



# Serra Club of Louisville

June, 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, (502) 244-2752.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

*Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are at the Golden Corral in Hikes Point, and are open to the public.*

**June 5** - Officer installation. Jerry Gonsoski will speak briefly on the Fatima Centennial.

**June 19** - Deacon Denny Nash will speak on Prison Ministry.

**July 3** – Charlie Hulsman, Chairman of the Louisville Catholic Committee on Scouting, will give us an update on this local organization.

## 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 Wed.** - St. Patrick Church, 7:30 am.

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

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

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS!



On Saturday, May 27, in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Archbishop Kurtz ordained two new priests for our Archdiocese - **Fr. Casey Sanders** (top left) and **Fr. Michael Martin** (bottom left).



Congratulations to both of them!



Fr. Casey Sanders giving his first blessing to Archbishop Kurtz after the ordination Mass



Fr. Michael Martin giving one of his first blessings after the ordination Mass.

“Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you are.  
Believe what you read. Teach what you believe.  
Practice what you teach.”

## FR. STUART PRIDDY SPOKE AT OUR MAY 1 MEETING

Fr. Stuart Priddy, age 42, (and known as “Fr. Stu” by many) joined us to tell us his vocation journey. He is an only child and was born in Elizabethtown, Ky. He was raised solely by his mother, Judy Roguz, after his father left when he was only two years old. He considers his mom to be his greatest inspiration and role model. By the time he was six, he knew how to cook and do laundry.

His mother also let him choose his own faith life. She required him to attend Catholic Mass with her each week, but he was not baptized until he chose it at age 16. Fr. Stu, speaking of Fr. Bill Fichteman at St. James parish in E-town as a big influence on his youth, says he can appreciate choosing his faith; and he fondly remembers his Baptism.

He attended the University of South Florida where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications. While in Florida, he worked in the restaurant industry and was engaged to be married. When the engagement was called off, he found himself focusing on his faith and scouring bookstores for Catholic books. Reading and prayer led him to apply to join the seminary.

He initially entered the seminary in Wheeling-Charleston, WV, earning a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus Ohio. The day before graduation, his dearly beloved stepfather died unexpectedly of cancer. Through the seminary, Fr. Stu had already signed up for a three-month Spanish language immersion program in Mexico; so, with a lot of prayer, he decided to go ahead. When he returned, thoughts of married life caused him to withdraw from the seminary in 2004. Once again, he became engaged, but his fiancé helped him realize that he was really meant to be a priest.

In the summer of 2006, he returned to Kentucky and a year later enrolled in St. Meinrad, later graduat-

ing with a Master’s degree in Philosophical studies and a Master’s degree in Divinity. In addition to all his classes, he studied much on his own, as he loves to read all the time. He was ordained five years ago, in May of 2012. In a two-year period while at St. Aloysius parish, he read 251 books. Fr. Stu says that both reading and prayer fuel his homilies.

He has used his Spanish language skills as he has worked at Holy Spirit, Immaculate Conception in Lagrange and St. Rita parishes. He now serves as pastor at St. Bartholomew. He, too, wishes to promote vocations and encourages parents and grandparents to talk with their children about their faith and about vocations. He speaks of having “always searched for truth in life,” and that “faith has to be intentional.” He is very thankful that “neither his mother nor God gave up on him.”

He’s concerned that youth can lose their prayer life, and thus their faith life, if they devote too much time to phones, electronic devices, television, and the internet. Like some others, he’s even had to wrestle with depression but says it is under control now. He can see “light at the end of the tunnel”, saying that “leaning on the cross became my everything.” He still loves solitude, probably originating with his being an only child; and he loves praying in the chapel. Fr. Stu also advised us all to “slow down your prayers.”



We want to thank Fr. Stu for sharing his vocation story. Fr. Stu, congratulations on five years as a priest!

