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# NORTHERN COLORADO

## SERRAN



SERRA CLUB OF THE FT. COLLINS DEANERY

District 6, Club #1078

Chaplain: Very Rev. Gregory Cioch V.F.

Volume 5, Number 1

January 2010

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### EVENTS FOR SERRA CLUB OF THE FT. COLLINS DEANERY

#### HAPPY NEW YEAR

Saturday, Jan. 2, 2010: No Regular Club Meeting due to Christmas/New Years holy-days.

Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010: Club Meeting. Mass at 8:00 with breakfast & meeting in Emmitsburg Room to follow. Mem is Chef for today is Karen Guyette.

Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010: Server Appreciation Event. Following 5:00 Mass in Youth Room.

Monday, Jan. 11, 2010: Serra Club Social dinner, 6:30 at Rustic Oven. (note change from Harmony Grill that closed.)

Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010: Regular Club Meeting. Mass at 8:00 with breakfast & meeting in Emmitsburg Room to follow. Chef for today is Joan O'Connor.



Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Denver

**Remember to pray for our seminarians daily**

**MARY, MOTHER OF VOCATIONS,  
PRAY FOR US.**

### PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

#### Come to the Manger



I received Mem's email reminding me that she is waiting for a January 'President's Column' for our Serra Newsletter. As I sit preparing for the new year's column, I am surrounded by our beautiful nativity scene. As children, our nativity manger scene was set up early, on the first Sunday of Advent along with the Advent wreath and was not put away until January 6, the 'historic' date of the Epiphany and the 12th day of Christmas.

I decided to use this column to remind us all of the history of the crèche, the manger scene. *"An ox knows its owner, and an ass, its master's manger; but Israel does not know, my people has not understood"* (Isaiah 1:3). Our beloved St. Francis of Assisi's crowning achievement is often thought to be the glorious heritage of the Nativity Crèche we cherish today. St. Francis took it upon himself to plan a wondrous pageant in 1223 in which Jesus' birth would be staged by the peasant villagers from the Umbrian foothills. Francis filled a manger with hay, tied an ox and an ass near it, and placed a tiny baby from the village in the manger. The people from the area attended Christmas Mass in front of the crib.

(Continued on Page 2, Co. 2)

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**WEAR YOUR PIN**  
**BE PROUD TO BE A SERRAN**  
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**HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS  
WITH ARCHBISHOP CHAPUT  
AND BISHOP CONLEY**

On Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> our Club assisted St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish by serving the dinner Archbishop Chaput and Bishop Conley enjoyed with their brother priests prior to the Holy Hour for Priests. We were honored to have a brief opportunity to visit with the Archbishop, Bishop and priests and welcome them to Northern Colorado. The Holy Hour itself was a very special event. It is not often (if ever) that we are privileged to have BOTH the Archbishop and Bishop here for a single event. The opportunity to pray with and for our priests was an honor.

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**FOOD DRIVE FOR SISTERS OF ST. WALBURGA  
SUCCESSFUL**

Club members Karen Guyette, Kelly Krapes (with Ben & Gabriel), Jo Ebben, Mem Stanton, and Patsy Kress delivered three van-loads of food and household goods to the Abbey at St. Walburga on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. This drive is in conjunction with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish. As usual, the Sisters were thrilled. (Ben Krapes was thrilled too – he got to drive.). We also were able to visit with Sr. Maria-Gabriel Pitpit, who has just returned from 5 years at the Vatican in service to the Pope. With much thanks the Sisters will be remembering us all in their Christmas prayers. Thanks to everyone who helped during the 2 week project.

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**ANNUAL SERVER APPRECIATION**

On Saturday evening, **January 9<sup>th</sup>**, the Club will be enjoying our annual Server Appreciation event. We will meet in the youth room at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton for pizza, games, prizes and prayers. Remind all your servers to be there. All Club members are urged to attend if possible.

(Presidents Notes, Continued)

Mem and I love our manger scene, including the Crèche, the shepherd's field, the town of Bethlehem, and the Gloria angels. It all helps us to meditate on God's love as it was revealed in the birth of Jesus amidst the poverty of Bethlehem 2000 years ago. Of course our parish tour to Bethlehem in 2008, (including their first snow in 12 years), and seeing the extreme poverty in Bethlehem today make the birth of Christ even more meaningful.

*We have an invitation for each of you:  
Please, Come to the Manger! We are welcoming all of you to our home on Wednesday, January 6th between 1 PM and 5PM to share our manger scene before it is put away until next Advent. We will send the address and directions to you from our Serra email list.*



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**BLESSED JOHN XXIII SEMINARIANS  
INSTITUTED TO ACOLYTE**

On Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell, D.D., of the Diocese of Springfield, Mass., conferred the ministry of acolyte on 17 men, including two seminarians from the Archdiocese of Denver, Ronald W. Cattany and Michael J. Hillebrand, during a Mass. Cattany had a 35-year career with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and served as mineral, energy and natural resources advisor to four Colorado governors.

