



Serra Club of Louisville

April, 2020
Newsletter

“To always go forward – to never turn back!”

– Saint Junipero Serra

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

With the suspending of Masses and other parish activities, the Serra Club will not be meeting until further notice.

Thanks to Fr. Scott Wimsett, Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, for allowing the Serra Club to have a Holy Hour for Vocations on March 4.

SISTER SARAH YUNGWIRTH, OSB, SPOKE AT OUR MARCH 2 MEETING.

At the last minute, Fr. Peter Do had a conflict and asked Sr. Sarah Yunwirth, OSB, Associate Director of Vocations, to fill in for him in giving us an update on the [Archdiocesan Vocation Office](#).

Sr. Sarah reminded us that Fr. Anthony Chandler has been the Vocation Director since June of 2019.

That office recently has had several gatherings for young men considering the priesthood; and more are scheduled in the near future. Some are called “Pizza with Priests” while others are called Vianney Gatherings.

The vocation office has also organized Miriam Dinners – meetings to which young women considering a religious vocation can come to meet representatives of several women’s religious communities and get their questions answered in an informal setting.

In October of this year, there will be the second annual Young

Server Awards at the Cathedral. Last Fall around 60 young men and women from all over the Archdiocese were recognized in this ceremony.

The Planting Seeds Committee meets quarterly and consists of the Vocation Office staff, representative of the different religious communities that have a presence in our Archdiocese, and Ken Peet (the Serra Club liaison).

The Vocation Office has also organized Mass and dinner gatherings for U of L and Bellarmine students – connecting with young people in very informal ways.

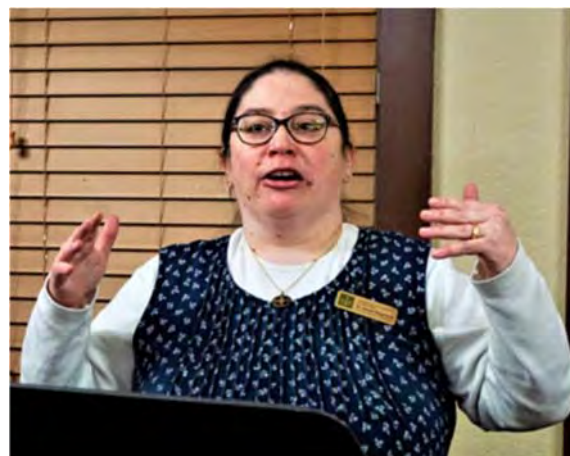
They have announced three young men recently accepted into the seminary for our Archdiocese. Martin Okereke is one. Martin is currently a counseling intern and is living at St. Joseph in Butchertown. Cuong Le, from Vietnam, is another one currently studying English At Sacred Heart Seminary in Hales Corner, Wisconsin. The third is Matthew Millay, currently at St. Meinrad.

Although our Archdiocese will have no ordinations of new priests this year, Sr. Sarah did say that two of our seminarians will be ordained

to the transitional diaconate – Quan Nguyen and Loi Pham, both of whom are currently studying at St. Meinrad. The ceremony will be 10 am on Saturday, April 25, at Holy Family Church, with a reception to follow. These two hopefully will be ordained to the priesthood in 2021, God willing.

There have also been Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) weekend retreats. For more information on the next retreat, as well as the Louisville Archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adults, click [here](#).

Fr. Peter Do and Sr. Sarah have been going to the Catholic grade schools and high schools to talk about vocations. The Religion Club at Trinity High School



SR. SARAH YUNGWIRTH, O.S.B.
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is currently using the Traveling Chalice program. We have several men going through the discernment process; and in August it will be announced which ones will be going to the seminary for the Archdiocese.

The Vocation Office and various religious orders also participate in the Catholic Youth Conference, which was February 29 this year at the Flaget Center. The most recent [National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis](#) was attended by about 22,000 people, including many youth from our own Archdiocese.

For the Vocation Office Facebook page, click [here](#). And for their Twitter page, click [here](#). To see all of our seminarians, click [here](#). The Louisville Vocations website can be found [here](#).

We want to thank Sr. Sarah for taking the time to update us on the Vocation Office.

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

VOCATION ESSAY AND POSTER CONTEST FIRST PLACE AWARDS WERE PRESENTED AT THE MARCH 2 MEETING

At our March 2 meeting, our guests included the First-Place winners of the 2019-20 Vocation Essay and Poster Contests, along with parents, teachers, principals and one pastor. The Vocation Poster Contest and the Vocation Essay Contest are a joint effort of 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): **Lydia Adams** of St. Albert the Great School (Grade 6). Lydia's teacher is Grace Duckworth (\$50).

