



# Serra Club of Louisville

**"To always go forward – to never turn back!"**

**– Saint Junipero Serra**

**January 2019**  
Newsletter

## **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, Louisville, and are open to the public.*

**Jan 7 Mtg** – Sr. Rachel Geracitano, OSB will tell us of her vocation story and the spirituality of the Sisters of St. Benedict.

**Jan 21 Mtg** - Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB will talk about

"Benedictine Vocations and Spirituality."

**Feb 4 Mtg** – Maria Scharfenberger, LMFT, will speak on "Accompanying Immigrants On Their Journey."

**Feb 20 Mtg** – The U of L FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) team will be speaking to our club.

## **DECEMBER 3 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 57 sisters, including members of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph, Ursuline Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Sisters of Loretto, and one Sister of St. Benedict. In addition, we had about thirty others, including Serans and spouses, Fr. Joe Voor, Fr. Pat Dolan, and Fr. Martin Linebach, who is the Archdiocesan Vicar General.

Our Master of Ceremonies was Gary Montgomery, a local

author of two books (including "It's Fun To Be Catholic"), speaker, catechist, and retired sportscaster. Gary told us of his education by the Sisters of Mercy. He also spoke of discovering, as a catechist to eighth graders, that he sometimes had an impact on them without finding out until much later. Gary, thanks for your help!

Fr. Martin Linebach, the Vicar General for the Archdiocese and pastor of St. James parish in Elizabethtown, talked about his having been educated by the Ursulines of Mt. St. Joseph, giving particular credit to a sixth grade Ursuline sister for his vocation. He remembered his childhood parish, with the help of the sisters, all working together to purchase a station wagon with S&H Green Stamps! He spoke of the wonderful job the Dominican Sisters from Nashville are currently doing at St. James parish. Fr. Martin also recalled a recent time that his parish school needed to find a new principal; and it was one of the sis-

ters who stepped up to lead the search committee for a new principal.

Fr. Martin spoke of the leadership and reputation of Mother Mary Francis (1921-2006), a prioress for the Poor Clares. He also talked about how the vows of women religious are connected to what is really important in life – things like purity of mind, charity of the heart, obedience, and the vow of poverty.

Gary also introduced Fr. Pat Dolan, pastor at Saint Teresa of Calcutta parish in Fairdale, Brigadier General in the U.S. Army, a 30-year chaplain in the Army, and the highest-ranking chaplain in the Army National Guard. Fr. Pat, attired in full military uniform, spoke of the fact that a third of the officers in the U.S. Army are Catholic, as are about half of the U.S. Marine officers. These people are now in senior positions to use their goodness and Catholic

## **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,

## **DEC 3 BANQUET** **(continued from page 1)**

education to make our nation and its military better. They are the “moral backbone” of our country’s military.

Gary also asked the sisters by a show of hands which ones had been with their order for 35 or more years, 40 years, 45 years, etc. It turns out Sister Evelyn Hurley, SCN, has been with her order for 86 years! Last March, she turned 103 years old!

Gary also introduced Sister Sarah Yungwirth, OSB, Associate Director of the Vocations Office for the Archdiocese, and Kelly McLemore, Secretary to the Vocations Office.

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 88 years, gave us some beautiful music both 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 27 singers wearing the traditional U of L red and black, and led by Director Kent Hatteberg. Their songs included some in Latin, other foreign languages, English, and, of course, Christmas carols. As always, this award-winning choir is a fantastic part of our annual luncheon for the women religious. For more on the Cardinal Singers, see click [here](#).

We want to thank our President, Bob Hublar, for organizing this event. Thanks also to Jerry Gonsoski for coordinating with the University Club, to Bert Trompeter for the donation of candy for the sisters, 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 Serra Club events, this Christmas Luncheon is always a day of great pride, a good time with many of our women religious, and a joyful beginning to Advent. And the sisters all told us how much they appreciated it.