Hillebrand was a pilot for 27 years, flying for several major airlines. Acolytes by their office in the Church are special ministers of the Eucharist. Blessed John XXIII National Seminary is located in Weston, Mass. (courtesy of the Denver Catholic Register, Dec. 23)

## SAINT OF THE MONTH

**St. Thomas Aquinas**

St. Thomas Aquinas was a philosopher, theologian, and Doctor of the Church. He was born in the Kingdom of Naples, 1225 or 1227 to his father, Landolph, the Count of Aquino. Theodora, his mother, was Countess of Teano. His family was related to the Emperors Henry VI and Frederick II, and to the Kings of Aragon, Castile, and France. It has been said that a holy hermit foretold his career, saying to Theodora before his birth: "He will enter the Order of Friars, and so great will be his learning and sanctity that in his day no one will be found to equal him". At the age of five, according to the custom of the times, he was sent to receive his first training from the Benedictine monks of Monte Cassino. Diligent in study, he was thus early noted as being meditative and devoted to prayer, and his preceptor was surprised at hearing the child ask frequently: "What is God?" About the year 1236 he was sent to the University of Naples. It was said that the change was made at the instance of the Abbot of Monte Cassino, who wrote to Thomas's father that a boy of such talents should not be left in obscurity.

Some time between 1240 and August, 1243, he received the habit of the Order of St. Dominic. The city wondered that such a noble young man should don the garb of poor friar. His mother, with mingled feelings of joy and sorrow, hastened to Naples to see her son. The Dominicans, fearing she would take him away, sent him to Rome, his ultimate destination being Paris or Cologne. At the instance of Theodora, Thomas's brothers, who were soldiers under the Emperor Frederick, captured the novice near the town of Aquapendente and confined him in the fortress of San Giovanni at Rocca Secca. Here he was detained nearly two years, his parents, brothers, and sisters attempting various means to destroy his vocation. The time spent in captivity was not lost. His mother relented somewhat, after the first burst of anger and grief; the Dominicans were allowed to provide him with new habits, and through the kind offices of his sister he procured some books — the Holy Scriptures, Aristotle's *Metaphysics*, and the "Sentences" of Peter Lombard. After eighteen months or two years spent in prison, either because his mother saw that the hermit's prophecy would eventually be fulfilled or because his brothers feared the threats of Innocent IV and Frederick II, he was set at liberty, being lowered in a basket into the arms of the Dominicans,

who were delighted to find that during his captivity he had made much progress. In the year 1251 or 1252 Thomas was sent to fill the office of Bachelor (sub-regent) in the Dominican at Paris. This appointment may be regarded as the beginning of his public career, for his teaching soon attracted the attention both of the professors and of the students.

St. Thomas was admitted to the degree of Doctor in Theology. The date of his promotion, as given by many biographers, was October 23, 1257. A tradition says that St. Bonaventure and St. Thomas received the doctorate on the same day, and that there was a contest of humility between the two friends as to which should be promoted first.

On one occasion, at Naples in 1273, after he had completed his treatise on the Eucharist, three of the brethren saw him lifted in ecstasy, and they heard a voice proceeding from the crucifix on the altar, saying "Thou hast written well of me, Thomas; what reward wilt thou have

On December 6, 1273, he laid aside his pen and would write no more. That day he experienced an unusually long ecstasy during Mass; what was revealed to him we can only surmise from his reply to Father Reginald, who urged him to continue his writings: "I can do no more. Such secrets have been revealed to me that all I have written now appears to be of little value"

He died on March 7, 1274. Numerous miracles attested his sanctity, and he was canonized by John XXII, July 18, 1323. The monks of Fossa Nuova were anxious to keep his sacred remains, but by order of Urban V the body was given to his Dominican brethren, and was solemnly translated to the Dominican church at Toulouse, January 28, 1369. Although St. Thomas lived less than fifty years, he composed more than sixty works.

**Karen Guyette*****Serra Mission***

Our mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the ministerial priesthood and vowed religious life in the Archdiocese of Denver and through this ministry enrich and develop our members' common Catholic faith.

The USA Council of Serra International invites you to visit its website at [www.serraus.org](http://www.serraus.org) for valuable and informative information about Serra International.

