



Serra Club of Louisville

December, 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 lunches are at 11:45 at the Golden Corral in Hikes Point, and are open to the public.

Dec 4 – Serra Club Luncheon for Senior Women Religious, open to the public, at the University Club on the U of L campus at noon. Reservations were to be made by Nov 29.

Dec 18 – Our club chaplain, Fr. Joe Voor, will give us a “Christmas Reflection.”

Jan 1 – No meeting due to the New Year’s Day Holiday

Jan 15 - Jim Laemmle, Chaplain, will speak on "All about Catholic Chaplaincy."

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, Floyds Knobs, IN, 7 - 8 p.m.

NOVEMBER 6 MEETING – MS. JOAN SMITH OF LIFEHOUSE, INC.

Our speaker for this meeting was Joan Smith, Founder and Executive Director of Lifehouse, Inc. maternity home. She spoke on the subject "Saving babies by first saving their mothers."

Joan is a Registered Nurse with experience in labor and delivery rooms, as well as emergency rooms. Years ago, she saw the need for more help for unwed mothers considering abortion, especially since the four maternity homes in Louisville closed after abortion was made legal back in the 1970’s. She has been involved in several ministries helping young pregnant women.

Lifehouse, Inc. is a residential maternity home offering a full range of programs to young pregnant women, and the only one of its kind in Kentucky. Joan also recognizes that there is no

quick and easy solution to life’s problems. For that reason, a young woman can remain in their program for up to four years.

In ten years, 69 healthy babies have been born through Lifehouse, with 10 completed adoptions. They are now seeing moms graduating from college. And Joan is in the process of helping a group in Owensboro start a maternity home there.

Lifehouse was founded on Christian principles (but not affiliated with any single church or denomination), with mandatory church attendance (at the church of the resident’s choice) and Bible study. They’ve got such a great reputation that Louisville Councilmen once started giving them money. However, when the city attorneys found out the details, they said that Lifehouse would have to either give up the required church attendance or give up the money from the city. Lifehouse turned down the city, and is operating quite well on non-governmental donations.

They had a similar incident with Dare to Care, whose management

threatened cutting off their donations due to requiring church attendance. But after catching so much flak from the community, Dare to Care decided to continue with financial assistance.

Lifehouse staff and volunteers are seeing moms reaching their



JOAN SMITH
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potential, despite all the dysfunction in their background – from family problems, drugs, physical abuse, and more. They recognize that saving moms does save babies. To live at Lifehouse, the moms have to do work or school (as appropriate), accept counseling, give 10% of any work income to Lifehouse, give 10% to the charity of their choice, and save 50% of their income. The other 30% they can do with as they please.

Joan has many sad stories she can tell. She knew of one woman in her early 20's, pregnant with her eighth child, collecting \$750 a month in food stamps, and living in Section 8 housing, and eating junk food all the time. Joan found out the young woman did not know how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, and had been buying frozen PB&J sandwiches at the grocery store.

As Joan explains it, some of the problems with today's society (and the social workers graduating from colleges these days) are that society never defends the unborn; it encourages women to have abortions; promotes a foster care system that is very broken; and has no faith-based mentality in helping young women. The foster care courts have been known to take some very uncaring actions. For instance, like taking a child from its adoptive parents to put the child in a foster care arrangement with a couple in their 60's, who already had seven foster children. The more foster children the couple have, the more money they get from the state. For some households, it's all about the money, not the children.

The Lifehouse organization is a modern-day maternity home, helping young women become what they can be. Joan told the story of one of the residents who transformed her life, became a good mother, and is in training to teach abstinence and chastity in a Catholic program.

Lifehouse can also arrange for no-charge adoptions, working with a local attorney, Dale Warren, who does the legal work pro bono. The only expense a couple incurs in adopting through Lifehouse is \$1,000 for a home study required by the state.

Anyone wanting to help can send tax deductible donations to Lifehouse, Inc., 2710 Riedling Drive, Louisville, KY 40206 or donate online at <http://www.lifehouselouisville.org/>.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
OUR SEMINARIANS.**

NOVEMBER 20 MEETING –
DR. KAREN SHADLE

Our speaker for this meeting was Dr. Karen Shadle, Director of the Office of Worship for the Archdiocese of Louisville. Her topic was "It's Complicated: Millennial and iGen Catholics' Relationship with Liturgy."

Karen was born and raised in Louisville. As a



child, she belonged to Our Lady of Lourdes parish. Karen graduated from Assumption High School, and Centre College in Danville for her undergraduate degree with two majors in music and political science. She later graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to get her MA and PhD in musicology, with her primary research being in sacred music.

Karen is married to Doug; and they will celebrate their 10th anniversary this January. They belong to St. Agnes parish. Karen and Doug have a son Avery who is eight and a daughter Cecily, who will be one before year-end.

Thinking a lot of how the Church will look in 20 to 30 years is a big part of Karen's job. She's constantly thinking about how we address what Archbishop Kurtz calls the "graying of ministry." Where will we get lay leaders and people with religious vocations, given that so many of today's young people are not attracted to organized religion? She reminds us that if youth are going to catch the "love of Church" it's going to be at the Mass. So, she focuses on what is and what is not effective in keeping the interest of our youth.

