



Club chartered May 22, 1955

Saint Serra Club of Louisville VOCATION DIGEST

DECEMBER, 2022
Newsletter

MISSION:

To foster and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

“Always Forward, Never Back”

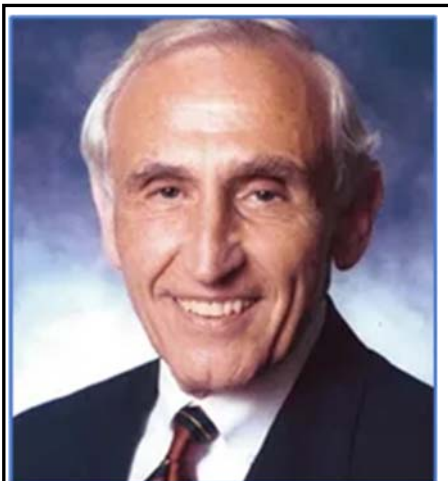
– Saint Junipero Serra

If you receive this through regular postal delivery, but would be willing to receive it by email, please contact Chuck Lynch, (502) 442-9302.

SERRAN RON MAZZOLI HAS PASSED AWAY

Romano “Ron” Mazzoli, a Serran since December of 2004, passed away on November 1, a day shy of his 90th birthday. He was best known as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for Kentucky’s Third Congressional District for 24 years until he retired in 1994.

Ron was known for his close contact with many people over the years, including a number of our seminarians, for whom he or-



Picture copied from *The Record*, with permission.

ganized personal gatherings over meals. He was always one to teach others, sharing his wisdom, and leading by example.

He and his wife Helen, who died in 2012, were deeply in-

involved in the Louisville Catholic community.

So much has been written about him since his death – including a lengthy [article](#) in the Courier Journal on his life and death, his [obituary](#), an [article](#) in The Record about his being remembered as a model lawmaker and Catholic layman, and an [editorial](#) in The Record about his character and leadership.

Ron and Helen will both be missed by the Louisville Catholic community as well as the St. Serra Club of Louisville. May they both rest in the peace of the Lord.

OUR CHAPLAIN, FR. JOE VOOR, HAS PASSED AWAY

At the age of 97, Fr. Joseph Voor, our St. Serra Club Chaplain for many years, has passed away on November 6.

As our Chaplain, he graced us with his wisdom and leadership on many topics and in many ways. A priest for 72 years, he had so much to share with us, and spoke up often to add wisdom to the presentations of many of our guest speakers.

A humble man who sometimes didn’t understand all the fuss people made about him, he was admired by many. He served as a priest, pastor, college professor, national leader, a designer of guidelines for our Archdiocesan parish councils, a psychologist, prison chaplain, leader in the Worldwide Marriage Encounter

programs, and much more. He received a number of awards in his life, including awards from Bellarmine University, St. Meinrad Seminary, and the Knights of St. John, as well as the Pope John XXIII Medal from the National Organization for



Continuing Education for Clergy. Long after retiring in 1995, he received the 2014 Gold Standard Award for Optimal Aging.

He was particularly proud of getting to concelebrate with Pope Francis the canonization Mass of St. Junipero Serra in 2015.

Fr. Voor once said, “The Eucharist has been the center of my life. And I dread the day I will not be able to celebrate it.”

For more on Fr. Voor, checkout his life story on page 13 of this [article](#) in the St. Meinrad publication “On the Hill”; his [obituary](#) in The Record, and Fr. Nick Rice’s [homily](#) at Fr. Voor’s November 10 funeral.

FR. JOE VOOR PASSED AWAY (continued from page 1)

The homily was full of quotes from Fr. Voor. (Scroll through the pages at this [linke](#) to reach the November 10 video. The 12-minute homily starts about 29 minutes into the funeral video.)

Fr. Voor, we will miss you. Rest in peace with the Lord you have followed (and led us to) all these many years.