*(Thanks to Jerry Zimmerer for all the pictures.)*





## DEC 3 LUNCHEON PICTURES (continued from page 2)





## DEC 3 LUNCHEON PICTURES (continued from page 3)



## DEC 17 MEETING – DOMINICAN FR. CHRIS EGGLETON SPOKE ON THE ROSARY

Fr. Chris Eggleton, OP, was born and raised here in Louisville. He grew up in St. James parish in the Highlands, and graduated from Bellarmine in 1973. He decided in 1982 to enter religious life with the Dominicans. He spent some of his seminary years in Berkeley, CA. He was ordained a Dominican priest in 1988; and is a member of the Southern Province of Dominicans.

As a Dominican priest for 30 years, he has had many ministries including itinerant preacher, pastor, missionary in Central and South America, provincial, and seminary spiritual director. He has served in the southern U.S. as well as in Ecuador and El Salvador.

In the summer of 2017, Fr. Chris was appointed by the Master of the Order to serve with him at Santa Sabina in Rome, the administrative headquarters of the Dominicans. He currently wears several hats, including Socius (or liaison) to the United States, Socius to the Vietnamese Vicariate for North America, and Promoter General of the Rosary for the Dominicans.

Fr. Chris joined us to speak on

the topic "The Rosary - A Hazardous Practice." He began by speaking of the Dominican habit as a sign of consecrated religious – who witness to the call of each person to a profound, prayerful and contemplative union with God. Whether married, widowed, religious or single, all of us are called to contemplation. Scriptures tell us we're all "people of the Word." What helps us be closer to God is "reflection on the Word of God."

The Rosary is a reflection on the mysteries of Christ's life, based on the Word of God in Scriptures. Fr. Chris, quoting Pope St. John Paul II, said that "to recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ." The original Rosary goes back centuries. The Luminous mysteries were added by Pope Saint John Paul II in 2002.

In the Mass, we request mercy; and we confess a need for God's grace. We should pray for the help of Mother Mary – who guides us to meet Christ in the mysteries of his life, yet in our contemporary time.

When we enter into the prayer of the Rosary, we want to come as we are – bringing our own joyful, luminous, sorrowful, and glorious mysteries / experiences. God loves us just as we are and calls us to conversion in the mission that he gives us.

This can be hazardous because "we come face to face with the Lord, reconciling our own broken lives with the life of Christ, and being willing to be changed and transformed into the heart and mind of Christ." In addition, and through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, we become the Body of Christ. "And living the holy Rosary is also hazardous because we risk a greater giving of ourselves in compassion and in mercy to others. In doing so, therefore, we



## **FR. CHRIS EGGLETON, OP** **(continued from page 4)**

risk moving away from our self-sufficient ways into becoming much more other-centered and vulnerable.” Yes, the prayer of the Rosary is indeed hazardous. “We may experience what Christ did – having others think us fools and demeaning us.”

Fr. Chris told us a story of a prison inmate, Jonathan Nobles, who was high on drugs and alcohol when he killed two people and badly maimed a third. Fr. Chris was asked to meet with him on death row in Huntsville, Texas. The prisoner was being visited regularly by a group of lay Dominicans and a Vietnamese Dominican priest. Jonathan initially was not interested in what they had to say and admitted “I don’t have any hope.” However, Jonathan eventually listened to these people; and months later he got caught up in the studies of Mary, Mother of God, and her part in salvation history, including her guiding us in the prayer and practice of the Rosary. He later was catechized and confirmed a Catholic. A changed man, he even became a lay Dominican, working to counsel other inmates waiting to be executed.

Jonathan received the precious Body and Blood of Christ, as his chosen last meal. Fr. Chris was also present at the time of Jonathan’s execution. Immediately after the execution, Jonathan’s funeral Mass was presided over by the local bishop, the Franciscan prison chaplain, and Fr. Chris. Jonathan Nobles was buried with a large Rosary in his hands; and he was wearing the white Dominican habit.

Four days following the execution and funeral liturgy, Fr. Chris received a letter from Jonathan, written just prior to his execution. He thanked Fr. Chris for his visits and prayers, and said not to worry about him since he was with God, the Blessed Mother, St. Dominic and many saints. Jonathan grew to have a great love for the Blessed Mother. In his letter he wrote that if Fr. Chris was ever troubled or anxious about anything, to simply entrust himself to the Rosary, the Dominican saints, and to his brother and sister Dominicans in Purgatory and on earth; and to know that he, Jonathan, would be praying for him.

