



Serra Club of Louisville

November, 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

* Meetings for November and December will be announced directly to members when they are scheduled.

* Due to the coronavirus, the annual December Christmas Luncheon for Senior Women Religious is canceled this year.

FR. BERNARD TIMOTHY, O.P., SPOKE AT OUR OCT. 19 MEETING.

Due to the coronavirus, this was a “hybrid” meeting, with some people attending in person, and some attending by phone or online audio/video conference calling.

Fr. Bernard Timothy, O.P., joined us to tell us about his vocation journey. He was born the second of two sons in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. His brother is two years older. They grew up Catholic, attending a Catholic grade school and high school.

He claims to have been shy as a child, and never gave thought to a religious vocation. However, his family attended Mass regularly; and his parents instilled in him and his brother the values one would expect in Catholic children. He attended a Jesuit high school; and still thinks of the Jesuit motto “For the greater glory of God.” He studied English growing up and is now very good at it. Fr. Bernard turned 38 this year.

He came to the U.S. in 2000

to go to college. His family assumed he and his brother would get an education and then come back to Jakarta to help run the family’s construction business.

As an undergraduate in college, he majored in business. As a gradu-



ate student, he worked on a degree in geography. Living with his older brother while in graduate school in Buffalo, NY, he began to think more about the spiritual life; and he feels his older brother was more religious than he was. In his 20s, Fr. Bernard watched the Turner Classic Movie, “The Song of Bernadette,” which he said he found captivating. He was

attracted to this beautiful story and movie; and he felt something special, which he’d never felt before.

As he studied more about Catholic matters, he realized he was attracted to “virtues” – e.g., courage and humility. He was also impressed with what gave the children in the Fatima story the virtue of strength to endure ridicule after claiming to have seen Mother Mary.

He began to study the saints, and was really impressed with the life of St. Catherine of Sienna. At age 23, he realized he had “never known much of a spiritual life.” He started looking at religious life, but not necessarily the priesthood. He started going to daily Mass, which he remembered his grandmother always doing when he was a child. He also started saying the Rosary on a regular basis. He attended a vocation weekend and also spoke with some seminarians, who referred him to Dominican nuns in Buffalo. The thoughts about the religious life sort of snowballed; and then he started thinking about the priesthood. After talking with the Dominicans, he decided he was being called to be a Dominican priest, and that he should give the seminary a try.

Until joining the seminary, he pretty much kept all of this quiet, not telling his parents until he was sure he should go to the seminary. However, one day before he told them any of this, his mother told

FR. BERNARD TIMOTHY, O.P.
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him and his brother, "If either of you were called to be a priest, that would be fine."

Once he told them of his decision, they were disappointed he wouldn't be coming back to Jakarta and helping to run the family business. However, they were supportive of his decision to attend the seminary and discern the priesthood.

He joined the Dominicans in 2006. When first ordained in 2013, he lived in Youngstown, Ohio. He has also lived in Washington, DC and New York. He became the pastor of St. Louis Bertrand Parish here



in Louisville in July of this year.

Fr. Bernard's dad died suddenly and unexpectedly, of covid-19, in April of this year, at the age of 67. (His mother also had the disease, but survived it. His brother, living in France, also had the disease, and survived it, as well.) Fr. Bernard's mother has taken over running the family business.

Eventually his brother also decided to join a religious order as a brother, not a priest. However, his brother has since decided to become a priest; is now in a seminary in France; and is expected to be ordained to the priesthood in 2021!

Fr. Bernard talks of being very happy with his vocation. He feels blessed in so many ways. At St. Louis Bertrand, there are nine Dominican men, mostly priests, six of whom are assigned to the Dominican house there. Some have jobs outside of the

parish. For example, Fr. John Paul Kern, OP, is now in full time campus ministry at U of L.

We want to thank Fr. Bernard Timothy for telling us all about his vocation journey, sharing with us the happiness he feels in his vocation, and allowing us to use a room at St. Louis Bertrand parish for this meeting.

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

TWO ORDINATIONS

Seminarians **Quan Nguyen** and **Loi Pham** are set to be ordained to the transitional diaconate on November 28, 10 am at the Cathedral. The public is not invited because of Covid restrictions, but the ordination Mass will be livestreamed. On the day of the ordination, the livestream can be accessed on the Cathedral's Youtube Channel – just click [here](#).



Quan Nguyen



Loi Pham

SERRANS – SAVE THE DATE –
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
REGIONAL ZOOM MEETING

For all Serrans in the Great Lakes Region (KY, OH, IN, and lower MI), we will have a virtual Regional meeting the afternoon of Saturday, November 14, from noon to about 4:30 or 5:00 pm. **Please save the date.** Invited to this virtual meeting will be all Serrans from the 32 clubs in our Region.

We will have several speakers from the USA Council (USAC) Board – **Gino Dimattia** (USAC Great Lakes Regional Director), **Dr. Anne Roat** (USAC VP of Vocations), **Greg Schwietz** (Acting Southeast Regional Director), and **Richard Arians** (USAC President).

