



# Serra Club of Louisville

February, 2020  
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.*

**Feb 3** – Fr. Don Halpin O.F.M. Conv., of Mt St Francis, Indiana, will talk about the retreats he runs for So. Indiana and the Archdiocese of Louisville.

**Feb 17** – Janice Mulligan, Associ-

ate Director of the African American Catholic Ministries, will speak on her department of the Archdiocese Office of Multicultural Ministries.

**Mar 2** – Speaker yet to be determined.

**Mar 16** – Speaker yet to be determined.

**HOLY HOUR  
FOR VOCATIONS  
WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 19  
1 - 2 PM  
OUR LADY  
OF LOURDES  
508 BRECKENRIDGE LN**

## SERRAN MARIE HECKEL PASSED AWAY ON DEC. 26.

Serra Club member Marie Heckel, 93, passed away December 26, 2019. She was born in Louisville, Kentucky on December 11, 1926. She had been a member of our club for over 25 years and also held the club's positions of Trustee and Treasurer, in addition to helping judge the vocation contest in recent years.

Marie attended Holy Name Catholic Grade School and graduated from Holy Rosary Academy in 1944. Marie served one year in the U.S. Navel Reserves (WAVES).

Marie spent 32 years at the Courier Journal before retiring in 1985. She had extensive knowledge of computers and photo typesetting. She wrote a book describing the functions of the Photon Machine that was copy-

righted and sold to various other newspapers. Marie's fluency in German was a vital skill to the Courier as she often translated with their German customers and visitors, and translated letters to the editor that were written in German.

Marie also used her typing skills to produce a 50-year history of St.



Leonard parish for its 2003 anniversary.

Marie had an insatiable interest in learning up until her last days. She had many interests including traveling, writing, singing, playing piano, and photography. Marie was active in The Holy Name Choral

Club, The Choral Club of Louisville, The Care Singers, The Serra Club of Louisville, The German-American Club, Sister Cities Program of Louisville, was a founding member of the Veritas Society at Bellarmine University, and was a long-time, active member of St. Leonard Catholic Church. Marie held many offices in all of the these organizations.

Marie devoted much of her life to working with her brother, John Heckel, of the SVD Divine Word Missionaries. Marie worked in the US to assist her brother in countless ways to make contacts with benefactors and corporations seeking support for the project.

Marie is preceded in death by her beloved brothers Rudy and John (Fred) Heckel, both of whom were Catholic brothers with the SVD Divine Word Missionaries.

Memorial gifts may be made to the [Divine Word Missionaries of Techny, Illinois.](#)

## SR. LARRAINE LAUTER, OSU, WAS OUR SPEAKER ON JAN 6.

Our speaker for this meeting was Sr. Lorraine Lauter, OSU, with the Mount Saint Joseph Ursuline community out of Maple Mount, Kentucky. She is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of [Water With Blessings](#); and she joined us to give us an update on the mission and current status of WWB, which is headquartered in Middletown.

Sr. Lorraine grew up in Florida and Kentucky. She has a BA in Fine Arts and Elementary Education, and a Masters in Theology from St. Meinrad School of Theology. She joined the Ursulines in 1978. In 40 years of ministry, she has been involved in art and music teaching, pastoral ministry, choir directing, immigrant ministry, and nonprofit leadership. Along the way, she has been immersed in matters of justice, environmental protection, art, and most importantly, the contemplative life. In 2018, Sr. Lorraine was given the Muhammad Ali Kentucky Humanitarian Award.

Around 12 years ago, Sr. Lorraine had no warning that she would soon be immersed in the cause of God's children who thirst for clean water. Together with friends she began to comprehend the immeasurable impact of clean water for the health of children and their communities worldwide.

Starting on the 6 by 14-foot back porch of the Sister Visitor Program, their first Water Woman 2008 project, to equip 10 Honduran mothers with water filters to be shared with their neighbors, yielded unanticipated outcomes and insight. This eventually resulted in the establishment of Water With Blessings in 2011, a household sharing model and nonprofit recognized by the Pan American Health Organization Foundation with a 2014 Award of Excellence. They now occupy two office suites in Middletown.

Around the world, a child dies every eight sec-

onds; and 90% of those deaths are due to dirty water. While we think of e coli as something out of the past in the U.S., it is a present-day issue in developing countries, where many mothers are on their own to raise their children. E coli can kill overnight. In some African countries, some families don't even name their children until they reach the age of two, since many don't live that long.