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

## ARCHBISHOP KURTZ SPOKE AT OUR MAY 15 MEETING

The Archbishop, who was once Chaplain for the Serra Club in Allentown, PA, spoke on the topic “Where is Catholicism in the United States and in the rest of the world?” He generally addressed three areas – changes in the Church, the three synods he attended in Rome in the last few years, and Church statistics.

Catholic New Service recently reported that, surprisingly, Christianity and Catholicism are growing in North Korea. In the last executive trip for his Presidency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (which ended November of 2016), he went to Vietnam. The Communist government there has very strict rules over what the Catholic Church can do. While they do not allow Catholic schools or Catholic hospitals, they do allow Catholic kindergartens and Catholic clinics. The government has also allowed the establishment of the Catholic Institute of Vietnam, to eventually be a Catholic university.

So, as the Archbishop tells us, “Church suffering can be a Church that grows,” just as the Little Sisters of the Poor have struggled with the Federal government’s new healthcare rules. “Struggling and growth strangely go together.”

In the Louisville Archdiocese, we have changes in cultural richness. With a priest on loan from the Philippines, we now have Masses being said in the Filipino language. Another priest, from Korea, is now serving our local Korean community with Masses in their language. We also have two priests here from Africa. So, we now have local Masses in Swahili as well as in French for people from the former French colonies of Africa.

Then the Archbishop spoke of three special meetings he attended in Rome - the 2012 Synod on Evangelization, led by Pope Benedict, and the 2014-15 Synods on the Family, led by Pope Francis. He spoke of the best part of these being the small group meetings, where bishops “rolled up their sleeves” to work

with others speaking the same language. He learned of other perspectives on the Church through bishops from all over the world.

Finally, the Archbishop spoke of many of the statistics on our Church, especially those collected by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) and the

Pew Research Center (a non-partisan, “fact tank” in Washington, DC). Comparing stats from 1965 to 2016, the number of priests in the U.S. dropped from 59,000 to 37,000; and annual ordinations dropped from 994 to 548. But compared to the period 2000 to 2005, the number of ordinations is on the increase. The number of Deacons has gone from zero in 1965 to 18,000 in 2016, while women religious have dropped from 180,000 to 47,000. The number of parishes without a resident priest has gone from 500 to 3,500 in the last half century. Looking at the ages of priests, the number of inactive priests has gone from 6% of the total to 37% of all U.S. priests for that same period. At the same time, the Catholic population has gone from 46,000,000 to 68,000,000 while only 60,000,000 of today’s Catholics were born in the U.S. Also, 30,000,000 now call themselves “former Catholics.”



In 1965, 55% of Catholics attended Mass in the U.S., whereas today that number is only 22%. In the last century, comparing Pew Research Center statistics for 1910 and 2010, here’s the percent of worldwide Catholics, by continent:

	<u>1910</u>	<u>2010</u>
North America	5%	8%
Europe	65%	24%
Africa	< 1%	16%
Asia Pacific	5%	12%
Latin America	24%	39%

Speaking about the book “The Power of Silence” by African Cardinal Robert Sarah, Archbishop Kurtz



**ARCHBISHOP KURTZ**  
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said there are many Africans today who are the first in their families to ever hear the name of Jesus. Also, the U.S. has only the fourth largest Catholic population in the world, followed by Brazil (1<sup>st</sup>), Mexico (2<sup>nd</sup>) and the Philippines (3<sup>rd</sup>).

US. Cardinal Donald Wuerl speaks of the “tsunami of secularism” doing to Catholicism what the French Revolution did over two centuries ago – increasing the number of nonreligious. But the oft-quoted phrase “The blood of martyrs is the growth of the Church” reminds us that when Catholicism is persecuted, our faith community grows.

