



Serra Club of Louisville

November, 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, Louisville, and are open to the public.

Nov 5 Mtg – Serran and Deacon Bill Klump will speak about the 50th anniversary of the renewal of the permanent diaconate.

Nov 10 District Meeting – See pg. 5.

Nov 19 Mtg - Fr. Pat Dolan will

speak on the "Interface of Science and Theology: Where do we go from here?"

Dec 3 Mtg – Serra Club Luncheon for Senior Women Religious – open to the public, at the University Club on the U of L campus. See pg. 5.

Dec 17 Mtg – Our Chaplain, Fr. Joe Voor, will speak on the Pope’s exhortation “Rejoice and be Glad.”

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,

own spirituality. For example, the Benedictines speak frequently of “prayer and work.” Chuck spoke of his motto of “pray, learn, work, and share.”

Peter Feldmeier, professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Toledo, speaks of spirituality as being “about putting yourself in the service of something larger than you. And then, paradoxically, you discover your truest self while giving it over to this larger thing.” He also said, “Where do you put your energy and your time?” Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be.”

Lawrence Cunningham, writing in the Commonweal Magazine, said “For Catholics, one of the problems in sorting out this new interest in spirituality is to figure out how the term spirituality is being used. Traditionally, it has been tied to St. Paul’s sense of “life in the Spirit,” as opposed to the path of the carnal person.” He

FOUR NEW POSTULANTS FOR THE REGIONAL FRANCISCANS

Congratulations to the four new postulants accepted into Our Lady of Consolation Province of the Franciscans, a province covering 13 states including Kentucky. The new postulants are
* 20-year old **Roberto Macias-Marin** from Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico;
* 26-year old **Alex Gould** from Marmaduke, Arkansas;
* 28-year old **Joshua Sherls** from Hendersonville, Tennessee; and
* 31-year old **Kyle Gregg** from Shreveport, Louisiana.

All of us Serrans are recruiters for the Serra Club. "Each one, bring one!"

OCTOBER 1 MEETING – A LAYMAN’S PERSPECTIVE ON SPIRITUALITY

At the last minute, Fr. Joe Voor was unable to attend the October 1 meeting. So, Serran Chuck Lynch spoke on his personal views of Catholic spirituality. Some of his notes:

Looking for definitions of “spirituality,” you’ll find things like – “the quality of being concerned with the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things.” Some writers speak of “transcending” the physical world. One article speaks of the Seven Great Schools of Catholic Spirituality being (1) Desert, (2) Monastic, (3) Mendicant, (4) Carmelite, (5) Ignatian, (6) Salesian, and (7) Vincentian.

Many religious orders have their

SPIRITUALITY (continued from page 1)

also says “Within the broad Catholic tradition, though, spirituality has meant, and continues to mean, the ways in which people, beyond the ordinary practices of the faith, have sought to live their Christian lives more intensely.”

One Catholic website says, “As the child of theology, Christian spirituality is about how our understanding of and connection to God – the mystery at the heart of life - profoundly influences how we live.”

In an article entitled “Catholic Spirituality in Practice,” by Colleen Griffith, she says “Too often, spirituality is being presented or sold as the new and improved substitute for religion. A split between spirituality and religion ensues, one rife with dangers.” She stresses that “one ought not conclude that spirituality is a substitute for religion.” Further, she says spirituality “encompasses the dynamic character of human life lived in conscious relationship with God in Christ through the Spirit, as experienced within a community of believers.”

Religion vs spirituality is one of the big discussion issues of today. However, a deep study of both tells us that you can’t have one without the other. In other words, institutional religion is *very* important.



St. Padre Pio’s spirituality was defined, by one writer, as consisting primarily of four things – prayer, Marian devotion, Sacraments, and spiritual reading. The Church in the 21st Century Magazine says “Eucharist remains ‘the source and summit’ of Catholic Christian faith, and participation in the sacraments is arguably the most well-known spiritual practice of Catholic Christianity.” The Church

always stresses frequent use of the Sacraments.

Members of the audience also spoke of their thoughts on spirituality as including “being a friend of God,” “imitating Christ,” “recognizing the wonder and awe of the universe,” “having the ability to love and to go outside of ourselves,” “self-examination,” working on an “examination of conscience,” “working to find the unseen,” and “being full of gratitude.”

When asked about the most important commandments, Christ told us to love God and love our neighbor. Dogma and rules are part of our religion. But relationships are how we put the religion in practice. Spirituality can be thought of as how each person chooses to be in a relationship with God as well as in relationships with God’s creatures and his creation.

