



Saint Serra Club of Louisville VOCATION DIGEST

**FEBRUARY, 2024
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.

“SERRA MEETS” ZOOM MEETING WAS ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

About Bishop Andrew Cozzens

Pope Francis appointed the Most Rev. Andrew Cozzens as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota on Oct. 18, 2021. He was installed on Dec. 6, 2021.

Bishop Cozzens, who served as Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis from 2013 to 2021, was born August 3, 1968. He is the son of Jack and Judy Cozzens and the youngest of three children. Bishop Cozzens graduated from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, where he experienced a deepening of the faith through the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

After college, he was accepted into the Saint Paul Seminary. Four years later, in 1997, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Bishop Cozzens served as Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral of Saint Paul and then Faribault Catholic Community (now Divine Mercy) before being sent to Rome for doctoral studies. Upon his return to Minnesota, Bishop Cozzens served as a Professor of Sacramental Theology and a Formator at the Saint Paul Seminary from 2006 until 2013.

In the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Bishop Cozzens

served as Vicar for Catholic Education and supervised the Archdiocesan Synod Process while overseeing the offices of Latino Ministry, Evangelization, and Marriage, Family and Life. He currently serves as the chair of the board for NET Ministries, St. Paul’s Outreach, The Institute for Priestly Formation and The Seminary Formation Council. Additionally, Bishop Cozzens is the chair of the



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis where on behalf of the bishops he is leading a three-year National Eucharistic Revival that began in June of 2022.

Bishop Andrew Cozzens’ Talk

Bishop Cozzens’ topic was “Eucharistic Congress and the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.”

He reminded us, “There is no Eucharist without the Priesthood.” And he wanted to share the story of how the [National Eucharistic Revival](#) (NER) came about. The story is about what the Holy Spirit is doing in our times. A fire has been started and “it is spreading from heart to heart.” He suggested we think of it like Pentecost, and experiencing God’s love.

It all started with a PEW survey in the Fall of 2019, which concluded that only 30% of Catholics believe in the Real Presence. At that time, Bishop Robert Barron was Chairman of the Evangelization and Catechesis Committee of the USCCB. Bishop Cozzens was the Chairman Elect. The bishops decided there was a need for a Church movement to do something about the low percentage of Catholics who believe.

Then the pandemic hit early 2020. Discussions continued by Zoom about what to do. November of 2020, Bishop Cozzens became the Chair of the committee; and it was agreed to have a revival. The vote of the U.S. Bishops was 205 to 12 that we needed a national gathering of the Church.

In addition to many not believing in the Real Presence, many were prohibited from going to Mass for fear of spreading Covid. The bishops agreed that Covid prepared them for the revival, which has been operating on a [three-year time schedule](#).

We’re currently in the Year of the Parish, with all sorts of activities offered for parishes. Bishop

SERRA MEETS (continued from page 1)

Cozzens said 11,000 parishes across the country are doing small discussion group meetings, entitled “[Jesus and the Eucharist](#),” using free videos and handouts prepared by the NER.

The word “revival” was deliberately chosen since it is a bringing to life or strengthening of the participants and the Church.

After Corpus Christi this year, the next phase is called the Year of Mission, with a [National Eucharistic Pilgrimage](#). The actual pilgrimages start May 19, ending in Indianapolis, where there will be the [10th National Eucharistic Congress](#) (running from July 17 to July 21). Some 50,000 to 80,000 people are expected to gather in Indianapolis. You can come to all or part of the various programs.

Bishop Cozzens says the Holy Spirit is at work to fill the Lucas Oil Stadium. He also pointed out that Pope Leo XIII started the first International Eucharistic Congress in the late 1800s, after having a vision that the Devil was getting too powerful in the world. (This is when he started the famous [Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel](#).)

In 1902 Pope Leo XIII wrote his [Encyclical on the Holy Eucharist](#) (only 21 paragraphs long), in which he said that if the Eucharistic faith is strong, then the Church will be strong.

This upcoming Eucharistic Congress is the 10th one in the U.S. There will be popular speakers, bishops, Masses, confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, liturgies, break-out sessions, opportunities to learn and grow, specific ministry tracks, and opportunities for worship. Attendees can sign up for the entire five-day event, or just some of the activities.

Bishop Cozzens said we’ve not had anything like this in the U.S. since World Youth Day in 1993.

Eucharistic Processions will come to the Congress [from four directions](#). Some people will walk up to 20 miles a day. Some will be driving, going from parish to parish along the way.

