



## Saint Serra Club of Louisville VOCATION DIGEST

**JUNE, 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.

### **FIVE TO BE ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD ON JUNE 1**

We have five transitional deacons who will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, June 1, 10 am at St. Michael Church (3705 Stone Lakes Drive). To see the articles in The Record on each of them:

For **Yen Tran**, click [here](#).

For **Van Tran**, click [here](#).

For **Michael Schultz**, click [here](#).

For **Kenny Nauert**, click [here](#).

For **Matt Millay**, click [here](#).

### **SR. LARRAINE LAUTER, OSU, SPOKE AT OUR MAY 6 MEETING.**

#### About our speaker and her vocation journey

Sr. Larraine is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of [Water By Women](#) (f/k/a Water With Blessings).

Sr. Larraine's lifelong theme is the role of sister: “big sister” to her siblings LaVay and Ron, then “Sister” to her community of Mount Saint Joseph Ursulines, “Sister” to God's people and all creation. In over forty years of ministry, whether as art and music teacher, pastoral ministry in service to Catholic communities, choir director, ministry with immigrants, or nonprofit leadership, Sr. Larraine has always sought to be Sister more in spirit than by title.

In terms of ethnic background, Larraine was “born to” her mother's people, her grandmother being Chickasaw and her grandfather being French/Scottish, and “born for” her father's German/Jewish people. From childhood, Sr. Larraine has identified strongly with her Chickasaw grandmother's Native identity, having a deep sense of connection with the Earth.

Sr. Larraine's first ten years of ministry were focused on education, teaching art and music at the Cathedral School in Owensboro KY, then art and theology at Trinity High School in Whitesville, KY. From there, she followed a call to pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro, serving as pastoral associate, music director and liturgist for the Catholic communities of St. Columba (Lewisport, KY) and Precious Blood (Owensboro, KY).

In 2002, Sr. Larraine started Migrant Immigrant Shelter and Support, offering housing and support to migrant farm workers in Owensboro. After moving to Louisville in 2007, she led Hispanic ministry at St. Bartholomew and the Church of the Epiphany, where she also served as Minister for Social Responsibility until leaving in 2011 to

lead *Water With Blessings*, now known as *Water By Women*.

In 2008, Sr. Larraine had no warning that she would soon be immersed in the cause of God's children who thirst for clean water. Together with friends Arnold LeMay and Jim Burris, she began to comprehend the immeasurable



impact of clean water for the health of children and their communities. Their first Water Woman 2008 project to equip Honduran mothers with water filters to share with the community yielded unanticipated outcomes and insight, eventually incorporated as *Water With Blessings* (2011). As Executive Director, Sr. Larraine simply holds on for the ride as God grows a global movement that at present counts over 185,000 Water Women in 48 countries, helped by a great host of collaborators and supporters.

Along the way, Sister Larraine has been immersed in matters of justice, environmental protection, art, and the contemplative life. She credits her parents for her passion for justice, and her extended family

## SISTER LARRAINE LAUTER, OSU (continued from page 1)

and childhood churches for her “Batholic” upbringing, an exposure which has marked her with an inter-faith spirit of openness for all people of good will.

She received a BA in Fine Art and Elementary Education: Brescia University, as well as a Masters in Theology from St. Meinrad School of Theology.

Sr. Larraine has received many awards, including the 2002 Kentucky Housing Corporation Leadership Award, the 2018 Kentucky Humanitarian of the Year (Muhammed Ali Center) and the 2021 Trinity High School Peace Medal Award.

### Sr. Larraine’s Presentation on “Water By Women”

Around the world, the #1 killer of children under the age of 5 is dirty water. *Water By Women* (WBW) helps people in the poorest parts of the world get clean water by training “Water Women” to use the filters that WBW purchases, provides training for, and distributes around the world.

Over the years, WBW has learned that the best results are to train the women (who are responsible for the children and the health of the family) on how to use, maintain, and clean the filters distributed by WBW. In return these women agree to help three other nearby households clean their water.