SECOND PLACE (\$75): **Ramona Manion** of St. Joseph Parish in Bardstown (Grade 5).

THIRD PLACE (\$50): **Ava Rager** of St. John the Apostle Parish in Brandenburg (Grade 4).

GRADES 7-8 ESSAY CONTEST

FIRST PLACE (\$100): **Aubrey Gossom** of St. Catherine School in New Haven (Grade 8). Aubrey's teacher is Jessie Reed (\$50).

SECOND PLACE (\$75): **Avery Powers** of St. James Parish in Elizabethtown (Grade 8).

THIRD PLACE (\$50): **Anthony Pike** of St. James Parish in Elizabethtown (Grade 8).



Pictured from left to right above – Sr. Sarah Yungwirth (Vocation Office), Rob Adams, Lydia Adams (First Place Poster Contest winner), Grace Duckworth (Emily's teacher at St. Albert School), and Bob Hublar (Serra Club President)



Pictured from left to right above – Sr. Sarah Yungwirth (Vocation Office), Laura Gossom, Adam Gossom, Aubrey Gossom (First Place Essay Contest winner), Jo Renee O'Bryan (St. Catherine Principal), Jessie Reed (Aubrey's teacher), Fr. Matt Hardesty (St. Catherine's Pastor), and Bob Hublar (Serra Club President)



Grace Duckworth accepting her \$50 check.

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VOCATION CONTESTS (continued from page 2)

You can see all the winning posters and essays by clicking [here](#).



Lydia Adams accepting her certificate and check.

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

FR. PETER FEGAN, OP, SPOKE AT OUR MARCH 16 MEETING

Fr. Peter, Pastor of St. Louis Bertrand parish, started out by saying “This is an historic day,” speaking of it being the day that the Archbishop announced Masses would be suspended throughout the Archdiocese due to coronavirus. Then he said we’ve not experienced anything like it since the black plague of the fourteenth century.

He said he knows that Serrans are devoted to vocations, especially diocesan priests; and he reminded us he’s not a diocesan priest. He spoke of his vocation story being unremarkable, saying he really owes his faith to his parents. They prayed the Rosary when he was a child. He was one of the first in the country to be home schooled. His mother had been a school teacher prior to being married. She felt religion classes in their Catholic school taught watered down Catholicism. “This was nothing!” she said looking at the teaching materials. So, she and other parents decided to do home schooling, even though it was technically not accepted at the time.



As an adult, he realized he was blessed to have had the home schooling. At some point, he spoke with Dominicans about their particular charism. The O.P., of course, stands for “Order of Preacher.”

In the time of St. Dominic, most priests did not preach except for special occasions, when they only spoke of basic catechetical matters. Anything beyond that was left to the bishops.

Manichaeism existed from the fourth century. In Dominic’s time it was called Albigensianism, which taught that Christians needed to reject the world and everything in it – including the body and matter. In their opinion, a good god created the spiritual world, and a bad god created material. Their prescription was to do extreme penance, reject marriage, and even reject bringing new children into the world.

The idea of matter being evil, of course, flies in the face of “The word became flesh.” God took on a human nature, and died for man. There’s only one God and he created all things – visible and invisible. The Albigensians had a certain appeal because they were intelligent and lived what they taught, even though their theology was wrong.

Average priests could not refute these heretics. Dominic wanted to start an order that could address this. Monks were smart, but didn’t preach. Dominic wanted priests who could preach publicly, administer the Sacraments, and do more than the average diocesan priest. Also, Dominicans were mendicants, meaning they were given to begging.

There was resentment by diocesan priests; but Dominic’s vision was that there would always be the need for preachers. They were to be mobile, traveling, preaching, and not running parishes. Of course, things changed over the years. Now they’re preachers in addition to running parishes.

Monks in monasteries had chores to do. Many were skilled craftsmen. Dominic wanted his friars to do spiritual labor – teaching the faith.

So that’s the origin of the Dominican order.

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) is probably the best-known Dominican, even more so than Dominic, partly because St. Thomas Aquinas is the patron of Catholic Schools.

Dominic told his friars, “We should always be reading something. Have something in your head to give to people when you preach.” Supplement what you know. Refresh it. Of course, today, all profession-

FR. PETER FEGAN, O.P.
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als have to be constantly learning.

Dominicans learn and stay up to date with theology, theological trends, social trends, current events, and, of course, the Bible. This is their vocation.

Fr. Peter said “The Pope’s theologian is always a Dominican.” Today it is a Polish priest named Fr. Wojciech Giertych, O.P. Why would the Pope need his own theologian? Fr. Peter said “We all have blind spots.”

