



Saint Serra Club of Louisville VOCATION DIGEST

**JULY, 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 NEW PRIESTS WERE ORDAINED ON JUNE 1!

On Saturday, June 1, during a 10 am Mass at St. Michael Parish in Louisville, Archbishop Shelton Fabre ordained five new priests – **Fathers Matt Millay, Kenny Nauert, Michael Schultz, Van Tran and Yen Tran.**

Fr. Yen Tran had family that came from Vietnam; and the whole three-hour Mass was livestreamed so that others (including Fr. Van

Tran’s family in Vietnam) could watch the ordination live.

Someone estimated there were 1,600 people in attendance at the standing room only event. Parts of the Mass (songs and one Scripture reading) were in Vietnamese, with the reading translated by Fr. Kien Nguyen.

In addition to our own archbishop, there were two other bishops – Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Kurtz and a Romanian Greek Catholic Bishop. Our Vicar for Vocations, Fr. Martin



Linebach, also spoke near the end of the Mass.

The choir, the small or-

chestra, cantor, and singing by two Vietnamese women were all beautiful to hear.

The archbishop told the new priests to recognize that this is “not my priesthood but the priesthood of Jesus Christ.”

With two of the newly ordained from Vietnam, there were many



FIVE NEW PRIESTS **(continued from page 1)**

Vietnamese in attendance. There were also many families with small children, as well as many teenagers. Many religious sisters in habits were in attendance, as well as members of the Knights of Columbus, who escorted the procession of bishops, priests, deacons, servers, and seminarians.

Some of the newly ordained had invited their seminarian instructors to attend.

Archbishop Shelton Fabre had already brought back from Louisiana a new tradition for us – that of having the first blessings from the priests be a blessing of all bishops in attendance.

For more information on this special event see the article in The Record [here](#).

The ordination Mass itself can be viewed [here](#).

(Thanks to Jerry Zimmerer and Chuck Lynch for the pictures with this article.)

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.

July 1 (1st Mon) – **10 am Mass** to install new officers at St. John Paul II Church, followed by **11:30 lunch** at Golden Corral at Hikes Points.

July 8 (2nd Mon) - **Rosary for Vocations**, 7 pm, by Zoom. See separate article for details.

July 10 (Wed) - **Holy Hour for Vocations** – After the noon Mass in St. Margaret Mary Chapel.

July 13 (2nd Sat) - **“Serra Meets”** - 12 Noon Louisville time - national Zoom meeting for all Serrans – for details, click [here](#).

July 15 (3rd Mon) – Newly ordained **Fr. Matthew Millay** will be speaking on his vocation journey.

July 23 (Tue) - 11:45 - **Serra Board Meeting** - St. Margaret Mary Spirituality Center.

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



FIVE NEW PRIESTS **(continued from page 2)**



NEW SLATE OF CLUB **OFFICERS APPROVED AT OUR** **JUNE 3 MEETING.**

The slate of officers approved are: **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 Thieneman, 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.

On the feast of St. Junipero Serra, Monday, July 1, there will be a 10 am Mass at St. John Paul II Parish, with a formal installation of officers after the homily.

The Mass will be concelebrated by Father Martin Linebach, Vicar for Vocations, and Fr. Pat Dolan, Chaplain for our club. Then we will proceed to our usual first Monday 11:30 luncheon at the Golden Corral in Hikes Point.

The outgoing and incoming presidents will each speak.

EVA GONZALEZ SPOKE AT OUR **JUNE 3 MEETING**

Eva Gonzalez was born in California. She has a Masters in Religious Education from Loyola University (New Orleans) and is the Director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry (OHM) for the Archdiocese of Louisville.

She represents region V (Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee) as chair for the **V National Encuentro**, which takes its name from Spanish for the “fifth national encounter” of a Catholic Hispanic group that had its first national gathering in 1972.

Eva is a member of the boards of Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI) in the role of Vice-Chair; National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry (NCADDHM) in the role of vice-president (this term just ended in April); *The Record's* editorial newspaper for the Archdiocese of Louisville; and Holy Cross high school in Louisville.

She also serves in the Curriculum Advisory Committee for Marian University and more recently as a member of the Planning Team for Spanish Language Catechist Formation for St. Meinrad Seminary.