The amazing filters can be cleaned by back-flushing with water from the filters themselves!



Over two billion people around the globe do not have access to clean water. A half million of these are children, in danger of death by dirty water. And this is truly a “life issue.”

People in other countries are amazed that we use clean, drinkable water for washing cars and flushing toilets, while for much of the world, such water is simply unavailable.

One village in Haiti, with 1300 people, got outsiders to raise \$300,000 to build a water plant, while WBW could achieve the same results for a few thou-

## 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.

**June 1 (Sat) – 10 am - Ordination of five new priests**, at St. Michael’s Church.

**June 3 (1<sup>st</sup> Mon)** – **Eva Gonzalez**, Director of Hispanic Ministry, will be our speaker.

**June 8 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sat)** - “**Serra Meets**” - 12 Noon Louisville time - national Zoom meeting for all Serrans – for details, click [here](#).

**June 10 (2<sup>nd</sup> Mon)** - **Rosary for Vocations**, 7 pm, by Zoom. See separate article for details.

**June 12 (Wed)** - **Holy Hour for Vocations** – After the noon Mass in St. Margaret Mary Chapel.

**June 17 (3<sup>rd</sup> Mon)** – **Seminarian Trenton Thieneman** will speak on his vocation journey.

**June 25 (Tue)** - 11:45 - **Serra Board Meeting** - St. Margaret Mary Spirituality Center.

**Questions?** - Contact Chuck Lynch at (502) 442-9302 or [ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com](mailto:ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com).

sand dollars.

In the last year, after a lot of work with people in Kansas City, home of the Hilton Foundation, WBW was able to get a \$480,000 Hilton Foundation grant to further this cause. If WBW can return to Hilton and others with a strong show of matching support from individual donors, they will be in a much stronger position for even larger funding, so Sr. Larraine is hoping for the chance to talk with any potential new funders.

WBW currently has over 185,000 Water Women in 48 countries. With each of them reaching four households, averaging 4.5 people per household, this comes to over 3.3 million people being served with these filters – just a drop in the bucket of the 2.2 billion people without clean water, but every one of those thirsty people is near a mother who is willing to serve, if only they can be sponsored -- for just \$75-\$80 per Water Woman, a one-time fee.

They have also equipped over 2,500 Navajo households, and close to 1,400 in eastern Kentucky.

The filters are purchased from Sawyer Filters (which triple tests them), whose owner says that he’s



## SR. LARRAINE LAUTER, OSU (continued from page 2)

always wanted this result; but it took WBW to figure out how to effectively distribute the filters to poor people around the world. WBW has a proven “proof of concept” and is now working with UNICEF in Haiti.

The filters, shipping, training and other materials cost WBW \$75, and the filters have a lifetime guarantee. WBW has distributed the filters from Appalachia to India, from Navajo reservations in the U.S. to Africa, Haiti, and Honduras.

When there are disasters in North America, everyone immediately thinks of sending pallets of water in plastic bottles. However, a WBW filter can even remove microplastics (which are frequently found in plastic bottles), as well as many other contaminants, out of the water. These filters can clean out anything larger than 1/10th of a micron – and a micron is about 1/100th the width of a human hair.

In some parts of the world, WBW encourages people to give up water wells where there is a lot of arsenic in the ground, and to use rainwater collection systems or river water when possible, along with these WBW filters.

WBW could use many new and small donors to show the larger foundations and philanthropists that they have a substantial following of supporters. To make a donation, see their website [here](#).

We want to thank Sr. Lorraine Lauter, OSU, for giving us an update on Water By Women.