Some suggestions on questions for meditation or generating group discussion:

- 1) If spirituality is a matter of how I love God and neighbor, then how do I describe my own personal spirituality?
- 2) What can we learn from people whose spirituality differs from our own? (Including people of different faiths.)
- 3) Can I condense my spirituality to a paragraph, or even a one-sentence motto?
- 4) How do I achieve the proper balance in my spirituality? – Being sure that I don’t just have faith, but also do good works?
- 5) What is my vocation? Can I write it down in less than one page?
- 6) What is the best use of my time, talent and treasure?
- 7) How do I recognize, develop and share my Gifts of the Holy Spirit?
- 8) How do I “grow where I’m planted”?
- 9) What is real, and what is my place in that reality?
- 10) Where do I fit in the community of mankind?
- 11) How do I fit rest and relaxation into my life so that I properly care for mind, body and spirit?
- 12) How do I continue to grow and mature – gaining in closeness to God, closeness to family and community, developing an ability to help others?

For some additional good reading on Catholic spirituality, check out these articles: [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

(Thanks to Paul Willett for the picture with this article.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTER RACHEL GERACITANO!

On October 13, Sister Rachel Geracitano made her final profession of monastic vows (stability, fidelity, and obedience to the monastic way of life), with the Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Indiana. Her hometown is Louisville; and she attended the

[SISTER RACHEL](#) [\(continued from page 2\)](#)



former St. Polycarp School. She now serves as Family Counselor with the Archdiocese of Louisville's Catholic Cemeteries.

Sister Rachel is a graduate of Bellarmine University (2012) as well as the Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology (2017).

When asked what attracted her to this community, she said "Like most people who come here, I immediately felt welcomed and loved by the community from the moment I met them. I was drawn to the energy of this place and wanted to be a part of it. Now I am learning how to live the monastic life through the Rule of Benedict and this amazing community and I have to say I couldn't have imagined it to be this good and exciting!"

Sr. Rachel, we wish you the best in all you do!

[MEMBER SPOTLIGHT –](#) [BOB HUBLAR](#)

Bob Hublar was born in New Albany "one cold January morning in 1943," as he puts it. Part of his youth was spent in the New Albany St. Mary's parish and school; and he finished at Holy Family nearby. At age 10 he developed polio, but never let that stop him from excelling at life.

He graduated from St. X in 1961, and Bellarmine four year later, having majored in math and physics. He took graduate courses at Indiana University, and then taught mostly physics at Trinity High School for 39 years. After that he taught part-time at Highlands Latin School for six years.

Bob joined the Serra Club in 2006; so, he's been a member for 12 years, serving as president for the last few years. He's also a member of the Lanesville, Indiana Knights of Columbus, carrying on a tradition started by other family members.

Bob moved back to New Albany to take care of



his father until his father's death in 2014 at the age of 97. Deciding to stay in New Albany, Bob sold his Louisville home. He has a sister who lives in Corydon and a brother who died 11 years ago.

Bob enjoys talking of his times as a teacher, his friendly squirt gun war with students one year, and his last day at Trinity, when he got back at a number of students with a giant super soaker water gun!

[MEMORIES FROM BILL LIPPY](#)

Bill Lippy, who frequently comes to our meetings as a guest, offered to share some good old memories. He graduated from St. Xavier High School with Fr. Joe Voor, our club's chaplain. Bill spoke of some memories of their years at St. X. He said that he and Fr. Voor were together in the class of 1943, which had 214 graduates. In 75 years, 184 have died; and there are only 30 active alumni now. Fr. Joe Voor turned 93 this year.

Bill said that St. X tuition was \$8 per month back then. It's now just a little shy of \$14,000 per year. Bill, thanks for the memories!

[INVITATION TO JOIN THE SERRA](#) [CLUB OF LOUISVILLE](#)

We want everyone to know that the Serra Club of Louisville is always open to new members. We usually meet twice a month (first and third Mondays for lunch, at the Golden Corral in the Hikes Point area of Louisville), with speakers at almost all our meetings.

Dues help cover the cost of the many things we do, including a Christmas luncheon for senior women religious; a send-off luncheon for our seminarians in August of each year; sponsorship of the annual men's and women's Archdiocesan conferences; coordination with the Vocation Office for the annual poster and essay Vocation Contests; promotion of the Newman Connection, which keeps college students in touch with parishes near their college; and much more. There is also a discount for the first year's dues for new members.

For more information, contact Neil Manias at (502) 267-5011 and see our website [here](#).

[OCT 15 MEETING – KARL DOLSON](#) [SPOKE ON YOUTH MINISTRY](#)

Our speaker for this meeting was Karl Dolson, Director of the Archdiocesan Office for Youth and Young Adults. He joined us to give us an update on that office.