SERRAN JOHN TICHENOR HAS PASSED AWAY

John Tichenor passed away on November 15, at the age of 90. Married to Barbara for 69 years, he leaves behind a daughter, two sons, five grandsons, and four great-grandsons.

John had many past roles with the Serra organizations. John was President of the St. Serra Club of Louisville at one time as well as a member of its



Board of Trustees for many years.

He had also served with Serra International (two years as a VP, two years as Treasurer, and one year as a Trustee). He also served as President of the US / Canada Council in 1996-97. John had more years as a Serran than any other living member in the Louisville Club. He became a

member November 1, 1959 – 63 years ago!

In addition, John was a board member of Highland Community Ministries; a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, Bishop Spalding Council; and a member of the Archbishop Floersch Assembly, 4th Degree.

He was always sharing with us his many years of experience with the Club, the Board, and the national and international organizations. John even received the Face of Serra Award in July, 2021.

At his funeral Mass, John was described in the homily by Fr. Shayne Duvall as always promoting vocations and chasing people to sign them up for the Traveling Chalice program. A good part of Fr. Shayne's homily was devoted to John's work for

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Regular meetings - We target to have most meetings the **first and third Mondays** of each month, at **11 AM**, in the **Golden Corral at Hikes Point** (4032 Taylorsville Road). The charge will be \$12 for members and \$15 for guests.

Dec 5 (1st Mon) – Sr. Paulanne Diebold, RSM will speak on her vocation journey and the Sisters of Mercy.

Dec 10 (2nd Sat) - 12 noon Louisville time - "Serra Meets" - national Zoom meeting for all Serrans – for details, click [here](#).

Dec 12 (2nd Mon) - Rosary for Vocations, by Zoom. See separate article for details.

Dec 19 (3rd Mon) – Fr. Pat Dolan will deliver an Advent / Christmas message.

Dec 27 (Tue) - No board meeting due to the holidays.

Questions? - Contact Chuck Lynch at (502) 442-9302 or ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com.

Serra.

Greg Schwietz, President of Serra International, said "Sorry to hear of the passing of our friend and devoted Serran John Tichenor. He served Serra well at all levels, leading the newly formed United States Council in its early days, as a Vice President of Serra International, as a local club officer for your club, and in his later years, humbly serving our remarkable mission at the club level."

John's obituary can be read [here](#).

John, we will miss you greatly! Rest in peace.

FATHER BRANNEN SPOKE AT OUR NOV 12 'SERRA MEETS' ZOOM MEETING

This was the 24th consecutive Serra Meets Zoom meeting.

About our speaker

Our speaker for November 12 was Father Brett Brannen, author of the popular book "[To Save A Thousand Souls](#)" and Spiritual Director at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

Fr. Brannen loves being a diocesan priest. He grew up with a mother who was a devout Catholic and a father who was Baptist. He and his mother said the Rosary every night and went to Mass on weekends.

He was ordained in 1991, and served as a vocation director for 10 years, while also functioning as a pastor for many different types of parishes. He was once

FR. BRANNEN (continued from page 2)

promised that he would eventually be a full-time vocation director, but ultimately requested that the job not be made full-time. He found that when he had a bad day as a vocation director, he could always go to his parish and interact with the school's kindergartners, which always cheered him up.

He's now in seminary work, doing what he called a vocation within a vocation – leading retreats and being a spiritual director to priests and seminarians.

His presentation

Fr. Brannen spoke of the need for the virtue of hope. We can last 15 seconds without oxygen, three days without water, longer without food. But not long at all without hope.

He also reminded us that we may think we're responsible for much of our good work. But he insists that 99% of what we achieve is due to God's graces, while the other 1% is due to our own (still very important and difficult) efforts.

Father Brannen introduced us Serrans to a powerful tool he developed to help vocations directors around the country. The Four I's of Vocations identify the foundation of everything successful, beginning with inspiring young candidates to pursue God's call, setting up the invitation, properly informing the candidate, and forming the candidate in the intimacy of a growing relationship with Jesus built on a strong prayer life. Finally, the emphasis of building a life of service to others completes the program.

