



Serra Club of Louisville

April, 2018
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.

Apr 2 - Sr. Ruth Ann Haunz, OSU - "A parish model that incorporates the Francis Center"

Apr 16 – (at St. Bartholomew parish, Barth Hall) Archbishop Joseph

Kurtz will speak on "The Gift of Religious Liberty" **Reservations required. See article.**

May 7 - Fr. Pat Dolan - "Islam and the Inquisition"

May 21 - Deacon Lucio Caruso - "Integration of Word, Worship, and Charity"

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.

MARK CASPER SPOKE AT OUR MARCH 5 MEETING

Our speaker for this meeting was Mark Casper, Executive Director for St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities (SECC). Mark joined us to give us an update on this local charity.

Mark was born and raised in Louisville. He has eight siblings in the Louisville area, plus one in Bardstown, and one in Florida. He graduated from Bishop David High School in 1979 and UofL in 1983. He has been married for 27 years and has twin daughters who both graduated from IUS this past spring. Mark joined SECC in 2008, after serving on their board for a year.

Also joining us from SECC were Jennifer McVeigh-Davis, the Social Services Director, as well as Fran Brown and Deacon Charlie Brown, two of their volunteers.

This agency is owned by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, but its programs operate primarily in southern Indiana and the Louisville Metro area. About 28% of their financial support comes from the Louisville side of the river; and about a third of their board of directors are from Louisville. Although they don't do disaster relief programs, they did set up an office in Henryville for two years after that town was dramatically damaged by tornadoes.

The organization was named after St. Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231), who was born into a royal family, but chose to live simply, devote herself to works of charity for the poor and the sick, and give away much of her family's wealth.

SECC started as a maternity home, and has grown to now own eight buildings, offering a number of family-oriented social services, primarily helping women and their children. They have three shelter programs for unwed mothers.

Their eight programs include a Women & Children's Emergency Shelter; a Family Stability Program; Affordable Supportive Housing; an adoption agency; a counseling program; Marie's Community Distribution Program; a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program; and a Supported Living Program.

The average person placed



MARK CASPER
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with them is a 26-year old woman with one or two children, who is pregnant and has decided to give up her next child for adoption.

Their staff of 16 full-time employees, and 16 part-time employees (who live in the homes with the women residents), is assisted by many local volunteers, including many high school students doing service hours.

Mark shared with us many facts about the nature of social service work. For every one child ready for adoption, SECC has 30 couples seeking to adopt a child. From 2013 to 2017, the number of children in need of services has tripled. Indiana is a more adoption-friendly state than Kentucky. Their 15 to 20 adoptions per year are unrelated to their shelter services.

They take all sorts of donations, in addition to cash; in-kind donations were worth \$260,000 last year. They have an annual gala to raise funds. They were just approved for a \$50,000 grant from the Women's Foundation of Southern Indiana, for funds to be applied toward training the mothers in various skills, to make them more employable. Items donated are put to use right away or given away within the week. They get a lot of support from nine local churches.

Their Supported Living Program helps adults and children with developmental delays. They currently have 16 clients in this program. Some have been there for over 25 years.

For more information on this organization, to learn about their upcoming April 19 gala, or to see how you can volunteer or make a donation, see



<http://www.stecharities.org/>.

We want to thank Mark Casper for giving us an update on this wonderful organization.

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

FR. PETER DO WAS OUR SPEAKER
AT THE MARCH 19 MEETING.

Our speaker for this meeting was Fr. Peter Do, Associate Vocation Director for the Archdiocese. He joined us to give us an update on the Vocations Office.

Fr. Peter was born in Saigon, Vietnam in 1971. And he came to the U.S. as a teenager in May of 1990. He graduated from Seneca HS, St. Meinrad, and the Mundelein Seminary for Theology in Illinois.

He was ordained to the priesthood June 8, 2002. His parish assignments have been St. James in Elizabethtown, St. Bartholomew, and St. Ignatius. For the last two years he has been pastor for both St. Gregory in Cox's Creek and St. Monica in Bardstown

Fr. Peter reminded us that when he first joined the seminary, Serran Tom Ransdell was working in the Vocations Office, and the two of them got to know each other very well.

Fr. Peter also has a strong passion for supporting seminarians. In fact, he's been instrumental in getting all four of our current Vietnamese seminarians to come to Louisville. As pastor at St. Bartholomew parish, he had a large rectory; and he opened it up to our seminarians, hosting over 90% of them while he was assigned to that parish. He said this was a factor in his being appointed to his current role with the Vocation Office.

Talking about Vietnam, he explained that although the communist government in that country has many restrictions on the Catholic Church, there is still a lot of interest in the priesthood there. About 400 young men apply to be seminarians each year; but the diocese can only take eight to ten into the program. Due to the demand, the diocese only takes seminarians under age 23. Older men still wanting to pursue the priesthood can look into joining an order of priests. The Church in Vietnam is always looking for people who are willing to come to Vietnam to teach English, so their seminarians can come to the U.S. for further studies.

The Vietnamese communist government does not allow students to study philosophy; and young men can study theology and pastoral ministry only after completing college. The

FR. PETER DO
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SERRANS WILL BE TOURING ST. MEINRAD ON APRIL 10



government requires seminarians to study communism before they can be ordained. Government interference with the Church varies throughout the country, being the worst in the big cities.