Bishop Cozzens says that people not attending the Congress will have the opportunity to see some of it on [EWTN](#).

In response to one question, Bishop Cozzens said that the results of the PEW Research Center survey of 2019 may have been more pessimistic than the real statistics, due to a debate over how the questions were worded, and how responders articulated their answers. A September 2023 [CARA Survey](#) indicates that maybe two-thirds of Catholics believe in the Real Presence, but still only 17% of Catholics go to Mass every Sunday. (An additional 5% were watching Mass on television or online due to the

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. Non-members wanting to attend should contact Chuck Lynch in advance.

Feb 5 (1st Mon) - **Amy Nall**, Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools - “Catholic Education Committed to Ensuring a Catholic Foundation for Each Student.”

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

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

Feb 14 (Wed) - **Holy Hour for Vocations** - 12:45 at St. Margaret Mary Chapel, after the Noon Mass.

Feb 19 (3rd Mon) - **At St. Martin of Tours - with Fr. Paul Beach** - Noon Mass, tour of the church as a new shrine, **catered lunch in the parish center. Reservations required. See article on page 8.**

Feb 27 (Tue) - 12:45 - Serra Board Meeting - St. Margaret Mary Spirituality Center.

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

COVID-19 pandemic.)

For more information on the Eucharistic Revival in the Louisville Archdiocese, click [here](#).

You can watch the entire video of Bishop Cozzens’ talk, including the business part of the meeting, [here](#).

Future “Serra Meets” (on second Saturdays, noon Louisville time) will host speakers: Kathleen Beckman (author of “*Praying for Priests: An Urgent Call for the Salvation of Souls*”) in February; Cardinal Collins, speaking on Lent in March; and Scott Hahn, American theologian, in April.

TOM KENNEDY SPOKE TO OUR CLUB ON JANUARY 15

About Tom Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy was born and raised in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He earned a BA in Philosophy from St. Meinrad College in 1980 and a JD from the University of Virginia in 1984. In 1984, Mr. Kennedy moved to Louisville and practiced law for about six years. He married his wonderful wife, Elaine, in 1987. Elaine is a family practice physician (now retired). They have two children, Maria and Will.

After Maria was born, Mr. Kennedy left the law

TOM KENNEDY - RELATIVISM (continued from page 2)

firm and commuted to Indiana University in Bloomington to earn a PhD in Philosophy. Mr. Kennedy has taught at U of L, IU Southeast, and Spalding University. He is currently teaching at Bellarmine University.

Among other volunteer jobs, Mr. Kennedy has worked with the scouts for over 25 years. He and his wife are parishioners at St. John Paul II on Goldsmith Lane.

His Presentation

Mr. Kennedy's topic was "**Swimming Against the Current: Responding to the Culture of Relativism.**"

He spoke to us about moral relativism, which is the belief that morality depends on the culture. What counts as good or evil, right or wrong, depends on the views of



our culture at the moment, the current preferences of our society or group. Moral relativism makes morality a matter of taste or opinion. To ponder a moral question is like asking "Which is better, Coke or Pepsi?" There isn't one answer that applies equally to all; it depends on who you're asking.

As Catholics, we believe there is an objective ground for morality. For Aquinas, morality is based ultimately on the nature and goodness of God, which never change. Furthermore, we can know the difference between good and evil. Human reason, reflecting on God's creation, can understand something of what is good for us and how God wants us to live (called the Natural Law). And God in His love gave us further guidance by more fully revealing the truth (beyond what natural reason alone could achieve): the law, the prophets, and finally through Christ (called the Divine Law).

So, for Catholics, there is an answer to moral questions. Those answers may be complicated. They may depend on subtle distinctions, and sometimes the answers aren't clear. We may sometimes disagree. For some questions, we may have to wait to talk with God in heaven to get a full understanding. But because we believe in the existence of Truth, we have good reason to seek it, to push on and not despair, to trust that our efforts at discernment aren't futile.

The modern world has steadily moved toward an embrace of relativism. Indeed, it's becoming increasingly

unpopular to vigorously defend the existence of objective moral truth. Pope Benedict XVI spoke eloquently against relativism, warning (as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger shortly before being elected Pope) that we are moving toward a "dictatorship of relativism." It was a warning that he never tired of giving, for he saw relativism as the central challenge of our time.

Pope Benedict noted that western civilization has become increasingly hostile to belief in objective truth, especially in faith and morals. As then Cardinal Ratzinger pointed out in his "Truth and Tolerance": "relativism ... in certain respects has become the real religion of modern man."

