



Serra Club of Louisville

May, 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.

SLATE OF NEW OFFICERS FOR OUR JUNE 1 SERRA CLUB ELECTION

The following have volunteered for the Board of Directors for the Fiscal Year beginning June, 2020: **Bob Hublar** – President; **Ken Peet** - VP & Secretary; **Neil Manias** - VP for Membership; **Jerry Gonsoski** - VP & Treasurer; **Paul Willett** - VP for Programs; **Chuck Lynch** - VP for Communications; Other Trustees: **John Tichenor, Theresa Fiedler, Ralph Williams, Norm Beat, Debbie Farmer; Fr. Joe Voor** will continue as our Chaplain. **Fr. Pat Dolan** will continue as our Assistant Chaplain; **Ken Peet** will continue as our District Governor.

The June 1 meeting is still tentative, depending on the coronavirus.

If necessary, we may have a vote on new officers by email.

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

SPECIAL EDITION CELEBRATING FR. JOE VOOR'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Note from the Editor:

Fr. Joe Voor, our Serra Club Chaplain, at age 94, has been a friend of my family since before I was born. My mother was his first convert to the Catholic Church in 1951, before she married my father. After burying her first husband in 1956 and then remarrying and burying her second husband in 2006, she passed away from Alzheimer's in 2017, sixty-six years after becoming a Catholic. And Fr. Voor was there to celebrate the funeral Mass and send Mom home to the Lord.

“My family, and the Serra Club of Louisville are so lucky to still have you with us, Fr. Voor.”

The date for formally celebrating this occasion will have to be rescheduled, due to the coronavirus.

My wife, Sally, wrote a reflection I'd like to share, and it's in the next column.

Chuck Lynch, Editor

MY REFLECTION AND APPRECIATION OF FR. JOE VOOR - OUR LIFETIME FAMILY PRIEST BY SALLY LYNCH

Ordained in 1950 for the Archdiocese of Louisville, Fr. Joseph Voor was first assigned to the Cathedral of the Assumption. He was a brand new priest - young and inexperienced – eager to get on with God's work. My mother-in-law, Katie Nell Brown, was engaged to Charles Lynch, Jr., a Catholic. She wanted to be-



come Catholic so that together they would share the same faith in their marriage. Katie went to Charlie's parish, the Cathedral of

FR. JOE VOOR, by Sally Lynch
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the Assumption. Fr. Voor, only a short time into his first assignment, was the priest who met with her. He spent many months meeting with her to



1951 Katie & Charles Lynch on Cathedral steps

teach her about the Catholic faith. Katie was to eventually become Fr. Voor's very first convert. Weeks before the wedding at which Fr. Voor was to officiate, he sat with Katie as she filled out the paperwork for her baptism. She asked him, shyly, if he could please put "18" for her age. He was very surprised that she was not well over 18 by her appearance so he asked, "Just how old ARE

you, Katie?" She admitted she had just turned 17. It is so much FUN to hear Fr. Voor tell the story. He said he was shocked! Fr. Voor always told us that had he known she was so young when she walked in



1952 Young Fr. Voor in Washington, D.C. with baby Chuck

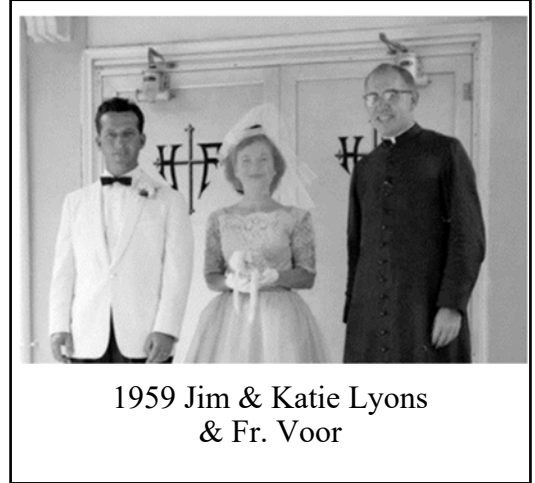
for the first time, he would have spent that entire time talking her OUT of getting married! But, seeing how faithfully she studied all those months and how she and Charlie sincerely wanted to marry,

Fr. Voor did officiate at their marriage, praying and trusting that they were ready.