Fr. Brett says the average priest touches a million people with interactions and homilies.

Inspiration – He says we need to speak the truth. Over 90% of priests say they'd choose their vocations even if they had it all to do over again. We need to inspire the men considering the priesthood, and tell them the love that priests feel for God's people. Quoting Rick Warren, the author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, he said "The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable."

He says priests should smile more, greet people more, inspire their parishioners.

He quotes Pope Benedict XVI as saying that being able to preach is a gift, but all priests need to provide humble service. St. John Vianney was not a great speaker, but he inspired people with his holiness and his humility.

Invitation – Fr. Brannen spoke of one young 30-

year-old who was a good candidate for the priesthood, but when asked, responded that no one asked him to consider the priesthood.

The "holy women of Jerusalem" is what Fr. Brannen calls the women going to daily Mass. They are pillars of the community and won't hesitate to ask good young men to consider the priesthood.

Fr. Brannen says every good vocation program will have these first two I's – Inspiration and Invitation.

Information – He said that young men considering the priesthood need to know what priests do, what ordination is all about, and what discernment is all about. Don't assume they know any of this. "Vocations can die on the vine" because young men are not informed.

Vocation offices can offer websites, books, and discernment groups. He also spoke of the fact that priests need married people and married people

need priests. These two groups help each other with their vocations. And he reminded us that 40% to 50% of a seminarian's learning comes from other seminarians, calling each other to holiness.

When the seminarian doesn't get good information, the Devil can start pushing buttons of fear, thoughts of unhappiness without marriage, etc.

Intimacy with Jesus – This is another name for one's prayer life. We need to teach young men to listen humbly to God. We all have the prayers we love, the ones that help build a relationship with God.

Without a good prayer life, fears can take us down. "Prayer gives us the right response to reality," according to author Peter Kreeft. We make decisions based on love and trust – parts of the ideal relationship with Jesus. God won't call a young man to the priesthood without giving him the grace to do what he calls that young man to do.

Pope Benedict said that young people can be trusted to do what God calls them to do if we teach them to pray.

"Priests who don't pray do stupid things," according to one bishop.

Service – In addition to the four I's, he adds S for Service. God made us to serve. St. John Paul II said, "We are made to live our life in the dimension of gift. Every vocation is about serving others." We are never going to be happy until we figure this out.

When he tells kids about the life of a priest, they respond they had no idea how full it is.

Fr. Brannen says, "Priesthood has eternal conse-



FR. BRANNEN (continued from page 3)

quences.” And “no man is more powerful than a priest.”

Questions – in response to questions, Fr. Brannen told us a few more things. The ideal vocation director will be a full-time director, and obsessed with vocations. Unfortunately, many of them have a number of other responsibilities – a number of other full-time jobs for the diocese.

The right vocation director knows how to captivate a high school class of students.

On average, he says that if there are 10 young men in the pipeline, one will become a seminarian this year. So, with 100 in the pipeline, you could have 10 new seminarians in a year’s time. And the vocation director needs to monitor these men.

Priests don’t talk as much about vocations from the pulpit due to a number of things – including the heavy weight they feel regarding past sex scandals. But priests should tell people they’re happy with their vocations, and repeat it periodically.

Speaking about the dramatic drop in vocation to the sisterhood in the last 50 years, he said 75% of all religious communities in the U.S. will have no new novices this year. He says the orders of sisters that are truly growing are sticking with the original rule of the order, wearing a distinguishing habit, and praying hard.

You can here his entire presentation [here](#).

BEING THE FATHER OF A CLOISTERED NUN

Our Speaker

The speaker for our November 21 meeting was Brian Engelland, PhD, who was born in Manhattan, Kansas, and raised in Elyria, Ohio (30 miles West of Cleveland). He graduated from Elyria High School. He has a BS from Purdue University, an MBA from the University of Cincinnati, and a Doctorate from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

He and his wife Barbara belong to St. Louis Bertrand parish, and have been married for 51 happy years!