Eva participated in the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry's committee on the priority of Family Ministry for the *Raíces y Alas Congress* (Roots and Wings Congress) of 2022.

She also is a facilitator for faith formation online courses in Spanish with the University of Notre Dame and the University of Dayton.

Eva joined us to give us an update on the OHM for the archdiocese.

Her office was once part of the Archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry (OMM). However, in 2019 planning, it was decided that OHM should be separate from OMM, with its own resources, budget, etc. due to the increase of the Hispanic population. And her office is the only “satellite” office of the

EVA GONZALEZ
(continued from page 3)

archdiocese, in that she operates out of the St. Rita parish campus, instead of the regular offices like the Pastoral Center and the Maloney Center.

In fact, Eva is the only employee in the OHM, although she interacts with many other departments in the archdiocese, like the Offices of [Catholic Charities](#), [Family Ministries](#), and [Youth & Young Adults](#).

The purpose of the OHM is to invite, engage and strengthen the participation of the Hispanic / Latino community in the life of the local Church. **Fr. Mike Tobin** is our Vicar for Hispanic Ministry.

The U.S. bishops started a national process in 2016 to include Hispanic ministry at a consultative and grass roots level, asking the Hispanic community members their hopes, dreams, and challenges. The Subcommittee on Hispanic/Latino Affairs website can be found [here](#).

An English version of their National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry can be found [here](#).

Eva spoke a little on the difference between the words Hispanic and Latino, which are sometimes interchangeable. Technically *Hispanic* describes people of Spanish speaking ancestry including Spaniards, while the word *Latino* is more a geographic and language label pertaining to people whose languages come from Latin.

Eva says that 42% of U.S. Catholics are Hispanic, meaning about 29.4 million people. She was providing data from the “[Cultivating Talent Report](#)” of Boston College.

Regarding statistics for our own archdiocese, Eva said we have 196,000 Catholics, of which 18% are Hispanic, 72% are white, 4% are Black, while the balance consists of Asians and others.

She said that the Hispanic population in our archdiocese grew by 3,000 from 2016 to 2021. But it's growing even faster now with the national migration crisis. The challenge is to serve them all, even when many have not learned English or speak different Hispanic dialects. Hispanic culture differs much from that of the U.S., also creating challenges to integration.

Seven parishes offer Hispanic Masses in Jefferson County, and six other parishes in our archdiocese also offer Hispanic Masses. St. Rita Parish, the one with

the largest Hispanic community in the archdiocese, recently added a second Hispanic weekend Mass.

Archdiocesan cohorts are in the [Renovación Program](#) through Marian University for Leadership Formation so that they can lead ministries which in turn relieve pastors of some of these burdens due to the many tasks they have. Fr. Kenny Nauert, recently ordained a priest, spent a summer at St. Rita parish learning about the Hispanic community through programs offered by the diocese. OHM is targeting specific needs from various Groups on formation in Scriptures, stewardship, and youth and young adult ministry. Eva shared the importance of youth and young adult ministry in vocations based on a document from Boston College titled [Ministry with Young Hispanic Catholics: Towards a Recipe for Growth and Success](#).

We also made Eva aware of some of the Serra programs for the Hispanic:

- * [The Serra Hispanic Ambassador Project](#);
- * [Our Cultural Outreach videos and Spanish materials](#);
- * [The Ecuentro Part 1 video on vocation statistics](#);
- * [The Ecuentro Part 2 video on the shortage of Hispanic vocations](#);
- * [The Serran Adoration Prayer Book in Spanish](#);
- and
- * [The St. Junipero Serra traveling statue 7-day prayer in Spanish](#).

We want to thank Eva Gonzalez for her presentation.

(Thanks, too, to Jerry Zimmerer for the picture with this article.)



**St. Junipero Serra's
Feast Day is July 1.**

For a summary of the spirituality of St. Junipero Serra (1713-1784), click [here](#).

**“SERRA MEETS” WAS
HELD ON JUNE 8**

About the Speaker -

Fr. William M. Watson, S.J., D. Min.