Soon after the wedding, Bishop Floersh sent Fr. Voor to Washington, D.C. to take classes to get a PhD in psychology in order to develop a psychology department at a very young Bellarmine College. Fr. Voor had never expressed an interest in psychology, yet he embraced the studies which proved to be an

integral part of Fr. Voor's lifelong vocation to follow God's Call even when it didn't make clear sense to him at the time. Ironically, Katie's husband, Charlie, was assigned to Washington, D.C. to serve in the Army. So,

Katie and Charlie moved to D.C. and had their first child named Chuck while there, my husband of 48 years. Since the three Louisvillians



1959 Jim & Katie Lyons & Fr. Voor

knew each other, but no one else in Washington, Fr. Voor visited Katie, Charlie, and baby Chuck in their apartment many times, having dinner with them and enjoying each other's company. This really cemented their relationship.

They all moved back to Louisville within months of each other. Katie & Charlie welcomed their second child, Mike.

Roughly two and a half years after Mike's birth, one evening after having put the boys to sleep upstairs, Katie and Charlie were relaxing on their couch watching TV with Charlie's feet comfortably laying in Katie's lap. Suddenly,

Katie noticed Charlie's eyes rolling back into his head and she realized her young husband's heart had stopped – his death was immediate. Fr. Voor comforted this young widow as she grieved. He lovingly shares that had he known Katie was so young when she walked into the Cathedral for instruction and had he been successful in talking Katie out of getting married, Charlie would not have enjoyed his loving, happy marriage even though it was so short, and neither Chuck nor Mike would have been born. This is where I smile when he tells the story because I would not have had my wonderful life with my husband, Chuck.



In front of Bellarmine for meeting with Fr. Voor to get married – this was a Friday. We got married the following Monday!!!

FR. JOE VOOR, by Sally Lynch (continued from page 2)

Clearly, the Holy Spirit had plenty of influence!

Fr. Voor and Katie stayed friends through the years. He baptized her into the faith at her young age, barely 17 years old, buried her young husband, Charlie, when he died, officiated at her second marriage to James Lyons, baptized several of their six



2016 Serra Club meeting – Chuck & Sally Lynch, Fr. Voor, and Fr. Chris Eggleton O.P. (Sally's brother)

children and two of their grandchildren into the Catholic faith, officiated at our wedding in 1972, celebrated with them (always with cake) and comforted the family over the loss of Katie's 24-year old son in 1995. Fr. Voor also buried Jim, Katie's second husband, when he died in 2006 after a full life.

Tenderly, after this lifetime connection, Fr. Voor anointed Katie Nell Brown Lynch Lyons, his first convert, in one final, shared sacrament, giving her back to God. Fr. Joseph Voor walked with our beloved Katie for nearly seven decades; then, in her final hours, handed her back to God for Eternal Life in the Sacrament of the Sick.

Even as the oldest priest in the Archdiocese, Fr. Voor continues to bring Christ to so many of us as dedicatedly and steadfastly as he did in 1950 when a shy, young woman walked into his church. On Fr. Joe Voor's 60th Anniversary of Ordination at St. James Church ten years ago, he asked Katie to stand up and be recognized. What a special moment for both of those two friends to be able to share – his first convert still practicing her faith and celebrating with the still vibrant priest who brought her fully to Christ. WOW! The assembly applauded until she blushed, still shy after all these years, but secretly glowing with delight! Of course, it was Fr. Voor's special day but he joyfully and proudly shared the spotlight with Katie.

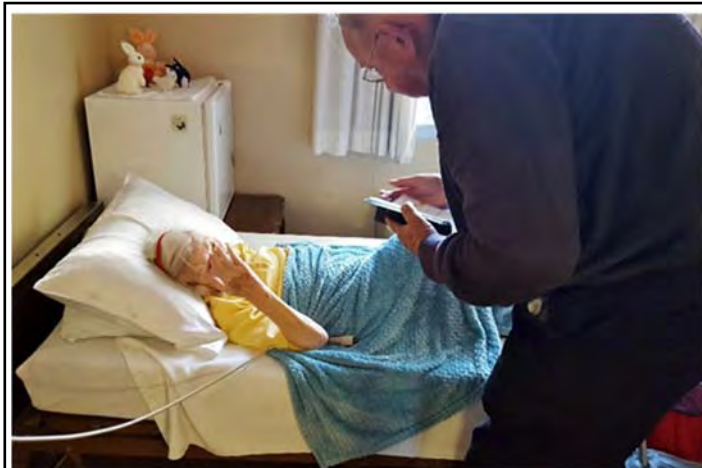
Besides serving in his beloved parishes and on campus centers through the years, Fr. Voor is cur-

rently Chaplain for the Serra Club and attends daily Mass. In recent years, he has been deeply involved in the Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience, which he strongly encourages for all married couples; and he has also enjoyed world travel!