WWB trains women in the use of its water filters, to be shared with others in their community. The distribution locations around the world originally came about through missionary priests and pastors. Now knowledge of WWB is spreading more quickly simply by word of mouth and sometimes even through physicians.

At present count, there are over 100,000 "water women" in 47 countries (including Appalachia and some Indian reservations), supported by a great host of donors, collaborators (e.g., the Food for the Poor organization) and local volunteers. Originally, they would never have believed they could be training 5,000 women per year; but now they train over 2,000 per *month*! The mothers are trained by locals in each country, thus making the mothers the leaders in their communities.

As Sr. Lorraine puts it, "God has put smart women everywhere." WWB distributes these filters to mothers and trains them how to use them daily.





**SR. LARRAINE LAUTER, OSU**  
**(continued from page 2)**

She also spoke a lot about Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world. With the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, there were actually more deaths from dirty water than from the earthquake itself. One area in Haiti has now been cholera free since November of 2017 due to the use of these filters.

The water filters are manufactured by a company which originally sold them for military purposes. They hang off the side of a bucket and can be used to clean water from rain, rivers, ponds, etc.

WWB delivers water filters across Haiti in order to eradicate cholera, a water-borne disease. They recruit water women who each use the filters for her own home and agree to also filter the water for three other households. So, the WWB filters, which cost \$75 each and are powered by gravity, can end up helping on average 16 people each and are guaranteed for a lifetime, with proper care, cleaning and back-flushing.

With new global information systems technology and bar codes, they can now record every location where a filter is put in use, tell donors where their money is being put to use, and even show the results on a computer screen map – all on Sr. Lorraine's computer in Middletown, Kentucky. She can even match up the water woman's first name with donors, so donors can pray for the mothers, their families, and their neighbors

Their new "stretch goal" is to distribute filters to 100,000 water women per year, and, within a year, hire a full-time, professional development director.

In response to audience questions, Sr. Lorraine explained that in most countries, they don't get a lot of help from the local government. And, instead of flying U.S. volunteers to foreign countries, they use teams of locals to pick and train the mothers to be water women. However, to avoid any problems, they invite interested mothers to a meeting, getting them to make a covenant with God, and commit to training and sharing the use of the filters. Praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they then have a child draw names at random to determine which mothers will become water women.

We want to thank Sr. Lorraine for taking the time to give us an update and to thank her for all that she does for others and in the name of the Catholic Church.

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

**MR. JOSEPH NORTON WAS**  
**THE SPEAKER AT OUR**  
**JAN 20 MEETING.**

Joe Norton was our speaker for this meeting. He is the Headmaster for Holy Angels Academy.

Joe was raised in Lexington, Kentucky, attending Catholic schools there. He graduated from ECU in 1974 with a teaching degree, which led to teaching positions in Catholic schools in Lexington. He later earned his Master's in Education at U of L and began teaching at Holy Angels Academy in 1983. He has been married to his wife Juli since 1984; they have seven children and nine grandchildren.

Joe was appointed Headmaster of the Academy in 1988 and also serves on its Board of Trustees, in addition to serving on the Board of Trustees of the NAP-CIS (National Association of Private Catholic and Independent Schools). He and his wife are parishioners at St. Martin of Tours parish; and Joe belongs to the Knights of Columbus Holy Innocents Council.



The history of the Academy is a story of faith and miracles. A number of parents in the early 70's felt the need for an elementary school that offered an authentic Catholic education in tune with the Catholic Magisterium. They approached a Dominican sister in Springfield, Kentucky – Sr. Mary Elise Groves, O.P. – who had many years

of experience in school administration and teaching. The Academy was established in 1973 and is the oldest of its kind in the U.S. Sr. Elise was the principal at that time.

During the school's history, prayer was often needed while raising funds and making decisions about the school's location. It started on the grounds of St. Philip Neri Church. In the mid-70's the school moved to St. Louis Bertrand parish; then to St. Boniface around 1980. Later the school board decided to renovate and occupy an old Bell South building at Second and Magnolia. When 10 acres were available

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

## MR. JOE NORTON (continued from page 3)

in Middletown, with two homes but no other buildings on the ground, the school supporters prayed over the financing of the purchase of those grounds. A woman who passed away left the school \$10,000 and, with additional funds from bingos, the school purchased the grounds in 1989, hoping to eventually raise funds to build a school building.

A full high school was added in 1995. And that year Archbishop Kelly also gave permission for the Blessed Sacrament to permanently reside in a chapel on the grounds.