So, it's unsurprising that we've also witnessed a decrease in faith as relativism has gained acceptance. In one study published by Saint Mary's Press of Minnesota, the incidence of young adults who reported being disaffiliated with the church rose from 10% in 1986 to more than a third in 2020.

What do we do in response? The problem is multifaceted, and any solution will need to be multifaceted, too.

However, Mr. Kennedy wanted to focus on one factor, which he thinks contributes to both the rise of relativism and the decline of faith: the tendency of the modern world to disbelieve the existence of anything we can't see or touch.

A perceived conflict between faith and science was cited by over a third of those who disaffiliated from the Catholic faith as a "somewhat important" or "important" factor that led to their leaving the Catholic Church. If young people perceive faith to be incompatible with science (or irrational in some way), then it's no wonder they aren't filling the



pews.

Mr. Kennedy remembers one young man saying Christianity is irrational, because it believes in a God who knows what we are going to do before we do it, and also believes in freewill. However, Augustine showed that these beliefs are compatible given the standard Christian view that God is outside of both space and time.

Mr. Kennedy said that students are exposed to such challenges to the faith and often the answers

TOM KENNEDY - RELATIVISM (continued from page 3)

to those challenges are left unmentioned, as if no answer exists or is even possible. This gives the impression that the faith is irrational.

For example, one textbook in Ethics has an article on the problem of evil: If God is all good and all powerful, why is there evil in the world? How can evil exist if a good God created all things? The text offers a selection from “The Brothers Karamazov” in which Ivan Karamazov explains his rejection of God in graphic terms because of the suffering of innocent children. Having raised the question, it moves on to a different topic. It doesn’t discuss any of the answers that have been offered over the centuries, such as the answer offered by Augustine.

Mr. Kennedy discusses with his students the classical answers to these problems. But if he didn’t (and probably many teachers don’t), students would be left with the impression that traditional religious beliefs are problematic (at best) or plainly wrong (at worst).

He says we need to face the truth: Our kids are constantly exposed to a culture that too often portrays the faith as an irrational superstition held over from a time when humanity was ignorant.

The belief that science is incompatible with faith is sometimes called “scientism.” It is very important to realize that scientism is not itself science. It’s a *philosophical* doctrine claiming that science is the only path to knowledge. It argues that any claim to know something that cannot be measured, tested, and studied by science is mere speculation (a blind leap of faith, irrational superstition).

We can’t prove the existence of God using the methods of science. So, if scientism is true, any belief in God is pure, unfounded speculation. It isn’t based on “evidence;” it’s an irrational superstition akin to belief in Santa Claus.

Nor can science determine what is morally good. In philosophical terminology, science deals with facts, not values. It is proclaimed today by many philosophers that facts (in themselves) have no value. For example, fire is hot. That’s neither good nor bad; it’s just a fact. We call fire “good” when it’s keeping us warm, cooking our dinner, or roasting our marshmallows. We call it “bad” when it’s burning our house down. But fire itself is neither good

nor bad. Value (the relativist thinkers claim) is projected by humans onto a value neutral world. To them, all value originates in us, in our reactions to things. If there were no humans, nothing would be good or bad. That means we determine what is good or bad. Good and bad are just labels we apply to things. And since we often disagree, different actions can have different values for different people. Thus, with this thinking, morality is relative.

So, a commitment to scientism leads to a loss of faith and the rise of relativism. We’re all alone, living in a cold, impersonal, value-free universe.

But there’s a big problem with scientism. It’s a belief that cannot itself be measured, tested, or studied in a scientific way.

Philosopher David Hume (in the 1700s) said that any claim to know something that cannot be confirmed by sense experience (like the existence of God or objective morality) is nothing but “sophistry and illusion.”

The problem is that Hume is “self-referentially inconsistent.” He claims to know something that would be impossible to know if he’s correct. He claims to know that knowledge is limited to sense experience. But we have no sense experience of the limits of human knowledge. The senses themselves cannot show us that *only* the senses can yield knowledge. So, *on his own terms*, we should reject Hume’s claim as nothing but “sophistry and illusion.”

Similarly for scientism: We can’t prove by the methods of science that science is the *only* path to knowledge. So, if scientism is true, on its own terms we should reject it as pure speculation, an irrational superstition.

