



Serra Club of Louisville

April, 2019
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.

Apr 1 Mtg – Sr. Dora Chan, lsp, will speak on the 150th anniversary of the Little Sisters of the Poor coming to Louisville.

Apr 15 Mtg – Sr. Sarah

Yungwirth, OSU, Associate Vocations Director, will give us an update from the Vocation Office.

May 6 Mtg – no meeting due to **May 10 Retreat**

Fri May 10 - Half-day Retreat – Mt. St. Francis. **See page 5.** Topic is “The Gift of Years – Growing Older Gracefully.”

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.

SERRANS BILL LIPPY AND BUD KAMER HAVE PASSED AWAY

Serran Bill Lippy passed away mid-March. He had just joined the club in November of 2018. He was 93 years old.



bombers, and was even shot down on one occasion.

Former Serran Carl “Bud” Kamer passed away on March 22 at

the age of 94. Bud had been a Serran for 15 years, from 2001 until 2016, during which time he was one of our Trustees as well as the V.P. of Membership.



Bill and Bud will both be missed by the Serra Club.

NOTES FROM FR. PAT REGARDING THE CINCINNATI FEB. 26 EVENT

Fr. Pat Dolan and Ken Peet attended the Social, the Dinner and the Meeting of the Cincinnati Serra Club on February 26. The keynote speaker was Judy Cozzins, Presi-

dent of the U.S.A. Council (USAC) of Serra International. Judy spoke on faith, the Serra Mission, and vocations. Fr. Pat said it was also great to connect with several others he knew in that area – including some priests.

One speaker mentioned that there are also (like the Fellowship of Catholic University Students) young people (ages 18-28) who are making a nine-month commitment to the Church to help out in parish schools and Catholic high schools to share the Gospel and lead retreats for our youth. The name of the group is NET Minis-

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

FR. PAT DOLAN (continued from page 1)

tries. NET stands for National EvangeliZation Teams. The organization comes under the ecclesiastical vigilance of the Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis. They have retreat teams and discipleship teams. For more information, or to be added to their newsletter mailing list, checkout their website at www.netusa.org.

Fr. Pat also spoke of a handout “Vocation Myth-busters for Parents,” that was given to attendees. One diocese has put their version of the content online [here](#). It’s definitely worth reading. Copies can be purchased [here](#).

FR. SHIBU PUTHENPURAKKEL, CMI SPOKE AT OUR MARCH 4 MEETING



Fr. Shibu joined us to tell us all about the Carmelite priests from India. The CMI behind his name means he is a member of the order of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, which, unlike some of the women’s groups within the Carmelite order, is *not* a cloistered congregation. Fr. Shibu was born in 1974 in Kerala, India. He joined the Carmelite order in

1990. He has Bachelor degrees in Philosophy and Theology from a college in Bangalore, India; and a Bachelor of English Literature from a college in Kerala, India. He was ordained in 2005.

He served as an assistant parish priest in St. Thomas Parish, Bangalore, India. For 10 years, Fr. Shibu was an Associate Director & Finance Officer of the Amala Institute of Medical Sciences, Thrissur, Kerala, India. In 2016, he came to the U.S. to get his MBA at Bellarmine University. He successfully completed his MBA, and will graduate in May of this year.

For two years he was an Associate Pastor at St. Margaret Mary Church here in Louisville. That was followed by his current position as the Associate Pastor at St. Gabriel.

In the twelfth century, pilgrims came to Mount Carmel in Palestine, which is where the Old Testament Prophet Elijah had lived. Under the leadership

of St. Berthold, who moved to Mt. Carmel from France, they decided to form a permanent group, eventually called the Carmelites, and chose two patrons – the Prophet Elijah and the Virgin Mary.

St. Albert, the then Patriarch of Jerusalem, established the rules for the order. Their motto is “With zeal I have been zealous for the Lord God of Hosts”. However, around the year 1235, the Carmelites were forced to abandon their place of origin due to the incursions and persecutions of the Saracens who were reconquering the Holy Land from the crusaders. Most of them went back to their country of origin in Europe.

In 1251, the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock in England and gave him the scapular, which is now a primary part of the habit worn by the Carmelites. In the 16th century, St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross brought about a reformation of the order, returning to stricter observance of the order’s initial rules.

The history of Christianity in India is that St. Thomas the Apostle visited Kerala, India in AD 52. Consequently, there are a number of Christians in many parts of India, even though 80% of the country is populated by Hindus.

The First Order of the Carmelites are the Friars (priests and brothers), while the Second Order are the women religious, most of whom are cloistered. The Third Order consists of lay members practicing the same charism.

The heart of Carmelite charism consists of three parts – (1) prayer and contemplation; (2) action; and (3) community life. They also speak of the CMI Identity as a Contemplative Spirit, a Missionary Heart, and Immaculate living.



