



Saint Serra Club of Louisville VOCAATION DIGEST

**JUNE, 2023
Newsletter**

MISSION:

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

Club chartered May 22, 1955

“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.

ANNOUNCING THE NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS

There will be an election of officers at the June 5 meeting. **We need a quorum in order to elect officers. Please attend if at all possible.**

The slate of officers: **Bob Hublar** - President & VP of Vocations; **Ken Peet** – Secretary; **Jerry Gonsoski** -Treasurer; **Lynn Haner** - VP of Membership; **Melody Denson** - VP of Programs – **our newest Board Member**; **Chuck Lynch** - VP of Communications; **Theresa Fiedler** – Trustee; **Ralph Williams** – Trustee; **Debbie Farmer** – Trustee; **Kevin Thieneman** – Trustee

Our **Chaplain Fr. Pat Dolan** and **Assistant Chaplain Fr. Jeff Hopper** will continue in their existing roles.

We thank all of our volunteers!

SERRAN KEN PEET SPOKE AT OUR MAY 1 MEETING REGARDING THE JANUARY RALLY IN TEXAS.

Serran Ken Peet is a retired engineer who owned his own firm for 25 years before selling it and retiring in 2011. He’s been a Serran now for 10 years. He has been married to his wife Patricia “Pat” for 55 years! The two of them belong to St. Gabriel parish.

They have three daughters and seven grandchildren; and their first

great grandchild (a boy) was born in January.

For our St. Serra Club, Ken has held the positions of Secretary, District Governor, Regional Director, and Club Representative with the Serra Foundation. Ken has represented our club in meetings in our state district, as well as meetings in our four-state Great Lakes Region. He has attended national and international Serra conventions, as well as US Serra Rallies.

Ken spoke at the May 1 meeting to give us updates on the January Rally in Irving, Texas (a suburb of Dallas) – primarily on what happens at a Rally.

On Wednesday, registrations began; and the USA Council (USAC) board meeting (open to all), ran from 1 to 5 pm. (The USAC board actually meets four times per year.)

At the board meeting, USAC President Mike Downey spoke of his five priorities for his two-year term (which ends later this year): (1) increasing the culture of vocations in Hispanic Catholic communities; (2) getting more schools and parishes involved with vocation activities; (3) encouraging clubs to inform and involve their bishops and vocation directors in

their annual program planning; (4) recruiting more Serrans in the 45 to 55 age range; and (5) starting five new clubs in the U.S.

At 5:30 there was a Mass for the early arrivers, with regular sessions starting the next morning.

All Rally attendees were expected to do a one-hour Eucharistic Adoration during the Rally, with adoration going on 24/7 during the conference. And Mass was available every day. There were four

bishops and a number of priests in attendance for the Rally, as well as members of the boards of both USAC and Serra International (SI).

Thursday there was the SI board meeting (open to all), from 9 am to 4 pm. There was an evening welcome reception.

Cardinal Collins is a great speaker; and

you should be sure to hear his presentation. Here is a [link](#) to nine of the presentations made at the Rally.

Friday had a keynote speaker and a Mass offsite, at the Dallas Cathedral.

Saturday there were more speakers, with newsletter awards distributed during the luncheon that day. At 4 pm that day, the Rally was wrapped up with a special Mass, concelebrated by several priests and bishops. The Mass was beautifully handled with great musicians and cantor. The coat and tie closing



SERRAN KEN PEET
(continued from page 1)

banquet was held Saturday evening.

Throughout the Rally, there were also training sessions, meals, and workshops.

Why go to a Rally? Ken said it's great for inspiration; to get pumped up to hear great speakers; and to learn a lot of details and best practices.

The Annual Rally is held in the same city two years in a row. So, for 2024 and 2025, plan on attending in Miami Florida. The next one will be January 18-21, 2024.

In addition to all the above, Ken also gave us insight into other related matters.

USAC is interacting with **F.O.C.U.S.** (the Fellowship of Catholic University Students), which, in January, had a 15,000-person SEEK23 convention in St. Louis, including 300 seminarians and hundreds of priests. USAC had a booth at the convention.

We can expect a \$4 increase in the *annual* dues that clubs pay (effective in 2024), per member, for *both* USAC and SI – increasing from the current \$92 (USAC & SI combined) to \$100. Each club will decide separately if it will also increase its local dues. USAC and SI have not raised dues since 2012. The St. Serra Club of Louisville has not had an increase in



dues since 2016.

