



# Serra Club of Louisville

April, 2017  
Newsletter

### MISSION:

To foster and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

“To always go forward – to never turn back!”  
– Saint Junipero Serra

If you receive this through regular postal delivery, but would be willing to receive it by email, please contact Chuck Lynch, 244-2752.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

**Apr 3** - Sr. Patricia Reno, O.P., Director of Centro-Latino

**Apr 17** - Emily Cash - "Saint Luke Center: Regional Support for Seminaries, Seminarians and Ongoing Formation"

**May 1** - Fr. Stuart Priddy – will

speak on his vocation story

**May 15** – (at St. Bartholomew’s parish, Barth Hall) Archbishop Joseph Kurtz - "Where is Catholicism in the United States and in the rest of the world?"

## PUBLIC PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS:

**Each Mon.** - Holy Spirit Church, Lexington Road, Mondays at 7 pm.

**Each Tue.** - Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Holy Hour for Vocations - 9 to 11 am.

**Each Tue.** - St. Patrick Church, 5 to 10 pm.

**Each Wed.** - St. Thomas Church, Bardstown, KY - 6 to 7:30 pm.

**2nd Mon.** - Mount St. Francis, Floyds Knobs, IN, 7 - 8 p.m.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW TRANSITIONAL DEACONS

On Saturday, March 25, five of our seminarians (shown below) were ordained to the transitional diaconate. All are expected to be ordained priests next year.

Congratulations to all five! For more on our new Deacons, see the story at

<http://therecordnewspaper.org/five-seminarians-ordained-deacons/>

## GREG HILLIS, PH.D. SPOKE AT OUR MARCH 6 MEETING

Dr. Gregory Hillis was born and raised in Alberta, Canada (in the Canadian Rocky Mountains). He was raised Anglican, and even considered becoming an Anglican priest, but became Catholic during graduate school. He has been married now for 18 years. He, his wife, and three sons are members of Holy Trinity parish. He re-

ceived his B.A. in Religion from Rocky Mountain College in Alberta (1997); his B.A. in History and Religious Studies from the University of Waterloo in Ontario; his M.A. in Religious Studies from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, (2003); and his Ph.D. from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario (2008). His area of expertise is early Christian



Deacon  
Robert Barnell



Deacon  
Brandon DeToma



Deacon  
David Farrell



Deacon  
Kien Nguyen



Deacon  
Minh Vu

## DR. GREG HILLIS (continued from page 1)

history, and he wrote his Ph.D. thesis on St. Cyril of Alexandria, who lived in the early 5<sup>th</sup> century. He has been teaching at Bellarmine since 2008, right after he finished grad school.

One of the things that attracted Greg to teaching at Bellarmine was its connection to Thomas Merton – who was an important figure for him in his early twenties; he was excited about the possibility of teaching at a place so intimately connected with Thomas Merton. At our luncheon meeting, Greg spoke on the topic “Thomas Merton and the Meaning of Dialogue.”

Of the many books that Merton wrote, one of the first to have a great impact on Dr. Hillis was “Seven Storey Mountain” – a book he says is really all about vocations. Merton was not raised Catholic, but became one and wanted to consider a religious vocation. However, he was told he had no vocation whatsoever. As we all know, Thomas Merton went on to become a priest and a prolific writer. Dr. Hillis could identify with Merton in many ways and concluded that if Merton could survive his spiritual chaos, so could he.

Dr. Hillis spoke of Merton’s comments on dialogue, and also spoke of things Pope Francis has said. For example, when the Pope was in the U.S. in 2015, he spoke of what it means to dialogue and specifically named several U.S. people to study on this topic – Abraham Lincoln, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, and Thomas Merton. The Pope has put an emphasis on dialogue. Dr. Hillis feels that we Catholics don’t dialogue enough on (1) politics (when we are “often speaking past one another”), and (2) within the Church itself (when there is often a disconnect between Catholics who take different sides on various issues).

Greg specifically spoke on what Merton had to say about dialogue in his book “Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander” – “The basic falsehood is the lie that we are totally dedicated to truth ... that we have the monopoly of all truth, just as our adversary of the moment has the monopoly of all error.” For many people, the goal of dialogue is to be right, not to seek the truth – thus catering to our own selfishness and pride. However, to do dia-

logue correctly, we should approach it with an understanding of the basic dignity of the person with whom we are talking, seeing Jesus in that person, even if that person wishes to do us harm. We need to seek to affirm the good that is within the people with whom we dialogue – instead of labeling our opponents or dismissing them as unthinking, clueless, or evil – or taking the lazy approach of not thinking through both sides of an argument.

