

Serra Club of Louisville

August, 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

Meetings for August and September will be announced directly to members when they are scheduled.

SEMINARIAN QUAN NGUYEN SPOKE AT OUR JULY 20 MEETING

We want to thank Fr. Bill Hammer, Pastor, for allowing us to use the St. Margaret Mary Hospitality Room for this meeting.

We decided to test the waters and go back to face-to-face meetings. However, for this one meeting, we all sat far apart from one another, and brought our own lunches and soft drinks. Our speaker was seminarian Quan Nguyen, who came to tell us of his faith journey.

Paul Willett, our V.P. of Programs, introduced Quan, and also mentioned that Quan is a great cook of Vietnamese food, which Paul had the opportunity to enjoy on one recent occasion.

Quan said he was so happy and grateful to everyone at St. Margaret Mary (where he has spent the summer), as well as to all the Serrans. He said he has learned much from Fr. Bill Hammer, the parish staff, and the parishioners.

Quan was born in 1988 in Vietnam. He is the fourth of five children, having one brother and three sisters. His parents still live in Vietnam.

From a very young age, Quan

wanted to be a priest. He felt God called him while he was just a boy. He experienced a strong faith in his family, where the religious traditions were very strong. His parents



were a very good example; they went to Mass every day; and they prayed as a family. He also saw his siblings as a motivation to the religious life. He has three sisters, sll og whom became nuns of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Congregation. Even his brother studied for the seminary, but chose another route in life.

By the age of eight he was already living in the parish rectory with the family's pastor, part of the custom in Vietnam for young boys seriously considering a religious life. Quan spoke of his childhood pastor as being a man of strong prayer and service to the Church.

Quan recognized as a student in a public college in 2006, while going to Mass every day, that there were a lot of things going on in his mind. He could have gone in many directions. Some companies offered jobs, and one offered him the option to study in Europe and become a college teacher of mass communication. During his last year of college, he decided that God "called in a clear way" for him to go back to finish the seminary.

He started the seminary at the age of 23 and completed five years of it in Vietnam.

The seminaries in Vietnam are small and there were many young men interested in the seminaries, while there were not enough buildings, classrooms or money. After a pastoral year's work in a parish, his bishop asked if he'd consider going to a U.S. seminary with the Archdiocese of Louisville to finish his graduate work. After thought and prayer, Quan decided to accept that offer.

He came to Louisville in 2016, took eight months of English as a Second Language, and then went to St. Meinrad in 2017, to pick up where he left off in Vietnam.

In the summer of 2018, he worked with Fr. Jeff Shooner at St. Patrick parish. The following summer he lived at St. Agnes with Fr.

SEMINARIAN QUAN NGUYEN (continued from page 1)

David Colhour, C.P. and did Chaplaincy CPE at Baptist Hospital.

This summer he has been living and doing summer ministry at St. Margaret Mary. It is now expected that he'll be ordained a deacon on November 28 of this year. (He and seminarian Loi Pham were to have been ordained to the diaconate on April 25. However, due to the pandemic, it has been delayed until the fall; and Quan says he's now called a "postponed deacon.") He hopes to graduate from St. Meinrad in the Spring of 2021 and be ordained a priest on May 29, 2021, at the age of 32.

Quan spoke of possibly being here five or six years after ordination to the priesthood; and then our Archbishop and his Bishop in Vietnam will talk with him about the next phase of his vocation journey. He says he's willing to serve wherever they want him to go.

In response to some questions, Quan mentioned that he has really enjoyed the continued study of theology and philosophy. He also said the most difficult part of being in the U.S. was the language, learning English pronunciation, and adapting to a new culture.

We want to thank Quan Nguyen for taking the time to give us a summary of his vocation journey and an update on his U.S. studies. We wish him well in the rest of his journey.

(Thanks for Ken Peet for help with this article and to Paul Willett for the picture.)

ON TOPPLING STATUES INCLUDING THAT OF ST. JUNIPERO SERRA

A lot has been said in the secular media (especially in California) about vandalism, removal, decapitation, and toppling of statues of St. Serra in California. As with the vandalism of Ulysses S. Grant's statues, the vandals have a misunderstanding of actual history.