*(Thanks to Jerry Zimmerer for the pictures with this article.)*

## ANNOUNCING THE NEW SLATE OF CLUB OFFICERS

There will be an election of officers at the June 3 meeting. **We need a quorum in order to elect officers. Please attend if possible.**

The slate of officers: **Chuck Lynch** - President & VP of Communications; **Bob Hublar** – Secretary and VP of Vocations; **Jerry Gonsoski** -Treasurer; **Lynn Haner** - VP of Membership; **Melody Denson** - VP of Programs. The following will be Trustees: **Theresa Fiedler, Ken Peet, Debbie Farmer, Kevin Thieman, and Lincoln Lewis.**

**Ken Peet** will continue as the Regional Director.

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

We thank all our volunteers!

## ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH CELEBRATED WDPV.

On April 21, St. Margaret Mary Parish set up a table for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations (WDPV). Here's a picture from Holly Smith, their Director of Liturgy and Music.



## SERRA MEETS WAS HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

### About Mike Downey

J. Michael Downey is President of the US Council for Serra and chair of the Leadership Development Committee for the Council. Until recently, he was also Region Director for the Central Region of Serra - a role he served in for the past four years. Prior to that he was District Governor of District 9E (Iowa) covering six clubs and four dioceses representing about 320 Iowa Serrans. He served in this role from 2014 until 2018.

Mike is a member of the St. Serra Club of Des Moines, IA; and he has held the following offices in that club: President, V.P. Vocations, V.P. Communications and Trustee. He chaired two regional conventions held in the Central Region that were hosted by the St. Serra Club of Des Moines. Mike has a degree in Industrial Engineering from Iowa State University (1974) and a law degree from the University of Iowa (1977). He served as Associate General Counsel and General Manager of the Des Moines Register and Tribune Co. and is a now retired business owner and has served as president of three manufacturing companies.

### Mike's Presentation

This was the 41<sup>st</sup> Serra Meets meeting by Zoom;

**MIKE DOWNEY**  
**(continued from page 3)**

and Mike spoke about the end of his term as President of the USA Council of Serra. Dr. Anne Roat will shortly take over as the President of USAC.

Mike spoke of his priorities for the 2022-24 period. One was Cultural Outreach, now headed by Jesse Gallegos. Another was the Serra Hispanic Ambassador program. Although there aren't many ambassadors yet, he got out the message of the need for Hispanic Catholics to pray for Hispanic vocations.

The IGNITE program has also been a successful new program of the last few years. And he said that Dr. Anne Roat is almost solely responsible for its success. She's now reached at least a dozen dioceses with this training program for parish vocation ministry.

Another big goal was to have local Serra clubs engage with their bishops and vocation directors. He still encourages that we meet annually with them and discuss our spiritual events, Eucharistic Adorations, and plans for the coming year. Then he suggests we solicit the bishop's and vocation director's comments on what the club can do for them.

Mike has also been encouraging clubs to recruit new members, especially those in the age 45 to 55 category. He still encourages us to consider dues reduction that might attract more young people.

Another focus of Mike's has been starting new clubs across the country. He wanted to get five but ended up with eight new clubs. Credit goes to Tom Bewick (District Governor of Lower Michigan) for the start of a new club in Detroit, part of our Region.

Of course, every period has its challenges and opportunities. And Mike spoke of the challenge presented to USAC of raising \$150,000 to help the [Eucharistic Congress](#) (July this year in Indianapolis) to help fund 45 religious orders so they could have booths at the event. He credits Dr. Anne Roat, Judy Cozzens, and Greg Schwietz with making this happen.

In fact, on July 19 at the Eucharistic Congress, Bishop Cozzens (mother of Serran Judy Cozzens) and Bishop Thomas Daly (Episcopal Advisor for the USA Council) will be speaking to the Congress.

Mike spoke of the update to our Serra International portal software, and credits Don Simoneaux, VP of Communications for USAC, with making this happen. Don put in hundreds of hours on this project.

Mike also credits Moira Quinn Leite and her husband Michael Leite with compiling the "[7 Greats](#)" book of the most popular [S.P.A.R.K. tools](#). And the tools themselves were recently updated and even increased from 28 to 31 tools.

