

NEWSLETTER

August 16, 2014



Serra Club of Colorado Springs

"Always forward, never back"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Serrans;

The 72nd Serra International Convention was held in Sacramento, CA, July 10-13th. It began with the Opening Mass at the beautiful Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament followed by a Eucharistic procession accompanied by the choir and all the Serrans to the hotel where Adoration was available for the rest of the weekend. The theme for the convention was "The Path to Holiness: A Serran Guide" beginning with the morning spiritual retreat which set the stage for a very prayerful experience. Other highlights were workshops on Vocations and Membership, a panel of Vocations Directors, a history of Blessed Junipero Serra and his many works, and the "State of Serra" given by Serra International out-going President, Sean Yeo. The Council for the United States and Serra International are now working together in unity to further vocations everywhere.

Another major accomplishment is the newly published "Handbook for Serrans called to Holiness" which outlines a model for spirituality and prayer. This book is available for purchase to anyone who would like to have one.

The day prior to the convention the Serra Council for the United States held a Board Meeting and installation of new officers. Bob Labat is our new President, replacing Don Jones.

The Serra International Convention was attended by over 350, with Serrans traveling from 15 countries, including Nigeria, Thailand, the Philippines and many parts of Europe. Marty Broestl and Eleanor Gentilini of our club participated. The next gathering for the US will be a Serra Rally in Houston, January 15-18, 2015 and the next Serra International Convention will be held July 30 – August 2, 2015 in Melbourne, Australia.

Eleanor

SERRA UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| August 21 | Serra Club meeting following noon mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. The speaker is Father James Gordon. |
| September 4 | Serra Club meeting following the 7:10 AM mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. |
| September 18 | Serra Club meeting following noon mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. |
| November 2-8 | National Vocations Awareness Week |

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

August 2	Rev. Jim Williams ordination anniversary
August 2	Rev. Carlos Gallardo birthday
August 3	Rev. Michael Buckley birthday
August 6	Rev. Kenneth Przbyla birthday
August 21	Rev. Luis GarciaChavez ordination anniversary
August 23	Seminarian Jon Vall birthday
August 21	Rev. Jaimes Ponce ordination anniversary
August 25	Rev. Andrzej Szczesnowicz birthday
August 30	Rev. Lawrence Solan birthday

VOCATIONS CORNER

Thank you to all who donated Catholic books and religious items to the Serra Club Table at the STAS Catholic Conference. We gave away nearly 400 books as well as Serra prayer cards, bookmarks, t-shirts, and fliers. Thanks also to Julie, Marty, Don, Loretta, Janet, Dave, Janelle, Vern, Joan, Eleanor, and Ray for volunteering your time at the table and to Julie for donated the large ceramic crucifix for our drawing. We were able to reach many people who now pray for vocations, thanks to your efforts.

The Five Star Program is designed to promote vocations through 1) The Traveling Chalice, 2) Church Bulletin Inserts, 3) The 31 Club, 4) Vocation Celebration Days like Priesthood Sunday and World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 5) Holy Hours of Prayer/Eucharistic Adoration. Our Serra Club is involved in all these activities. If you would like to participate in any part of the Five Star Program, please contact Charlene at 593.9735 or csserran@comcast.net.

Our Traveling Chalice will be available at our August meetings to pray for vocations and to support our seminarians and novices as they begin the new academic year. You can take the chalice home for two weeks to pray with your family until the next Serra meeting. A booklet of suggested vocational prayers and activities is included, but you can also use your own materials for this ministry. The Traveling Chalice is a great way to participate in the Five Star Program, so please sign up.

The Newman Connection Program is in progress. If your college-bound freshmen have not signed up yet, check out www.newmanconnection.com to get them connected to the Catholic community at their college or university. Don't let them lose their Catholic faith in the pursuit of a secular education. Remember: our "final exam" is in the afterlife, not in college!

Siempre Adelante,

Charlene

SAINT OF THE DAY: August 27

St. Monica

(322?-387) The circumstances of St. Monica's life could have made her a nagging wife, a bitter daughter-in-law and a despairing parent, yet she did not give way to any of these

temptations. Although she was a Christian, her parents gave her in marriage to a pagan, Patricius, who lived in her hometown of Tagaste in North Africa. Patricius had some redeeming features, but he had a violent temper and was licentious. Monica also had to bear with a cantankerous mother-in-law who lived in her home. Patricius criticized his wife because of her charity and piety, but always respected her. Monica's prayers and example finally won her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Her husband died in 371, one year after his baptism.