After putting a statue of the Infant of Prague on the land, a donor provided \$100,000 for the school. After a novena to St. Joseph, one gentleman, saying “we’re only God’s instruments,” donated \$800,000 for the school. The Academy built a school on the grounds and moved into the Middletown property in 2005.

The purpose of the Academy is to provide a classical education in an authentically Catholic school, with formation based on logic, truth, and beauty, embracing Catholic beliefs.

The education includes math, logic, astronomy, music and art, Latin, the wisdom of the ancients as well as the Saints, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, classical literature, memorization, and more. The higher grades get into rhetorical studies, learning to articulate a position in the written word as well as in verbal conversation. As a grass roots movement, this school is one of only three in the Louisville area with an emphasis on a classical, Catholic education, the other two being Immaculata Academy and Corpus Christi in Simpsonville. As part of the Catholic Textbook Project, the school teaches the ‘whole’ picture of history.

In the 90’s, the USCCB’s Subcommittee on the Catechism “found many textbooks commonly in use in U.S. Catholic secondary schools to be gravely deficient.” As Bishop Robert Baron said in 2019, about our youth leaving the Church, it is “a bitter fruit of dumbing-down of the faith” as it has been presented in catechesis and apologetics. Joe said nothing is “dumbed down” at Holy Angels Academy. And Archbishop Kurtz said “Holy Angels Academy is a wonderful example, an example to be imitated.”

The students are expected to memorize parts of their faith – e.g., the Commandments, the Sacraments, and answers to Catechism questions. They learn Church history, apologetics, respect, obedience, hu-mility, the saints as heroes, and Catholic morality – including the non-negotiables,

such as the Church’s stand on abortion and same-sex marriage. The school has daily prayer, the Rosary, Marian devotions, first Friday Sacred Heart devotions, and a full-time chap-lain.

They currently have 60 students in their pre-K through high school classes. The 2019 graduating class had an average 29.8 ACT score (above the 93<sup>rd</sup>



percentile). The Academy was recognized by the Cardinal Newman Society as one of the leading Catholic Schools in the United States for its strong Catholic identity and academic excellence.

The Academy also has men and women religious come to the school to educate the students about vocations. Juniors and Seniors have retreats with men and women religious. They pray for vocations and even use the [Serra Club’s Traveling Chalice program](#). Five former students have joined orders of men and women religious, while two former faculty members have become priests.

Anyone wishing to make tax-deductible donations to support the school can send a check to the school’s address at 12201 Old Henry Road, Louisville, KY 40223. For more information, see their website at <https://www.holyangelslouisville.com/>.

We want to thank Mr. Norton for taking the time to educate us on the history and current status of Holy Angels Academy.

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

## VOCATION OFFICE AND SERRA CLUB VOCATION CONTEST

Judging has been going on for the Vocation Poster Contest (grades 4 through 6) and the Vocation Essay Contest (grades 7 and 8). The Vocation Office will be announcing winners around January 31. This year we had a total of 52 essay entries and 224 poster entries. There were 13 schools participating in the poster contest, and five schools participating in the essay contest. Home schooled children were also invited to participate. We will also include a list of winners in a future issue of this newsletter. First place winners are being invited to the March 2 meeting of the Serra Club.

**SERRA CLUB OF LOUISVILLE**  
**NEWSLETTER RECEIVES**  
**AN AWARD**

We are proud to announced that at the January national Serra Rally in Ventura, CA, our newsletter was chosen winner of the “2019 Great Lakes Region Best Newsletter Award.” This Region covers OH, IN, KY, and lower MI.

As editor, I wish to thank the Board of Directors for recommending the submission of the application for nomination. I also want to thank everyone who has had any role, large or small, in the production of our monthly newsletters. Although I write most of the articles, ideas have been suggested by many members. Most of the content is based on the great speakers who, being recruited by **Paul Willett**, have volunteered to make presentations. Most of the pictures are taken by **Jerry Zimmerer**. Other Serrans have also helped out with pictures or articles in the last few years. Proofing issues for spelling and grammar has been handled by **Mary Means** and **Paul Willett**.

Thanks.

**Chuck Lynch**, Editor



**WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED**  
**LIFE – JUBILARIAN MASS**

The annual Jubilarian Mass is to be held at 10 am on Sunday, February 2 at St. Gregory parish in Nelson County (330 Samuels Loop, Cox's Creek, KY 40013-6505). There will be a light reception afterwards.