Before canonizing Junipero Serra as a Saint, the Church devoted extensive reviews of the life and times of this Franciscan priest. This is a process they use for all proposed saints. As we Catholics all know, even miracles had to be attributed to the intercession of Serra before he could be designated as "Blessed" or a "Saint." Fr. Junipero Serra had to go through all the scrutiny, which was not completed until 231 years after his death - having been found to live a life of heroic virtue; being designated a Venerable Servant of God; having been found to intercede through a verified miracle; being designated Blessed; having been found to intercede through another miracle; and finally being designated a Saint. In Serra's case, he died in 1784, was beatified 204 years later in 1988, and not canonized until 2015.

Prior to the recent decades of controversies, many private and public schools, streets, parks, parishes, a trail, a museum, a peak, an interstate highway, etc. were named after Serra in California. A statue of Friar Junípero Serra is even one of two statues that represent the state of California in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol in D.C.! He was known as the "Apostle of California." He has gone from being considered a founding father of the state to a demon, according to some! Quite a change!

Whenever the Spanish royalty sent soldiers to any part of the world in the 1700s, they also sent priests to evangelize those not belonging to the Church. California was no different. The accusations of mistreatment were actually against the Spanish soldiers, not the Franciscan priests. Fr. Serra even stopped capital punishment of Native Americans for the murder of 18 Spaniards, including one of his fellow priests.

Fed up with the Spanish soldiers' treatment of the Native Americans, Serra <u>walked</u> (with a bad leg) from the west coast all the way to the Spanish military headquarters in Mexico City, bringing a list of nearly two dozen complaints against the military. (The round trip was about 4,000 miles.) The senior military agreed with Serra and sent him back, making most of Serra's requests the new rules which eventually became a sort of bill of rights for the Native Americans, and later the beginning of government rules for all of California.

The accusations of "genocide" were based on a mistaken understanding of the early death of many Native Americans, due to the European diseases that were *inadvertently* brought to the Americas by the Spaniards.

The accusations of "enslavement" were a misunderstanding of the custom of Native Americans moving to the missions to be baptized and learn Spanish culture, including methods of agriculture, as well as Christianity. Ninety percent of them *voluntarily* chose to stay at the missions.

The accusations of "corporal punishment" were a misunderstanding of the punishments that the Spanish used against anyone breaking rules, including soldiers, as well as the converted Native Americans.

At Serra's death in 1784, hundreds of Native Americans came to pay their respects to this beloved Franciscan.

He was not a demon, but truly a saint.

ON RACIAL INJUSTICE

One of the goals of the Serra Club is to promote the faith formation of its members. With all the racial discord and protests, this is a good time to think, pray, and act on helping to reduce racial discrimination, inequities, and injustices. Here are some recent columns written on the subject.

One bishop's Black Lives Matters statement – to read the article click <u>here</u>.

Need for 'Sanctity of Life' Police Training – to read the article click here.

Church leaders say that acknowledging past racism is key to moving forward. To read the article, click here.

Catholic educators make plans to address racism in America - Read the article <u>here</u>.

Combatting racism – to read the article click <u>here</u>.

The USCCB 2018 statement "The Call to Address Racism in Our Hearts and Communities" – To read the statement, click here.

Responding to the call to combat racism – to read the article click <u>here</u>.

Six ways looting hurts the poor – to read the article click <u>here</u>.

Social justice and moral activism - a guide for Catholics - Read the article <u>here</u>.

AFRICAN AMERICAN EXAMPLES OF HOLINESS IN THE CHURCH

Venerable Augustus Tolton, First Black Priest – to read the article click <u>here</u>.

Meet Four Black Catholics with a Legacy of Holiness – to read the article click <u>here</u>.

Why promoting sainthood causes of black Americans would be a healing balm for the Church and the world – to read the article click <u>here</u>.

Celebrating the contributions of Black Catholics – to read the article click <u>here</u>.