More information will be provided directly to members in the next few weeks.

[NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK BEGINS NOV. 1](#)

This is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the U.S. dedicated to promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering a religious vocation.

Click [here](#) for prayers and homily ideas; info for DREs, teachers, catechists, parents and youth ministers; fact sheets; vocation terms; things to do; parish resources; answers to questions; find your spirituality type; and more.

Click [here](#) for Holy Hour ideas (with and without a priest).

Click [here](#) for some great infographics, particularly valuable in the classroom.

[VOCATION POSTER AND ESSAY CONTESTS](#)

Vocation Poster and Essay Contests for grade schoolers – grades 4 through 8. Schools, parishes and youth leaders have been notified of the annual Vocation Essay and Poster Contests sponsored by the Vocation Office and the Serra Club.

The Contest starts now; and entries must be received in the Vocation Office by January 8. The Serra Club will provide cash prizes to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

[CELEBRATING THE VOCATION OF MARRIAGE](#)

For a list of the couples in our Archdiocese who celebrated anniversaries, and were recognized at the October 11 Mass with the Archbishop, check out pages 12 to 15 of the Worship Aid [here](#).

Congratulations to Serran **Bert Trompeter and his wife Barbara** for celebrating their 65th anniversary this year!

[DEACON JOHN HAMILTON CELEBRATES THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION](#)

On November 3, **Senior Deacon John B. Hamilton, and his wife Ann**, are celebrating his having been ordained to the Diaconate 36 years ago in 1984. Congratulations!

[SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH](#)

Seminarian **Matthew Millay**, has a birthday on November 4. He is attending St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana. You can get more information on all our seminarians, as well as their email addresses by clicking [here](#).

By the way, that link to our seminarians now includes, for each seminarian, a short video / bio, as well as an additional video on the seminarian's hobbies.

[ST. JUNIPERO SERRA COMPARED TO THOMAS JEFFERSON](#)

Bishop Robert Barron recently delivered a National Prayer Breakfast Address, which was recorded and put on YouTube. It's a comparison of Thomas Jefferson and Junipero Serra, both of whom lived in the 1700s. One was affecting change on the east coast as he drafted the Declaration of Independence (and invoking God); and the other was affecting change on the west coast as he established Catholic missions which became some of California's biggest cities, while evangelizing in the name of God.

To see and hear this fantastic 15 minute video, click [here](#).

[SHOP FOR CHRISTMAS](#)

Shop for Christmas and support our local seminarians and religious orders.

St. Meinrad Archabbey, IN - click [here](#).

Franciscans, IN - click [here](#).

Passionists, Louisville, KY - click [here](#).

Sisters of St. Benedict (Ferdinand, IN) - click [here](#).

Trappists in Gethsemani, KY - click [here](#).

Ursulines (Mt. St. Joseph, KY) - click [here](#).

[VOCATIONS IN THE NEWS](#)

Adoration and pizza: the Michigan retreat house that fosters 30 vocations a year – to read the story, click [here](#).

Sister Norma Pimentel named to Time Magazine's 100 most influential people - a Missionary of Jesus and executive director of Catholic Charities in the Rio Grande Valley – to read the story, click [here](#).

VOCATIONS IN THE NEWS
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Twenty-six nuns die of Covid-19 – to read the story, click [here](#).

Pakistanis Mourn Sister Ruth Lewis, Who Cared for Children with Disabilities – to read the story, click [here](#).

Msgr. Rossetti tells of exorcisms – to read the story, click [here](#).

Religious brother uses gifts as liturgical artist to heal wounds of racism – to read the story, click [here](#).

Sister Noble teaching the Gospel – to read the story, click [here](#).

Mother Agnes – the best decision she ever made – click [here](#).

Faith blessings from on high – click [here](#).

Why not be a monk? – click [here](#).

Sr. Faustina, a Sister of Life – the beautiful story behind the Litany of Trust – click [here](#).

A humbling taste of ordained ministry – click [here](#).

Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) – Their alumni have seen more vocations. – To read the full story, click [here](#).

Italian teenage computer whiz beatified by Catholic Church – click [here](#).

Sister Constance, lsp – on the vocation of parenthood – To read the article in The Record, click [here](#).

Fr. Connors, Fr. Barnes and the coronavirus – to read the story, click [here](#).

POTPOURRI –
VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

Birthdays this Month:

Ron Mazzoli, Nov 2 Don Buckler, Nov 18
Jerry Zimmerer, Nov 27

Pope's Prayer Intentions for November – Universal prayer intention - Artificial Intelligence: We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

The Archdiocesan calendar can be found [here](#).

Institute of Catholic Culture podcasts can be found [here](#).

Remembering five years ago this Fall – the Pope's visit and the canonization of Junipero Serra – to read the story, just click [here](#).

Preparing for All Saints and All Souls Day – just click [here](#).

What "No salvation outside of the Catholic Church" means – click [here](#).

Times have changed - "A hundred years ago, 99.9% of idiocy went unrecorded. Now we have the Internet." - Errol Morris (filmmaker)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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

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

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