The Annual Jubilarian Mass is held on the Sunday coincident with or immediately following the World Day for Consecrated Life (February 2) each year to honor those men and women religious celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, and 80<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. All are welcome.

**NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS**  
**WEEK IS MARCH 8-14**

Established in 2014, as part of Women's History Month, the National Catholic Sisters Week is March 8 through 14 each year, regardless of the day of the week that period begins. According to the national office, "The NCSW mission is to honor women religious through a series of events that instruct, enlighten, and bring greater focus to the lives of these incredible women. We welcome events of any type, and encourage organizations to think about creative ways to celebrate sisters for the entire week."

This is a good time for all parishes, schools, and others to choose some way to celebrate this occasion. Maybe you can simply take your favorite religious sister out for a meal.

For more information, see <http://www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org>. Events that some are considering include - a Mass and supper; a Sisters' Appreciation Day; a card or letter to your favorite sisters; Vespers; a Cupcakes, Coffee, and Conversation event; a retreat; etc. To see what others are doing around the country, see <https://catholicsistersweek.org/events/#events>. For some great stories about women religious, check out the Sister Story at <https://www.sisterstory.org/>.

**Most high, glorious Lord, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me, Lord, a correct faith, a certain hope, a perfect charity, sense, and knowledge, so that I may carry out your holy and true command.**  
**- Prayer by St. Francis of Assisi 1182-1226)**

**Lent**  
**begins**  
**on Ash**  
**Wednesday,**  
**February**  
**26.**

G I V E  
P R A Y  
F A S T



**POTPOURRI –  
VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**Member Birthdays This Month**

Eddie Bauer, Feb 1                  Connie DuPlessis, Feb 8  
Lynn Haner, Feb 13                Fr. Pat Dolan, Feb 23

**Pope’s Prayer Intentions for this month** – Listen to the Migrants’ Cries - We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

**World Day for Consecrated Life** is celebrated the weekend of February 2 this year. See this website for more information, prayers, and other resources: <https://nrvic.net/publication/4171/article/10041>

**A Consecrated Virgin: A Path Less Traveled** – see the article at

<http://catholicdigest.com/faith/spirituality/a-consecrated-virgin-a-path-less-traveled/>

**Blessed Solanus Casey (1870-1957)** – For a good article on his life, see

<http://catholicdigest.com/faith/spirituality/five-fun-facts-about-and-five-inspiring-quotes-from-bl-solanus-casey/>

**Quote from Saint Thomas Aquinas** – “Grace has five effects in us: first, our soul is healed; second, we will the good; third, we work effectively for it; fourth, we persevere; fifth, we break through to glory.”

**What I learned from thousands of skeptics on Reddit** - article by Bishop Robert Barron - <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2019/10/01/what-i-learned-talking-with-thousands-of-skeptics-on-reddit/>

**Reaching Out to the Religiously Unaffiliated** – by Bishop Robert Barron - <https://www.osvnews.com/2019/11/11/bishop-barrons-five-paths-for-bringing-the-unaffiliated-back-to-the-church/>

**Catholic tracts you can print, read, and share:**  
Catholic Evidence Guild -

<https://www.catholicevidence.org/tracts/>  
Pope John Paul II Society of Evangelists - [http://www.pjpiisoe.org/resources\\_pamphlets.html](http://www.pjpiisoe.org/resources_pamphlets.html)

**Trends in Catholic Religious Vocations** - <https://www.lasalette.org/vocations/vocation-information/51-trends-in-catholic-religious-vocations.html>

**The Record’s Vocation Supplement** – If you didn’t have a chance to read it in the 11/7/19 issue of The Record, check it out now - <https://therecordnewspaper.org/category/archdiocesan-news/vocations/>

**Being the mother of a priest is humbling** - <https://therecordnewspaper.org/raising-a-priest-being-the-mother-of-a-priest-is-humbling/>

**Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship** – Good reading as we approach primary elections - <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-title.cfm>

**Discernment 101** - article from National Catholic Register - <https://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/discernment-101-father-mike-schmitz-tackles-decision-making-in-light-of-god>

**Six Steps in Vocation Discernment** - <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/clergy/vocations/vocation-discernment/six-steps/#step-2>

**Impact of women religious is growing across the country** - <https://www.catholicextension.org/stories/catholic-sisters-are-few-their-impact-growing-across-america-heres-how>

**VISION Vocation Network for Catholic Religious Life & Priesthood** - <https://vocationnetwork.org/en/>

Thanks to **Bob Hublar** and **Mary Means** for proofing this newsletter.

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