Fr. Bill entered the Jesuits in 1973 and was or-

"SERRA MEETS" **(continued from page 4)**

dained in 1985. He has spent over 40 years developing spiritual programs.

He specializes in building enduring Ignatian-based programs that stand the test of time.

The Sacred Story Institute is a vehicle that brings Ignatian spirituality to Catholics and Christians of all ages and walks of life.

Fr. Bill is an expert on Ignatian spirituality and on the [Ignatian examination of conscience](#). He now lives at the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

Fr. Bill told us that one of the missions of the Jesuits is to form and serve diocesan priests with the spiritual tools of St. Ignatius.

More biographical information on Fr. Bill can be found [here](#).

His Presentation on the True Hearts Program for Discerning Diocesan Priesthood

In 2012, Fr. Bill founded the [Sacred Story Institute](#).

He has been developing Ignatian programs and retreats, with many of the programs taking about two years to develop due to the necessary research. Fr. Bill has written [about two dozen books](#); and his latest endeavor has been to develop an online program to help young men who are considering the priesthood. Earlier versions were developed for dating Catholics, parishioners, and other groups.

According to their website, "The 10-week journey ... involves weekly meetings, testimonials from priests about their discernment, daily Scripture exercises that encourage "unhooking" from technology, and an online education platform with short videos."

Fr. Bill speaks of the True Heart Program for Discerning Diocesan Priesthood as a "platform," with programmable elements. He learned that an important element is for each of the young men to have a relationship with a diocesan priest. The platform presents multiple spiritual disciplines that will help them the rest of their lives, for example learning how to make a good Confession, the examination of conscience, [Ignatian Spiritual Exercises](#), etc.

The 10-week True Heart program involves the young men watching online videos on their own, and then meeting with a vocation team weekly. There are five videos per week, with one priest per week answering questions. For example, one part has a young

priest answering five questions:

- (1) When did you first have an inkling that you were being called to the priesthood?
- (2) What sealed the deal for you and got you in the door?

- (3) What graces during formation helped you in vocation discernment?

- (4) Did you ever have a crisis prior to ordination, thinking you were making a mistake; and how did you resolve it?

- (5) What have been the top two or three graces in your life as a priest?

The videos use unnamed priests, but the Sacred Story Institute can help dioceses prepare their own videos using their own priests.

According to Fr. Bill, the young men begin to realize they are part of a community of like-minded discerners. And he found that much of

the discerning process is not listening to or interacting with priests, but in conversations with other discerners – discussing their experiences and questions.

The 10-week program ends with an eight-hour all night meditation with the Blessed Sacrament, using a 64-page prayer book that devotes eight pages to each hour.

Part of the reason for the 10-week program is that vocation directors have told him that a short intense program is better than a two-year program.

Fr. Bill says he seeks to have a "low administration footprint," providing a lot of guidelines, but keeping it simple and inexpensive, so the use of the program is more likely to happen. In Seattle last year, the cost to young men using the program was only \$100 according to their [website](#).

A brief, 2-minute ad on the True Heart program can be found [here](#). The Seattle Archdiocesan promotional bulletin announcements can be found [here](#), and an excellent Seattle article (November 2023) on the program can be found [here](#).

A free 22-page online book for diocesan vocation directors ("True Heart – A Way to Selflessness - A Supplemental Resource Guide for Use by Vocation Directors Helping Candidates Discern A Call to the Diocesan Priesthood") can be found [here](#).

The program has also been modified to adapt it to discerners for young men considering joining various religious orders of priests.

Fr. Bill Watson's presentation (27 minutes), as well as the business part (25 minutes) of the monthly *Serra Meets* video, can be viewed [here](#).





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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ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com

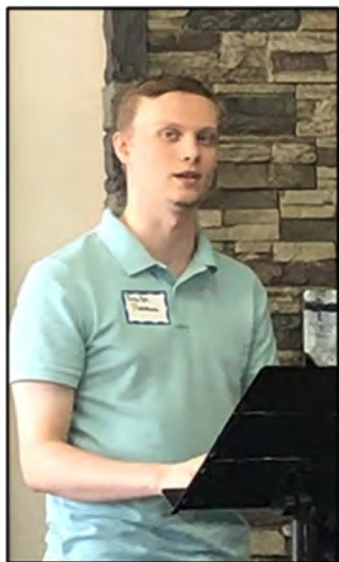
Archdiocese of Louisville's
Office of Youth & Young Adults
Michal Horace, 502-636-0296
mhorace@archlou.org

SEMINARIAN TRENTON THIENEMAN SPOKE AT OUR JUNE 17 MEETING.

