



Club chartered May 22, 1955

## Saint Serra Club of Louisville VOCATION DIGEST

**"Always Forward, Never Back"**

**– Saint Junipero Serra**

**OCTOBER, 2024  
Newsletter**

### MISSION:

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

### OFFICE OF HISPANIC MINISTRY WORKSHOP

Eva Gonzalez, Director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry, invited Serrans **Ken Peet** (Great Lakes Regional Director) and **Chuck Lynch** (President of the St. Serra Club of Louisville) to attend their Hispanic Ministry Workshop on Saturday, September 14.

At the front of the room, Eva had a statue of St. Junipero Serra, which the club had given to her office.

There were about 140 people registered from over a dozen parishes. About a half dozen priests attended, all of whom could speak Spanish.

The Workshop was based on the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, which can be found [here](#). A summary of the vocation parts of that national plan can be viewed [here](#).



The presentations were all in Spanish, except for the one by Ken, for whom there was an interpreter. Fortunately, Ken and Chuck could use Google Translate to get a real-time translation of all the other presentations.

In addition to local speakers, there were two speakers from out-of-town, and several pre-recorded presentations from other out-of-town speakers.

We set up a table of Serra materials and answered



questions about our ministry. A lot of people came by the ta-

ble; and a lot of material was given out, including some material in Spanish and a two-sided sheet of QR Codes ([here](#)) to many Serran websites on our ministry and access to Spanish materials.

It was a very enthusiastic crowd; and many were



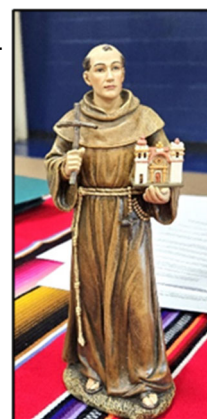
interested in promoting vocations.

Ken did a great job; and he also pointed out that while the Hispanic community makes up around 40% of U.S. Catholics, less than 5% of our U.S. priests are Hispanic. The good news is that 17% of our current national seminarian population is now Hispanic.

We took up a collection from our local club and donated funds to help cover part of the costs of this workshop.

Thanks to St. Edward Parish for the use of their gym for this all-day workshop. And we want to thank Eva Gonzalez of the Office of Hispanic Ministry for allowing our St. Serra Club to participate.

For more on the whole day's conference, read the article in The Record [here](#).



### DEACON JAMES TURNER'S VOCATION JOURNEY

Our September 16 meeting was held at the Catholic Enrichment Center (on the grounds of St. Martin de Porres Parish), where we had Deacon James Turner tell us about his vocation journey.

**About Deacon Turner**

## DEACON JAMES TURNER (continued from page 1)

**Deacon James R. Turner** is the former Pastoral Administrator of St. Martin de Porres and St. Augustine Parishes, currently serving as the Deacon at Saint Martin de Porres and Holy Name Parishes. He is married to Annette Mandley-Turner (who is Executive Director of the Office of Multicultural Ministry).

Deacon Turner attended U of L and U of K, where he majored in Business Management and Gerontology. He has 30 plus years in his career track with Du Pont-Dow Elastomers over Operations and later the Human Resource Department. He is also Chief Financial Officer of Turner Mandley Turner LLC, Human Resource Consulting Firm.

He specializes in strategic planning processes for churches and developing self-directive teams. He serves as Senior Strategic Planner Consultant for TMT, LLC. Some of his training capabilities includes diversity training, coaching, program designing, rebuilding parishes that are dying, leadership skills and preaching.

He is a nationally sought-after orator who has presented in over forty states in addition to the continent of Africa.

Deacon Turner is the author of *Prayer and Petitions for All Seasons*. He is also co-author of: *Beacon of Hope: Five Year Strategic Planning Process*; *This Far by Faith Strategic Planning Process*; *Vision V and Beyond Strategic Planning Program*; *Acacia Book of Praise*; *Couples Connection Retreat*; *Community Rites of Passage Process*; and the *Kujenga Viongozi Leadership Process I & II Workbooks*. Deacon Turner also co-authored the *Africentric RENEW process for the Archdiocese of Louisville's first RENEW process*.

Deacon Turner has always shared his knowledge of leadership development from an Africentric perspective.

Deacon Turner and his wife, married for 54 years, have two children and four grandchildren. They are currently raising two of their grandchildren, with one



## 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.

**Oct 7 (1<sup>st</sup> Mon)** - **Fr. Jerry Bell** will speak on his role working with retired priests.

**Oct 9 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed)** - **Holy Hour for Vocations** – After the noon Mass in St. Margaret Mary Chapel.