For more information on Jonathan’s case, click [\*\*here\*\*](#).

The Rosary has been a part of the Dominican tradition since 1216. If we pray it regularly and with love, yes, it can be a hazardous practice because it leads us to trust increasingly in God and much less in ourselves; it causes a conversion experience; and it creates a risk that we’ll develop a much stronger relationship with the divine.

Fr. Chris asked us to encourage others to find joy in the prayer and practice of the Rosary, for it is truly an immersion into the events of the life of Christ. It is not an obligation to pray the Rosary; nonetheless, it is a remarkable and holy way to approach God through Mary.

We want to thank Fr. Chris for his insights and taking the time to be with us.

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

## **NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:** **BILL LIPPY**

Bill became a member of the Serra Club in November, 2018. He graduated from St. X High School in 1943 (in the class with our Chaplain Fr. Joe Voor). Bill was a pilot in WW II, flying 26 missions in B-17 bombers, and was even shot down on one occasion.

He is a retired engineer who worked in aircraft design. He also devoted time to real estate appraisals.

He married Phyllis Dittmeier; and they were married for 60 years before she passed away about nine years ago. They have seven children, 17 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Bill is a member of St. Raphael parish, where he is involved with the St. Vincent de Paul, the Senior’s Club and the Men’s Club. Outside of the parish, he’s involved with the K of C, a poker club and the St. X Alumni Club.

Bill, welcome to the Serra Club of Louisville!



## **LINK TO VIDEOS FROM** **11/10/18 MEETING OF ALL** **THE SERRA CLUBS IN KY**

The Internet link [\*\*here\*\*](#) will take you to three videos recorded at our November 10 meeting of all the Serra Clubs of Kentucky.

The speakers were: Greg Schwietz, Past Pres of USAC and current member of the USAC board of directors; Gino Dimattia, our Regional Director; and Ken Peet, our District Governor.



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## JUBILEE MASS IN FEBRUARY

The next Archdiocesan Jubilee Mass will be on Sunday, February 3, 2019 at St. Gregory Church, at 10:00 am, with a reception to follow. St. Gregory Church is at 330 Samuels Loop, Cox's Creek, KY 40013.

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.

## 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](#).

## POTPOURRI – VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Serran Birthdays this month

Bob Hublar, Jan 3

### Vocation Office Birthdays this month

Kelly McLemore, Jan 31

### The Pope's Prayer Intentions for this month -

Evangelization - Young People - That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

**On Saints** - Leon Bloy wrote, "The only great tragedy in life is not to become a saint."

**A good prayer** - "O Lord, our God, grant us, we beseech you, patience in troubles, humility in comforts, constancy in temptations, and victory over all our

spiritual foes. Grant us sorrow for our sins, thankfulness for your benefits, fear of your judgment, love of your mercies, and mindfulness of your presence; now and forever." (Prayer by John Cosin)

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**Quote on Virtue:** "Virtue is nothing without the trial of temptation, for there is no conflict without an enemy, no victory without strife." by Pope Saint Leo the Great (c. 400 - 461)

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**Aging Gracefully:** Sisters of Charity of Nazareth were featured in the Louisville Magazine. Check out the article [here](#).

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**Good soul searching:** Are These Four Creature Comforts Crowding Out Your Creator? See the article [here](#).

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### Five important dates for celebrating vocations in 2019

**1) 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, 2/3/19**.

**2) 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.

**3) World Day of Prayer for Vocations (WDPV)** - Usually observed on "Good Shepherd Sunday" the fourth Sunday of the Easter season (i.e., the third Sunday *after* Easter). The next one is **Sunday, 5/12/19**.

**4) Priesthood Sunday** - The last Sunday of October each year. The next one is **Sunday, 10/27/19**.

**5) 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, 11/3/19**.

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**January 1 is World Day of Prayer for Peace** - Checkout this [link](#). Also worth reading is this [link](#).

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

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