The Church needs new missionaries, and even family missionaries - husbands and wives who do missionary work in foreign countries. However, the Archbishop emphasized the point also made by the Pope that “the bread and butter of the Church is the parish” – even more important than many ecclesial movements (e.g., the Cursillo movement). The Archbishop spoke of a renewal of our parishes and referenced his Archdiocesan Pastoral Letter (Dec. 2016) – “Your Parish: The Body of Christ in Our Midst.” (just click here: <https://www.archlou.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Pastoral-Letter-FINAL.Chancery.pdf>) Being reminded by the Archbishop that “each parish is a moving trend,” we should all re-read his letter as it explains the process and activities our parishes are preparing for the next few years.

We want to thank Archbishop Kurtz for his time and experience shared in updating us on the status of the worldwide Church.

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

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

**Serran Birthdays this month**

Debbie Farmer, June 7

Paul Koprucki, June 27

Ramsey Kraft, June 28

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

For National Leaders - That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.

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**St. Boniface** - June 5 is feast day of St. Boniface, bishop and martyr who lived 675 to 754. Even in his 70s he was evangelizing for the Church.

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**Father’s Day is Sunday, June 18** - “Son, brother, father, lover, friend. There is room in the heart for all the affections, as there is room in heaven for all the stars.” - Victor Hugo (1802-1885)

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**Local vocations** – The last we heard, the Archdiocese of Louisville will probably have four new seminarians for the Fall of 2017!

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**Quote from a Saint** - "Trust the past to God’s mercy, the present to his love, and the future to his providence." - St. Augustine

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**June 24 is the feast of the birth of St. John the Baptist** – because Elizabeth was six months pregnant at the time of the Annunciation (Luke 1:36).

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**On the sin of presumption** - There was a 1997 survey conducted by U.S. News & World Report of 1,000 people, about who was most likely to get into heaven. Michael Jordan had a 65 percent chance, Mother Teresa a 79 percent chance. But 87 percent of the survey takers decided they were the ones most likely to go to heaven!

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**The Pope’s TED Talk** – TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages. To read the text of the Pope’s April 2017 TED talk, click:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/pope\\_francis\\_why\\_the\\_only\\_future\\_worth\\_building\\_includes\\_everyone/transcript?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/pope_francis_why_the_only_future_worth_building_includes_everyone/transcript?language=en)

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**Our personal vocation** - "Learn who you are in the eyes of God." - Saint Eugene

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**A prayer worth saving** - "Eternal God, who are the light of the minds that know you, the joy of the hearts that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you; grant us so to know you, that we may tru-

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

ly love you, and so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom, in Jesus Christ our Lord." (Prayer of Saint Augustine)

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**Disorder in the world** – “Disorder in society is the result of disorder in the family.” - Saint Angela Merici (1474-1540)

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**Eucharistic Adoration** times in our Archdiocesan parishes -  
<https://www.archlou.org/parishes/eucharistic-adoration/>

St. Martin of Tours (Louisville) parish has a chapel with Eucharistic Adoration 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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**Fatima Centennial** - Here's a fascinating article on Mary, Fatima, and Muslims - just click:  
<http://m.ncregister.com/daily-news/marys-providential-bridge-to-islam#.WRs4nPcpDqA>

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**Gratefulness** - For a great TED Talk by Brother David Steindl-Rast, on Gratefulness, just click:  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/david\\_steindl\\_rast\\_want\\_to\\_be\\_happy\\_be\\_grateful](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_steindl_rast_want_to_be_happy_be_grateful)

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**From a saint's last will and testament** - "I forgive all my enemies, and I ask God and whoever I have offended to forgive me." - Saint David Uribe-Velasco (1888-1927)

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**Patron Saint of Lectors** is St. Sabas the Lector (334 - 372 AD)

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**The value in a moment** - "Every moment comes to us pregnant with a command from God, only to pass on and plunge into eternity, there to remain forever what we have made of it." - Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

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**The Vocation of Charity** - "If you truly want to help the soul of your neighbor, you should approach God first with all your heart. Ask him simply to fill you with charity, the greatest of all virtues; with it you can accomplish what you desire." - Saint Vin-

cent Ferrer (1350-1419) from "On the Spiritual Life"