<u>KEEPING HIGH SCHOOL</u> <u>GRADUATES IN TOUCH WITH</u> <u>THEIR FAITH</u>

As some of our youth go away to college for the first time this Fall, you can submit the student's name and college to the Newman Connection online. This will enable the college's local Catholic community to contact the student about Catholic social functions as well as the time and location of weekend Masses. If interested, you can do this <u>here</u> or you can contact Chuck Lynch of the Serra Club of Louisville, at (502) 442-9302 or <u>ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com</u>.

PEPARE FOR PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 27

Now is the time to start preparing for Priesthood Sunday!

Priesthood Sunday is a special day set aside for Catholics to thank, affirm and share their love and support for our priests. It is celebrated on the last Sunday of September each year (Sep 27th this year), and has been promoted primarily by the USA Council (USAC) of Serra International (SI) and Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

Some ideas for you, your family and your parish for celebrating this occasion: Pray for your priest and all priests. You could personally thank your priest on Priesthood Sunday, or any day. Send a thank you note or letter. Invite your priest for dinner with your family or friends. Send a card or letter to a priest who used to serve at your parish. Have children make a homemade card or color a picture. Go on an outing together - a restaurant, a play, golf, concert, or a movie. Send them goody baskets, balloon bouquets, or flowers. For more ideas click <u>here</u>.

FIRE AT MISSION SAN GABRIEL ARCANGEL

In the pre-dawn hours on July 11, 2020, a fire ravaged Mission San Gabriel Arcangel, which was founded in 1771 by our patron, St. Junipero Serra. Before the coronavirus pandemic hit, the mission was preparing for its 250th Anniversary Jubilee celebration.

San Gabriel is the mission church whose iconic bell tower is featured in our Serra International logo.

San Gabriel Mission is gratefully accepting donations to help them rebuild their church. We owe a debt to the Mission for our Serra legacy and for the beautiful imagery illustrating God's call on our logo. For more on the situation, click <u>here</u>.

FIRE (continued from page 3)

To support the restoration, click <u>here</u>, find the "Donate Now" link at the top right of the parish's website, and choose "Fire Restoration Fund."

NEW PRIEST ASSIGNMENTS EFFECTIVE THIS SUMMER

There were four articles in The Record announcing the new assignments. Most are effective August 5. You can view those articles <u>here</u>, <u>here</u>, <u>here</u>, and <u>here</u>.

PRIESTS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE WHO ARE CELEBRATING ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST.

'*' indicates retired
BUNNELL, O.F.M., REV. ADAM, 8-24-74, 46 YRS
HAMILTON, REV. MARK M., 8-6-94, 26 YRS
HERNÁNDEZ, REV. PABLO A., 8-12-6, 14 YRS
JOHNSON, REV. JOHN R., 8-27-11, 9 YRS
JUDIE, REV. JOHN T.*, 8-1-87, 33 YRS
MÁRQUEZ, REV. JOSÉ J., 8-15-13, 7 YRS
MEIMAN, REV. LOUIS J., 8-1-87, 33 YRS
MUWONGE, REV. EXPEDITO, 8-20-89, 31 YRS
NICOLAS, REV. JEFFREY S., 8-7-93, 27 YRS
RANKIN, REV. DEOGRATIAS, 8-21-10, 10 YRS
TOBIN, REV. T. MICHAEL, 8-7-93, 27 YRS
More information on all our priests and deacons can be found by clicking <u>here</u>.

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES OF DEACON ORDINATIONS

The asterisk (*) indicates retired; (^) indicates senior deacon. The names of the wives of deacons are in parentheses.