In the end, all of us must believe in something we cannot prove. There must be a starting point which itself is simply accepted, not proven. Science itself rests on such beliefs. Mr. Kennedy shared the following quote in an article from the Wall Street Journal years ago:

“Arizona State University physicist Paul Davies has noted that the work of science depends upon beliefs – that the hidden architecture of the universe, all the constants and laws of nature that sustain the scientific enterprise, will hold. As he wrote in his book, “The Mind of God: The Scientific Basis for a Rational World”: Just because the sun has risen every day of your life, there is no guarantee that it will therefore rise tomorrow. The belief that it will - that there are indeed dependable regularities in nature - is an act of faith, but one which is indispensable to the progress of



TOM KENNEDY - RELATIVISM (continued from page 4)

science.” (WSJ, March 3, 2016)

Mr. Kennedy says, “Furthermore, in recent years, science itself has been leading us back to God, pointing us toward a creator.” Here are some of his examples.

(1) **Francis Collins** is a physician and an eminent scientist; and he was once an atheist.

As a resident in med school, he treated people who knew they were dying; and yet they were at peace. That puzzled him, and he began a journey that ultimately led to his becoming a Christian.

He did not think science proved that God exists, but over time he realized that the evidence for God was pretty solid, and that atheism is less rational than the Christian faith.

He wrote a book called “[The Language of God](#)” (connecting science and faith). He gave an outstanding speech at CalTech about his journey. That speech is available on YouTube. The full (93-minute) speech is [here](#). A shorter (28-minute) version that captures the most important parts is [here](#).

(2) “**Just Six Numbers**” is a book by Martin Rees. Rees did not intend to write a book lending aid to a belief in God, but he ended up doing just that. The book identifies six numbers that underlie the universe. (One of them, for example, is the force of gravity.)

If any of these six numbers were off by just a tiny amount (almost an infinitesimally small amount), the universe as we know it could not exist. Furthermore, Rees notes that the universe displays evidence of “fine tuning.” The numbers are dialed in perfectly in a combination that is extremely unlikely to happen randomly. How could all of those variables be “fine-tuned” to work together in harmony to produce our universe? Could there be an intelligence behind all of that?

(3) **Antony Flew** was a philosopher who specialized in the philosophy of religion. He was an atheist who spent his career “debunking” arguments for the existence of God. In January 2004, Flew announced that he had become a theist, a believer in God, and a Deist, a believer in an intelligent being of some kind behind the world. But this “God” is not a God of love who knows what we’re doing or cares about us. A Deist God is like an engineer or architect who built the world and then walked away, perhaps to move on to another project.

Flew’s journey to theism was driven by his studies in science and biology. He said, “It has become inordinately difficult even to begin to think about constructing a naturalistic theory of the evolution of that first

reproducing organism.”

As others before him, he came to recognize that belief in God is more reasonable than atheism.

Mr. Kennedy’s Conclusion

Mr. Kennedy quoted one report as saying the median age that young people decide to leave the church is 13. *That’s middle school (8th grade).*

Once the conclusion has been reached that the faith is a silly superstition, no longer relevant in the modern world, arguments about the reasonableness of faith are unlikely to have much effect. Philosophical arguments for the existence of God won’t sway someone who has already decided that the scientific method is the only path to knowledge (making philosophical or theological arguments useless).

And those that still have faith when they enter college will face four years of challenge to their faith. Universities around the world are not known as incubators of faith (quite the opposite). Someone who takes his or her faith seriously can feel very lonely in many universities today.

Mr. Kennedy thinks we need to find ways to help young people understand that belief in God makes a lot of sense, and we need to start that process as early as grade school.

Very intelligent people (not only brilliant philosophers of old, but eminent scientists and mathematicians living today) have carefully considered the question and have decided that belief in God is more reasonable than atheism.

Young students don’t have to understand the science and philosophy itself. But we need to somehow convey to them the idea that Christianity is not irrational superstition, and that the snarky “gotcha” questions thrown at them by nonbelievers do have answers.

We need to show them that our faith is not incompatible with science, that our faith is rational and *still* makes a lot of sense in the modern world.

Just to be clear, Mr. Kennedy says, “We are not saved by intellectual assent to any proposition or the ability to repeat any philosophical argument. We are saved by Christ. We should love Him with all our heart and follow Him as closely as we can. That’s the most important thing, period. We need to teach our children about Christ and the doctrines of the Church. But we may also need to address the purely intellectual side to “inoculate” our children from the ridicule and scorn of their nonbelieving teachers and peers.”

In Luke 10, Christ said we should love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength, and all our mind. We work hard to teach our children to love God with all their heart, soul, and strength. Perhaps

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the times we live in call for paying some extra attention to the part about the mind.

Most of this article came from Mr. Kennedy's written notes.