For the challenge of growing membership, Mike credits Rueben Gallegos and Candice Tyrrell. Mike spoke of the new club startups and even showed us a chart which indicates that national membership declined during the pandemic but is back on the increase since then.

Another accomplishment was improvement in The Serran Magazine, to account for Anne McCormack retiring from the Chicago office. Vianney Vocations suggested taking responsibility for putting together the magazine. However, while doing so, they also improved it with more pictures, more information, and more world focus. An editorial board was also established with representatives from Serra International, USAC, and the Serra International Foundation.

The new [Holiness Handbook](#) was another accomplishment, with credit to Morie Ratuiste.

A problem existed a few years ago, with about 80 clubs not updating their non-profit filings with the IRS. Seventy of those 80 filings were updated, with credit given to Bob Campney, Treasurer for the Serra International Board.

More accomplishments included the drafting of a strategic plan for USAC and the US clubs, as well as the success

of the monthly "Serra Meets" Zoom meetings, with credit to Greg Schwietz and Jerry Biese.

And all of the above was achieved with break-even financial performance!

Of course, there are always challenges remaining. One is the annual training of club officers, especially the new ones. This used to be done by district governors, with poor attendance. It's now done with standard content and live, national webinars. Yet attendance is less than it should be. When they'd expect 1,000 attendees, there might be from 100 to 150.

Another challenge is that four regions still have no district or regional level gatherings.

Despite all the above, Mike says so many rank and file Serrans don't know all that is going on behind the scenes.

Mike wanted to specifically thank the unsung heroes who make up the leadership of the [USAC Board and Regional Directors](#). Mike even thanked our own Ken Peet for reinitiating the regional conference for the Great Lakes Region. And he also gave credit to the





**MIKE DOWNEY**  
**(continued from page 4)**

understaffed [Chicago Office of Serra](#) for all their hard work.

Mike's takeaways from this presentation were his optimism and excitement for the future of Serra; his seeing the hand of God in Serra; and his feeling "that the best is yet to come." As Mike put it, "It's all about the players in the field, not the coach."

To see Mike Downey's entire presentation, click [here](#).

**FR. SSAMBA TOLD US HIS VOCATION JOURNEY AT OUR MAY 20 MEETING**

**Fr. Deogratias Ssamba, AJ**, invited us to come to Good Shepherd Parish in the Portland Neighborhood of west Louisville to hear his vocation story.

Fr. Deo was born and raised in Nakaseke, Uganda, which is in Eastern Africa. Fr. Deo is a member of the religious order of the [Apostles of Jesus Missionaries](#), whose headquarters is in Nairobi, Kenya, in East Africa.

He told us, "Since I was a small boy, I have admired the chasuble. It made a deep impression on me; and I remember the first time I saw a priest wearing one, I told my mother that I wanted to be a priest like him. My mother told me that priests work hard, study hard and are obedient; so, if you want to be a priest like him, you have to do the same. Immediately, I followed my mother's advice."

He attended primary school, secondary, and high school in Uganda. Then he went to the Apostles of Jesus major seminary in Nairobi, Kenya. Total formation for the priesthood takes about 10 years for his order.

On 8/22/09, he took his final vows as a member of the order. On 12/12/09 he was ordained as a deacon. Fr. Deo was ordained a priest on 8/21/10, (which happened to be his birthday) in Luwero, Uganda.

After his ordination, he was assigned as associate pastor of a very poor parish - Maganzo Catholic Parish in Tanzania. He says the people there were very welcoming to him; and he has very fond, loving memories of that parish.

In 2012 he was appointed Secretary of Finance at the Apostles of Jesus Generalate in Karen, Nairobi.

In 2016 he came to the Archdiocese of Louisville and has now served as Associate Pastor in

five parishes - Good Shepherd, St. Augustine, Christ the King, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and St. Martin de Porres. Currently he is the Pastor of Good Shepherd Parish.