Dominic died at age 50. No particular cause of death is given; but it’s obvious he died of exhaustion. He was always traveling from one priory to another and always preaching. He was said to have hardly ever slept, praying much of the night. “It’s easy to discount it as hagiography,” Fr. Peter said. But there were writings by others, under oath, testifying to the life of St. Dominic.

Now, of course, parish priests *do* preach. But the Dominicans *have* to preach. It is their calling; and they have the education and resources to do it. Some are professors in seminaries and colleges, teaching philosophy and theology.

A dog is often pictured with Dominic because his mother had a dream of a dog carrying a torch in his mouth, setting the world on fire. She later interpreted that as a premonition of Dominic being a preacher; and she told her son about that interpretation. The Latin ‘*Domini canes*’ means ‘the dogs of the Lord.’

Dominic had relatives who were priests, too. - two uncles who were bishops and one other uncle who was a priest.

The history of the Rosary and St. Dominic is shrouded in mystery. Some believe Mother Mary appeared to him and gave him the Rosary. But there’s no evidence that this actually happened. Yet, later the story took on a life of its own. Regardless, it’s the work of the Holy Spirit, and turning souls to meditation on Christ’s life, passion, death, and resurrection - through the Rosary - is part of what the Dominicans promote.

Some thought the Rosary



began as an alternative to reading the Psalms. The educated would read the Psalms while the illiterate would recite 150 Hail Mary’s. Then later the 150 were divided into decades and mysteries.

Dominic was a Spaniard. Also, before there was a community of Dominican friars, there was a community of nuns which he led. The friars did not yet have the approval of the Vatican. That came later. France, Italy, Spain, even Eastern Europe, were the target missions in the early years of the Dominicans.

In the U.S. an American, Edward Dominic Fenwick of Maryland, wanted to become a Dominican and bring the order to the U.S. He had an uncle who was a Dominican. He went to study in Belgium, and brought the order back to the U.S. around 1805. He went to the Archbishop in Baltimore for advice; and was told to go to Kentucky since the Jesuits had things covered on the East Coast and many Catholics around Bardstown had no priest.

The first Dominican settlement in the U.S. was in Springfield, Kentucky. It’s still a very important location for the order. They still run a parish there; and many Dominican sisters live there. The friars later branched out to Ohio. Fenwick was the first Archbishop of Cincinnati; and the order eventually spread back to the East.

In 1905 the Dominican House of Studies was founded, during the construction of the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. The eastern province is called the Province of St. Joseph. Eventually a second province, the western province, was founded – covering everything west of the Mississippi – and named the Province of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

Later a third province was founded, down the middle of the U.S. – the central province – named the Province of St. Albert the Great, headquartered in Chicago.

In the late 1970’s the southern province was established, running from North Carolina to Florida to New Mexico. It’s the largest U.S. province geographically, but the smallest in number of priests.

Worldwide, many provinces cover a whole country – e.g., there’s one province for each of Mexico, Peru, and Poland.

Fr. Anthony Breen, O.P. here in Louisville was a missionary in Pakistan for a number of years. The Do-

FATHER PETER FEGAN, OP (continued from page 4)

minicans now have missionaries in East Africa. Fr. Martin Martini, now in Louisville, was in East Africa for about 14 years. The 16th century Dominicans existed in Peru and many other parts of the western world before coming to the U.S. There are a lot of Polish Dominicans living all over Europe because there are more from Poland than that country needs.

Fr. Peter told us that “the end of the Dominican Order is not knowledge, but study for the sake of teaching, for the salvation of souls.”

We want to thank Fr. Peter for his presentation on the Dominicans.

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

CORONAVIRUS AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR SUNDAYS

There is so much commentary and news about the crisis, that there may not be much more that can be said here. However, we are a people of faith in God, used to joining with our faith communities on weekends. We are accustomed to so many things that are now suspended. For a great article on what to do until public Masses return, and how to continue to “keep holy the Sabbath,” checkout the article [here](#).

SAVE THE DATES

Some of the following may have to be re-scheduled due to the coronavirus crisis.

April 25 - Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate – Saturday, April 25, Holy Family Church 10 am. Seminarians Quan Nguyen and Loi Pham will be ordained.

May 3 - World Day of Prayer for Vocations is Sunday, May 3.

June 15 – We are planning on a half-day retreat at the Nazareth Retreat Center. Details will be provided later.

August 13 – The Serra Club will host our annual **Seminarian Luncheon** before they go away for the Seminary. (Serrans and special guests only – not open to the public.)

