



Club chartered May 22, 1955

Saint Serra Club of Louisville VOCATION DIGEST

"Always Forward, Never Back"

– Saint Junipero Serra

**DECEMBER, 2024
Newsletter**

MISSION:

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

CHARLES ENGLISH SPOKE AT OUR NOVEMBER 4 MEETING.

Charles English has been the Associate Director for the [Metropolitan Tribunal](#) a little over a year. In this role, he assists the Judicial Vicar (currently Fr. Paul Beach) with general administration and serves as a canonical resource to pastors and administrators throughout the diocese. Prior to joining the Tribunal, Charles practiced law in both the private and public sectors.

He's on track to complete a Master's degree in Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville this semester. In the summer of 2025, he will begin canon law studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Charles lives in Louisville with his wife and two sons.

He previously worked with the attorney general in Frankfort; and in Louisville he did insurance defense work with a local law firm. Although he enjoyed this work, he felt something was missing. A friend referred him to Fr. Martin Linebach, who was assigned to the Cathedral at that time. There was an opening with the Tribunal, which uses a lot of law. So, he spoke with Fr. Paul Beach; and he was offered his current position.

Charles started his presentation by answering the question "What is a Tribunal?" He compared it to the U.S. Department of Justice. Using the Church's [Canon Law](#), his office helps resolve questions of justice pertaining to marriages and the annulment process, as well as being a canonical resource to pastors, deacons, DREs, etc.

For some questions there may be no specific answers; and the office simply does the best they can to provide a legal opinion. Also, they may soon find themselves answering questions about our new [deanery structure](#).

They could also be involved in the penal process, a trial per se, in which judges are assigned to decide the penalty for some infraction by a member of the Church. Whether it's a marriage case or a penal process, the Tribunal provides the face of the Church to the public.

The vast majority of the 100 to 120 cases per year involving our Tribunal are cases addressing possible annulments of marriages. In these cases, the Tribunal explains that the Church cares about the individuals. The process can be therapeutic; and the office tries to be merciful and pastoral. And the separate parties are often very comforted that they can go back to receiving the Sacraments after a thorough investigation of their marital status. For about 30 years, Fr. Pat Dolan (the Chaplain of our St. Serra Club of Louisville) has been a "defender of the bond" for some of these cases; and he was helpful in answering some of the questions raised about annulments. We were reminded that there can also be appeals for Tribunal decisions. The average annulment



takes about 12 to 18 months, due to the collection of documents and statements from witnesses.

It was explained that a marriage is brought into being by the lawfully manifested con-



CHARLES ENGLISH **(continued from page 1)**

sent of persons who are legally capable. Consent is an act of the will by which a man and a woman mutually give and accept each other. In more concrete terms, it's the mutual handing of oneself and acceptance of those rights and duties that are essential to marriage. The object of consent is a handing over and acceptance of duties deriving from exclusivity, permanence (indissolubility), procreation and education of children, and the good of the spouses.

The Tribunal also puts on workshops to educate parish administrators about assisting parishioners regarding Canon Law. Our archdiocese is also part of the Metropolitan Province of Louisville, which includes all four dioceses in Kentucky and all three dioceses in Tennessee. Consequently, they can also be called upon by these other dioceses to assist with Canon Law matters.

We want to thank Charles English for his time and presentation.

We also want to thank Jerry Zimmerer for the pictures with this article.

OUR ST. SERRA CLUB **MINI-RETREAT WAS NOV. 18**

Our Chaplain, **Fr. Pat Dolan**, led us on a retreat that was held at Mt. St. Francis, IN.

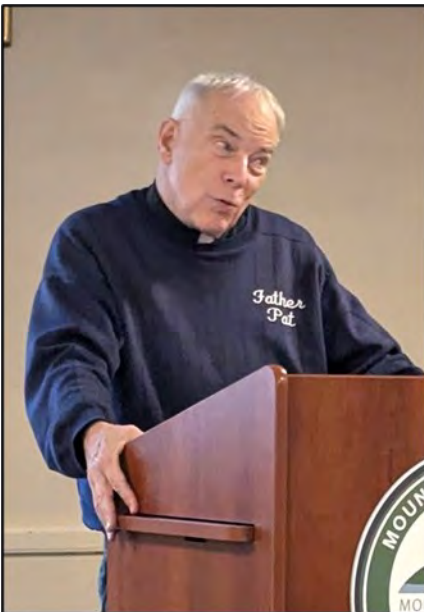
The title of the retreat was "Fingerprints of God." Fr. Pat says that God works in many ways; and he then spoke of what he called the seven "colors of spirituality," or pathways to God: Peace, Beauty, Life, Truth, Power, Fellowship and Rituals.