Both USAC and SI have offices in Chicago. There will be a consolidation of these offices in the near future; and those two offices are seeking to replace two people who left recently.

From 2015 to 2022, we lost 7,700 members and

TO ALL FATHERS:
“HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!”

For a good article on the undeniable importance of fathers, click [here](#).

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Regular meetings - We target to have *most* meetings the first and third Mondays of each month, at **11:30 AM**, in the **Golden Corral at Hikes Point** (4032 Taylorsville Road). The charge will be \$12 for members and \$15 for guests.

June 5 (1st Mon) – 11:30 AM Special meeting – Election of Officers and Mass with homily by Fr. Pat Dolan – **St. Margaret Mary Hospitality Room (not Golden Corral) RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.**

June 10 (2nd Sat) – 12 Noon Louisville time - “Serra Meets” - national Zoom meeting for all Serrans – for details, click [here](#).

June 12 (2nd Mon) – 7 pm - **Rosary for Vocations**, by Zoom. See separate article for details.

June 14 - Holy Hour for Vocations – 12:45 at St. Margaret Mary Chapel, after the Noon Mass.

June 19 15 (3rd Mon) – **Seminarian Conor McClure** speaks on his vocation journey.

June 27 (Tue) – 12:45 - **Serra Board meeting** - St. Margaret Mary Spirituality Center.

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

picked up 7,500 new members across the country. Serra is considering an analysis of the different causes for members leaving, many of which may simply be due to deaths.

USAC now has its first Zoom-only club – which meets only by Zoom due to the geographic spread of all its members in the Crookston Diocese of Minnesota.

Serra **SPARK** is expected to have several new tools added (including our own Vocation Poster and Essay Contest).

Ken also spoke of organizing a Regional Convention.

We want to thank Ken Peet for all his volunteer time and updating us on the Rally and other aspects of the Serra organization.

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

“SERRA MEETS” WAS HELD BY ZOOM ON SATURDAY, MAY 13.

Our speaker for this 29th Serra Meets Zoom meeting was John Flanagan, a Catholic husband and father of seven children. He has served the Catholic Church through philanthropic advancement for over 20 years. His experience includes four years of service as a

SERRA MEETS (continued from page 2)

missionary; 11 years as a development director; three years as the president/founder of a Catholic development consulting firm; and, for the last seven years, as **Executive Director of The Labouré Society** – working exclusively with philanthropic training and support of future priests, sisters and brothers in the Catholic church.

The title of his presentation was “From Burdens to Blessings - Can Student Loan Debt Foster a Culture of Vocations?”



John spoke of how student debt is in the news a lot these days. And sometimes it's not until in or after college that some young men and women decide they may be called to a religious vocation. And yet 42% of these people can't proceed with the necessary religious formation before addressing their college debt.

The aspirants don't want to be a burden on dioceses or religious orders, most of which can't afford the cost of the aspirant's religious formation *and* paying off the college debt those aspirants have already accumulated. Most Religious institutions don't even have their retirement plans fully funded.

The [Labouré Society](#) (named after St. Catherine of Labouré) can help with that issue. As stated on their website: “The Labouré Society exists to provide financial assistance and spiritual support to individuals who must resolve education loans in order to pursue a vocation to the priesthood and/or religious life in the Catholic Church.”

The aspirants are taught how to raise funds, which, as John says, is as unattractive to most people as getting teeth pulled or speaking in public at first. However, it is a treasured experience when they have completed the classes.

Every six months, they teach and inspire a class of young men and women (typically 20 to 25) to contact people with their vocation message and seek help in raising funds to retire their college debts. Labouré teaches communication, letter writing, fund

raising, time management, leadership, and growth in communal life. The aspirants work as a team, learning to overcome the fear of public speaking, and typically share their story with over 300 people. Their process is “invitational and evangelistic.”

People who decide to support these young men and women become donors. Each dollar raised goes to pay off college debt. Funds raised directly by Labouré itself, and not by the aspirants, go to pay the salaries and overhead of the support staff of 12 people, four of whom are part-time. The Labouré Society is a 501(c)(3) organization; and all donations are tax deductible.

Lay individuals can also be of help by volunteering to mentor individuals going through the process. Sometimes the mentors are called “Accountability Partners.” Greg Schwietz, President of Serra International, said he volunteers time to do exactly that, having worked with five aspirants. Richard Ariens, USA Council Past President, also has done some mentoring. They say that it's often just a phone conversation, maybe an hour a week.