For this fall, there are four or five men in discernment to possibly join the seminary for our own Archdiocese. Also, the Archdiocese is

considering two seminarians who may come from the Dominican Republic.

The Vocations Office will be hosting one or more St. Andrews dinners this year - usually a small number of high school aged young men recommended by their pastors. These gatherings consist of a social hour and a meal, followed by a talk and/or a video on vocations. Then the Vocations Office stays in touch with any of these young men who continue to show an interest in the priesthood. This program has been in operation for a couple of years and replaces (along with the Marian Dinners for young ladies) the Dinner With the Archbishop, which used to attract hundreds of youth every year – too many for one-on-one discernment discussions.

Fr. Peter said that in a number of cases, the first contact is initiated by the young man interested in discerning a vocation. The Archdiocese also utilizes a number of social media connections. For more information check out the new website at www.LouisvilleVocations.com. It has a lot of valuable content and resources.

We want to thank Fr. Peter for giving us an update from the Vocations Office.

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



We have been invited by the seminarians at St. Meinrad to join them for the day, after they get out of their morning classes.

Date: Tuesday, April 10

Travel time: It takes about 1.5 hours to drive to St. Meinrad, depending on where you come from in Jefferson County.

Time zone change: Keep in mind that St. Meinrad is on Central Time (CT) – one hour behind Louisville's Eastern Time (ET).

Who can go: Serrans can invite spouses and friends.

How we will go: We will car pool. We'll figure out the details later.

Cost: \$7.00 for the lunch in Newman Hall. Just be prepared to pay there.

Tentative schedule: Leave Louisville around 10 am. Driving time is about 1.5 hours. Visit the St. Meinrad gift shop; have Mass and lunch with the seminarians; tour St. Meinrad; get back to Louisville around 5:30 pm.

Campus Map is at http://www.saintmeinrad.edu/media/165146/campus_map_large.jpg.

Reservations: They ask that we let them know in advance how many people will be coming, so they can plan on extra food for lunch. Just **let me know, by Monday, April 2, if you are going.** We can later work out who drives with whom.

*Chuck Lynch 442-9302 or
ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com*

ARCHBISHOP KURTZ WILL BE OUR SPEAKER ON APRIL 16.

The Serra Club will host a luncheon meeting at 11:45 on Monday, April 16, in Barth Hall at St. Bartholomew Parish, 2042 Buechel Bank Rd. Archbishop Kurtz will speak on "The Gift of Religious Liberty." **Reservations are required** no later than Wednesday, April 11.

The cost is \$15 if MAILED by April 9 and \$20 if received after April 11. For more information or to make reservations, call Jerry Gonsoski at 245-5392.

**VOCATIONS GROW
ON TREES
- FAMILY TREES.**

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

The Serra Club of Louisville is working with a number of parishes in an attempt to have regular Holy Hours for Vocations, including Eucharistic Adoration and benediction. We will send out announcements when we have details. Also, check the Record for these announcements.

THE SERRA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WILL BE IN NASHVILLE THIS YEAR!

The international conference this year will be in Nashville, from June 27 to July 1. Speakers include His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, and Most Reverend Peter Sartain, Archbishop of Seattle. The conference will be at the Inn at Opryland – located near the Grand Ole Opry. Stay a few extra days to do some sight-seeing and shopping.

You can also pre-register for guided tours of Nashville. For more details, see

<https://nspire.serrainternational.org/2018-serra-international-convention>.

POTPOURRI – VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

Serran Birthdays this month

Charlie Francesconi, Apr 3

The Pope’s Prayer Intentions for this month

Universal: For Those who have Responsibility in Economic Matters - That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

Save the date: Five of our seminarians will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, May 26, at the Cathedral at 11 am.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations (WDPV)

The fourth Sunday after Easter each year – aka Good Shephard Sunday – is on Sunday, April 22 this year. For more information and suggestions, see <https://serraus.org/event/world-day-of-prayer-for-vocations-2018/>.

Scripture verse of the month: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9

Vocations from the military - Fr. Pat Dolan told us recently that the military is the largest source of priests in the U.S., because many men in the military are single and interested in adventure.

Fr. Martin Linebach – our new Vicar General is interviewed by the Archbishop – see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwBSpS6oShA>

On Certain Aspects of Christian Salvation – In February, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a letter to all the Bishops of the Catholic Church. Only a few pages long, but definitely worth reading -

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20180222_placuit-deo_en.html

Quote from a saint: “Let us faithfully transmit to posterity the example of virtue which we have received from our forefathers.” - Saint Peter Damian (1007-1072), Benedictine Monk and cardinal

How to promote vocations – The Serra Club has a Five-Star Program for this purpose. Check it out at <https://serraus.org/programs/five-star/>.

Faith and Science – Archbishop Kurtz and Chancellor Brian Reynolds offer a great discussion of this topic. It would be particularly of interest to the young, who give so much weight to science. Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anJMIFuw-ic&t=>

While you are on this page, check out the other videos described on the right side of the page – a lot of great Catholic presentations.

Thanks to Serra Club member **Donna Richardson** for proofing this newsletter.

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