If you would like a copy of his full notes for this presentation, please contact Chuck Lynch at ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com or (502) 442-9302.

VOCATION OFFICE MET WITH TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

On Jan 16 & 17, Fr. Martin Linebach (Vicar for Vocations and Director of the Vocations Office), Fr. Kien Nguyen (Associate Vocation Director), and Todd Popson (Associate Director of Vocations) from the Vocations Office met with Juniors at Trinity High School. During each period of classes over the two days, Vocations (married life, single life, religious life, priesthood) were discussed with 300 students. Todd explained



that a Vocation is a "call" to one of these states of life. He also talked about married life and priests that have been influential to his family. Fr. Martin discussed the "4 L's" of discernment: Listen, Look, Learn, and LEAP (into where you think God is calling you).

Fr. Kien and Fr. Martin talked about their own Vocation journeys. The students were all challenged to create 30 minutes of silence in the next week to open their hearts to hear God's call in their life.

The students had some great questions and the Theology faculty chimed in on the conversation as well.

Special thanks to Mr. Stuart Hamilton a member of the Theology faculty for arranging the visit. The Vocation

Team will return to Trinity HS on Feb 8 & 9 to meet with Freshman students.



NEW SEMINARIAN! – THANH PHAN

The Vocation Office has announced that Archbishop Shelton Fabre has accepted Thanh Phan, from Vietnam, as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Louisville. Thanh is 31 years old and will be taking Intensive English courses at the Theological College in Washington, D.C.



WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE – JUBILARIAN MASS FEB 11

The annual Jubilarian Mass, with Archbishop Shelton Fabre, is to be on Sunday, February 11, at St. Gregory (330 Samuels Loop, Samuels, KY 40013) at 10 am. All are invited; and there will be a reception after the Mass.

This Mass is held on a Sunday near the World Day for Consecrated Life (February 2) each year to honor those men and women religious celebrating their 25th, 50th, 60th, 70th, 75th, and 80th anniversaries.

PRIESTS CELEBRATING ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to our priests celebrating anniversaries of ordination this month. This list includes priests from religious orders.

HENRIKSEN, REV. STEVEN D.,

2/2/13, 11 years

PAYYAPPILLY, OFM, REV. LEO,

2/6/03, 21 years

DEACON CELEBRATING ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to one Deacon celebrating an ordination anniversary this month. His wife's name is also shown.

DEACON DENNIS A. MAY, (wife CHERYL)

2/19/11, 12 years

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

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

SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Happy Birthday to three of our seminarians this month:

Yen Tran – February 1
Evrard Muhoza – February 9
Amos Stinson – February 9

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

ST. SERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER RECEIVES REGIONAL AWARD

We are proud to announce that at the January national Serra Rally in Miami, our St. Serra Club of Louisville Vocation Digest was chosen winner of the “**2023 Great Lakes Region Outstanding Newsletter Award.**” This Region covers OH, IN, KY, and lower MI.

As editor, I wish to thank the Board of Trustees for recommending the submission of the application for nomination. I also want to thank everyone who has had any role, large or small, in the production of our monthly newsletters. Although I write many of the articles, ideas have been suggested by many members. Most of the content is based on the great speakers who, being recruited by **Melody Denson**, have volunteered to make presentations. Most of the pictures are taken by **Jerry Zimmerer, Paul Willett, and Ken Peet**. Other Serrans have also helped out with pictures or articles in the last few years.

Proofing the newsletter for spelling and grammar has been handled by **Mary Means, Lynn Haner, and Charlie Francesconi** in the recent past.

Our Newsletter Team has now won this Regional Award five of the last six years! Thanks!
Chuck Lynch, Editor

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.

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14

“... give alms, ... pray to your Father ... When you fast, do not look gloomy ... (Matthew 6).

SAVE THE DATE – FOR THE 2024 GREAT LAKES REGIONAL SUMMIT

The Great Lakes Region includes the St. Serra Club of Louisville. We will have a Regional Summit Friday and Saturday, April 12-13, at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

Questions? – Contact Anne at (319) 321-3966 or AnneMallampalli@comcast.net.

More details coming later to all members.

SAVE THE DATES – EXPECTED ORDINATIONS THIS YEAR!

On Saturday, April 20, at 10 am Seminarian **Cole McDowell** is to be ordained a transitional deacon at the Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown.

On Saturday, June 1, at 10 am, at St. Michaels parish, five transitional deacons will be ordained to the priesthood – **Deacons Matt Millay, Kenny Nauert, Michael Schultz, Van Tran, and Yen Tran**.