Monica had at least three children who survived infancy. The oldest, Augustine (August 28) is the most famous. At the time of his father's death, Augustine was 17 and a rhetoric student in Carthage. Monica was distressed to learn that her son had accepted the Manichean heresy (all flesh is evil) and was living an immoral life. For a while, she refused to let him eat or sleep in her house. Then one night she had a vision that assured her Augustine would return to the faith. From that time on, she stayed close to her son, praying and fasting for him. In fact, she often stayed much closer than Augustine wanted.

When he was 29, Augustine decided to go to Rome to teach rhetoric. Monica was determined to go along. One night he told his mother that he was going to the dock to say goodbye to a friend. Instead, he set sail for Rome. Monica was heartbroken when she learned of Augustine's trick, but she still followed him. She arrived in Rome only to find that he had left for Milan. Although travel was difficult, Monica pursued him to Milan.

In Milan, Augustine came under the influence of the bishop, St. Ambrose, who also became Monica's spiritual director. She accepted his advice in everything and had the humility to give up some practices that had become second nature to her (see Quote, below). Monica became a leader of the devout women in Milan as she had been in Tagaste.

She continued her prayers for Augustine during his years of instruction. At Easter, 387, St. Ambrose baptized Augustine and several of his friends. Soon after, his party left for Africa. Although no one else was aware of it, Monica knew her life was near the end. She told Augustine, "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled." She became ill shortly after and suffered severely for nine days before her death.

Almost all we know about St. Monica is in the writings of St. Augustine, especially his *Confessions*.

WE HAVE A SERRA WEBSITE!!!

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

QUARTERLY CALENDAR

9/6/14 Rev. Kizito Osudibia birthday
9/13/14 Rev. Bob Newbury, Jr. birthday
9/15/14 Rev. Dan Ayers birthday
9/19/14 Rev. David Price birthday
9/21/14 Rev. William Vollmer (Ret.) birthday
9/26/14 Rev. Bill Carmody birthday
10/2/14 Rev. Kizito Odudibia ordination anniversary
10/5/14 Rev. Gus Stewart birthday
10/6/14 Seminarian Casallas Camilo birthday
10/9/14 Rev. Timothy Corbley, IV DEI birthday

10/15/14 Rev. Brian Mohan birthday
10/21/14 Rev. Paul Wicker birthday
10/27/14 Seminarian Joshua Allen Quintana birthday
10/28/14 Priest Appreciation Sunday
10/31/14 Rev. John Auer birthday

PLEASE WRITE OUR SEMINARIANS

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

Deacon Greg Bierbaum, Blessed John XXIII National Seminary, 558 South Avenue, Weston, Massachusetts 02493, gbierbaum58@gmail.com

Camillo Casallas, St. Gregory the Great College Seminary, 800 Fletcher Rd. Seward, NE 68434-8145 camilosprings19@live.com

Joshua David Erickson, St. John Vianney Seminary, 1300 S. Steele St, Denver, Colorado 80210 chicagoboy24@gmail.com

Deacon Nathan Hinds, St. John Vianney Seminary, 1300 S. Steele St, Denver, Colorado 80210 nathan.hinds@gmail.com

Michael Holmquist PNAC 00120, Vatican City State, Rome, Italy, Europe
mholmquist@gmail.com

Matthew Alton Kane, St. Gregory the Great College Seminary, 800 Fletcher Rd. Seward, NE 68434-8145, airsoftmaniac21@gmail.com

Erin Albert Kochivar, PNAC 00120, Vatican City State, Rome, Italy, Europe
ekochivar@pnac.org.

Sean Michael McCann, PNAC 00120, Vatican City State, Rome, Italy, Europe,
smccann@pnac.org

Justin A. Nelson, Notre Dame Seminary, 2901 South Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118 justinnelson75@gmail.com

Joshua Quintana, St. Gregory the Great College Seminary, 800 Fletcher Road, Seward, Nebraska 68434-8145 (719)238-4956 blue85jq55@gmail.com

Roylan Recio, Notre Dame Seminary, 2901 South Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118, roylanrecio1@gmail.com

Jon Vall, St. Gregory The Great College Seminary, 800 Fletcher Rd., Seward, Nebraska 68434-8145 jpvblaze@gmail.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)