Generation theory is based on broad generalizations and slowly emerging trends. Experts are just

[DR. KAREN SHADLE](#) [\(continued from page 2\)](#)

now figuring out Millennials (people born from 1981 through 1999). The post-Millennials have been called the Z Generation or iGen (not remembering a time before the Internet, and having been introduced to the iPhone when their oldest members were in their early adolescence). The iGen group is accustomed to touch screens and not using a computer mouse. The 9/11 event and priest sexual scandals are just part of history to the iGen group, whose members are also very safety-conscious, being some of the best drivers. They grew up being aware of “stranger danger.” They’re also savvy consumers.

Karen led a Q&A discussion to help us all recognize the differences between the older generations and the younger ones. The Millennials are more technological; seeking proof of God instead of just accepting God’s existence on faith; less engaged; and not understanding of the Catholic faith and things like Transubstantiation. They are more interested in feelings and

wanting to somehow indicate the groups to which they belong. For example, young priests are more likely to be wearing their cassocks in public; and young Muslim women are more likely to wear the hijab (veil). Karen also pointed out that young people don’t carry the “baggage” that older Catholics carry related to our experience with the Latin Mass, Vatican II, the traditional ways of practicing our faith, etc. She explained that a young priest frequently wearing his cassock is not displaying a “holier than thou” attitude, but, instead, is indicating that he is proud to be a Catholic priest. Perhaps surprisingly, one of the most popular liturgies for young Catholics who infrequently attend Mass is Ash Wednesday. One theory for this is that ashes are a visible sign of their Catholicism to others. Similarly, over half of the Millennial Catholics give up eating meat on Friday – another part of their Catholic identity. They wish to be labeled culturally Catholic.

The iGen dislike mediocrity. If joining a choir, they want to be in the best choir in town. The iGen group are open to conversations of faith and vocations.

In fact, vocations are picking up, compared to 10 or 15 years ago.

Karen reminds us that it’s important to recognize these distinctions in our youth, but to not judge them. She’s hopeful that we can enhance liturgies to entice more of the

young people to stay within the Church.

We want to thank Dr. Karen Shadle for taking the time to educate us on these topics.

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



experiences than they are in history, values, symbols, or abstracts (like reverence for the flag).

All religions are experiencing a reduction in participation in the faith by young people raised in the faith. For people at ages 18 to 29, 39% now label themselves as “none” when asked about the religion to which they belong. Only 16% of Millennials label themselves as Catholic; and only 27% (3.25 million) of that group say they are “strongly Catholic.” Catholic weddings are down 50% since 1990; and young people are choosing to marry later and start families later.

However, that 3.25 million “strongly Catholic” group is more conservative than other Millennials. They are more into Eucharistic adoration, Scripture studies, organs, sanctuary bells, chapel veils, and even the Latin Mass.

Millennials are in a world of “identity politics” –

[JUBILEE MASS IN JANUARY](#)

The next Archdiocesan Jubilee Mass will be on Sunday, January 28th, 2018 at St. Stephen Martyr Church, at 10:30 am with reception to follow. (Note that the date is a correction to the mistaken date we put in our last newsletter.)

The purpose of the Jubilee Mass is to celebrate special anniversaries of many men and women religious who live or work in our Archdiocese, as the Church celebrates the same thing around the world.

**POTPOURRI – VARIOUS
ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Serran Birthdays this month

Marie Heckel, Dec 11, Neil Manias, Dec 25

The Pope’s Prayer Intentions for this month - The

Elderly: That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Theology of Abundance – View the video of Archbishop Kurtz on this great topic at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dkEaSI5WoE> – from his Nov, 2017, Segment 1 of Conversations with the Archbishop.

New book on St. Junipero Serra – Here’s a great book review; and even if you don’t purchase the book, the review itself is quite inspiring:

<http://m.ncregister.com/blog/annaabbott/st.-junipero-serras-california-dream#.WhXE9BOmBY>

On the Christmas Rush – “We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that fact. This enables us to do something and to do it very, very well. We may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a stop along the way, an opportunity for grace to enter in and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the Master Builder and the workers. We are the workers, not Master Builders ... ministers, not Messiahs. We are prophets of a future that is not our own.” - Cardinal John Dearden

For a good gift idea for youth, consider the book - "Ablaze: Stories of Daring Teen Saints" by Colleen Swaim, by Liguori Publications. For a review, see <http://www.liguori.org/ablaze.html>. (On that page, click “Sample it” to see all the pages through the first chapter.)

Mary and Joseph lived the gift of virginity – by Pope St. John Paul II: <http://www.ewtn.com/library/papaldoc/jp2bvm30.htm>

Advent Confession – For a good examination of conscience, see

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/examinations-of-conscience.cfm>

Christmas Carols – around the clock in the Louisville area - Radio FM 106.9.

<http://player.tritondigital.com/embed.php?embedid=14601>

The Christmas Story Told in 10 Old Masters Paintings – <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/top-10-christams-artworks-393582>

Humanizing Christ – Here’s another good Christmas reflection:

https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/23/opinion/humanizing-jesus.html?_r=1

The 10 Best Christmas Story Paintings –

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2014/dec/05/the-10-best-christmas-story-paintings>

A Christmas Meditation on the Birth of Christ –

<http://www.setonmagazine.com/mom/dr-mary-k-clark/christmas-meditation-birth-christ-children>

10 Quotes to prepare our hearts for Christmas -

<http://www.cukierski.net/blogs/news/16415500-10-quotes-to-prepare-our-hearts-for-christmas#.WA9oheQVA7Y>

Spiritual Quote of the Month

- "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you." - Saint Teresa of Calcutta



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

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