**Oct 14 (2<sup>nd</sup> Mon)** - **Rosary for Vocations**, 7 pm, by Zoom. See separate article for details.

**Oct 21 (3<sup>rd</sup> Mon)** - **Fr. Anthony Chandler**, Vicar for Priests, will be our speaker.

**Oct 21 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sat)** - **“Serra Meets”** - 12 Noon Louisville time - national Zoom meeting for all Serrans – for details, click [here](#).

**Oct 29 (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).

at St. X and one at Sacred Heart Academy.

### Deacon Turner's Presentation

He was raised in west Louisville by parents who were Methodist. But he was allowed to visit other churches in his community. Through two sisters he learned about Catholic CCD and checked it out. He said the Holy Spirit told him, “This is it.”

Later, after the Navy and being married a few years, Deacon Turner met Fr. Ed Branch and they spoke about his becoming a deacon. He saw good preaching in the Methodist Church, but thought Catholic preaching was “sterile.” So, he inquired about learning how to preach as a deacon. However, it was the Eucharist that drew him to the Church. And like a sponge, he studied all he could of the Catholic faith.

He was ordained a deacon in 1981, at age 33, after Bishop McDonough received Vatican dispensation from the rule on waiting until age 34. So, Deacon Turner started studying for the diaconate at age 29.

He has “hoped to engage and involve as many lay people in the ministry of the Church” as possible.

Currently, he's also teaching religion to 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Nativity Academy, where 99% of the students are non-Catholic. Deacon Turner says, “Children are my best teachers,” as he learns much from them. He says there's not a single day that he



## **DEACON JAMES TURNER** **(continued from page 2)**

doesn't come home and tell humorous stories about teaching. And he says the classroom is the only place some students get affirmed.

He also enjoys visiting the sick, the shut-in, and the seniors.

We want to thank Deacon Turner for talking with us about his wonderful vocation journey.

## **TOUR OF CEC AND ST. MARTIN DE PORRES CHURCH**

After the presentation by Deacon Turner, we toured the offices of the [Catholic Enrichment Center](#) (CEC) as well as the [St. Martin de Porres Church](#).

### **Tour of the CEC**

Our tours of the CEC and the church were led by Quantanna Sanders and Fr. Bill Bowling, Pastor.

In the CEC building, we got to see the food pantry, where they partner with Dare to Care in providing food to the area. Last week they served 95 people from the pantry, which is open once a week, but may soon open more frequently.

They have an area devoted to family therapy sessions, and a kitchen where they teach cooking classes (with appliances furnished by GE).

There is a computer lab used in teaching, online workshops, job searches, after-school tutoring, and more.

Another area is used for health fairs, and they also host Urban League Seniors Jobs Program (USJP). One conference room is often used for youth programs and Scouting. Another area is shared with the West Louisville Community Ministries.

They even have a dance room for all types of dance. And the Thea Bowman Hall in the basement can seat over 200 people.

### **Tour of St. Martin de Porres Church**

With the help of Fr. Bill Bowling, we checked out the church, which was originally built in the 1920s, when it was founded as Holy Cross Parish.

The current parish resulted from the merger, around 1990, of Saint Benedict, Holy Cross, and Saint Charles Borromeo, on the old Holy Cross campus.

The 100-year-old marble altar is from Italy; and, like our cathedral, the ceiling over the altar has stars

on it. Serran Ralph Williams reminded us that he went to school in this parish many years ago.

The church was renovated in the 1990s; the Grotto was removed, when restrooms were installed. Fr. Bill says that when they can get the funds, more repairs are needed, including the pipe organ and the Family Life Center across the street.



The parish has about 300 households; and it also has outreach to Africans and Hispanic communities, including Masses in Swahili and Spanish.

An unused rectory is attached to the church. And we were told the parish school closed in 1973.

More can be read on the history of this parish [here](#).

We want to thank Quantanna and Fr. Bill for taking the time to give us these tours.

*Thanks to Paul Willett and Ken Peet for taking pictures.*

## **SERRA MEETS - IMPACT OF THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS ON RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES**

This was the 45<sup>th</sup> monthly Serra Meets; and it was led by the US Council President Anne Roat.

**Sister Deborah Marie Borneman, SSCM**, our main speaker for this Zoom meeting, began working for the National Religious Vocation Conference ([NRVC](#)) in August of 2011. A [Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius](#), Sister Debbie served 10 years as vocation director for her congregation and is currently serving as second councilor on the SSCM Leadership Team.