ABELL, James H.^{^*} (Mary Jo), 8-28-93, 27 YRS AGE, Stephen A. (Shannon), 8-20-16, 4 YRS AUFFREY, Todd C. (Elizabeth), 8-21-10, **10 YRS** AYERS, Timothy B.[^], 8-26-6, 14 YRS BABIN, Jeremiah S.[^] (Susie), 8-23-8, 12 YRS BARNES, Derrick A. (Mistianna), 8-25-12, 8 YRS BARTLEY, Ralph E.[^] (Jane), 8-25-12, 8 YRS BEAVIN, Gregory A. (Shirley), 8-23-8, 12 YRS BEAVIN, Gregory A. (Shirley), 8-23-8, 12 YRS BELL, Kenneth (Detrie Ann), 8-28-99, 21 YRS BELL, Kenneth (Detrie Ann), 8-28-99, 21 YRS BENT, Charles "Chuck" (Cyndi), 8-26-6, 14 YRS BISIG, Sr., Daniel G. (Mary Rita), 8-21-10, **10 YRS** BLAND, Joseph E. (Virginia), 8-25-12, 8 YRS BOWLING, T. Stephen (Susan), 8-23-8, 12 YRS BROWN, Anthony T. (Naomi Marie), 8-20-16, 4 YRS BROWN, Charles K.* (Frances), 8-17-96, 24 YRS BROWN, Martin J.^, 8-28-93, 27 YRS BRYANT, Robert C.*^, 8-17-96, 24 YRS BUEHNER, Jerome L. (Connie), 8-25-12, 8 YRS BURCHETT, K. Michael[^] (Carol), 8-21-10, 10 YRS BUSH, R. Bryan (Jennifer), 8-20-16, 4 YRS CALVERT, Joseph D. (Berta), 8-23-8, 12 YRS CARNEY, Edward P.^* (Betty), 8-20-77, 43 YRS CARTER, Kenneth J.[^] (Linda), 8-28-99, 21 YRS CARUSO, Lucio A. (Therese), 8-21-10, 10 YRS CARUSO, Robert R.[^] (Kim), 8-25-12, 8 YRS CASPAR, Robert J.^{^*}, 8-17-96, 24 YRS CECIL, James A.[^] (Peggy), 8-21-10, 10 YRS CHURCHILL, John^* (Genevieve), 8-18-90, 30 YRS CLARK, William V.^ (Nicki), 8-17-96, 24 YRS COOPER, Ernest A.^{^*} (JoAnn), 8-22-87, 33 YRS COTTRELL, Frank E.[^] (Elly), 8-24-2, 18 YRS COULTER, William Donald, 8-21-10, 10 YRS DALTON, David L.^* (Kaye), 8-17-96, 24 YRS DANT, Joseph R. (Linda), 8-18-90, 30 YRS DAPONTE, Stephen J.[^] (Lynda), 8-26-6, 14 YRS DIEMER, Darryl J. (Susan), 8-23-8, 12 YRS DOWNS, William Arnold^* (Linda), 8-17-96, 24 YRS DRERUP, Karl A. (Pat), 8-21-10, 10 YRS DUGAN, Louis B.^{^*} (JoAnn), 8-26-6, 14 YRS EDWARDS, Michael L.[^] (Joyce), 8-28-82, 38 YRS FAGAN, Richard J. (Julie), 8-20-16, 4 YRS FAHRINGER, Carl A., 8-25-12, 8 YRS FELLONNEAU, John M. (Kelly), 8-20-16, 4 YRS FILIATREAU, R. Samuel[^] (JoAnn), 8-28-93, 27 YRS FITZMAYER, Michael J. (Dee), 8-20-16, 4 YRS FOWLER, Gary W. (Kathy), 8-25-12, 8 YRS FROEHLICH, John G. (Helen), 8-20-16, 4 YRS GITSCHIER, Gregory M. (Tracy), 8-21-10, 10 YRS HALL, Robert C.^ (Cheri), 8-28-99, 21 YRS HANER, Scott R. (JoAnn), 8-23-8, 12 YRS HART, Robert J.^ (Kathy), 8-23-8, 12 YRS HASSON, Tony^* (Judy), 8-20-77, 43 YRS HEINSOHN, J. Andrew (Joan), 8-25-12, 8 YRS HETTICH, Philip L.[^] (Theresa), 8-28-99, 21 YRS HOUCK, Peter L.^* (Mary Lou), 8-21-76, 44 YRS JOHNSON, William Timothy (Tracy), 8-25-12, 8 YRS JONES, J. Michael (Debbie), 8-17-96, 24 YRS JONES, Walton G.^, 8-17-96, 24 YRS KELLEY, Mark D. (Julie), 8-20-16, 4 YRS KING, Samuel J. (Sheila), 8-20-16, 4 YRS KINSELLA, Brendan E.^{**} (Mary), 8-28-99, 21 YRS KLINGLESMITH, Gregory L. (Pat), 8-26-6, 14 YRS KLUMP, William R. (Barbara), 8-17-96, 24 YRS KOENIG, John C.[^] (Donna), 8-25-12, 8 YRS LUCKETT, Theodore C. (Melinda), 8-23-8, 12 YRS MAGUIRE, Terry W. (Diane), 8-24-2, 18 YRS MAHER, John P.[^] (Carolyn), 8-17-96, 24 YRS MARKERT, C. Robert^ (Patsy), 8-21-76, 44 YRS MASTERSON, Donald E.^*, 8-21-76, 44 YRS MATTINGLY, Gerald J.^ (Mary Jo), 8-26-6, 14 YRS MCCARTY, James M. (Emily), 8-20-16, 4 YRS MCDONELL, Christopher (Melani), 8-25-12, 8 YRS MCGINTY, David L.^{**}, 8-22-87, 33 YRS