On **Peace**, Fr. Pat spoke of how nice peace is, but empty unless you find God in the process.

On **Beauty**, he likewise said it's nice unless you go deeper than just the beauty we can see. On **Life**, he talked about going into nature, e.g., walking in a park. It's "almost what we seek."

Of course, **Truth** is something we all seek.

On **Power**, we were reminded of



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.

Dec 2, (1st Mon) – **Fr. Jeff Shooner**, Vicar General, will give us an update from his office.

Dec 9 (2nd Mon) - **Rosary for Vocations**, 7 pm, by Zoom. See separate article for details.

Dec 11 (2nd Wed) - **Holy Hour for Vocations** – After the noon Mass in St. Margaret Mary Chapel.

Dec 16 (3rd Mon) – **Our Chaplain, Fr. Pat Dolan**, will speak on Advent topic.

Dec 16 (3rd Mon) - **"Serra Meets"** – **8 pm** Louisville time - national Zoom meeting for all Serrans – for details, click [here](#).

Dec 24 (Tue) – **No Serra Board Meeting** due to the Holidays.

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

the power in fast cars, and big trucks, and how some people can get addicted to power, but without getting closer to God. However, "the desire for power doesn't fulfill" us.

Discussing **Fellowship** and love, Fr. Pat spoke of how "God is love." We can pine away for love, and even have fake love for the wrong person. However, fellowship and love are incomplete without God.

On **Rituals**, the discussion pertained to connecting to the beginning of the universe. Patriotic rituals can fade; and, as with the other forms of spirituality, the rituals are incomplete without God.

All seven of these spiritualities combined reveal the fingers of God in our lives.

We humans are highly developed personalities with free will. Fr. Pat suggested that we recall times when we felt complete and whole. Recalling a time in the second grade, in a parish church on Holy Saturday, with all the beauty of an Easter Vigil Mass, his "heart skipped a beat" as he "experienced the fingerprints of God" and felt complete and whole.

In the Catholic version of Christianity, we are expected to cooperate with God, e.g., by performing the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, because without God, we can too easily go off track.

Then we did "walking in silence." After listening to the reading from [Wisdom 13:1-9](#), we each took a half hour to walk outside, or go to the chapel, etc. meditat-

FR. PAT DOLAN
(continued from page 2)

ing on what we'd heard, in preparation for the 10:30 Mass.

After Mass, we heard Fr. Pat's talk on "Limitations and Community" – sort of a counterpoint to his earlier talk. He reminded us that he is not God; and neither is the Church, even though she's the bride of Christ. Christ is not only God, but also fully aware of what it's like to be human. We are each unique, like fingerprints. Since we're not God, we are not perfect. We must live with limitations, in ourselves, and even in the Church, which is run by humans. Even imperfect bishops and popes have argued and disagreed about important matters.

Christ, both human and divine, left us a Church run by his Apostles and their successors, instead of appointing angels to run things. By the time the Apostles all died off, ten percent of the Roman Empire had become Christian.

Discussing limitations, Fr. Pat spoke of human weaknesses, our gripes about church décor, sermons, priests being moved around, limited access to the Sacraments during the pandemic, the shortage of priests, frustrations, etc. How do we deal with all of this? Some problems can't even be solved; but Fr. reminded us that we must learn forgiveness of one another and to make a difference through volunteering and helping the world. And praying for vocations is one way to do so.

Two things the Church has done to help us deal with our own limitations are the Sacrament of Confession and training priests to help in spiritual development and giving advice. In Confession, God is "replying to us through the priest," who can even help determine what is and is not a sin.

Fr. Pat said the priest is a simply a "weak tool." And yet, "God is absolutely wonderful in being able to use a weak tool and still accomplish the good thing he wants to do."