Seminarian Trenton Thieneman is the son of fellow Serran, Kevin Thieneman and Kevin's wife Cindy, both of whom were able to attend this meeting. Trenton is a parishioner of St. Gabriel the Archangel parish. He attended St. Gabriel for grade school and graduated from DeSales High School. He has an older brother and older sister.

Around his junior year in high school, he began to take seriously the possibility that the Lord was calling him to be a priest; so, he applied for seminary during his senior year. Ultimately, he decided to delay his entrance into the seminary, and went on to Western Kentucky University, where he studied philosophy for two years.

As he was preparing to go off to college, he heard about a program called [The Basselin Scholars Program](#) through the Theological College in



Washington DC. This program would allow him to transfer into seminary for his third year of college and allow him to work on a licentiate in philosophy. After spending a year at WKU, he requested the diocese to reopen his application to seminary and to apply to this program.

The diocese agreed and he was accepted as a Basselin Scholar. He has now finished his first year in seminary and first year of the Basselin Pro-

gram.

Trenton said that his theology teacher at DeSales, Mike Swearingen (now the headmaster of Holy Angels Academy), was very influential in Trenton's interest in theology. This teacher expected a lot from his students but was very well respected by Trenton at the same time. They are still friends to this day.

Trenton was in the St. Gabriel youth group during high school but considered leaving the group one year. Then the group went on a mission trip to the [Christian Appalachian Project](#), where he met a young, enthusiastic priest who spoke of his vocation journey. This priest's talk inspired and helped bring about Trenton's initial thoughts of entering seminary.

After that, Trenton's faith became even stronger, going to Confession more frequently, and paying attention to a new youth minister and a deacon in his parish. There was a two-week period when all he could think about was a possible calling to the priesthood.

The parish's youth minister, Nicole, told him the first time she met him she knew he was being called to the priesthood. She told Trenton that the Blessed Virgin Mary was telling her to tell him the same thing.

Fr. Thomas Gentile, who was the Chaplain at DeSales High School, connected Trenton with the Vocation Office. And Trenton also attended a [National Catholic Youth Conference](#). He met a seminarian, now a priest, Fr. Michael Schultz, who became a great mentor to him.

Asked why he loved philosophy so much he quoted Aristotle as saying that "All men by nature desire to know."

At WKU he eventually lived in the Newman Building, enjoyed working with the chaplain, and served Mass.

After going through the psych evaluation, meeting the archbishop, and finishing two years at WKU, he was ready to start the seminary.

He toured the Theological College affiliated with the Catholic University of America in DC, and fell in love with the college, the city, the professors and others.

At Theological College, he's working on his licentiate in theology. Unlike some seminarians, he's skipping the new [Propadeutic Stage](#) of studies.

Trenton quotes Fr. Martin Linebach, the Vocation Director, as saying that the Vocation Director's job is to make the first five years of the priesthood as easy as possible for each seminarian.

For this summer, Trenton is working with Fr. Jon Erdman, pastor at St. Francis of Assisi parish.

We want to thank Trenton Thieneman for speaking to us on his vocation journey. We keep him and all our seminarians in our prayers.

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

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."

DAY, C.P., REV. JOHN P., 7/8/72, 52 years

HAYDEN, REV. JOSEPH F.*, 7/14/63, 61 years

IFEAKOR, REV. EMMANUEL-GARRET, 7/11/09,
15 years

OTUMA, A.J., REV. GEORGE, 7/21/01, 23 years

ABBAY OF GETHSEMANI
"COME AND SEE" VOCATION WEEKEND
30 AUGUST TO 2 SEPTEMBER 2024



Is the Lord calling you to follow him in the monastic life? Experience this beautiful vocation during a weekend at the monastery.