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**Vocation quote** – “To love as Jesus loves; that is not only the Lord's precept, it is our vocation. When all is said and done, it is the one thing we have to learn, for it is perfection.” - Rene Voillaume (1905-2003)

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**A Priest Explains the Hard Truth About Why the Church Is In Decline** – Here’s a good article and food for thought: <https://churchpop.com/2017/05/08/a-priest-explains-the-hard-truth-about-why-the-church-is-in-decline/>

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**Pain & Tribulation** – “Those who live according to the spirit of the world are fond of pleasures and ease; but those who live according to the Spirit of God, study to purchase the kingdom of heaven by pain and tribulation. As for me, my desire is to forfeit my life here, that I may forever reign with Jesus Christ.” - Saint Conon (martyred in the year 275)

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**On cheerfulness** – “Cheerfulness strengthens the heart and makes us persevere in a good life. Therefore the servant of God ought always to be in good spirits.” - Saint Philip Neri (1515-1595)

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**How to help a seminarian** – A good article: <http://www.spiritualdirection.com/2017/05/20/how-to-help-a-seminarian>

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**Crossword Puzzles?** - It is thought that St. Aldhelm (639-709), renowned for his learning and sanctity, invented the crossword puzzle.

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**When we fight our demons**, remember, that when Jesus’ disciples could not heal the boy with the demon (Matthew 17:14-21), the disciples approached Jesus in private and said, “Why could we not drive it out?” Jesus said “But this kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting.”

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

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



# The NEWMAN CONNECTION



*The Serra Club of Louisville*

and the

*Archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry*

have teamed up to promote

## *The Newman Connection*

for all of our high school graduates!



### THE FACTS:

- An estimated **80%** of Catholic students leave the Church **before they turn 23!**
- **Only 15%** of U.S. Catholic college students take the time and effort to locate the Catholic ministry on their college campus!
- A study completed for the U.S. Bishops confirmed that those who are active in Campus Ministry also attend Mass more often, donate more to their parishes, become leaders in their parishes, and are likely to consider a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life!
- Conclusion: **Increasing student's participation in Catholic campus ministry activities greatly benefits the individual and the Church in many ways!**

By informing the local Catholic ministry leaders on or near any of over **2,000 public and Catholic campuses nationwide** through *The Newman Connection*, the college student will be found and contacted, and will then *know* there is a place for them in the Church, meet Catholic friends, and grow in their faith!

### WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

*(If someone other than the student or their parent would like to submit a name, please courteously ask permission of the student or their parent first!)*

- 1) **Tell every high school graduate, parent or grandparent of a graduate you know!** Encourage them to go to [www.newmanconnection.com/connect](http://www.newmanconnection.com/connect) and sign up!
- 2) **Provide names directly to us!** *(See contacts below.)* All that is needed for each student is:
  - First and last name,
  - The college this student plans to attend (*exact name since some college names are similar*), and
  - The city and state of the college
- 3) **Enter names yourself directly into the Newman Connection website!** Register as a "Volunteer" at [www.newmanconnection.com/volunteer](http://www.newmanconnection.com/volunteer) and start your own list of young people you wish to get connected!

### GET YOUR PARISH, YOUTH MINISTRY, AND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL INVOLVED!

- Parish offices can help find your parish's high school graduates, create bulletin announcements, and post flyers!
- Youth Ministers often have a good idea who your parish's public high school graduates are!
- Catholic High Schools have their list of current graduates and their intended colleges, too!
- **Share this flyer!** Pastors, Principals, Youth Ministers, Scout Leaders, Coaches, Teachers, Parents, Grandparents!

**For further information, please contact:**

#### Serra Club of Louisville

Chuck Lynch, Program Chair  
(502) 442-9302  
[ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com](mailto:ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com)



#### Archdiocese of Louisville

#### Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Karl Dolson, Director  
(502) 636-0296 x1210  
[KDolson@archlou.org](mailto:KDolson@archlou.org)