My brother, Dominican priest Fr. Chris Eggleton, O.P., once casually said how lucky I was to have Fr. Voor as our "family priest." That comment stayed with me and is what sparked me to write this to share our love and appreciation of Fr. Joe Voor.

Each of you has a special priest in your life who has said something to comfort you at a difficult time, celebrated with you as you baptized your children, officiated at your marriage, inspired you with his homily, casually conversed with you at your dinner table, or shared a cold beer at your parish summer picnic. I hope we all take time to thank our priests for what they mean to us.

Chuck and I truly appreciate the Archdiocesan priests and Religious Order priests we are blessed to



Fr. Voor beginning the Anointing of the Sick – final anointing of Katie Lyons, his first convert – Nov. 2017 – a few days before she passed away.

know – too many to list here. Fr. Joseph Voor, however, walking with us our entire lives, holds a deeply revered spot in our hearts as our cherished family priest. *"Thank you, Fr. Voor. You continue to make such a meaningful difference in our lives. We love you so much!"*

CONVERSATION WITH FR. JOHN JUDIE

I spoke with Fr. John Judie mid-April. He gave me several updates worth passing on.

Fr. John, now retired from his regular Archdiocesan

FR. JOHN JUDIE
(continued from page 3)

san duties, was going to take a trip to Tanzania in April, but his plans were sidetracked by all the coronavirus chaos.

He had previously given us the names of two seminarians for whom our donations were helping with the cost of their seminary education in east Africa – Elvis Dimoso and Joseph Williams. They are both doing fine.

We spoke of the coronavirus impact on Tanzania



and he pointed out that, although the government didn't seem to be taking coronavirus as seriously as we are, he said there were several advantages the Africans have over Americans. They don't have many of the pre-existing health issues that are causing us Americans problems with covid-19. For example, they can't afford a lot of junk food, and

have far fewer cases of obesity or diabetes. He also said that they can't afford pre-packaged desserts, but simply pick fresh fruit from a tree and have that instead. They also can't afford cigarettes and have far fewer problems related to smoking.

The seminarians have all returned home and have minimized interactions. But another issue is that in Tanzania, the government uses teachers as vote counters. So, seminary teachers will be busy with elections for a period of three weeks, and unable to teach.

Fr. John, founder of Fr. John Judie Ministries, Inc., appreciates our donations to help these young men afford the seminary. You can keep up with his activities [here](#).

Chuck Lynch
Editor

CREATING A CULTURE
OF VOCATIONS

WHAT KINDS OF PEOPLE become priests, sisters or brothers?

Are they uncommonly holy, unusually saint-like? No. They are people who make mistakes, people who aren't

afraid to be human while in God's service.

Are they people who can't face the competition and cruelty of the "real" world? No. They are people who believe that through ministry they can *immerse* themselves in the world and make positive changes.

Are they people who don't relate well with other people? No. They are people who love others - people who find real satisfaction chatting with a 93-year-old parishioner, holding the hand of a cancer patient, listening to the troubles of a streetwise teen.

They are people with the courage to touch lives, hearts and souls in a high-tech, unchurched world.

Do you know young people who might be that kind of person? Tell them you think so.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
FOR VOCATIONS (WDPV)

The fourth Sunday in the Easter season each year – aka Good Shepherd Sunday – is on Sunday, May 3 this year. For more information, suggestions, and resource materials, click [here](#).

To see the Pope's message for this special day, click [here](#).

Here is the Prayer for this WDPV:

Holy Spirit, stir within us the passion to promote vocations to the consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, diocesan priesthood, and permanent diaconate. Inspire us daily to respond to Your call with boundless compassion, abundant generosity, and radical availability.

Help us to remember our own baptismal call to rouse us to invite the next generation to hear and respond to Your call. Inspire parents, families, and lay ecclesial ministers to begin a conversation with young Catholics to consider how they will live lives of holiness and sacred service.

Nudge inquirers and motivate discerners to learn more about monastic life, apostolic life, missionaries, cloistered contemplative life, and evangelical Franciscan life. Ignite our Church with the confident humility that there is an urgent need for religious sisters, brothers, deacons, and priests to live in solidarity with those who are poor, neglected, and marginalized.

Disrupt our comfortable lives and complacent attitudes with new ideas to respond courageously and creativity with a daily 'YES!' Amen.