Their oldest child is Erica Spohn, a special education coordinator at Holy Spirit Parish School. They have a son, Dr. Chad Engelland, who is Chair of the Philosophy Department at the University of Dallas.

Their third child is Sister Mary Benedicta of the Eucharist, OCD, a cloistered nun and Mother Sub-Prioress at [the Carmel in Flemington, NJ](#). (OCD is the Latin abbreviation for the Order of the Discalced

Carmelites.)

Brian says he has had two careers. One in business where he held a variety of jobs developing and marketing new products in the plastics and plumbingware industries. His second career was in collegiate education, where he researched, wrote, published and taught marketing ethics at the University of Evansville, Mississippi State University and the Catholic University of America (CUA).

Before officially retiring in 2020, he was the Dean of the Busch School of Business at CUA. However, he continues to teach on-line courses for the University of St. Thomas (in Houston).

Brian joined us to talk on the topic “**Being the father of a cloistered nun.**” Also at the meeting were his wife Barbara and his daughter Erica.

Dr. Engelland’s Presentation

Brian shared a picture from a family reunion, one in which the family went to the monastery in New Jersey. Their daughter, Sister Mary Benedicta was allowed to pose for the picture while she stayed behind a grill, with the family in front of the grill.

He started with a prayer from Saint Teresa of Avila – “Let nothing trouble thee. Let nothing frighten thee. All things pass away. God alone is changeless. Patience achieves everything. Whoever has God lacks for nothing. God alone suffices.” Brian feels that this says a lot about the cloistered nun’s life.

Brian remarked that one of the St. Louis Bertrand friars, Fr. Dominic Bump, proposed an interesting analogy for describing the Carmelites. When he heard that Brian’s daughter was a Carmelite nun, he said the Dominicans go around the mountain looking for the easiest way up; but the Carmelites go straight up the



Brian Engelland, with his wife Barbara and daughter Erica. The photo on the left is of Sister Mary Benedicta. The photo on the right is from a family reunion.

BRIAN ENGELLAND, PH.D.
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mountain like a free, soloist climber, without all the special equipment and safety nets.

Sr. Mary is their third child. On the day of her birth, they had not yet decided what to name her. They decided to look at her first and thought that would give them an idea. At birth, she looked so angelic, like the Blessed Mother, that they decided to name her Mary.

Very early on, Mary demonstrated an ability to live in the moment. On one pilgrimage, she was fascinated with St. Claire. And she prayed the Rosary regularly with the family.

At age 14 she went to the World Youth Day with Pope St. John Paul II. At age 17, she had a very positive experience with a Teens Encounter Christ weekend retreat. In a "Fire Rally" sponsored by the Franciscan University of Steubenville, she had another very positive experience.

Mary studied at the University of Dallas and majored in theology. When she was a senior in college, she applied to Mother Angelica's Monastery in Alabama; but they were full and not taking any new postulants. She took a job at the Catholic Information Center in Washington, DC, while continuing to read and do some traveling in Europe.

On one of her European travels, she was supposed to spend time in a monastery and arrived knocking on their door. She was encouraged by a helpful couple to try another door, which was opened for her. And she learned that when God doesn't open the door, maybe it's likely that you are knocking on the wrong door.

In one of her trips, Mary learned that when St. Therese of Lisieux had a calling to join a monastery, she went to her father and begged permission and a blessing to do so. When Mary was ready to do the same, she knelt down in public and asked her father if she could join the Carmelites, the order to which she was accepted. It was a tender moment and, of course, her father said yes.

In October of 2002, Mary entered the monastery in NJ. Brian realized she was now a free soloist, for whom he was no longer able to provide with a safety net. She was on her way to a cloistered life.

The name Carmel (Hebrew for God's Garden) comes from the mountain of that name in Israel. It is an 1800-foot cliff with caves, where Elijah, the Old Testament Prophet, lived. (See 1 Kings 18.) After his time, hermits did the same; and they eventually became known as the Brothers of Mary of Mount Carmel – later the Carmelites.