All the Labouré activities are compliant with IRS rules as well as Church Canon Law. They also use the book “[A Spirituality of Fundraising](#)” by Henri Nouwen.

Labouré Society assists with debts of any size (one was for \$300,000), working with any number of candidates. After an aspirant is approved to go through the program, and once the funds are raised *and* the aspirant has entered a religious formation institute, then Labouré makes the regular monthly debt payments, typically for 36 months. Then, if the aspirant is still working on his or her religious formation after that period of time, a balloon payment for the balance of all the debt is made in the 37th month. If the aspirant were to drop out anytime during those 36 months, then she or he takes over the balance of the debt, and any remaining funds already raised through Labouré are applied toward future classes of aspirants.

John said that we Serrans can help in several ways: First, refer anyone to Labouré if we think the young person could be helped by them. Second, invite local aspirants to our club meetings to tell their stories. Third, for those who feel able to mentor young people, sign up to help in that way. Fourth, Serrans can always help with financial donations.

If you know a young man or woman who could benefit from these services, direct them to the email address of Admissions@LabouréSociety.org.

We want to thank John Flanagan for his presentation on this very valuable tool for vocations.

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



Are you or do you know a high school graduate heading off to college?
Take advantage of this great opportunity to get connected!

The Truth is...

- An estimated **80%** of Catholic students who leave the Church do so **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!

What the Newman Connection does...

Connects new college students directly to the Catholic ministry leaders on or near any of over **2,600 public and Catholic college campuses nationwide!** When a high school graduate's info is submitted or they download the Newman Connect app, they will be contacted and will then *know* there is a place for them in the Church, meet new Catholic friends, stay connected, and grow in their faith!

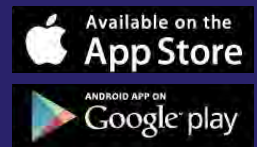
What YOU can do...

- 1) **Tell every high school graduate, parent or grandparent of a graduate you know!**
Encourage them to sign up at <https://signupnc.newmanministry.com>!
- 2) **Provide names directly to us!** (See contacts below.)
Include student's first and last name, and the exact name, city, and state of the college this student plans to attend.
- 3) **Encourage every high school grad to download the Newman Connect app!**
It is available from both the Apple App Store and Google Play!
- 4) **Help promote The Newman Connection** with high school graduates in your parish or school!
www.newmanministry.com/highschool

(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!)

FAITH THAT SURVIVES COLLEGE STARTS HERE.

1. Download and find your campus.
2. Make instant connections with other Catholic students.
3. Sign up for social events and meet new friends.
4. Grow your faith with spiritually enriching content.



This initiative is sponsored by:

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Archdiocese of Louisville
Office of Youth & Young Adults
502-636-0296
x1207 (Viv) or x1210 (Karl)
ArchLouYM@archlou.org

CALLING ALL MENTORS FOR IGNITE WORKSHOP PARISHES

At the May 13 *Serra Meets* Zoom presentation, **Dr. Anne Roat** (President-Elect of the USA Council) also spoke; and her brief announcement was that she needs mentors for parishes (all over the country) that have gone through the IGNITE Workshop. She made several points.



She said that what makes IGNITE workshops successful are the mentors. After several parishioners attend an IGNITE workshop, the parish is assigned a Serra Club mentor, who can come from anywhere in the country, but ideally from a nearby Serra Club.

The mentor attends a 45-minute online webinar to learn how to be a mentor.

The mentor accompanies the parish for one year, typically calling a parish contact person once a month to check in on their status, asking how the parish vocation ministry is coming along, answering questions, and asking if there's anything they can help with - usually taking 30 to 45 minutes per month.

SERRAN CHUCK LYNCH SPOKE ON PARISH VOCATION MINISTRY AT OUR MAY 15 MEETING.

Chuck Lynch, our VP of Communications, spoke on matters related to how Serrans can be mentors to parishes, after our Archdiocese hosts an IGNITE Workshop on September 9 of this year. We will have USA Council officials Dr. Anne Roat (USA Council President-Elect) and Gino Dimattia (USA Council Secretary) speak to representatives of some of our parishes. The idea is to help form Parish Vocation Ministries (PVMs, aka Parish Vocation Committees).