He also spoke on the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Fear of the Lord is awe in the presence of God. Fr. Pat spoke of **Piety** as "fidelity within the community" and being able to take the structure of the Church, with its imperfections, and yet make the community better. We don't need to be "deterred by the brokenness of the community."

Fortitude, he said, is "an enduring courage, even in an imperfect Church." **Knowledge**, Fr. Pat said, is insight into what's really going on in Church teaching. Sometimes we can even use the Church's **Can-**

non Law. He said that even the bishops of the U.S. sometimes ask Rome for interpretations of Church law.

Fr. Pat said that **Counsel** is the opposite of gossip – "seeing the image of God in a person in order to help them." **Understanding** allows us to see things from another person's perspective. Finally, he spoke of **Wisdom** as going beyond knowledge and understanding – seeing things from God's perspective.

Using these seven gifts helps us make the Church better, and to counteract the weaknesses in the Church. These gifts help us deal with the divine power that comes to us.

We want to thank Fr. Pat for his time preparing and delivering the retreat speeches.

Thanks also to Melody Denson, VP of Programs, for organizing our event and coordinating with the Franciscans at Mt. St. Francis, as well as providing the picture with this article.

"SERRA MEETS" WAS HELD BY
ZOOM ON NOV. 18

Dr Moira McQueen, the President of Serra International, was our speaker for this 47th monthly "Serra Meets." Moira was a lawyer before becoming Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. She teaches moral theology at St Michael's in the University of Toronto and is a member of the Vatican's International Theological Commission. Moira and husband Matthew have seven children and twelve grandchildren. She has served as the President of the Serra Council of Canada, the founding President of the Serra Club of Halton, and is proud to serve on the Board of Serra International.



She joined us through this Zoom presentation to talk about the 2024-27 Serra International Strategic Plan. She started out summarizing its six goals:

- 1) Increase awareness of the work of Serra at all levels.
- 2) Improve local club engagement at the parish level.
- 3) Expand support for Serra Clubs.
- 4) Improve communications, branding, and messaging of Serra internally.
- 5) Improve communication internal structures and processes.
- 6) Increase Serra Clubs globally by 10% by 2027.

Moira spoke of the overarching goal as fostering a

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

culture of vocations to the ministerial priesthood among parishes, schools, and families.

She personally checked out many Canadian and USCCB websites and found that Serra is not often mentioned.

Moira spoke of what was learned by studying the strategic plans of other councils, especially Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Hong Kong and Italy. For example, Italy's clubs have lectures and seminarian songwriting contests sponsored by Serra clubs. Australia and New Zealand give each club a template for each club's strategic plan.

Quoting Bob Marley, she reminded us that, "Some people have hopes and dreams. Some people have ways and means." Then she said we need both! Visionaries, dreamers, doers, and evaluators are all in need throughout all of Serra.

Moira would also like to see more awareness of Serra around the world; to find other ways to connect with one another besides expensive international conventions; and to see us become even more focused on promoting vocations.

You can read the full draft of the SI 2024-2027 Strategic Plan [here](#).

You can watch her entire presentation, as well as the business portion of the meeting, [here](#).

For our December Serra Meets, Serra USA Council Episcopal Advisor Bishop Thomas Daily will be speaking on "Advent Reflections" – Monday, Dec. 16, at 8 pm Louisville Time.

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

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."

BELL, REV. GERALD L.*, 12/15/73, 51 years
CARRICO, REV. ADAM B., 12/19/15, 9 years
DESOUZA, C.P., REV. BRUNO, 12/4/04, **20 years**
GIBSON, C.P., REV. CHRISTOPHER, 12/20/75, 49 years
HERNÁNDEZ MENDÉZ, REV. FRANCISCO J., 12/8/17, 7 years
JOSE, C.M.I., REV. THOMASON A., 12/27/00, 24 years
JOSEPH, C.M.I., REV. AUGUSTINE, 12/29/09, **15 years**
MERKT, REV. JOSEPH T.*, 12/17/66, 58 years
MUNJANATTU, OFM CONV., REV. GEORGE M., 12/26/00, 24 years
MURPHY, REV. J. SCOTT, 12/12/09, **15 years**
POZHATHUPARAMBIL, OFM CONV., REV. JOHN, 12/30/01, 23 years
PUTHUSSERY, OFM CONV., REV. SHAJU, 12/30/01, 23 years
SHOONER, REV. JEFFREY P., 12/11/04, **20 years**
STILES, REV. J. ROY*, 12/18/63, 61 years
THANDIACKAL C. M. I., REV. SEEJO, 12/28/04, **20 years**
THOMAS, C.M.I., REV. JINTO, 12/28/11, 13 years
THOMAS, C.M.I., REV. JOSEPH, 12/30/98, 26 years
VADAKUMPADAN, C.M.I., REV. SAJU M., 12/29/92, 32 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 religious orders, can be found [here](#).