There are 48 Carmelite monasteries in the U.S.

with 700 cloistered nuns. Each monastery is organized in such a way that the nuns can be away from the distractions of the world. They don't use TVs or the Internet or check smart phones. They wear a full habit. They live with a lot of abstinence and fasting. Each nun has two sets of clothes – one for Sundays and one for weekdays.

The cloistered nuns have limited communications. Sr. Mary can receive two letters per month from her parents. She can respond to these letters. When visited in person, she's not allowed to touch or be touched by outsiders; and conversations are through a grill whereby they can see one another.

When people ask why an honors student has chosen this life, Brian says the answer is the same as the story of Martha and Mary (Luke 10). "Mary sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him." Martha complained that she needed help serving the people. Christ said "Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." Sr. Mary has chosen the better part.

Brian shared with us a poem Sr. Mary gave him:

I'm the Daddy of a Nun

Sure, my daughter has been vested,
And my joy I cannot hide,
For I've watched her from the cradle
With a father's honest pride.
But the morn she left me early
I was feeling mighty blue,
Just thinking how I'd miss her
And the things she used to do.
But now, somehow it's different,
With each rising of the sun,
And my heart is ever singing,
'I'm the daddy of a nun.'
Since to err is only human
There's a whole lot on the slate,
That I'll have to make account for,
When I reach the pearly gate.
But then I'm not worrying
About the deeds I've done,
I'll just whisper to St. Peter:
'I'm the daddy of a nun.'

Sr. Mary is not even allowed to leave the monastery for the funeral of a loved one. However, when her aunt died recently and the funeral was livestreamed, she did get permission to view it online.

Sr. Mary is the Mother Sub-Prioress now, the number two position in her monastery.

Brian says that while they still have women joining the order, it is not in great numbers. And when a group reaches 20 women, then they start a new foundation somewhere else.

Their financial support is solely through donations, although they do make a few things to sell in

BRIAN ENGELLAND, PH.D.
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their [gift shop](#), including printed holy cards, rosaries, scapulars, stuffed animals for children and from time-to-time, jelly and honey.

Many donations come with prayer requests. If donations exceed their needs, they give away the excess.

We want to thank Dr. Brian Engelland for taking the time to give us his presentation.

(Also, thanks to Paul Willet for the picture with this article.)

JOIN US BY ZOOM FOR OUR
MONTHLY “ROSARY
FOR VOCATIONS”

Our Saint Serra Club of Louisville gathers online for our Zoom Rosary for Vocations at 7 pm, on the **second Monday of each month**.

By link, click [here](#). By phone, call (312) 626 6799. Meeting ID is 865 4452 6535.

HELP US FUND 430 BOXES OF
CANDY TO ALL OUR ACTIVE AND
RETIRED SISTERS

Again, due to the pandemic, we will not be hosting senior women religious for a Christmas Luncheon this year. Instead, we are delivering boxes of chocolates to about 430 religious sisters working or living in our Archdiocese. If you'd like to help us fund this project, please send a check (payable to "Serra Club of Louisville") to Chuck Lynch, 10305 Falling Tree Way, Louisville, KY 40223.

SERRA RALLY IS JANUARY 12-15,
2023 --- IN IRVING TEXAS

Don't miss one of Serra's most inspirational events!

This year's featured speakers include Serra International Episcopal Adviser Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, Fr. Jorge Torres, Executive Director, USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, the Most Rev. Edward Burns, Bishop, Diocese of Dallas, and Dr. Jonathan Sanford, President, University of Dallas. View the preliminary schedule [here](#).

At the Rally, you will

* Engage with fellow Serrans to strengthen your net-

work for sharing ideas, solving problems, and building morale

* Be inspired by top-notch lay and religious speakers who work on the front lines calling laborers to the Harvest

* Ignite and renew your dedication to our vocations apostolate via opportunities for spiritual development and conversion.

[Sign up here for the Rally before December 21st](#) for the early registration discount.

[Reserve your hotel room here before Dec 21st](#) to get the Serra group rate.

