



Serra Club of Louisville

January, 2018
Newsletter

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

MISSION:

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

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.

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

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

Feb 5 - Art Turner, Archdiocesan Director of Faith Formation - "What is Faith Formation?"

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.

DECEMBER 4 CHRISTMAS BANQUET FOR SENIOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Once again, the Serra Club hosted the annual Senior Women Religious Christmas Luncheon, recognizing the senior women religious of our community. All women religious orders of the Archdiocese were invited. We had over 50 sisters, including members of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, Ursuline Sisters, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Sisters of Loret-

to, and Sisters of Providence. In addition, we had about two dozen Ser-rans and spouses, as well as Archbishop Kurtz, Fr. Joe Voor (our Chaplain), and Fr. Pat Dolan.

We want to thank our President, Bob Hublar, for organizing this event. Bob started us out by introducing the Archbishop, who led us in thanks for our meal as well as a thank you to all the retired women religious.

Bob then read an excerpt from an article written by His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan on the occasion of the Jubilee Year for Consecrated Life in 2015. (Those excerpts follow this article.) Bob introduced our Master of Ceremonies, Gary Montgomery, a local author and speaker. Gary, thanks for your help!

After lunch Gary introduced Archbishop Kurtz. Archbishop Kurtz mentioned three points. First of all, he mentioned that the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) states that 25% of Americans self-identify as Catholic. And 27% of Catholics in the U.S. are born in another country. Secondly, he spoke of the Principal of Mutuality – whereby dioceses around the world

help out each other. For example, two Vietnamese seminarians will be educated here in May, with one staying and one going back to teach in Vietnam. Finally, the Archbishop spoke of the new Archdiocesan Pastoral Center at Holy Family Church. Pope Francis calls for such facilities to be



DECEMBER 4 BANQUET (continued from page 1)



visible, accessible (the facility is accessible from Poplar Level Road and is handicap accessible, increasing efficiency of administration), and located on the grounds of an active parish.

Gary also asked the sisters which ones had been with their order for 50 or more years, 55 years, 60 years, etc. It turns out that Sister Evelyn Hurley, of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, has been with that order for 85 years! She took her final vows 83 years ago; and last March, she turned 102 years old!

Gary then introduced Sister Sarah Yungwirth, OSB, Associate Director of the Vocations Office for the Archdiocese. Sister Sarah thanked the senior sisters for their all they have given; and she thanked the Serrans for the luncheon. Sister then made four points about the Vocation Office. First of all, she spoke about the Planting Seeds Committee that brings together the different orders to work together for vocations. Secondly, she spoke of the vocation talks presented to grade schools, etc. by the Vocation office. Thirdly, she talked of the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis, to which we sent a number of youth. Finally, Sr. Sarah spoke of a Marion Dinner which is being planned for the near future.

We had a great meal; the Serrans also gave out bags of candies to the sisters as they left. Mary Means, a Serran who has been playing the piano for 87 years, gave us some beautiful music before and during the dinner. The whole audience was very appreciative of her talent. Mary, thanks for entertaining us! At the end of our luncheon we welcomed the U of L Cardinal Singers - an a cappella group of about three dozen singers wearing the traditional U of L red and black, and led by Director Kent Hatteberg. Their songs included some in foreign languages. As always, this award-winning choir is a fantastic part of our annual luncheon for the women religious.

Thanks also to Jerry Gonsoski for coordinating with the University Club, to Bert Trompeter for the donation of candy for the sisters, to Ramsey Kraft for having Nanz & Kraft donate the centerpieces, to Jerry Zimmerer for taking pictures, and to all the Serrans who helped drive the sisters to and from the luncheon.

As the largest of our Serran Club events, the Retired Sisters' Luncheon is always a day of great pride, a good time with many sisters, and a joyful beginning to Advent. And the sisters all told us how much they appreciated it.

(Thanks to Ken Peet for writing this article, and to Jerry Zimmerer for all the pictures.)



DEC. 4 BANQUET
PICTURES



DEC. 4 BANQUET PICTURES (continued from page 3)



FROM CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN'S WRITINGS – ABOUT WOMEN RELIGIOUS

The following is an excerpt from an article written by His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan on the occasion of the Jubilee Year for Consecrated Life in 2015.

Scholars who study Catholic education, health care, and charitable agencies conclude that the main reason we find ourselves now in a challenging situation is because, for the most part, we no longer have the large numbers of religious women and men we had fifty years ago, and are still reeling from their

gradual disappearance. They were the heart, mind, and muscle of so much of our work.

Yes, especially this year, we recall them with immense reverence and gratitude, and rejoice in the devoted sisters we still have.

Yes, they are still with us, their apostolates as valuable and timely as ever, as they continue to respond to the needs of God's people now, as they brilliantly and creatively did in the past.

Yes, there is an army of retired sisters who still remain active, and whose prayers and community life continue to lift us up.

Yes, there are still, thank God, our contemplative communities, whose lives of solitude and prayer boost us in unseen ways.

Yes, there are immigrant orders, like Mother Cabrini's original sisters were, who come from Africa and Latin America to be with their people, and the whole Church, here in America.

Yes, there are new orders of religious women rising up, just as Mother Seton started her own "from scratch" two hundred and five years ago.

So, yes, it's good to thank God for who these sisters were, but not to forget praising God for who they are. From the time of Jesus, women have consecrated themselves to Him, and then to His Church, and carried on His teaching, serving, and sanctifying with radiant effectiveness.

It's not over yet!



FR. JOE VOOR SPOKE AT OUR DEC 18 LUNCHEON

Father Voor spoke at our December 18 meeting, to give us a Christmas reflection. He first pointed out that the first two weeks in Advent were about repentance; but yesterday was Gaudete Sunday, starting a week when we rejoice for Christ's coming, and when the priests wear pink vestments. Father then asked us what we specifically rejoice about, or memories of joyful Christmas's past.