**CALENDAR  
PRAYER REQUESTS FOR PRIESTS AND CLUB PLANNER  
JANUARY 2010**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p><b>Happy belated Birthday – Serrans Chuck Rider, &amp; Clara Gaucher December 18th</b></p>		<p><b>Pray daily for your Seminarian</b></p>			<p><b>1</b> Sr. Maria Columba O’Leary- St. Walburga OSB</p> <p>Happy Birthday Fr. Felicien Mbala- St. John the Evangelist</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pray for Archbishop Charles Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.</b></p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pray for Pope Benedict the XVI</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> Deacon John McKeown – St. John The Evangelist</p> <p>Roberto Rodriguez – Seminarian</p> <p>John Meyer – seminarian</p> <p>Sr. Maria-Gabriel Pitpit OSB – St. Walburga</p>	<p><b>5</b> Dan Vanyo – Seminarian</p> <p>Rev. Damian de la Cruz, C.R. – Holy Family</p> <p>Rev. Roger Lascelle – St. Joseph’s</p> <p>Deacon Richard Grimler – St. Joseph’s</p>	<p><b>6</b> Sr. Raffaella DiBauda OSB – St. Walburga</p> <p>Sr. Hildegard Dubnick OSB – St. Walburga</p> <p>Rev. Frank Garcia St. John the Evangelist</p> <p>Sr. Mary Alice Murphy – Center for Hope</p>	<p><b>7</b> Rev. Joseph Toledo – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</p> <p>Happy Birthday – Deacon Bill McClellan, Bl. John XXIII &amp; Fr. Larry Christensen, Risen Christ</p> <p>Sr. Maria-Walburga Shortmeyer OSB – St. Walburga</p>	<p><b>8</b> Happy Birthday, Seminarian John Meyer (SJV)</p> <p>Deacon Donald Weiss – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</p> <p>✠ RIP Serran Ado Rekart, - 2005</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Club Meeting. Mass 8:00, Meet in Emmitsburg Room</p> <p>Mother Maria Michael Newe OSB St. Walburga</p> <p>SERVER APPRECIATION EVENT 5:00</p> <p>Geronimo Gonzalez - seminarian</p>
<p><b>10</b> Sr. Mary Sebastian Geary OSB – St. Walburga</p> <p>Sr. Magdalena Berndlmeier OSB – St. Walburga</p> <p>Deacon Robert Haigh – St. John The Evangelist</p>	<p><b>11</b> Joe Doman – Seminarian</p> <p>Sr. Maria Gertrude Read, OSB – St. Walburga</p> <p>Waril de Arujo Castro – seminarian</p> <p>Ryan O’Neill – Seminarian</p>	<p><b>12</b> Deacon John Kunsemiller – St. John The Evangelist</p> <p>Sam Morehead – Seminarian</p> <p>Deacon Howard Frisinger – SEAS</p>	<p><b>13</b> Justin Hall – Seminarian</p> <p>Deacon James Devlin – St. Scholastica</p> <p>Michael Bodzioch – Seminarian</p> <p>Matt Magee – Seminarian</p>	<p><b>14</b> Rafael Martinez - seminarian</p> <p>Sr. Maria Josepha Hombrebueno, OSB – St. Walburga</p> <p>Rev. Joseph Hartmann – Our Lady of the Mountains</p>	<p><b>15</b> Rev. Felicien Mbala – St. John The Evangelist</p> <p>Mother Maria Thomas OSB (ret.) St. Walburga</p> <p>Sr. Angelika Fackler, OSB – St. Walburga</p>	<p><b>16</b> Rev. Lawrence Christensen – Risen Christ</p> <p>Sr. Pauline La Plante OSB - St. Walburga</p> <p>Paolo Capra – seminarian</p>
<p><b>17</b> Deacon William Trewartha – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</p> <p>Sr. Augustina Hochbauer OSB – St. Walburga</p>	<p><b>18</b> V. Rev. Gregory Cioch V.F. – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</p> <p>Happy Birthday Sr. Maria-Gabriel Pitpit, OSB, St. Walburga</p>	<p><b>19</b> Deacon William McClellan – Bl. John XXIII</p> <p>Rev. Tadeusz Kopczynski – St. Peter’s Greeley</p> <p>Tyler Eberle - seminarian</p>	<p><b>20</b> Deacon Dan Marthe (ret.) – St. John The Evangelist</p> <p>Rev. Donald Willette – Bl. John XXIII</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pray for Bishop James Conley</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> Deacon Leonard Benzel – Bl. John XXIII</p> <p>Happy Anniversary Deacon Jim &amp; Janet Devlin</p>	<p><b>23</b> Sr. Dominica Sieke, OSB – St. Walburga</p> <p>Sr. Scholastica England, OSB – St. Walburga</p> <p>Sean Mulligan – Seminarian</p>
<p><b>24</b> Sr. Lioba Headlee, OSB – St. Walburga</p> <p>Sr. Maria Benedicta Oglesby, OSB – St. Walburga</p>	<p><b>25</b> Deacon Warren Lybarger – St. Joseph’s</p> <p>Sr. Genevive Glen OSB - St. Walburga</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pray for all our Serra Chaplains</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> Rev. Jacob Chennathu – St. Josephs</p> <p>Sr. Luitgard Kussmann OSB – St. Walburga</p>	<p><b>28</b> Sr. Kristina McBride, OSB – St. Walburga</p> <p>Sr. Mary Garcia S.S.S.F.– Holy Family</p>	<p><b>29</b> Deacon Edward Armijo – St. John the Evangelist</p> <p>Sr. Immaculata Bertolli, OSB – St. Walburga</p>	<p><b>30</b> Sr. Ancilla Armiiio, OSB – St. Walburga</p> <p>Happy Birthday, Deacon Edward Armijo, St. John the Evangelist</p>
<p><b>31</b> Happy Birthday, Fr. Gregory Cioch &amp; Fr. Tadeusz Kopczynski</p>						