MCGOFF, James I.[^] (Carol), 8-21-10, 10 YRS MCKENZIE, Keith L. (Cathy), 8-26-6, 14 YRS MCNALLY, Thomas M.[^] (Marysue), 8-23-8, 12 YRS MOBLEY, Joseph (Karen Sheets-Mobley), 8-20-16, 4 YRS MOORE, Joseph F. (Sandy), 8-21-10, 10 YRS MURPHY, Michael J. (Beth), 8-28-99, 21 YRS NASH, Dennis M. (Teresa), 8-25-12, 8 YRS NIEMEIER, William H.[^] (Bev), 8-26-6, 14 YRS NITZKEN, Sylvester J.[^] (Joan), 8-28-93, 27 YRS NOLTEMEYER, Phillip L. (Alice), 8-26-6, 14 YRS OLRICH, James C.^ (Bev), 8-21-76, 44 YRS PATTERSON, Daniel E.^{^*}, 8-21-76, 44 YRS PATTERSON, Mark J. (Christine), 8-20-16, 4 YRS PHELPS, P. Stephan, 8-23-8, 12 YRS PRESTWOOD, Harry^*, 8-29-81, 39 YRS PUGA, Aurelio A. (Wanda), 8-26-6, 14 YRS RAIBERT, Joseph A.^{^*} (Cissy), 8-19-78, 42 YRS ROTH, Thomas L. (Becky), 8-26-6, 14 YRS ROUGEUX, Mark J., D. Min. (Kim), 8-23-8, 12 YRS RYAN, Michael A. (Gina), 8-20-16, 4 YRS SCHOOK, Jesse E.[^] (Celia), 8-21-10, 10 YRS SHUMWAY, Michael M. (Charlotte), 8-20-16, 4 YRS SIMPSON, John L.^{*} (Mary Ann), 8-18-90, 30 YRS SMITH, David U. (Theresa), 8-26-6, 14 YRS SMITH, Stephen J. (Jan), 8-24-2, 18 YRS SOWERS, Michael S. (Toni), 8-20-16, 4 YRS STEWART, Timothy E. (Tommie), 8-23-8, 12 YRS TOLBERT, Michael A.^{^*}(Bonnie), 8-29-81, 39 YRS TOMES, David R.^* (Dayna), 8-25-84, 36 YRS TRIBBEY, OFS, William P. (Martha), 8-20-16, 4 YRS TURNER, James R.[^] (Annette), 8-29-81, 39 YRS TURNER, Scott R. (Wanda), 8-23-8, 12 YRS VESSELS, Michael J.^{*} (Betty), 8-28-82, 38 YRS VILLALOBOS, Francisco (Monika), 8-23-8, 12 YRS WALSH, Richard J.^* (Judy), 8-28-93, 27 YRS WARREN, Bruce J. (Laurie), 8-20-16, 4 YRS WRIGHT, Joseph P.[^] (Sandy), 8-18-90, 30 YRS ZOLDAK, Richard P. (Cherie), 8-21-10, 10 YRS

JULY 28 SEMINARIAN LUNCHEON

Our President, Bob Hublar, opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and thanking a number of people. He especially thanked the seminarians for attending, as well as the Vocation Office -- Fr. Anthony Chandler, the Vocation Director, Fr. Peter Do, the Associate Vocation Director, Sr. Sarah Yungwirth, OSB, the Associate Director, and Kelly McLemore, the Secretary.