She also ministered as coordinator for vocation awareness programs for the Diocese of Harrisburg. She has ministerial experience in pastoral care, youth ministry, college campus ministry, and immigration. Sister Debbie has a Master of Divinity degree and a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University of Chicago.

As Director of Member Relations and Services, for

## **SERRA MEETS** **(continued from page 3)**

the NRVC, Sr. Debbie joined us to speak on the impact of the National Eucharistic Congress (NEC) on religious communities.

Sr. Debbie showed us pictures from the July Indianapolis NEC, including many of the booths by men and women religious orders. There are over 700 orders in the U.S. Around 80 orders had booths at the NEC. And through a \$150,000 donation from the Serra International Foundation, about 46 orders were able to have a booth – orders which were otherwise unable to afford the cost.



She felt that most American Catholics are probably unaware of just how many orders we have in the U.S.; and she said around half those orders have under 50 members. Her own order has 48 members. So, instead of focusing on orders that are shrinking, she focused on the “abundance of choices for

religious vocations in our country.”

Speaking of vocation ministry, she said the NRVC works with vocation directors to teach them how to better recruit and assess new members for their orders. She spoke of the acronym PIE – prayer, invitation, and encouragement – important aspects of vocation ministry. However, they need other organizations to help in these endeavors. And in 2006, the NRVC chose Serra International and our US Council to receive its distinguished **Harvest Award** for the Serran efforts at promoting vocations.

Her takeaway from the NEC is that “God continues to call men and women to holiness.”

You can watch the video of Sr. Debbie’s presentation, along with the business portion of the Serra Meets meeting, [here](#).

## **PREPARE FOR DEACON SUNDAY -** **SECOND SUNDAY OF OCTOBER**

During the 2023 calendar year, 587 new permanent deacons were ordained in US dioceses. At the same time, 368 deacons retired from active ministry, and another 357 deacons died. “As is the case with priests in the United States, there are not enough new permanent deacons being ordained to make up for the numbers who are retiring from active ministry

and dying each year,” said the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA).

The second Sunday of October each year is Deacon Sunday. Here are some resources to learn more about deacons, help prepare for the day, and even consider the diaconate.

To learn more about how to celebrate Deacon Sunday, click [here](#).

To learn more of what a Catholic deacon does, click [here](#).

To read a blog by a Catholic deacon, click [here](#).

To learn about how to become a permanent deacon, click [here](#).

## **PRAYER FOR OUR NEW DEACONS,** **THEIR WIVES,** **AND ALL OUR DEACONS**

Lord Jesus Christ, Servant of all,  
Send your Spirit upon our deacons and their  
wives as they serve your Church.  
Give them eyes to see the needs of your people.  
Give them a discerning mind to know your truth.  
Give them a generous spirit when  
they are tired but needed.  
Give them a humble heart  
when their work goes unnoticed.  
Give them peace of mind in obedience and service.  
Give them health of body so  
they may serve with strength.  
Make them fertile ground for  
your inspiration and love.  
Comfort them when they question  
themselves and their ministry.  
Grant them grace as they age so  
they may share your wisdom.  
Make their hearts like yours  
so they may love your people.  
Amen.

– Prayer by Amy Ekeh

## **NATIONAL VOCATION** **AWARENESS WEEK** **BEGINS SUNDAY NOV 3 THIS YEAR**

This is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the U.S. dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering a religious vocation.

Click [here](#) for prayers and homily ideas; info for

## **NAT'L VOCATION AWARENESS WK** **(continued from page 4)**

DRES, teachers, catechists, parents and youth ministers; fact sheets; vocation terms; things to do; parish resources; answers to questions; find your spirituality type; and more.

Click [here](#) for Holy Hour ideas (with and without a priest). Click [here](#) for some great infographics, particularly valuable in the classroom.

## **OCTOBER 18, 2024 – DAY OF PRAYER FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS**

All Serrans are being asked through prayer to provide spiritual support to those who tirelessly serve the Church and the people of God. The day is being hosted by St. John Vianney Center, the only behavioral health and addictions treatment and resource center providing holistic care and support exclusively for clergy and religious worldwide. Mass will be live streamed at 11 am Eastern time. For the link to the livestream, click [here](#).

## **ANNUAL VOCATION POSTER AND ESSAY CONTESTS**

Schools, parishes, home-schoolers and youth leaders are being notified in October of the annual Vocation Essay and Poster Contests sponsored by the Vocation Office and the Saint Serra Club of Louisville.