He likes celebrating mass, administering the sacraments, visiting the homebound and the sick, and walking. (On occasion, he walks from the Portland Neighborhood all the way to downtown Louisville, about 45 minutes each way.) He said his favorite Scripture verse is *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth, I consecrated you; I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations ..."* (Jeremiah 1:5)

He says he likes to eat bananas and fish. He likes American food, too, except shrimp. He likes visiting his parents, relatives, and friends back in Africa, when possible. He also says he is afraid of dogs, snakes, and water (lakes, big rivers, oceans, etc.).

Fr. Deo speaks three languages – Uganda, Swahili, and English. He says Mass in Swahili once a month.

He also told us, "All life has challenges and, in my life as a priest, there were challenges, too." He said the greatest challenges for him have been the covid pandemic, being sent to a country where he has no relatives; and having to learn a new culture and language.

Fr. Deo explained that the priesthood is good. "It is a special calling and a gift from God. I have met and have come to know many people! As you, my friends, go back to your homes and places of work, please share with your children and grandchildren that priesthood is good, and it is a blessing to be with the flock in the fields of the Lord."

Finally, he said the most important thing to tell us is that "I will never ever regret becoming a religious missionary priest!"

We want to thank Fr. Deo Ssamba for hosting us at his Good Shepherd Parish, and for taking the time to tell us his vocation story.

*(Thanks, too, to Ken Peet for the pictures with this article.*





# Help your new college students **CONNECT** to their Catholic campus faith communities



As many young adults start a college, they have an opportunity to connect with their new Catholic campus faith community, but many don't...

***Until they are personally invited!***

College or university campus ministries often do not have data to know which new students are Catholic, so they often have no way to individually reach out to new students to invite them to their Masses and campus ministry activities.

## You can help and it's easy!

- If you will be an incoming college student this fall or are their parent, complete the form at <https://signupnc.newmanministry.com> to have your info passed on to your college or university campus ministry.
- If you are a friend or relative of a new college student, first obtain permission from the student to share their contact information. Then, with their permission, complete the form at <https://signupnc.newmanministry.com> to have the student's info passed onto their college or university campus ministry.
- If you are a parish youth ministry leader or a Catholic high school campus ministry leader, you can get info and resources to help your graduating high school seniors at <https://www.newmanministry.com/highschool#CTA-Forms>.

**This initiative is  
sponsored by:**

Saint Serra Club of Louisville  
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Archdiocese of Louisville's  
Office of Youth & Young Adults  
Michal Horace, 502-636-0296  
[mhorace@archlou.org](mailto:mhorace@archlou.org)



## THE COMMUNITY CATHOLIC CENTER IN PORTLAND

On May 20, while visiting Good Shepherd Parish in the Portland Neighborhood of Louisville, we were told about the [Community Catholic Center](#) (CCC), which has offices on the parish grounds – two rooms in the old school building.

After our lunch, **Sarah Weatherwax, Executive Director**, gave us a presentation on the CCC.

Twenty-one years ago, when the last Catholic school in the West End was closed, the CCC was formed. It works “in the Portland and West End neighborhoods of Louisville, Kentucky, to assist families in providing a Catholic education for their children.”

From humble beginnings, they now help 85 to 100 students annually – with academic support, help getting into any one of 16 Catholic schools in Louisville, tutoring, testing support, help applying for financial assistance through the [Catholic Education Foundation \(CEF\)](#), summer activities, and much more. The CCC also partners with all our local Catholic high schools.

Although the CCC helps with the above, transportation to and from school is up to the parents.

The CCC is a very Catholic entity, yet independent of the Archdiocese of Louisville.

For youth needing help with testing for academic special needs such as ADHD or dyslexia, the CCC works with Spalding University. Some students get social and emotional help, while some families attend workshops or do book studies by Zoom.

The CCC also provides a lot of fun things, as well, with activities in the parish center basement, the church facilities, and outside.