The CMI congregation was founded on May 11, 1831 by Indian priests Fr. Thomas Palackal, Fr. Thomas Porukara, and Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, who were priests of the Apostolic Church of Saint Thomas Christians in India. On the day of the Feast of Immaculate Conception, December 8, 1855, the first eleven Fathers made their profession of religious vows. Thus, the Congregation was canonically erected, and [St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara](#) was appointed as the first Su-

FR. SHIBU
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perior of the congregation.

Being contemplatives in action, the members engaged in various activities over the years, based on the needs of the Church in Kerala. The CMI congregation started with preaching retreats in all the parishes in Kerala. It brought vitality and vibrancy throughout the church. It met the challenges of educating the youth, disseminating Christian literature, laboring for the propagation of the faith, bringing about the reunion of separated brethren, undertaking works of mercy, and starting charitable institutions.

The identity and heritage of the Congregation is reflected in its triple roots of spirituality - namely Indian, Eastern and Carmelite. Their apostolate work includes evangelization, pastoral work, retreats, education, and social service, as well as print, art and communication media. They also administer hospitals, homes for the aged and homes for poor children.

The congregation has about 3,000 members from [Syro-Malabar](#), [Syro-Malankara](#) and Latin Rites from India and Kenya with 10 bishops, 1,917 priests, 19 lay brothers and 1,200 brothers in formation. The priests are actively involved in pastoral services in 31 countries around the world. In North America, they have 110 priests in 40 dioceses of U.S. and Canada.

It was also St. Chavara who founded the first religious congregation for women in the Syro-Malabar Church, the Congregation of Mother of Carmel (CMC) in 1866. The sister congregation has a membership of more than 7,000 professed sisters all over the world in 20 provinces.

If you want to make a donation to help with CMI seminarian education, make your check payable to "Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, Inc." and mail it to Fr. George Illikkal, CMI, Pastor of St. Mary Magdalen of Pazzi Parish, P.O. Box 110, Payneville, KY 40157-0110.

We want to thank Fr. Shibu for his very informative presentation on the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate.

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

FR. JOACHIM MUDD ATTENDED
OUR MARCH 18 MEETING

Fr. Joachim Mudd is a member of the [Franciscans Friars of the Immaculate](#), which has members on every continent. He is the brother of Regina Zimmerer, who is the wife of Serran Jerry Zimmerer.

While visiting family in Louisville, he was able to join us for the March 18 meeting. Fr. Joachim has been assigned in various locations, including their retreat center in Bloomington, Indiana, and Indian reservations in North Dakota. He joined the order in 1982 and was ordained a priest in 1997. For the past four years, he has been assigned to the [Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#), in La-Crosse, Wisconsin.



This order has quite a developed media presence, including Internet blogs and [sermons](#), online radio, and using the [Academy of the Immaculate](#) for publishing and printing.

We are so thankful that Fr. Joachim could join us and speak briefly on the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate.

MARCH 18 OUR SPEAKER
WAS FR. NICK BROWN

Our speaker for this meeting was Fr. Nick Brown, Pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish. He came to tell us about his vocation journey.

Fr. Nick was born in Louisville in 1982 and grew up in the Hikes Point / Buechel neighborhoods. His parents are still living in the same house where he grew up.

He attended eight years of grade school at St. Barnabas, then Waggener High School (class of 2000), the Marian University (class of 2009), and Saint Meinrad (class of 2013). He was ordained May 25, 2013. At the time of his ordination, Fr. Nick was the youngest priest in the Archdiocese.

As a deacon, he was assigned to several parishes - St. Francis Xavier in Mt Washington, All Saints in Taylorsville, and (as a transitional deacon) St. James in E-town. After ordination to the priesthood, he was assigned to St. James in E-town, Holy Trinity in Louisville, Good Shepherd in Columbia, Holy Spirit in Jamestown, Holy Redeemer in Greensburg, and St. Bartholomew in Louisville.

At only age 37 with six years of priestly experience, he says priests in his position are now expected to do and be what decades ago was done only by men

FR. NICK BROWN (continued from page 3)

who had been priests for 20 or more years. In other words, he's now considered a "seasoned" pastor. In one way or another, he's served in every one of our Archdiocesan counties except for Nelson County.

Fr. Nick says many people think of the difficult questions like "Why do you want to be a priest?" He compares it to married people being asked "Why do you love your spouse?" As a seminarian, his answer was that he didn't know. Of course, there's not one correct answer. Although there remains an "element of mystery," he can say he's certain of his vocation and that this is what it's supposed to be.