ANNUAL VOCATION POSTER AND
ESSAY CONTESTS

The Vocation Poster and Essay Contests are for grade schoolers – grades 4 through 8. Schools, parishes, youth leaders, and our diocesan home school organization have been notified of the annual Vocation Essay and Poster Contests sponsored by the Vocation Office and the Saint Serra Club. The Contest started in early November; and entries must be received in the Vocation Office by January 9. The Saint Serra Club will provide cash prizes to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, as well as teachers of the first-place winners.

THE NEW SERRA
SPARK “HELPERS”

Serra International will regularly send us information to assist throughout the liturgical year with guidance on how to make the most of the SPARK tools. These amazing tools ... especially the "7 GREATS"... will ensure your success in encouraging and increasing vocations throughout our parishes and dioceses. Here are some recently provided links to click: [Vocation General Intercessions](#)

[Vocation Bulletin Blurbs](#)

[Advent Devotion for Vocations](#)

PRIESTS CELEBRATING
ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to our priests celebrating anniversaries of ordination this month. This list includes priests from religious orders and other dioceses, working in our Archdiocese. The asterisk (*) indicates "Retired."

BELL, REV. GERALD L.*, 12/15/73, 49 years

PRIESTS ANNIVERSARIES
(continued from page 6)

CARRICO, REV. ADAM B., 12/19/15, 7 years
GIBSON, C.P., REV. CHRISTOPHER, 12/10/75, 47 years
MERKT, REV. JOSEPH T.*, 12/17/66, 56 years
MUNJANATTU, OFM CONV., REV. GEORGE MATHEW, 12/26/2000, 22 years
MURPHY, REV. J. SCOTT, 12/12/09, 13 years
POZHATHUPARAMBIL, OFM CONV., REV. JOHN, 12/30/01, 21 years
PUTHUSSERY, OFM CONV., REV. SHAJU, 12/30/01, 21 years
SHOONER, REV. JEFFREY P., 12/11/04, 18 years
STILES, REV. J. ROY*, 12/18/63, 59 years
THANDIACKAL C. M. I., REV. SEEJO, 12/28/04, 18 years
THOMAS, C.M.I., REV. JOSEPH, 12/30/98, 24 years
VADAKUMPADAN, C.M.I., REV. SAJU MATHEW., 12/29/92, 30 years

SEMINARIANS BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

KENNY NAUERT – DEC 4
SAMUEL MATTINGLY – DEC 29

You can get more information on all our seminarians, as well as their email addresses by clicking [here](#).

And the angel said to her in reply, “The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. -- Luke 1:35.

CHRISTMAS SPIRITUALITY

This ‘Miracle of the Flowers’ Has Happened Repeatedly Near Turin for 600 Years – Read the article [here](#).

The Mystical Nativity of Jesus Christ – Read the article [here](#).

Venerable Fulton Sheen on the meaning of Christmas – Read the article [here](#).

From a punk rock atheist teenager to a Catholic sister. - Why Catholics should contemplate the four last things during Advent – Read the article [here](#).

As Advent Ends, Find Beauty and Joy in Confession and Reconciliation – Read the article [here](#).

Is there scientific evidence for the star of Bethlehem? – Read the article [here](#).

VOCATIONS IN THE NEWS

Six American Bishops Talk About Their Vocations – Read the article [here](#).

Pope Francis calls on religious not to be discouraged by ‘lack of vocations or by aging’ – Read the article [here](#).

‘Making of Your Life a Gift’: Women Religious Share How They Have Found Joy in Following the Lord’s Call – Read the article [here](#).

The little-known vocation of consecrated virginity – Read the article [here](#).

Only religious community in the world for sisters with Down syndrome seeks American sisters – Read the article [here](#).

POTPOURRI – VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

Birthdays this month:

Neil Manias – December 25

Pope’s Prayer Intention for the month of DECEMBER: Volunteer Not-for-profit Organizations - We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Thanks to Mary Means and Lynn Haner for proofing our newsletters.

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