[KARL DOLSON](#) (continued from page 3)

Karl is a cradle Catholic, born the youngest of nine children near Detroit; and he was raised in West Michigan.

Karl graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He also earned the National Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies from the Center for Ministry Development, and a Masters of Pastoral Studies degree, with a focus in youth ministry, from Loyola University in New Orleans.

Karl has been married for 20 years. He and his wife Jennifer were blessed with seven children, ages five through 17, including a daughter in heaven, two other girls, and four boys. His family attends St. Louis Bertrand parish.

While at the Air Force Academy, though he says he had been a pew-warming Catholic, he had a profound, Holy Spirit-filled conversion to Jesus, which he describes as his “Confirmation finally kicking in!”

And this was under the wing of an upper-class cadet in his squadron, who (then) went by the name of Cadet First Class Jeff Shooner, and now goes by the name of Father Jeff Shooner. In a God-designed turn of events, 15 years after they met, he moved his family to Louisville with Fr. Jeff as their pastor and he became youth minister for Fr. Jeff’s parish!

He began working for the Archdiocese in 2013 as Associate Director for Youth Ministry, and in 2017 was promoted to Director of that office.

Karl reminded us that even if a parish does not have a youth minister, every parish should be connected to the Office of Youth and Young Adults. This office has three major goals. First is to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus in our world today. Second is to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic Faith community. Third is to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.



This office does not limit itself to just youth going to Catholic schools, or just the youth going to Mass on weekends, but all youth.

One misconception Karl speaks of is people believing that the youth ministers are the only persons responsible for reaching and saving our youth. He reminds us that youth ministry is the “responsibility of the whole Church.”

Job titles for youth ministers vary from parish to parish; and, in many cases, the person wearing that hat is also wearing many other hats for the parish. When you see a bulletin announcement about fun and games being planned for youth, it’s not that this is all they do. Those exist to “attract the youth so we can connect and communicate with them.” Then friendships, relationships and connections can be made so they know they’re cared for and considered members of the Church.

There are many components to youth ministry, including advocacy, catechesis and community life. Not advertised as much are other components, like evangelization, justice and service, leadership development, pastoral care, prayer and worship.

The Archdiocese has many ministry offerings, such as the regional Catholic Youth Conference every March, trips to Kings Island, Holiday World, and Kentucky Kingdom (which even starts with a Mass at Kentucky Kingdom), the Christian Leadership Institute (a week long program every July), retreats for high school age youth that are not in a Catholic high school, and the biennial National Catholic Youth Conference (for which the last gathering had 25,000 in attendance, and included Eucharistic Adoration in an outdoor stadium).

However, there are dozens of other activities that most of us never hear about. These include the Church’s involvement with the Catholic Committee on Scouting, Youth Ministry Certification, Confirmation Workshops, World Youth Day (every three years, with the next one in the country of Panama), interaction with Catholic Charities, Together Encountering Christ (TEC) retreats, Walk for Life in January, and much more.



[KARL DOLSON](#) (continued from page 4)

Some of the newer programs include Christ in the City, Young Catholic Professionals (YCP), Louisville Young Catholics (LYC) and the Young Adult Franciscan Ministry (YAfram).

Over half of our 110 parishes have some sort of active youth ministry. For 13 parishes, this is managed through a full-time minister. Some parishes share a youth minister. The Office of Youth and Young Adults also has many programs to train and certify the adults leading youth ministry. They even help parishes in hiring youth ministers.

Karl made us aware that “young adults” can be anyone from teenagers to people in their 30s. Of course, included in this spectrum can be anyone from people going off to college to young couples getting married and starting families, to people who have left the Church and are considering coming back.

As Karl puts it, youth ministry is “getting into the lives of young people” so we can bring Christ to them. For more information on the office of Youth and Young Adults, click [here](#).

We want to thank Karl for his time in updating us on the Archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adults.

[\(Thanks to Jerry Zimmerer for the pictures with this article.\)](#)

[SERRAN CALIFORNIA RALLY AND MISSION PILGRIMAGE](#)

In January, you can attend the Serra Rally and/or the Pilgrimage Tour of the old missions founded by St. Serra and the Franciscans – missions located between Los Angeles and San Francisco. For Rally information, click [here](#). For Rally registration, click [here](#). For Hotel registration, click [here](#). And for the Mission pilgrimage, click [here](#).

[NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK](#)

National Vocation Awareness Week begins November 4 this year. For ideas, bulletin inserts, parish and school materials, homilies, and much more, check out these five links: [one](#), [two](#), [three](#), [four](#), and [five](#).

“The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.” - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

[MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – TOM RANSELL](#)

Prior to getting married, Tom Ransdell actually spent high school and college in the Passionist seminaries. But he finally discerned that the priesthood was not for him.

He and his wife Milly have been married for 66 years and were part of St. Barnabas parish when it started back in the 50’s. That parish merged with St. Pius parish, and they now belong to the merged parish, St. John Paul II. They have seven children (five daughters and two sons), 18 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.



Tom joined the Serra Club November 1, 1955. So, he’s been a Serran for 63 years! He had a number of roles over the years, including charter member and President of the club. He was also deeply involved with Serra International. Tom has earned awards from the USA Council (USAC) of Serra International; and in 1987 he was the principal author of a Serra International booklet entitled “The Spiritual Life and the Serran.”

October of this year he celebrated his 94th birthday! Tom, thanks for all your service to the Serra Club of Louisville, as well as USAC and Serra International!

[DISTRICT FALL LEADERSHIP AND PLANNING MEETING](#)

We will be having a District Fall Leadership and Planning Event on Saturday, November 10. This will run from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, at the Maloney Center (1200 S. Shelby Street), and will include lunch. Please save the date. Our club will be hosting members from the Serra Clubs of Owensboro, Lexington, and Northern Kentucky. So, we need a big turnout.

Our main speaker will be Greg Schwietz, the Past President of the USA Council of Serra. Also speaking will be Gino Dimattia, who is the Great Lakes Regional Director (and a member of the Serra Club of Lima, OH). The Serra Club of Louisville is part of the Great Lakes Region.

Ken Peet, our District Governor, is organizing the

SATURDAY, NOV 10 EVENT
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event. All Serrans will be contacted with more details and to get a headcount for the catered luncheon.

DEC. 3 IS OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON FOR SENIOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Annually the Serra Club sponsors a Christmas Luncheon for Senior Women Religious. The luncheon is also open to the public. The purpose is to honor and thank the many women religious who have devoted their lives to various ministries, including, for many of them, the teaching profession.

The luncheon will be at 12 noon on Monday, December 3, at the University Club on the U of L campus. The cost is \$25. (No charge for senior women religious!) Parking is free. Fr. Martin Linebach, Vicar General for the Archdiocese, will be our guest speaker; Gary Montgomery will be the emcee; and we will be entertained by the Cardinal Singers, as well as Serran Mary Means, pianist.

Reservations must be made by Monday, November 26, with payment to our Treasurer by Wednesday, November 28. For more information or to make reservations, please contact the Serra Club Treasurer, Jerry Gonsoski, at 245-5392.

POTPOURRI – VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

Serran Birthdays this month

Ron Mazzoli, Nov 2,
Donna Richardson, Nov 13
Don Buckler, Nov 18,
Jerry Zimmerer, Nov 27

The Pope’s Prayer Intentions for this month - Universal: In the Service of Peace - That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

Halloween – To fully appreciate the connection between Halloween and All Saints Day, checkout the website [here](#).

Building a Culture of Vocations - Parents, do you encourage your children to develop their talents and gifts? Do you encourage your children to think of

Church ministry as a possible life choice?

The Ecumenical Councils preceding the Second Vatican Council – The first one was dated in 325 AD. For brief summaries of all these councils, and the impact of each on the Church, checkout the website [here](#).

Shop for Christmas and support our seminarians and religious orders:

St. Meinrad Archabbey - website [here](#).

Franciscans - website [here](#).

Little Sisters of the Poor - website [here](#).

Passionists - website [here](#).

Sisters of St. Benedict (Ferdinand, IN) - website [here](#).

Trappists - website [here](#).

Ursulines (Mt. St. Joseph) - website [here](#).

Ten reasons it’s still great to be a Catholic - checkout the website [here](#).

November 24 – On this day in 1713, St. Junipero Serra was born. He was ordained a priest in the late 1730s, died in 1784, and was canonized a saint in September of 2015.

Vocation Poster and Essay Contests for grade-schoolers - Watch for an article in the Record about this year’s contest. The Serra Club of Louisville will be providing cash prizes.

Men, save the date - The Archdiocesan Catholic Men’s Conference will be Saturday, April 6, 2019.

Our seminarians - For the website with pictures of all our seminarians, along with their locations and email addresses, click [here](#).

VOCATIONS OFTEN GROW ON TREES - FAMILY TREES.

Thanks to Serrans **Donna Richardson** and **Paul Willett** for proofing this newsletter.

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