The four basic categories of promoting vocations are (1) Awareness Tools – to make people aware of all aspects of our vocation needs; (2) Prayer Tools – various ways to pray for vocations; (3) Affirmation Tools – for affirming and thanking priests, deacons, sisters, brothers and seminarians; and (4) Invitation/Encouragement Tools – for encouraging those who might be good candidates for religious vocations.

Dr. Anne Roat was quoted as saying anyone volunteering to be a mentor could take an online 45-minute webinar, and then expect to spend maybe 30 to 45 minutes per month on the phone, touching base with a

parish contact, monthly for 12 months. The purpose would be to see how they're PVM is coming along, see if you can answer any questions, and simply encourage them.

The outline Chuck distributed is an attempt to provide dozens of links related to promoting vocations, all in one document. This includes the Serra SPARK tools and videos; an explanation of the IGNITE Workshops; many PVM ideas; rules of thumb (such as the fact that 42% of vocation aspirants are blocked from pursuing vocation formation due to accumulated college debt, and how that can be addressed); Louisville Archdiocesan links on vocations; Louisville St. Serra Club links; books recommended to priests and discerners; quotes and Scripture verses on vocations; items helping parents of discerners; and other national links (e.g., Mass petitions and bulletin blurbs for vocations).

We also hope that any parishioners willing to help with vocations will consider joining our club, as well as using the outline - see the link above.

VOCATION CHALLENGE COINS FOR YOUNG MEN

The St. Serra Club of Louisville has purchased Challenge Coins for young men. The idea is to give these coins to young men who may be good candidates for the priesthood. Ideally, the coins would be given out by priests since studies show that being approached on the subject by a priest carries a lot more significance than being approached by a lay person.



The front of the coin says "Have you considered becoming a priest?"

Our local St. Serra Club is also giving to priests a book "Five Conversations About the Priesthood: A simple way for busy priests to help men discern" by Fr Mike Pratt – packed with ideas, yet only 36 pages, which can be read in about a half hour.

All priests in the Louisville Archdiocese have been contacted on this subject to see if they wish to receive five Challenge Coins and the book.

For the **Challenge Coin for men**, see a related article [here](#).

Serra International is also coming out with a **Challenge Coin for women** considering the religious life. See a related article [here](#).

ST. LOUIS BERTRAND PARISH PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

Marian Movement for Priests

Come Pray with us at St. Louis Bertrand Parish! Join fellow parishioners as we **pray for priests every Monday after the noon Mass**. Prayers include the Rosary, Adoration, and Benediction. And the Sacrament of Confession begins at 11 am. Learn more [here](#).



Traveling Madonna of Lourdes

The parish invite its parishioners to host the Traveling Madonna of Lourdes statue in the homes of parishioners, for a week at a time so they might pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in their parish. Learn more [here](#).

Pictured to the left is the Traveling Madonna of Lourdes – in the home of a St. Louis

Bertrand parishioner for one week – for prayers for an increase in vocations.

SEMINARIAN ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE SUMMER

College seminarians don't get summer assignments until they enter *major seminary*. For the ones getting summer assignments, here are the parishes to which they're being assigned.

Cuong Le – Basilica of St. Joseph
Conor McClure – St. Margaret Mary

Cole McDowell – St. Gabriel

Matt Millay – Holy Spirit

Evrard Muhoza – Good Shepherd

Kenny Nauert – Holy Trinity

Michael Schultz – St. Edward

Van Tran – St. Francis of Assisi (Louisville)

Yen Tran – St. Peter the Apostle

David Vest – St. Francis of Assisi (Louisville)

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.

ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH PROMOTES VOCATIONS

St. Margaret Mary Parish promoted vocations on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Here's their vocation table in the back of church.

Picture from Holly Smith-Brooks, Director of Liturgy & Music at the parish.

Congratulations to St. Margaret Mary Parish.



A FATHER'S DAY POEM FOR PRIESTS

I Thank Thee Father

(gratitude for our priests)

I thank thee Father for all thou hast done:

for giving us God's only Son;

for all the Sacrifices thou dost make;

for consecrating the bread we take

I thank thee Father for the sacraments:

Baptism, Communion, and Penance

for helping us to sanctify

our souls' hunger to satisfy

I thank thee Father for thine obedience

for being our shepherd for thy guidance

for leading us into pastures green

for lifting our hearts to things unseen

I thank thee Father for thy vocation

for spreading the Gospel to every nation

for giving thy life that we might live

I thank thee Father for all thou dost give

I thank thee Father for thy selflessness

for all the ways thou dost bless

our lives amidst the world's wretchedness

for giving thine all and nothing less

I thank thee Father for thy guiding light

amidst a world in dark of night

like our Lord for shining bright

for being the King's trustworthy knight

I thank thee Father for being there

in times of joy, or in despair

for thy words of counsel and consolation

I thank thee Father for thy vocation

By the Society of [St. Pius X](#), used with permission



Dominican Sisters of Peace

Sisters and Associates in Mission

Mission for

PEACE

There is a future for people of peace.