With a Christian attitude, we must humbly accept that we don’t have a total understanding of everything, and that we can learn something from everyone. We should do this in every roll we have in life, Dr. Hillis said – e.g., as a husband, father, and professor, in his case. The Pope and Merton both spoke of getting rid of pretenses and genuinely pursuing the truth.

Dr. Hillis also spoke of how, in modern society, with all our media devices, we have fewer opportunities to dialogue. You can’t dialogue with the TV. We must do this with people – one on one; but that takes time. We were made for relationships, not isolation.

We want to thank Dr. Greg Hillis for taking the time to speak with us about this very important topic.

*(Thanks to Jerry Zimmerer for the pictures with this article.)*



## SERRAN ED STIVERS PASSED AWAY ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Ed Stivers, age 93, passed away surrounded by family on Friday, March 17. He has been a member of the Serra Club for over 58 years – since September 1, 1958. Ed was a good man and a faithful Catholic, always sharing his thoughts, articles, Internet links, humor, and much more through his daily emails to several hundred people. His wife Bettie

passed away April of 2011. Expressions of sympathy can be made to Hosparus of Southern Indiana / Louisville and the Home of the Innocents, Louisville, KY. Ed will be missed by many people.

## MARGIE MONTGOMERY SPOKE AT OUR MARCH 20 MEETING

Mrs. Margie Montgomery, Executive Director of the Kentucky Right to Life Association (KRLA), joined us to provide an update on RTL issues in Kentucky.



Margie was born and raised in New Jersey, attending Catholic grade school and high school. She also graduated from Rosemont College in Pennsylvania, where she said it was great having been taught by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus. That

order was one of the favorites of Bishop Fulton Sheen who gave the college students marvelous retreats and also presented Margie with her college diploma!

After graduation, Margie worked as a journalist for a weekly newspaper, came to Louisville to visit a college friend, and met her future husband, Schu Montgomery. They married and became parents of three marvelous children. Mrs. Montgomery was the

first lay woman president of the League of Catholic Parent-Teacher Association of the Archdiocese of Louisville, an experience she said was most interesting and enjoyable.

She was a founder of the first Right To Life organization in Kentucky. Then they began the Kentucky Right To Life Association in 1973. They are the affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee, the largest Right To Life organization in the nation.

Margie was honored to receive the 2011 Salute to Catholic Alumni Award from the Archdiocesan Catholic Educational Foundation. She and her husband are members of St. Albert parish here in Louisville.

Margie quotes Father James Keller, the founder of the Christophers, as saying “It is better to light one candle than curse the darkness.” She heard a local TV personality advocating, in 1970, making abortions more permissive at a time when it could only be used in rare cases. As President of the League of Catholic PTAs, she agreed to a TV appearance to give an opposing view. This was the beginning of the right to life movement in Louisville. Supporters met in her home for four years; and eventually a board of directors was formed – consisting of a priest, a minister, a nurse, a social worker, and others. They eventually opened an office in St. Matthews, and have been in that part of town for decades.

While the Kentucky Right to Life Association was formed, Planned Parenthood grew to the point that it is now performing a third of all abortions in the country, and getting \$450 million in Federal funding for various programs, despite the Hyde Amendment stating that Federal funds will not be spent on abortions.

During the Obama presidency, Congressional Republicans attempted to cut back on abortion funding; but Obama vetoed the legislation.

Through undercover videos, Planned Parenthood was found discussing the sale of baby body parts. A Congressional committee began an investigation of the abortion industry and recommended prosecutions. One Republican spoke of what they found as the “significant tip of an ugly iceberg – a multibillion dollar industry that systematically exterminates children and hurts women.” In the meantime, some states, recently including Kentucky, have defunded Planned Parenthood. Margie spoke of this being a “lovely year for the pro-life movement.”

Most RTL work is educational, reminding people that some women still suffer decades after having an abortion, and that Roe v. Wade allows abortions during all nine months of a pregnancy. Their educational materials try to show the developing fetus at all stag-

**MARGIE MONTGOMERY**  
**(continued from page 3)**



es. They promote legislation that protects both the mother and the child. They have programs providing TV ads, newspaper ads, school visits, resource centers, bus trips to Washington every January, the promotion of prayers, and much more. Despite all of this, there have been 59 million abortions since 1973, when Roe v. Wade was passed by the Supreme Court in a 7-2 vote.