Bob spoke on the importance of priests and how much we need them, especially for the Eucharist. In explanation of this importance, Bob quoted Pope John Paul II as saying "What could be greater than bringing Jesus to people, and people to Jesus."

Archbishop Kurtz led the group in saying grace before the meal, and thanked the Serrans. After everyone ate, the Archbishop was asked to speak again. He updated us on his health. After the discovery of cancer in 2019, he underwent surgery. Four CT scans later, he was told recently there are no signs of any cancer.

He told us that in 1976 he was chaplain of a Serra Club in Allentown, PA. He worked with those very fine people, and knows of our work to promote a culture of vocations in the Church. He thanked all the Serrans for their prayers and support of men and women religious. He also said he joins with the Vocation Office in saying how proud he is of all our seminarians.

Fr. Anthony Chandler spoke briefly, as well. He thanked the Serra Club, including those unable to attend due to the pandemic. He said there will be three ordinations within the next 12 months - Nov, April, and May.

Fr. Anthony also spoke about discernment and how these seminarians have all responded to the "tap on the shoulder" to attend the seminary and discern the possibility of the priesthood.

In addition to the current seminarians, he said we expect, in the next 12 months, that we will have several more – two from Vietnam and one from Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. They will probably be here in our Archdiocese at this time next year, but will be studying outside of the U.S. for the time being.

Next, the seminarians were invited to speak about their status, the ministry they took on for the summer, and the seminary they'll be attending this fall. In addition to the seminarians we had met last year, there were a few new ones, including Deacon Donnie Coulter, who was ordained a deacon ten years ago and has decided to go back to the seminary in order to become a priest. Seminarian Dustin Hungerford was unable to attend the luncheon.

Bob closed the meeting with a few comments, as well as the Serran prayer for Vocations and the Serran Prayer for Perseverance of Vocations. Archbishop Kurtz finished with a blessing.

Here is a full list of our current 15 seminarians: Quan Nguyen, Loi Pham, Dustin Hungerford, Fermin Luna, Cole McDowell, Matt Millay, Kenny Nauert, Michael Schultz, Van Tran, Yen Tran, Evrard Muhoza, David Vest, Martin Okereke, Cuong Le, and Deacon Donnie Coulter.

We want to thank all the Serrans who helped in any way to make this event such a success, especially Theresa Fiedler who organized all of us, and Paul Willett who coordinated with the caterer. Thanks to the Vocation Office for coordinating the use of the Pastoral Center. This luncheon is always one of the highlights of the year for the Serra Club, giving us a chance to meet the seminarians individually and hear of their

SEMINARIAN LUNCHEON (continued from page 5)

progress. And let's keep all our seminarians in our daily prayers.

For pictures of our seminarians, the seminaries they attended last school year, and their email addresses, just click here.

(Thanks to Ken Peet for help with this article and to Jerry Zimmerer for all the pictures with this article.)

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MORE PICTURES FROM THE JULY 28 SEMINARIAN LUNCHEON









<u>POTPOURRI –</u> VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

Birthdays this August: Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, Aug 18 John Tichenor, Aug 25 Ralph Williams, Aug 28

Member Ordination Anniversary this August Deacon Bill Klump, August 17, 1996

<u>Pope's Prayer Intentions for August</u> - The Maritime World - We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

Our own seminarian Loi Pham was interviewed in The Record recently. Check it out by clicking <u>here</u>.

<u>August 28</u> is the celebration of the feast day of St. Junipero Serra outside of the U.S. In the U.S., we celebrate it on July 1.

<u>Are we in the "End Times"?</u> – to read the article click here.

<u>Pandemic donor fatigue</u> – does it really exist? – to read the article click <u>here</u>.

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

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