Psalms 37:37

JUNE 2-6, 2023

AKRON, OH

A free, 5-day summer prayer and service opportunity for single Catholic women 18-45 years old.

Travel assistance is available.

Contact **Sr. June Fitzgerald, OP**
June.Fitzgerald@oppeace.org
(570) 336-3991



**CONGRATULATIONS TO PRIESTS
RETIRING IN JUNE**



Fr. Terry Langford, Fr. David Naylor, Fr. Chuck Walker and Fr. Paul Eve (pictured in that order to the left) will be retiring this June.



For a list of all the recent priest assignments click [here](#).

CONGRATULATIONS!

**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.

- BREEN, O.P., REV. JOSEPH ANTHONY, 6/13/63, 60 yrs**
- DO, REV. PETER Q., 6/8/02, 21 yrs**
- ERDMAN, REV. JONATHAN M., 6/29/17, 6 yrs**
- GATLIN, REV. JEFFREY D., 6/3/00, 23 yrs**
- GOODIN, OFM, REV. RICHARD, 6/14/14, 9 yrs**
- GREGOR, C.P.M., REV. ROBERT, 6/10/00, 23 yrs**
- HUBBARD, REV. J. RANDALL, 6/2/90, 33 yrs**
- KENNEY, REV. BRIAN A., 6/8/02, 21 yrs**
- MITCHELL, C.P., REV. JOSEPH, 6/13/81, 42 yrs**
- MORGAN, C.P.M., REV. JOSEPH, 6/4/22, 1 yr**
- MUDD, C.P.M., REV. NATHAN, 6/6/20, 3 yrs**
- NAYLOR, REV. DAVID W., 6/3/00, 23 yrs**
- PADGETT, REV. GARY T., 6/5/99, 24 yrs**
- ROGERS, CPM, REV. JOEL C., 6/10/00, 23 yrs**
- SÁNCHEZ, REV. DAVID, 6/8/02, 21 yrs**
- SCHWARTZLOSE, REV. JOHN A., 6/3/00, 23 yrs**
- STEVENS, REV. GLADSTONE, 6/3/00, 23 yrs**
- STOLTZ, REV. JOHN J., 6/2/90, 33 yrs**

**DEACONS CELEBRATING
ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES**

Congratulations to our Deacons celebrating ordination anniversaries this month. The asterisk (*) indicates Retired; (^) indicates Senior Deacon. The names of the wives of deacons are in parentheses.

- BIDWELL, LEE G.^ (FRAN), 6/14/81, 42 yrs**
- DEVER, ROBERT G.^* (BONNIE), 6/1/96, 27 yrs**
- LEWIS, JOHN M.^ (DOTTY), 6/5/99, 24 yrs**
- MATTINGLY, THOMAS E.^*, 6/11/83, 40 yrs**

A list of all our deacons, their wives, ordination anniversaries and parishes can be found [here](#).

VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

**Birthdays this month –
Serrans and the Vocation Office**

- Debbie Farmer, June 7
- Fr. Kien Nguyen - June 20
- Paul Koprucki, June 27
- Ramsey Kraft, June 28

Pope’s Prayer Intention for the month of JUNE:

For the Abolition of Torture - We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

Congratulations to Fr. Pat Dolan, our Chaplain, who has been re-appointed to serve as administrator of Good Shepherd Church in Columbia, Ky.; Holy Redeemer Church in Greensburg, Ky.; and Holy Spirit in Jamestown, Ky., for one year.

Save the date – The next Serra Rally will be in Miami January 18-21, 2024. Details coming soon.

Layman impressed with St. Faustina’s Diary, distributes a million copies! Read the article [here](#).

Why Mary is so important to seminarians. - Read the article [here](#).

World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests – celebrated on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – 19 days after Pentecost – Friday, June 16 this year – Read about it [here](#).

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

Newsletter questions, comments, or submissions? Contact Chuck Lynch, Editor, at (502) 442-9302.