Mary Means mentioned remembering her father

Fr. Voor
(continued from page 4)

playing the organ at 5 am Masses when she was a child; and she was glad she doesn't have to get up that early any more.

Bob Hublar remembered being given, before Christmas, a bundle of switches to remind him to be on his best behavior. He also remembered family gatherings where he saw some of his nieces and nephews only once per year.

Neil Manias reminded us of his being born on Christmas day, and one specific memory of a birthday when he got a fruit cake with candles in it.

Fr. Voor, whose childhood was during the Depression, remembered getting fruit in his stocking on St. Nick's feast day, and clothes or shoes for Christmas. He might get one other gift for Christmas, but because families had very little money, that would be all. Yet, he remembers the tremendous peace and happiness in the family.

He remembered a brother and a sister who remained single, and thus were able to afford extra gifts for some of the children in the family. One year, they gave his family a five-pound box of choc-



olates – a wonderful gift! Fr. Voor lamented that many people no longer believe Christmas can be as joyful as it was generations ago.

“Joy does not come from things, but from relationships and being one with a community,” he told us. He recommended we all talk to our children and grandchildren about this. Young people don't believe there can be the sense of stability and peace that he experienced as a child. When he was a child, the family never felt a need to lock their doors.

Fr. Voor pointed out that many people think of the Church as weak, because, ever since Vatican II, the Church speaks of love, forgiveness, and mercy. However, he reminds us that one description of a father is a man who is strong enough to be merciful. If we don't share these values with our youth, they will never learn it from the secular world or the secular press.

He remembers when 95% of Catholic children



went to Catholic schools. Catholics were discouraged from sending their children to public schools because, for one thing, the Bibles read from in public schools were not Catholic Bibles.

As Catholics, “we are the wisest people in the world because we know that all people are one - united with Christ,” who came for all of mankind, to be one with us in our human nature.

Fr. Voor also reminded us that we belong to both the material world and the spiritual world. Yet, most of our youth won't, or can't, look forward to spiritual riches.

Father read from the Scriptures – “Thus says the Lord, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord, your God, teaching you how to prevail, leading you on the way you should go. If only you would attend to my commandments, your peace would be like a river, your vindication like the waves of the sea, your descendants like the sand, the offspring of your loins like its grains, their name never cut off or blotted out from my presence.” (Isaiah 48:17-19)

So, if we keep God's law we will have prosperity. He spoke of people who think they simply live in economic poverty, but really suffer from psychologic poverty. He said we have to be like John the Baptist; we must share the joy, witnessing to the fact that the spiritual world is a reality. The Christmas message is one of peace throughout the world, but society is not listening. “We may not have an easy life, but it can be a joyful life.”

We want to thank Fr. Voor for his presentation.

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

PLANTING SEEDS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF 11/08/17

(Notes by Ken Peet, the Serra Club liaison with the Committee)

Changes in the Vocation Office - Fr. Peter Do

PLANTING SEEDS COMMITTEE
(continued from page 5)

started as new Associate Vocation Director of the Archdiocese of Louisville in October.

The annual Jubilee Mass will be held January 28th at St. Stephen Martyr parish at 10:30 am. It will be followed by a reception.

Nun Run / Pizza with Sisters / Marian Dinner – The Committee will try focusing on the Marian Dinner right now. There will be a planning meeting after the next Planting Seeds Committee meeting in January and explore possible changes or tweaks. For example, maybe instead of a presentation, the sisters might sit at a table with the young ladies attending, and have them try to “stump the nun” with questions about their life, insights, etc.

Other Event idea – The Committee would like to try organizing booths at Church picnics and/or secular fairs. Could offer food or activities to get people to interact and talk with representatives from different communities.

Publicity - Please remember to send Sr. Sarah or Kelly your events (in pdf or image format) so it can be posted on social media

The Serra Club sponsors an annual Essay Contest (grades 7-8) and Poster Contest (grades 4-6). There will be money prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, as well as a prize for the teacher/sponsor of the 1st place winners. This should help engage students and teachers in vocation topics. The contest was announced in November and runs through January 5, 2018. Winners will be announced the week of January 29.

Serra Club is hosting a Senior Women Religious Luncheon on at 11:45 am December 4, 2017 at the University Club.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 5:15 pm and hosted by Sr. Rachel Geracitano at her community house at 512 Breckenridge Ln.

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 a reception to follow.

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

Bill Moriarity, Jan 2 Bob Hublar, Jan 3
Kelly McLemore (Vocation Office), Jan 31

The Pope’s Prayer Intentions for this month –

Evangelization: Religious Minorities in Asia - That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

Five important 2018 dates for celebrating vocations

World Day for Consecrated Life (WDCL) - The Sunday coincident with or immediately following Feb 2 (the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord). The next one celebrated in parishes is **Sunday, 2/4/18.**

National Catholic Sisters Week (NCSW) - Celebrated **March 8 to 14** each year, regardless of the day of the week on which March 8 falls. This was just created in the last few years. It’s part of Women’s History Month.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations (WDPV) - Usually the fourth Sunday after Easter each year – aka Good Shepherd Sunday. The next one is **Sunday, 4/22/18.**

Priesthood Sunday - The last Sunday of October each year. The next one is **Sunday, 10/28/18.**

National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW) - The week beginning on the first Sunday in November each year. The next one is the week beginning on **Sunday, 11/4/18.**

Why wear the Brown Scapular? - <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/put-on-our-ladys-protection-with-the-brown-scapular>

January 1 is World Day of Prayer for Peace - Checkout <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/world-day-of-peace.cfm>

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

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