The Democratic platform in the recent elections not only accepted abortion, but proposed removing the Hyde Amendment altogether. RTL also has a Political Action Committee that works to defeat legislators who defend abortions. The RTL of Louisville was one of the first to start a crisis pregnancy center. There are now more pregnancy crisis centers across the country than there are abortion clinics.

We want to thank Margie for all her leadership in the right-to-life movement and for taking the time to give us an update.

*(Thanks to Jerry Zimmerer for the picture with this article.)*

**EASTER MEDITATION -**  
**WHY JESUS CAME,**  
**IN HIS OWN WORDS**

\* “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.” – Matthew 5:17

\* “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work.” – John 4:34

\* “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed

go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.” – Luke 4:18

\* “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.” – Luke 19:10

\* “Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” - Matt 20:28

\* “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.” – Mark 2:17

\* “I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” – John 10:10

\* “To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent.” – Luke 4:43

\* “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see...” – John 9:39

\* “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.” - Luke 12:49-51

\* “Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s enemies will be those of his household.” - Matthew 10:34-36

\* “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.” – John 18:37

**POTPOURRI - VARIOUS**  
**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**Serran Birthdays this month**

Charlie Francesconi, April 3.

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**The Pope’s Prayer Intentions for this month**

Young People - That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

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**NCAA** – Eleven of the 68 colleges and universities that were in the NCAA March Madness this year were Catholic schools!

**POTPOURRI**  
**(continued from page 4)**

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**Determined to enter the religious life despite parental objection** - Read of St. Aloysius Gonzaga (1568-1591) at <http://www.americamagazine.org/content/all-things/life-times-st-aloyisius-gonzaga>

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**On Contemplative Prayer** - "We should never be so contemplative as to forget in the course of our contemplation that we must be of service to our neighbor." – St Augustine

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**Seven Spiritual Weapons** – “Whoever wishes to carry the cross for his sake must take up the proper weapons for the contest, especially those mentioned here. First, diligence; second, distrust of self; third, confidence in God; fourth, remembrance of Passion; fifth, mindfulness of one's own death; sixth, remembrance of God's glory; seventh, the injunctions of Sacred Scripture following the example of Jesus Christ in the desert.” –from “*On the Seven Spiritual Weapons*” by Saint Catherine of Bologna, Italy (1413-1463)

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**Meditation on the end of life** - "Every funeral reminds us of just how thin the veil is between this world and the next, between time and eternity, between the opportunity for conversion and the moment of judgment." - Fr. Paul Scalia, from his homily at the funeral Mass of his father, Justice Antonin Scalia.

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**Vocation Quote** - “For each one of us, there is only one thing necessary: to fulfill our own destiny, according to God's will, to be what God wants us to be.” - Thomas Merton, from “*No Man Is an Island*”

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**Saint quote** - "A Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps." - St. Augustine

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**Did you know?** ... the Serra Club sponsors a luncheon for seminarians just before they go back to school each year. We also sponsor a Christmas luncheon for retired women religious every year.

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**Scripture verse of the month** - "The just ... planted in the house of the Lord ... shall bear fruit even in old age; they will stay fresh and green." - Psalm 92:13-15

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**Examination of Conscience** - Several good lists can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/examinations-of-conscience.cfm>

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**Legacies can be changed:** The founding of the Nobel Prizes came about because of an accident. In 1888, when Alfred Nobel's brother Ludwig died, a French newspaper ran Alfred's obituary instead. The newspaper proclaimed that the merchant of death was dead, condemned him for his invention of dynamite and described him as the man who made it possible to kill more people more quickly than ever before. Nobel was understandably horrified and decided to try and change his legacy. In November of 1895, Nobel signed his handwritten last will and testament. This will left a majority of his fortune, 31 million dollars, to a foundation that awards prizes for achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and for peace.

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**Quote from a Pope** - Pope Saint John Paul II often spoke about freedom and truth, and he did so in a most eloquent way. In his great encyclical, *Fides et Ratio*, the very first sentence declares: “Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of the truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth – in a word, to know Him – so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.”

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**Thomas Merton quote on vocations** - “Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation does not come from a voice out there calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice in here calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God.” - Thomas Merton

Thanks to **Donna Richardson** for proofing most of this newsletter.

Newsletter questions, comments, or submissions?  
Contact Chuck Lynch at (502) 244-2752.