August 19 - Permanent Diaconate Ordination - There will be 19 men ordained to the permanent diaconate on Saturday, August 29, 11:00 am at Saint Patrick Church.

PROMOTING A “CULTURE OF VOCATIONS”

Totally aside from the coronavirus chaos, a big-picture problem in the Church today is the lack of religious vocations, especially priests who can administer the Sacraments. How can individuals, families, schools, and parishes promote a “culture of vocations?”

This is a goal of the Archdiocesan Vocation Office, as well as the Serra Club, which assists the Vocation Office. But to be more specific, there are a number of activities organized by these two offices – some by Vocation Offices and some by Serra Clubs. These include “adopting” seminarians and priests so we can give each of them extra attention and prayers; having parishes, schools and others forward to the Vocation Office the names of specific youth who may be fit for a religious vocation; encouraging altar servers to focus on their service to the Church; promoting the Traveling Chalice/Crucifix Program in parishes and schools; organizing youth visits to seminaries; involving the homebound with prayers for vocations; praying the Rosary prior to ordinations; promoting discernment retreats; encouraging each parish to form a Parish Vocation Ministry; running Vocation Essay and Poster Contests; and funding annual vocation events and pizza parties.

Some other things promoted by the Vocation Office and/or the Serra Club include having a going-away luncheon as our seminarians leave for the seminary in August; letting parish members pick a day of the month that they can intentionally focus on vocations and prayer (The 31 Club); using social media, videos, websites and bulletin inserts; organizing school visits by seminarians, priests, sisters and deacons; promoting a Holy Hour for Vocations; hosting Vianney Gatherings (for young men) and Marian Dinners (for young women); and using the Newman Connection (to keep high school graduates in touch with their faith as they go away to college).

A website that elaborates on many of the things described above can be found [here](#) - which is the **Serra Promotion And Resource Kit (SPARK)**. Another website with many resources is [Vianney Vocations](#).

Those of us who promote religious vocations wish to help our youth discern these possibilities for their future. For more information on all of these matters, don't hesitate to contact the Vocation Office (click [here](#), or call Sr. Sarah Yungwirth, OSB at 502.636.0296) or the Serra Club (click [here](#) or call Ken Peet at 502.893.9319).

Let's all do what we can to leave a better Church for future Catholics.

VOCATIONS IN THE NEWS

Sister Evelyn Hurley, SCN of the Archdiocese of Louisville turns 105 – click [here](#).

Discernment of a vocation – click [here](#).

What is a Vocation? – click [here](#).

Teenage Programmer Advances Toward Saint-hood - click [here](#).

Choosing your vocation - click [here](#).

Looking back at the 70-year vocation of Sister Alfreda Crantz (age 100) - click [here](#).

Do I have a vocation? - click [here](#).

Discerning a vocation - click [here](#).

Pope John Paul II on Vocation - click [here](#).

How to know you have a vocation to a religious life - click [here](#).

The Role of Teachers in Awakening Vocations - click [here](#).

Seminarians say lessons from scandals bolster their hope and faith – click [here](#).

Ingredients for a vocation to the priesthood – click [here](#).

Cycling with Sisters - click [here](#).

The Ukrainian “Church Spring” - More and more young men want to join the priesthood - click [here](#).

GOLD Order Cares for the Elderly - click [here](#).

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth on KET - click [here](#).

Faith-in-the-workplace movement - click [here](#).

VISION – the Vocation Network for Catholic Religious Life & Priesthood - click [here](#).

Top Ten Things to Promote Vocations - click [here](#).

POTPOURRI – VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

Serran birthdays this month

Charlie Francesconi, April 3

Pope’s Prayer Intentions for April – Freedom from Addiction: We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

Collection for the Clergy Appreciation Day - Clergy Appreciation Day this year is June 15. The deadline for Serrans to turn in deductible donations (make out checks to the “Serra Club of Louisville”) is April 30. Please mail checks to Jerry Gonsoski, 808 Foxgate Road, Louisville, KY 40223.

IN MEMORY – Serrans who have passed away in recent years:

- Emmett Ratterman 05/14/11 at age 92
- Bob McAdams 10/07/13 at age 94
- 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 03/2019 at age 93
- Donna Richardson 09/21/19 at age 71
- Marie Heckel 12/26/19 at age 94

VOCATIONS GROW ON TREES – FAMILY TREES

Thanks to **Mary Means** and **Lynn Haner** for proofing this newsletter.