They have a Thanksgiving event sponsored by the CEF. Trinity High School helps with an Angel Tree each year. Most of the CCC 8th graders attending Catholic elementary schools go on to Catholic high schools in Louisville.

About 85% of their funds are from donations;

12% are from grants; and the rest is from certain parishes and groups that support the cause.

We want to thank Sarah Weatherwax for her presentation.

*(Thanks, too, to Ken Peet for the picture with this article.)*

## TOUR OF GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH ON MAY 20

After our lunch on May 20, and the presentations by Fr. Deo Ssamba, and Sarah Weatherwax, we took a tour of the [Good Shepherd Church](#), led by **Judy Werst**, a former teacher at the parish school, and current volunteer, who has been a parishioner practically all her life.

We toured the old school building as well as the church building.

People of Portland petitioned Bishop Joseph Flaget to get a Catholic church in their area. The church was completed in 1840, on land donated by a Fr. Badin. It was known as Notre Dame du Port (Our Lady of the Port).

The church building was constructed in 1840, at a cost of \$3,050. The first rectory was built in 1861 at a cost of \$563.

Judy showed us the chalice (see picture) that once belonged to Bishop Flaget and was donated to the parish by his niece after the bishop's death. We also saw the beautiful Grotto to Mary in the back of the church, added in 1918.

The parish was growing and needed a larger church. So, the old one was demolished; and a new one was completed in the 1870s.

The parish's first school was St. Benedict Academy, which was later moved to 49th and Broadway to become Loretto High School.

During the 1937 flood, the church took on 15 feet of water! A flood wall was eventually built between the parish and the river.

The current parish name was created with the merger of three parishes in 2009 - St. Cecilia, St. Anthony, and Our Lady. The grounds of the old Our Lady parish were chosen to be the location of the newly merged parish.

The parish now has about 179 households.

Recent renovations have been funded with money from supporters, parishioners, an anonymous donation, and money from a Catholic foundation.

You can find more on the parish history [here](#).