**ADOPT-A-SEMINARIAN PROGRAM
OF THE SERRA CLUB**

One of the programs of the Serra Club International is to have members adopt local seminarians to pray for them regularly, to send them birthday cards; to give them emails or phone calls on special occasions like Christmas and Easter; to meet with them when that is possible (such as in the summer time). To learn more about the program, check out the S.P.A.R.K. [here](#).

THE MISSION OF THE SERRA CLUB

Don't forget that the objectives and purpose of our club are threefold:

- (1) to foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support priests in their sacred ministry;
- (2) to encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church; and
- (3) to assist its members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

DEALING WITH COVID-19

The National Catholic Register has prepared a number of articles on this subject. These articles deal with everything from Spiritual Communion to anxiety, to online resources, to how some dioceses are dealing with the virus, to virtual retreats, to tools for parishes, to rules on Confession, and much more. They can be found [here](#).

Our faith needs to kick in amid pandemic crisis – Cardinal Dolan talks about handling the situation. To see the article, click [here](#).

Some dioceses are taking the 'Civilize It' initiative to heart. The current stilling of the partisan waters during the coronavirus pandemic may be just a mirage. See the whole article [here](#).

Don't forget that your parish and the Archdiocese still need our financial support. One diocese has seen a 57% decrease in collections. Read the whole article [here](#).

Coronavirus and the future of the Church. Prepare now for post-pandemic ministry, church professionals urge. Read the whole article [here](#).

The Pope prays for elderly fearful of dying alone. Read the whole article [here](#).

A Bishop in one diocese allows doctors to give Communion to coronavirus patients. Read the whole article [here](#).



**POTPOURRI –
VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Special Dates this month - Happy Anniversary!
Fr. Pat Dolan, our Assistant Chaplain, was ordained May 27 of 1978.

Fr. Anthony Chandler, our Vocation Director, was ordained May 29 of 2010.

Pope's Prayer Intentions for May – For Deacons - We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Collection for the Clergy Appreciation Day - Clergy Appreciation Day this year is *scheduled* for June 15. The deadline for Serrans to turn in deductible donations to the "Serra Club of Louisville," for supporting this event, has been extended to May 31. Please mail checks to Jerry Gonsoski, 808 Foxgate Road, Louisville, KY 40223.

The Fourth Annual Religious Brothers Day is May 1 this year. Learn more about it, and find various resources and ideas for celebrating it, [here](#).

A Mother's Letter to Her Anti-Catholic Son - click [here](#).

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

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



The NEWMAN CONNECTION



The Serra Club of Louisville

and the

Archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adults

have teamed up to promote

The Newman Connection

for all of our high school graduates!



THE FACTS:

- An estimated **80%** of Catholic students leave the Church **before they turn 23!**
- **Only 15%** of U.S. Catholic college students take the time and effort to locate the Catholic ministry on their college campus!
- A study completed for the U.S. Bishops confirmed that those who are active in Campus Ministry also attend Mass more often, donate more to their parishes, become leaders in their parishes, and are likely to consider a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life!
- Conclusion: **Increasing student's participation in Catholic campus ministry activities greatly benefits the individual and the Church in many ways!**

By informing the local Catholic ministry leaders on or near any of over **2,000 public and Catholic campuses nationwide** through The Newman Connection, the college student will be found and contacted, and will then *know* there is a place for them in the Church, meet Catholic friends, and grow in their faith!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

(If someone other than the student or their parent would like to submit a name, please courteously ask permission of the student or their parent first!)

- 1) **Tell every high school graduate, parent or grandparent of a graduate you know!** Encourage them to go to www.newmanconnection.com/connect and sign up!
- 2) **Provide names directly to us!** *(See contacts below.)* All that is needed for each student is:
 - First and last name,
 - The college this student plans to attend (*exact name since some college names are similar*), and
 - The city and state of the college
- 3) **Enter names yourself directly into the Newman Connection website!** Register as a "Volunteer" at www.newmanconnection.com/volunteer and start your own list of young people you wish to get connected!

GET YOUR PARISH, YOUTH MINISTRY, AND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL INVOLVED!

- Parish offices can help find your parish's high school graduates, create bulletin announcements, and post flyers!
- Youth Ministers often have a good idea who your parish's public high school graduates are!
- Catholic High Schools have their list of current graduates and their intended colleges, too!
- **Share this flyer!** Pastors, Principals, Youth Ministers, Scout Leaders, Coaches, Teachers, Parents, Grandparents!

For further information, please contact:

Serra Club of Louisville

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