The Contest starts with the National Vocation Awareness Week (the week beginning November 3 this year); and entries must be received in the Vocation Office by a date in January, yet to be determined.

The Saint Serra Club will provide cash prizes to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each contest – the Essay Contest (grades 7 & 8) and the Poster Contest (grades 4 through 6). There will also be a cash prize for the teachers of the 1st place winners.

## **VOCATIONS IN THE NEWS**

50% of foreign-born priests could be forced to leave the U.S. in the coming year. Read the story [here](#).

NY bishop starts letter campaign over religious visa crisis. Read the article [here](#).

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An impressive surge in priestly vocations in the Diocese of Columbus OH - Read the article [here](#).

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These religious sisters have a very unusual mission. Read the article [here](#).

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Fr. Tom Colucci: From 9/11 firefighter to New York priest - Read the article [here](#).

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Endless call: Vocation website highlights roads less taken. Read the article [here](#).

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We Have Another Vocations Crisis: The Sacrament of Matrimony. Read the article [here](#).

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Martyr-nuns' last prayer before being killed - Read the article [here](#).

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The incredible (prophetic?) story of Fr. Vincent's chalice - Read the article [here](#).

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Pope: To be a pastor one first needs to be a deacon. Read the article [here](#).

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America's New Catholic Priests: Young, Confident and Conservative - The New York Times - Read the article [here](#).

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"I forgive": Last words of nun killed after misunderstanding of Benedict XVI's talk - Read the article [here](#).

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The poor Indian diocese with a surplus of Catholic priests - Read the article [here](#).

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Pope Francis: Literature and poetry are essential for future priests. A summary of the Pope's letter can be found [here](#). His entire letter can be found [here](#).

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'Anger management to talented and gifted': how Catholic education saved this priest from a future in jail - Read the article [here](#).

## **SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS**

Shop for Christmas and support our local seminarians and religious orders:

St. Meinrad Archabbey - click [here](#).

Franciscans - click [here](#).

Passionists - click [here](#).

Sisters of St. Benedict (Ferdinand, IN) - click [here](#).



## **SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS** **(continued from page 5)**

Trappists in Gethsemani - click [here](#).  
Ursulines (Mt. St. Joseph) - click [here](#).

## **UPDATE ON THE** **NEWMAN CONNECTION**

The Newman Connection is a program to keep our high school graduates in touch with their faith as they become college freshman.

The Newman Ministry reports this year that for 15 years, “we’ve witnessed the transformative power of connecting young souls to vibrant faith communities. Our journey, fueled by your unwavering support, has yielded remarkable results: 118 Diocesan Endorsements; Archdiocese for Military Services Endorsement; 600,000+ Students Connected to Campus Ministries; Partnerships with thousands of Parishes and Catholic Schools nationwide; More than \$10 Million invested by donors to keep young adults connected to their faith in college.”

And for the Louisville Archdiocese, we turned in 1,048 high school graduates’ names. For more information on the Newman Ministry, check out their website [here](#).

## **PRIESTS CELEBRATING** **ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES**

Congratulations to one priest celebrating an anniversary of ordination this month. We always include here any priests, from religious orders and other dioceses, who are working in our Archdiocese.

**Rev. Jason R. Dechenne, 10/25/08, 16 years**

A list of all our diocesan priests can be found [here](#).  
A list of other priests working in our diocese, from other dioceses and various orders, can be found [here](#).

## **DEACONS CELEBRATING** **ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES**

Congratulations to one deacons celebrating his ordination anniversaries this month. The asterisk (\*) indicates Retired; (^) indicates Senior Deacon. The name of his wife is also shown.

**Deacon Stephen Marks \*^ (wife Marcia) – 10/14/2000 (24 years)**

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

## **SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAYS** **THIS MONTH**

Happy Birthday to one of our seminarians this month:

**Conor McClure - October 8**

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](#).

## **VOTING - FORMING CONSCIENCES** **FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP**

Read an article in The Record [here](#).  
Read the USCCB’s document “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” [here](#).

## **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.

## **VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **Serran and Vocation Office Birthdays this month:**

Todd Popson (Vocation Office), Oct 8

Melody Denson, Oct 21

Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre, Oct 25

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### **Pope’s Prayer Intention for the month of**

**October: For A Shared Mission** - Let us pray that the Church continues to sustain a synodal lifestyle in every way, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and laity.

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.