation of Asian Bishops Conference (similar to the USCCB). There were five major conference sessions on Friday. Cardinal Luis Tagle, the Pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, spoke to us on the theme of the convention “Come and See” John 1:39. He came to us via Zoom from Rome. Next was Cardinal Marc Ouellet, of Canada, Prefect Emeritus of the Dicastery for Bishops. In the afternoon, we heard the conversion story of a Thai woman, Ms Mary Mativachranon, who is a mover and shaker in the Thai business world who converted from Buddhist to Catholic at the age of 55 and is now over 80 years old. Next was Dr. Peter Monthienvichienchai, the head of a huge communications company who spoke on Promoting vocations through Solutions Journalism which involves both print and broadcast media. The final session of the day was Mr. Kevin Obasi of the Serra Club of Ikeja, Nigeria, who spoke on the “Role of Parents in their Child’s Vocation Choices.”

Saturday began with an address by Cardinal Bo who spoke on the “Challenge of Holy Orders and Religious Vocations from an Asian Perspective.” This was followed by a panel on Youthful Priestly and Religious Vocations given by young Seminarians and Novitiate nuns. The afternoon consisted of the State of Serra, Serra Around the World reports, and delegates meetings. The closing Mass of the convention was celebrated by Cardinal Kovithavanij, Archbishop of Bangkok and Chairman of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Thailand and head of the Office of Seminary and Vocations. Following the annual closing Banquet and installation of the new Serra International President, the entire assembly joined the monthly Global Rosary for Vocations live via Zoom, with Serrans from around the world.



## 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](mailto: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

## Priest Ordinations for August

Rev. James Williams	August 2, 1997
Rev. Stephen Akujobi	August 15, 1998
Rev. Brandon R. Berg, OFM, Cap.	August 15, 2020
Rev. Jaimes Ponce	August 25, 2001

## Priest Birthdays for August

Rev. Carlos Gallardo-Morales	2-Aug
Rev. Michael P. Buckley	3-Aug
Rev. William Kraus, OFM Cap	3-Aug
Rev. Kenneth Przybyla	6-Aug
Rev. Gregory Golyzniak	12-Aug
Rev. John "Jack" Fitzpatrick	13-Aug
Rev. Ricardo Rosales	19-Aug
Rev. Andrzej Szczesnowicz	21-Aug
Rev. Edward Kinerk, SJ	30-Aug
Rev. Lawrence Solan	30-Aug
Rev. Frank Grinko, OFM Cap	2-Sep

## Communications Helper Needed!

We call all members each month to remind everyone of upcoming activities. With our growing club, we need another caller to help us reach everyone. If you are a member and could help by calling 10 people or fewer each month, please contact us below. Thank you!

Please contact us at [SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net](mailto:SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net).

## **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](mailto:medmep@sbcglobal.net)

Contact Serra Club of Colorado Springs: [SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net](mailto:SerraCOSprings@dioCS.net)

**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.**



### **Father Kyle's Message Pray for Vocations!**

With the acceptance of Michael Pokorny last week, we will have five new seminarians and one man returning to seminary. Thank you for praying for our seventeen men in formation. With fifteen men at Mount St Mary's and two at the college seminary, I will need lots of prayers too!

St. Junipero, pray for us!


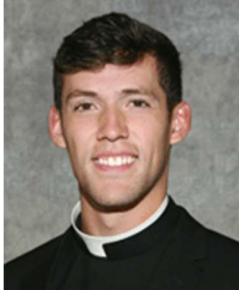



Fr Kyle

Vocations Director

**FOLLOW OUR COLORADO SPRINGS SEMINARIANS ON THE  
FACEBOOK PAGE:**

**Colorado Springs Priest Vocations | Facebook**

**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><b>Dcn. Anthony Ambuul</b>            Mt. St. Mary Seminary            16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd.            Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p><a href="mailto:a.p.ambuul@email.msmary.edu">a.p.ambuul@email.msmary.edu</a></p>
	<p><b>Dominic Ambuul</b>            Mt. St. Mary Seminary            16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd.            Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p><a href="mailto:d.j.ambuul@email.msmary.edu">d.j.ambuul@email.msmary.edu</a></p>
	<p><b>Dcn. Patrick DiLoreto</b>            Mt. St. Mary Seminary            16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd.            Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p><a href="mailto:p.g.diloreto@email.msmary.edu">p.g.diloreto@email.msmary.edu</a></p>
	<p><b>James McCann</b>            Mt. St. Mary Seminary            16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd.            Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p><a href="mailto:jimccann@email.msmary.edu">jimccann@email.msmary.edu</a></p>
	<p><b>Dcn. Sean O'Conner</b>            Mt. St. Mary Seminary            16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd.            Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797</p>	<p><a href="mailto:s.p.oconnor@email.msmary.edu">s.p.oconnor@email.msmary.edu</a></p>

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



# THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLORADO SPRINGS

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

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.