On Saturday, August 24, at 11 am in the Cathedral of the Assumption, there will be the **ordination of 10 men to the Permanent Diaconate**. (A new cohort of 18 men began studying last summer for the next class of Permanent Deacons.)

Let’s keep all of these men in our prayers!

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

The Serra Club promotes all vocations, not just those of the priesthood, diaconate, the consecrated life, and the single life. We also promote marriage as a vocation.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter (a Catholic organization) started National Marriage Week in 1981. It runs from February 7 to 14 each year (ending on Valentine’s Day). World Marriage Day (WMD) is always the second Sunday in February – February 11 this year.

The theme for WMD is “Love One Another.”

For more information and resources, checkout the websites [here](#) and [here](#).

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK IS MARCH 8 - 14

Established in 2014, as part of Women’s History Month, the National Catholic Sisters Week is March 8 through 14 each year, regardless of the day of the week that period begins. According to the national office, “The NCSW mission is to honor women religious through a series of events that instruct, enlight-

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WK
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en, and bring greater focus to the lives of these incredible women. We welcome events of any type, and encourage organizations to think about creative ways to celebrate sisters for the entire week.”

This is a good time for all parishes, schools, and others to choose some way to celebrate this occasion. Maybe you can simply take your favorite religious sister out for a meal.

For more information, click [here](#).

Events that some are considering include - a Mass and supper; a Sisters’ Appreciation Day; a card or letter to your favorite sisters; Vespers; a “Cupcakes, Coffee, and Conversation” event; a retreat; etc. To see what others are doing around the country, click [here](#).

To see the Global Sisters Report: Sharing Stories of Women Religious, check out the nine-minute video [here](#).

VOCATION OFFICE AND SERRA CLUB VOCATION CONTEST

Judging has started for the Vocation Poster Contest (grades 4 through 6) and the Vocation Essay Contest (grades 7 and 8). The Vocation Office will be announcing winners probably by early February.

Home schooled students and Religious Education students were also invited to participate. We will also include a list of winners in a future issue of this newsletter.

First place winners, along with parents, teachers, principals and pastors, will be invited to a meeting of the St. Serra Club of Louisville.

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS - MASS AND TOUR OF THE CHURCH

Our Club will visit St. Martin of Tours Parish on Monday, February 19, instead of meeting at Golden Corral. We can attend the Noon Mass, and then Fr. Paul Beach, Rector of the Shrine of St. Martin of Tours, will lead us on a tour of the Church, which was designated a diocesan shrine in 2023. Click [here](#) for the story on this announcement last spring.

The shrine also recognizes Saints Magnus and Bonosa, third-century martyrs whose relics (their skeletal remains) are on display in St. Martin church.

The Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is open 24/7. The parish was established in 1853, and has a very interesting history.

For this special meeting and tour, if you wish to attend, please contact Chuck Lynch (502-442-9302 or

ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com since **reservations are required, due to the lunch being catered.**

If you would like to use a handicapped parking spot for this meeting, please let Chuck know in advance.

Cost for the catered lunch is \$12 for members and \$15 for all others.

COME AND SEE RETREAT

What Do You Want of Me, Lord?

If you have ever pondered this question and whether God is calling you to become a Sister, we encourage you to join us for a Come and See Retreat, **March 15-17**. You can join us either in-person at the **Dominican Sisters of Peace** Motherhouse in Akron, OH, or via Zoom.

During this retreat, you will have time for quiet personal prayer and reflection, and there will be presentations on the discernment process and about the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

To get a glimpse of what to expect, click [here](#) to view highlights from a previous retreat we held at our Motherhouse in St. Catharine, Kentucky.

Visit our website at oppeace.org for more information and to register for this event. Or, send me, Sr. June Fitzgerald, OP an email at june.fitzgerald@oppeace.org, or call or text me at 570-336-3991 to let me know that you are interested, and I’ll get back to you with more details about this great retreat opportunity. You can also register for the program by clicking [here](#).

VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

Serran Birthdays this month:

Lynn Haner, Feb 13

Fr. Jeff Hopper

(our Club’s Assistant Chaplain), Feb 13

Fr. Pat Dolan

(our Club Chaplain), Feb 23

Pope’s Prayer Intention for the month of

FEBRUARY: For The Terminally Ill - Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

Thanks to **Paul Willett** for maintaining our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SerraLouisville.

Thanks to **Lynn Haner & Charlie Francesconi** for proofing our newsletters.

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