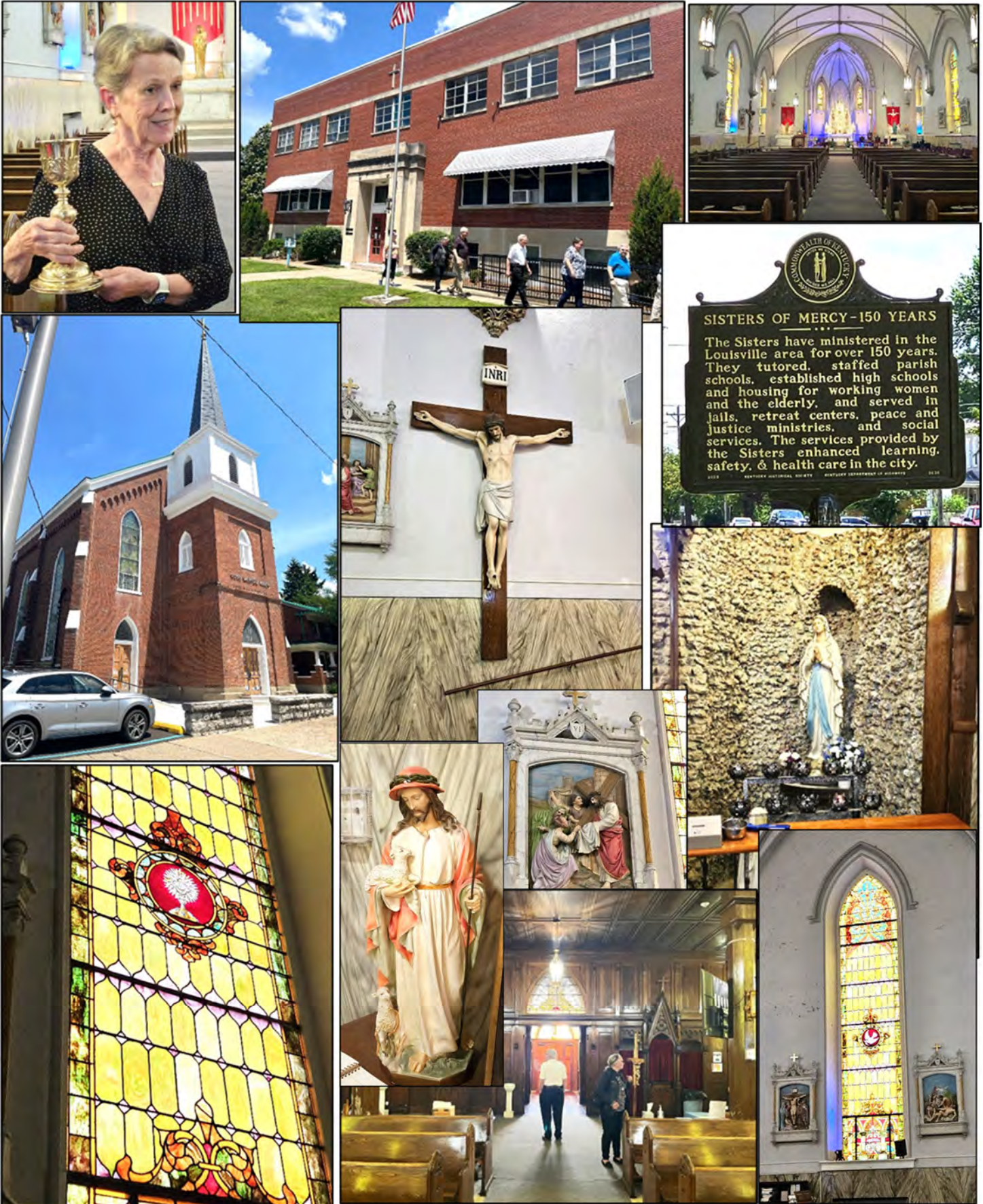
We want to thank Judy Werst for her time in giving us a tour.

*(Thanks, too, to Ken Peet and Chuck Lynch for pictures with this article.)*





## PICTURES FROM THE TOUR OF GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH



**SISTERS OF MERCY - 150 YEARS**

The Sisters have ministered in the Louisville area for over 150 years. They tutored, staffed parish schools, established high schools and housing for working women and the elderly, and served in jails, retreat centers, peace and justice ministries, and social services. The services provided by the Sisters enhanced learning, safety, & health care in the city.



**SPARK TOOLS NOW INCLUDE THE  
VOCATION POSTER AND ESSAY  
CONTEST FROM THE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE**

The USA Council of Serra has updated its 28 S.P.A.R.K. tools to now be 31 tools, including one based on our diocesan Poster and Essay Contest. Look at [Tool #30](#). Also see the webpage [here](#) and the 31-page document [here](#).

**ST. SERRA CLUB OF LOUISVILLE  
MUGS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.**

Our new mug was made especially for the St. Serra Club of Louisville. The cost is \$10 to help our cause.



**“Your vocation in life is where  
your greatest joy meets the  
world’s greatest need.” -  
Frederick Buechner (1926-  
2022, author and theologian)**

**PRIESTS CELEBRATING  
ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES**

Congratulations to our priests celebrating anniversaries of ordination this month. We always include here any priests, from religious orders and other dioceses, who are working in our Archdiocese. The asterisk (\*) indicates “Retired.”