- You will attend the hours of prayer in choir with the monks, tour the work places of the monks, walk our extensive lands and enjoy the scenic knobs of Kentucky.
- On Sunday morning you will process into the Chapter Room with the monks and join the community for the Abbot's weekly spiritual talk.

There will be opportunities to learn how God has worked in the lives of current monks and share your experiences with other men discerning God's call.

Come and experience a few days in a monastery that has been praising and worshipping God daily in the heart of the Church for over ***175 years (1848-2024)***

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE

Friday, August 30 - arrival in the afternoon before 3 p.m.

Monday, September 2 - departure in the morning (or Sunday afternoon)

Come and See weekend is open to all single men between the ages of 18 and 35. Participants must be Roman Catholic and enjoy good health of mind and body. Space is limited, so an early response assures a place in the weekend experience. A detailed schedule of the weekend will be given upon arrival.

Meals and room accommodations are free. There is no charge or donation for this event.

Brother Bartholomew provides Airport/bus pickup in Louisville. If you are driving, "Abbey of Gethsemani" is a destination on Google maps and most GPS devices.

Interested? Please contact Fr. Anton at vocations@monks.org or call 502-549-4116.

Please tag the subject line on your email "Come and See."

ARCHDIOCESAN ALL NIGHT ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS

JULY 15 – 16, 2024
ST. EDWARD CHURCH

Monday July 15th

- OPENING MASS 6:00 PM
 - EXPOSITION 6:30 PM
- WITH ALL NIGHT ADORATION
- CONFESSIONS 6:30-7:30 PM



Tuesday July 16th

- BENEDICTION 7:30 AM
 - CLOSING MASS 8:00 AM,
- FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS
AND A CHANCE TO MEET OUR
SEMINARIANS.

GROUPS INTERESTED IN COVERING AN HOUR OF ADORATION
PLEASE CALL OR TEXT 502-224-2288.

SPONSORED BY THE ARCHDIOCESAN MARIAN COMMITTEE



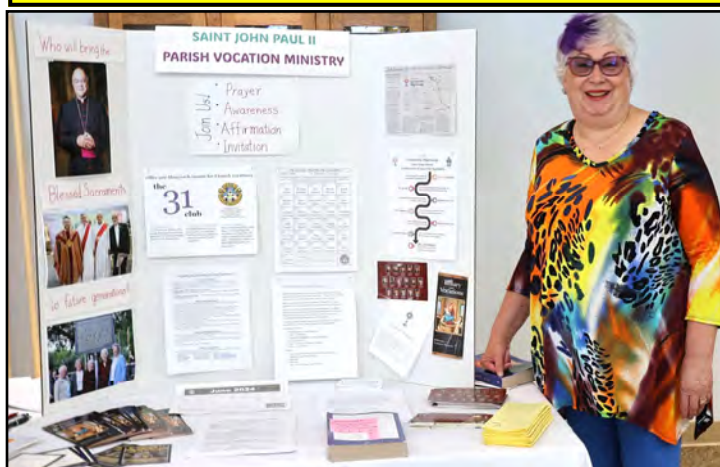
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ST. JOHN PAUL II PARISH VOCATION MINISTRY



The Parish Vocation Ministry Committee of St. John Paul II Parish presented a display table at all Masses for the June 8-9 weekend. Shown here is parishioner **Eloise Campbell**. Serrans Lynn Haner and Chuck Lynch also assisted at other Masses.

They had handouts, answered questions, and illustrated a number of parish activities to promote and support religious vocations.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

SAVE THE DATE – PERMANENT DEACONS TO BE ORDAINED

On Saturday, August 24, at 11 am at St. Peter the Apostle, 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.

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](#).

Registration fees go up after June 30.

SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAYS

SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Happy Birthday to one of our seminarians this month:

Zachary Moore – July 15

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](#).

VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

Serran Birthdays this month:

Chuck Lynch, July 7

Mary Means, July 10

Cheryl Bowling, July 18

Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of July:

For The Pastoral Care of The Sick - Let us pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick bestows the Lord's strength to those who receive it and to their loved ones, and that it may become for everyone an ever more visible sign of compassion and hope.

Sister Maribah Ishaq takes first vows as a Loretto Sister

You can read the article on her first vows in The Record [here](#).

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.

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

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