DECEMBER SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to one of our seminarians this month:

SAMUEL "SAM" MATTINGLY – December 29

You can get more information on all our seminarians, as well as where they're going to school, videos on hobbies, and videos on vocation stories by clicking [here](#).

THE SEASON FOR GIVING

Don't forget to support the Serra International Foundation. You can donate by credit card [here](#) or just mail your check to 333 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois, 60606.

SERRA U.S COUNCIL RALLY

The Rally will be in Miami next year, January 23

SERRA U.S. COUNCIL RALLY **(continued from page 4)**

-26, 2025

One of our many speakers will be Mother Adela Golindo, who gave the amazing final keynote address at the National Eucharistic Congress. Come be inspired.

Now is a great time to sign up for the 2025 Serra US Rally! Retreat to sunny, warm Miami this winter! Serrans from around the country gather to pray, learn, and be inspired to promote vocations in new ways.

Make new connections with other Serrans. Get new ideas to create a culture of vocations. Experience Miami's culture and beautiful weather. Special event with the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary, one of the fastest growing religious communities in the US.

Learn more and view the schedule [here](#).

ON HOLINESS AND SPIRITUALITY

The third part of our Serran mission statement is to further the holiness of our members. Here is some good reading to help us all:

Christmas and the fullness of time – Read the article [here](#).

Quote regarding the birth of Christ - "For there is no proper place for sadness, when we keep the birthday of the Life, which destroys the fear of mortality and brings to us the joy of promised eternity. No one is kept from sharing in this happiness. There is for all one common measure of joy, because as our Lord the destroyer of sin and death finds none free from charge, so is he come to free us all. Let the saint exult in that he draws near to victory. Let the sinner be glad in that he is invited to pardon. Let the gentile take courage in that he is called to life ..." - Pope Leo the Great (c. 400 - 461) - Read the article [here](#).

The spirituality of Christmas - It is not for us to decide how God will come to us. – Read the article [here](#).

Wonder of Wonders – Read the article [here](#).

Pope Francis's 2024 World Youth Day message: Be tireless missionaries of joy. – See the artwork [here](#).

And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." -- Luke 1:35.

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 Birthdays this month:

Neil Manias, Dec 25 Mike Knoop, Dec 27

Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of December: For pilgrims of hope - We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

This is the remarkable story behind this year's Christmas stamp, from the Indianapolis Museum of Art – Read the articles [here](#) and [here](#).

The new 2024-25 Archdiocesan Directory can be found [here](#).

November Seminarian Section of The Record – in case you didn't get to read it all, you can find it on pages A1, and A6-A8 [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.