**ARENAS, CLAUDIO RAMIREZ, 6/10/14, 10 yrs**

**BREEN, O.P., REV. JOSEPH ANTHONY, 6/13/63, 61 yrs**

**DO, REV. PETER Q., 6/8/02, 22 yrs**

**ERDMAN, REV. JONATHAN M., 6/29/17, 7 yrs**

**GATLIN, REV. JEFFREY D., 6/3/00, 24 yrs**

**GOODIN, OFM, REV. RICHARD, 6/14/14, 10 yrs**

**GREENWELL, O. CARM., REV. MICHAEL A., 6/2/79, 45 yrs**  
**GREGOR, C.P.M., REV. ROBERT, 6/10/00, 24 yrs**  
**HUBBARD, REV. J. RANDALL, 6/2/90, 34 yrs**  
**KENNEY, REV. BRIAN A., 6/8/02, 22 yrs**  
**MITCHELL, C.P., REV. JOSEPH, 6/13/81, 43 yrs**  
**MUDD, C.P.M., REV. NATHAN, 6/6/20, 4 yrs**  
**NAYLOR, REV. DAVID W. \*, 6/3/00, 24 yrs**  
**PADGETT, REV. GARY T., 6/5/99, 25 yrs**  
**ROGERS, CPM, REV. JOEL C., 6/10/00, 24 yrs**  
**SÁNCHEZ, REV. DAVID, 6/8/02, 22 yrs**  
**SCHWARTZLOSE, REV. JOHN A., 6/3/00, 24 yrs**  
**STEVENS, REV. GLADSTONE, 6/3/00, 24 yrs**  
**STOLTZ, REV. JOHN J., 6/2/90, 34 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, 43 yrs**  
**DEVER, ROBERT G.^\* (BONNIE), 6/1/96, 28 yrs**  
**LEWIS, JOHN M.^ (DOTTY), 6/5/99, 25 yrs**  
**MATTINGLY, THOMAS E.^\*, 6/11/83, 41 yrs**

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

**SEMINARIAN EVRARD MUHOZA**

For a great article on our Seminarian Evrard Muhoza at St. Meinrad Seminary, check out the article in the Spring Issue of “On The Hill” [here](#).

**HAPPY FATHER’S DAY AND THANKS  
TO OUR RETIRING PRIESTS**

To all men who have served as fathers to others, in any way, Happy Father’s Day!

And to all priests, who have been fathers to all of us, living the life of Christ as an example to all of us, Happy Father’s Day!

And to priests who are retiring this year, Happy Father’s Day!

We especially want to recognize and say “Thank you!” to those priests who are retiring this year in our own archdiocese:

**Fr. Terry Bradshaw**

**Fr. David Harris**

**Fr. Harry Gelthaus**

**Fr. Anthony T. Ngo**

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

## THE 81<sup>ST</sup> SERRA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

This year's Serra International Convention will be held in New Orleans ("The Big Easy") on August 8 - 11. Arrive early or stay a few extra days in order to see more of New Orleans! For more information, convention and hotel registration forms, a list of some of the featured speakers, local attractions and more, click [here](#).



## VOCATION CHALLENGE COINS FOR YOUNG MEN

The St. Serra Club of Louisville has purchased Challenge Coins for young men. The idea 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. However, we gladly let deacons and youth ministers give them out as well.

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](#).

## SAVE THE DATE – PERMANENT DEACONS TO BE ORDAINED

On Saturday, August 24, at 11 am at St. Peter the Apostle Church, 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 these men in our prayers!

## 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 874 8155 6033.

## FRIENDS OF SERRA

The Friends of Serra program was instituted in 2020. It exists for non-members who wish to support the mission of Serra financially. For more on this program, click [here](#).

The following people in the Archdiocese have recently made donations to the St. Serra Club of Louisville:

New Friends of Serra –

**Richard Lechleiter, of Holy Spirit Parish.**

We thank all Friends of Serra and we keep them in our prayers.

## VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Birthdays this month for Serrans and Vocation Office Personnel

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 Those Fleeing Their Own Countries - Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Pray for Vocations** - To pray daily for priests, seminarians, and Vocation Office personnel, see the Vocation Office Prayer Calendar [here](#).

Thanks to **Paul Willett** for maintaining our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SerraLouisville](http://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.