To Fr. Nick the two most important things in his personal vocation were the Catholic education he received at St. Barnabas grade school and the presence of priests in his childhood, especially

Fr. Gary Davis, pastor at St. Barnabas for all of his eight years of grade school. He recalls his youth - Catholic grade school, family, Catholic society, morality and Catholic images - all having a big influence on the foundation that cultivated his vocation. He says his parents' decision to send him to a Catholic school was the best decision they ever made for him. Also, the "positive mentoring image of the clergy" was so influential.

He spoke of his family as only being moderately Catholic, and nothing especially devout. But they did go to Mass regularly; and he received all the Sacraments a Catholic child normally receives. However, Fr. Gary was in the classroom on a regular basis; and Fr. Nick gradually came to think of Fr. Gary as if he were the entire clergy of the Church! He and his classmates thought the best days of school were the days that Fr. Gary was scheduled to visit. He was the positive and constant image of a priest during Fr. Nick's grade school years.

Fr. Nick spoke of his teen years, public high school, and drifting away from the Church, as typical years in which teenagers focus on themselves and what they were going to do on Friday and Saturday

nights. He got away from the Catholic Church for 10 years, "dated and thought of marriage," and worked at the headquarters of Papa John's for five years. Yet, he had no idea in his early 20s that he would eventually be called to the priesthood.

On a trip to Gatlinburg, TN, which is part of the South's Bible Belt, he saw lots of billboards and other things related to Christianity. He began to remember the church-related visuals he had gotten away from for so many years. He said "I hadn't thought about the Crucifixion in years." And "Was something in my life missing?"

However, when he began to think about long-term careers, he eventually remembered thinking "it would be cool to do what Fr. Gary does." He went back to his old parish and, in 2006, ran into its pastor, Fr. Wayne Jenkins. He purchased his own Bible and grew closer to the Church. Fr. Wayne encouraged daily Mass, in response to Fr. Nick's comments about a possible calling, which he said came "completely out of left field." He admitted that even with eight years of Catholic education, he felt sort of "clueless about the Church."

Fr. Nick then realized that though he had grown up, the Church had remained constant. The traditions and the Mass had not changed. He also spoke with Fr. John Deatrick, and then eventually with Fr. Jeff Shooner and Fr. Bill Bowling, who ran the Vocations Office at the time. He reflected on the priesthood and thought "Does God want me here?"

He went through the seminary and even experi-

enced the typical doubts that many have.

But with the guidance of other

priests, he persevered and was ordained. Today, he still says "I'm just a guy." He likes sports and wants to sleep in late like many other guys. However, he recognizes that he has been gifted with the priesthood. He has to make the priesthood work, just like couples have to make marriage work. He doesn't have all the answers; but he knows that some commitments, like his own, were meant to be.

He spoke of all he learned from other priests, including Fr. Dale Cieslik and Fr. Chuck Walker. As Fr. Chuck put it, there are about 150 priests in our Arch-



FR. NICK BROWN
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diocese, and there are about 150 different ways to be a priest. Each is an individual.

We want to thank Fr. Nick for his presentation on his vocation journey and for saying “yes” to God.

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

VOCATION CONTEST AWARDS
WERE PRESENTED AT
THE MARCH 18 MEETING

At our March 18 meeting, our guests included the First Place winner of the 2018-19 Vocation Essay Contest, along with her mother, teacher, principal and pastor. (Unable to attend this meeting was the First Place winner of the Vocation Poster contest.) The Vocation Poster Contest and the Vocation Essay Contest are a joint effort between the Archdiocesan Vocations Office and the Serra Club of Louisville. In addition to the awards listed below, the Serra Club also gave a \$50 check to each of the teachers of the First Place Winners.

GRADES 4-6 POSTER CONTEST

FIRST PLACE (\$100): Bryce Green of St. Albert the Great School (Grade 6). Bryce’s teacher is Ms. Grace Duckworth.

SECOND PLACE (\$75): Olivia Diamond of St. Albert the Great School (Grade 6).

THIRD PLACE (\$50): Trevor French of St. Gregory School (Grade 6).

GRADES 7-8 ESSAY CONTEST

FIRST PLACE (\$100): Rylee French of St. Gregory School (Grade 8). Rylee’s teacher is Ms. Michelle Hayes.

SECOND PLACE (\$75): Cecilia Stromberg a home-schooled student of Immaculate Conception Parish in La Grange (Grade 7).

THIRD PLACE (\$50): Ophelia Lorenz of St. Agnes School Academy (Grade 8).



Pictured above is Sr. Sarah Yungwirth presenting a

certificate and check to 8th grader Rylee French, as her Pastor Fr. Peter Do looks on.



