



## **SERRA CLUB OF CHARLESTON**

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Charter No. 60 ■ est'd 17 March 1951 ■ Fr. Carlos Melocoton, chaplain  
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### **VATICAN OBSERVER AND CHURCH SCHOLAR, GEORGE WEIGEL, TO SPEAK TO JEWISH AND CATHOLIC AUDIENCES IN CHARLESTON ON MAY 21 AND 22**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 18, 2013

CHARLESTON, W.VA.—Fresh from Rome and the surprise election of Pope Francis, Vatican observer and Church scholar, George Weigel, is scheduled to give two lectures to Jewish and Catholic audiences on May 21 and 22.

Weigel, who served as NBC's on-air commenter during the papal election, will speak about Pope Francis as well as the subject of his latest book, "Evangelical Catholicism" on May 22, 2013, at 7 p.m., at St. Agnes Church in Charleston.

Weigel's visit to Charleston is sponsored by the Serra Club of Charleston. "Mr. Weigel is recognized world-wide as a scholar of the Catholic Church," said Serra Club president, Jim Garvin. "He is an astute and articulate observer of the papacy and its role in the Church's unfolding mission in the world. The Serra Club is highly fortunate to be able to bring Mr. Weigel to West Virginia when, particularly now, he is in such high demand."

The Weigel lecture at St. Agnes Church, open to the public, is expected to sell out. Tickets are \$10 each. Proceeds from Thursday's event will be used to support the education of men and women entering the ministry for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Garvin said. Go to [www.serracharleston.org](http://www.serracharleston.org) or Facebook for more information.

On May 21, 2013, Weigel will speak during a program sponsored by Congregation B'Nai Jacob at its synagogue in Charleston. There, Weigel will be discussing the late Pope John Paul II and his and the Church's friendship and relations with the Jewish people. The Weigel lecture at Congregation B'Nai Jacob is open to the public and free of charge.

Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. and is one of America's leading public intellectuals. Weigel wrote companion biographies of Pope John Paul II, who died in 2005 as the second longest-serving pontiff since Peter the Apostle became the bishop of Rome. He has authored "Letters to a Young Catholic" and many other books and essays as well as op-ed columns and reviews for major opinion journals and newspapers in the United States, including *National Review*. His most recent book, "Evangelical Catholicism: Deep Reform in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Church” is already a bestseller and will be available for purchase, along with several other of his titles, after his presentation at St. Agnes Church.

He is a frequent speaker on television and radio. His weekly column, “The Catholic Difference,” is syndicated to 60 newspapers in the United States. His scholarly work and his journalism are regularly translated into the major European languages.

The Serra Club of Charleston, founded in 1951, is part of Serra International, a global organization dedicated to fostering priestly and religious vocations.

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For more information:

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