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

HOW THE HOMEBOUND CAN HELP SAVE THE WORLD

When prayer and offering up your suffering may
be your greatest ministry to the Church

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

“If we truly love people, we will desire for them far more than it is within our power to give them, and this will lead us to prayer. Intercession is a way of loving others.” - Richard Foster

“The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers. . . . In it we ask, not only for all the things we can rightly desire, but also in the sequence that they should be desired. This prayer not only teaches us to ask for things, but also in what order we should desire them.” - St. Thomas Aquinas

“The Desert Fathers did not think of solitude as being alone, but as being alone with God. They did not think of silence as not speaking, but as listening to God. Solitude and silence are the context within which prayer is practiced.”

- Henri J. M. Nouwen

“Until you are convinced that prayer is the best use of your time, you will not find time for prayer.”

- Sr. Hilary Ottensmeyer, O.S.B.

“If we pray for those whose situations are worse than our own, we not only help them through their problems, we remind ourselves of our own blessings.” - author unknown

“Prayer is ... a mine which is never exhausted ... It is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings.” - St. John Chrysostom

ON SUFFERING AND OFFERING IT UP

“With the greatest confidence and hope, I turn for prayers to people who are suffering, for it is through them that God conquers.”

- Pope Saint John Paul II

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

- Luke 14:27

"In bringing about the Redemption through suffering, Christ raised human suffering to the

level of the Redemption. Thus, each man, in his sufferings, can also become a sharer in the redemptive suffering of Christ."

– Pope Saint John Paul II

"Continually we carry about in our bodies the dying of Jesus, so that in our bodies the life of Jesus may also be revealed. While we live, we are constantly being delivered to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh" - 2 Cor 4:10-11

“Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, sorrow, and suffering are but the kiss of Jesus - a sign that you have come so close to him that he can kiss you.” - Saint Teresa of Calcutta

“My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges. ... all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.” - Hebrews 12:5-11

"My brothers, count it pure joy when you are involved in every sort of trial. Realize that when your faith is tested this makes for endurance."

James 1:2-3

"I consider the sufferings of the present to be as nothing compared to the glory to be revealed in us."

- Romans 8:18

“Joy is not the absence of pain, but the presence of God.” – author unknown

“Blessed be the God ... the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction ... For as Christ’s sufferings overflow to us, so through Christ does our encouragement also overflow.”

- 2 Corinthians 1:1-5

THINK OF “PRAY” AS STANDING FOR

Praising God in gratitude;

Repenting for our sins;

Asking for God’s help, for ourselves as well as others; and

Yielding to God’s wishes.

FOR THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, Divine Consoler, I adore You as my true God, with God the Father and God the Son. I adore You and unite myself to the adoration You receive from the angels and saints. I give You my heart and I offer my ardent thanksgiving for all the grace which You never cease to bestow on me. O Giver of all supernatural gifts, who filled the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with such immense favors and blessings, I beg You to visit me with Your grace and Your love and to:

Grant me the gift of **Wonder and Awe** (also known as Fear of the Lord), so that it may act on me as a check to prevent me from falling back into my past sins, for which I beg pardon.

Grant me the gift of **Reverence** (also known as Piety), so that I may serve You for the future with increased fervor, follow with more promptness Your holy inspirations, and observe Your divine precepts with greater fidelity.

Grant me the gift of **Knowledge**, so that I may know the things of God and, enlightened by Your holy teaching, may walk, without deviation, in the path of eternal salvation.

Grant me the gift of **Courage**, so that I may overcome courageously all the assaults of the devil, and all the dangers of this world which threaten the salvation of my soul.

Grant me the gift of **Good Judgment** (also known as Counsel), so that I may choose what is more conducive to my spiritual advancement and may discover the wiles and snares of the devil.

Grant me the gift of **Understanding**, so that I may apprehend the divine mysteries and by contemplation of heavenly things detach my thoughts and affections from the vain things of this despairing world.

Grant me the gift of **Wisdom**, so that I may rightly direct all my actions, referring them to God as my last end; so that, having loved Him and served Him in this life, I may have the happiness of possessing Him eternally in the next. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Loving and Generous God, it is You who call us by name and ask us to follow You. Help us to grow in the Love and Service of our Church as we experience it today. Give us the energy and courage of Your Spirit to shape its future. Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's Mission of love and justice. Bless the Church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve Your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers. Inspire us to know You better and open our hearts to hear Your call. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

OTHER WAYS TO PRAY

Focus on:

Listening to God – by reading the Scriptures.

The Life of Christ – by meditating on the Mysteries of the Rosary.

The Passion of Christ – by reading the Stations of the Cross.

This brochure was prepared by the Serra Club of Louisville. For more information on our club, see www.ArchLou.org/Serra.