Eastern	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12:00AM	EWTN Live	Fathers of Mercy Hour	Take 2 with Jerry & Debbie				
1:00AM	The Journey Home (E)	Best of The Journey Home (E)					The Wisdom of Father Groeschel
1:30AM							EWTN Bookmark
2:00AM	Mother Angelica Live Classics						
3:00AM	Scripture and Tradition	The Miracle Hunter	Women of Grace with Johnnette Williams				
4:00AM	Fathers of Mercy Hour	Fathers Know Best					The World Over
5:00AM	The Catholic Cafe	Chaplet of Divine Mercy / Fire on the Earth					Vatican Insider
5:30AM	Rosary with Mother Angelica						
6:00AM	Vatican Insider	The Son Rise Morning Show					Scripture and Tradition
6:30AM	Divine Intimacy Radio						
7:00AM	Word on Fire	The Son Rise Morning Show					Light of the East
7:30AM	EWTN Rosary						EWTN Rosary
7:45AM	Begin Daytime Power						
8:00AM	Sunday Mass from EWTN Chapel (Live)	Rosary with Archbishop Shelton Fabre					Holy Mass from EWTN Chapel (Live)
8:15AM		Divine Mercy Chaplet	Sunday's Homily Fr. Hardesty	Divine Mercy Chaplet			
8:30AM		Wisdom of Fr. Groeschel	EWTN Bookmark Doug Keck	Catholic Catechism Archbishop Fulton Sheen	Living Stones Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers	Divine Intimacy Dan and Stephanie Burke	
9:00AM	StoriesFromTheHeart	Fr. Spitzer's Universe (E)	Journey Home (E) Marcus Grodi	Best of Journey Home (E) Marcus Grodi			Fathers of Mercy Hour
9:30AM	EWTN Bookmark						
10:00AM	EWTN Pro-Life Weekly	Christ Is The Answer Fr. John Riccardi					Scripture and Tradition Fr. Mitch Pacwa
10:30AM	Catholic Cafe						
11:00AM	Register Radio Jeanette DeMelo	EWTN Live Fr. Mitch Pacwa	Scripture and Tradition Fr. Mitch Pacwa	Hall of Tyrannus (Live) Fr. Leger	EWTN Pro-Life Weekly	Conversations with Consequences Dr. Christie	The Spirit World (Live)
11:30AM	Light of the East Fr. Thomas Loya				Word on Fire BishopRobertBarron		
12:00PM	Rosary with Archbishop Shelton Fabre						
12:15PM	Divine Mercy Chaplet						
12:30PM	Beloved & Blessed Kimberly Hahn	Liturgy of the Word (starts about 12:28PM)					Vatican Insider Joan Lewis
1:00PM	Scripture and Tradition Fr. Mitch Pacwa	Doctor Is In (Live) 1-877-573-7825 Dr. Ray Guarendi					The Miracle Hunter Michael O'Neill
2:00PM	Mother Angelica: Answering the Call	Called to Communion (Live) 1-800-585-9396 Dr. David Anders					Catholics Coast to Coast
2:30PM	The Catholic Sphere						
3:00PM	The World Over Raymond Arroyo	OpenLine(Live) 1-800-585-9396 Fr. John Trigilio	OpenLine(Live) 1-800-585-9396 Fr Wade Menezes	OpenLine(Live) 1-800-585-9396 Fr. Mitch Pacwa	OpenLine(Live) 1-800-585-9396 Fr. Brian Mullady	OpenLine(Live) 1-800-585-9396 Colin Donovan	EWTN Live Fr. Mitch Pacwa
4:00PM	Word on Fire Bishop Robert Barron	Beacon of Truth with Dcn. Harold Burke-Sivers (Live)					Register Radio Jeanette DeMelo
4:30PM	Vatican Insider Joan Lewis						EWTN Bookmark Doug Keck
5:00PM	Rosary with Archbishop Shelton Fabre						
5:15PM	DivineMercyChaplet	Kresta in the Afternoon (Live) 877-573-7825					DivineMercyChaplet
5:30PM	End Daytime Power						
5:30PM	Family Theater	Kresta in the Afternoon (Live) 877-573-7825					CatholicCatechism Archbishop Fulton Sheen
6:00PM	Catholics Coast to Coast	Catholic Answers Live (Live)					The Bear Woznick Adventure
7:00PM	The Spirit World	Catholic Answers Live (Live)					The Miracle Hunter
8:00PM	Mother Angelica Answering the Call	The Journey Home	Mother Angelica Classics	EWTN Live	The World Over	EWTN News in Depth	Beyond Damascus
8:30PM	EWTN Pro-Life Weekly						
9:00PM	Beloved and Blessed	EWTN News Nightly					Vatican Insider
9:30PM	The Rosary is a Place						
10:00PM	Bible in a Year/Catechism in a Year Fr. Mike Schmitz						
11:00PM	Divine Intimacy	Called to Communion					Fr. Spitzer's Universe
11:30PM	Family Theater						
BOLD: Local Programs (E): Encore/Prerecorded AM Daytime Power: 7:45AM -5:30PM							

BOLD: Local Programs (E): Encore/Prerecorded

AM Daytime Power: 7:45AM -5:30PM