Vocation Essay Contest Winner: Pictured above, from St. Gregory Parish are (from left to right) Ms. Michelle Hayes (8th grade teacher), Pastor Fr. Peter Do, Principal Camille Boone, First Place Winner Rylee French, her mother Karie French, Sister Sarah Yungwirth from the Vocations Office, and Serra Club President Bob Hublar.

THE SERRA CLUB WILL BE A
SPONSOR FOR THE APRIL 6
MEN’S CONFERENCE

This year’s Archdiocesan Louisville Men’s Conference will be held on Saturday, April 6, at St. Michael’s parish (3705 Stone Lakes Drive, Louisville, KY 40299). The conference runs from 8 am to 1 pm. If registering online, the deadline is April 1. The theme this year is “Allowing Jesus to Find Me.” In addition to a presentation by **Archbishop Kurtz**, there will be a keynote speaker – **Steve Angrisano**, a Catholic speaker, singer, and songwriter. To register online, go to this [website](#). For more information, contact Melissa Herberger (502) 636-0296 ext 1201, or at mherberger2@archlou.org.

HALF-DAY SPRING RETREAT
IS FRIDAY, MAY 10

This Spring Retreat will be in lieu of our regular Monday, May 6 meeting. **The Retreat is open to the public.**

It will run from **9:30 AM to 1:45 PM** - including two presentations, break time, optional Sacrament of Reconciliation, Mass, and a lunch. (Mt. St. Francis is on the same time zone as Louisville)

Title of the Retreat: “The Gift of Years – Growing Older Gracefully”

The cost is **\$25 per person** to cover the meeting room, a hot lunch, and the two Franciscans who will be leading the retreat and Mass.

The leaders of the Retreat will be Franciscan Fri-

HALF-DAY SPRING RETREAT
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ars: **Brother Randy Kin, OFM Conv. and Father Vincent Petersen, OFM Conv.**

It will be held at **Mount St. Francis** – 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mt. St. Francis, IN 47146. The facilities are handicapped accessible. Directions **from downtown Louisville, by way of I-64 through New Albany:**

I-64 West (across Sherman Minton Bridge). Continue on I-64 West (4 miles) to Hwy. 150 West (Greenville-Paoli) Exit 119.

Hwy 150 West (2 miles, 3rd stop light), Mount Saint Francis is on the left.

From downtown Louisville allow 20 minutes driving time. Note: GPS, MapQuest, Google Maps and other electronic directions are often inaccurate according to the retreat center [website](#).

If you are going to attend, **we must have your reservation and payment by Thursday, May 2.** Make checks payable to “Serra Club of Louisville.” You can give it to Chuck Lynch at a meeting or mail it to his home – 10305 Falling Tree Way, Louisville, KY 40223.

This will be a great opportunity to invite a spouse or guest – especially someone you think may be interested in joining our club.

COLLECTION FOR CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY

Clergy Appreciation Day this year is June 17. The deadline for Serrans to turn in checks to the “Serra Club of Louisville,” for supporting this event, is April 30. Please give checks to Chuck Lynch.

POTPOURRI – VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

Serran Birthdays this month

Charlie Francesconi, Apr 3

Pope’s Prayer Intentions for this month - Workers

in War Zones - For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

Save the Date – The ordination of three of our seminarians / transitional deacons to the priesthood will be the morning of Saturday, May 25.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations (WDPV)

The fourth Sunday in the Easter season each year – aka Good Shephard Sunday – is on Sunday, May 19 this year. For more information and suggestions, click [here](#).

Statue of St. Junipero Serra in the Capital building in Washington DC – click [here](#).

On Sundays - "Do not let Sunday be taken from you. If your soul has no Sunday, it becomes an orphan." - Albert Schweitzer

Quote from a Saint – “Since God does so much for me, what could I not do for him?” - Saint Emily de Vialar (1797-1856)

On the Laity - “You have been called to be leaders. Pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. You, the laity, have the power to save the Church!” - Bishop Raymond Goedert

Another good prayer - "Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess you have given me. I surrender it all to you to be disposed of according to your will. Give me only your love and your grace - with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more." (Prayer of Ignatius Loyola, 1491-1556)

For some good Lenten seminars, google “Institute of Catholic Culture”

Suffering – “Apart from the cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven.” - Saint Rose of Lima

IN MEMORY – Serrans who have passed away in the last five years:

- Joe Herrmann 03/25/16 at age 95
- Al Carr 01/09/17 at age 84
- Ray Schlader 01/11/17 at age 89
- Ed Stivers 03/17/17 at age 93
- Jack Noonung 12/28/17 at age 66
- Frank Hausman 09/20/18 at age 82
- Tom Ransdell 01/07/19 at age 94
- Bill Lippy March 2019 at age 93
- Carl “Bud” Kamer 03/22/19 at age 94

Thanks to **Paul Willett** for proofing the content of this newsletter.

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