



Club chartered May 22, 1955

## Saint Serra Club of Louisville VOCATION DIGEST

**"Always Forward, Never Back"**

**– Saint Junipero Serra**

**JUNE, 2025  
Newsletter**

### **MISSION:**

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

## **SPECIAL EDITION - CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTERING OF THE ST. SERRA CLUB OF LOUISVILLE!**

### **POPE LEO XIV – ROBERT FRANCIS PREVOST – 267<sup>TH</sup> SUCCESSOR TO ST. PETER**

Our new pope was born Sep 14, 1955, and raised in Chicago. He graduated from Villanova University in



PA, an Augustinian school, where he received a bachelor's in mathematics. He received his diploma in theology at Catholic Theological Union of Chicago; and he went to the Pontifical Saint Thomas Aquinas University (Angelicum) in Rome, where he received his doctorate in Canon law.

Robert Prevost was ordained an Augustinian priest 6/19/82 and has the

O.S.A. designation (Order of St. Augustine). In addition to be a missionary to Peru, he was provincial over the Chicago province of Augustinians. He eventually was made head over all Augustinians worldwide.

Fr. Prevost was appointed a bishop in Peru in 2014 and became a Peruvian citizen in 2015. So, he is a dual US/Peru citizen. Bishop Prevost was appointed a Cardinal by Pope Francis in 2023.

Cardinal Prevost ran the Vatican office that selects and manages bishops around the world.

He was elected the first U.S. Pope on May 8, 2025, at age 69. And he was only the fifth pope to be elected in two days.

Choosing the name Leo XIV is a nod to Pope Leo XIII (who died in 1903), who was known for promoting social justice, fair wages, rights of workers, and safe working conditions; he opposed socialism and unrestricted capitalism; he wrote [Rerum Novarum](#);

and was known as the "Rosary Pope."

For more on this "nod to Pope Leo XIII," read [here](#).

Pope Leo XIV speaks Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and English. He is a "humble, intelligent and very pastoral person," according to Louisville's Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Kurtz, who has worked with Bishop Prevost.

For more on the new pope's biography read [here](#).

His first public speech, immediately following being chosen the Pope, can be read [here](#).

He will continue using the motto he had as a bishop – "Although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one."

For more on what makes Pope Leo XIV different, read [here](#).

We pray for our new Holy Father Pope Leo XIV!

### **DR. DEKARLOS BLACKMON SPOKE AT OUR MAY 5 MEETING.**

#### **Our Speaker**

**F. DeKarlos Blackmon, Ed.D.** is the Vice Chancellor for Pastoral Services of the Archdiocese of Louisville. Having completed graduate studies in pastoral ministry, business, and education, Dr. Blackmon has previously served as the Supreme Knight, chief executive officer, and chairman of the board of the Knights of Peter Claver, and deputy president and president of the International Alliance of Catholic Knights. Among his



many ecclesial endeavors, he has also served as a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Subcommittee on African American Affairs during the drafting of “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love,” the 2018 pastoral letter against racism. Dr. Blackmon is married to Dame Commander Kanobia A. Russell-Blackmon of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, who also serves as the chief communications officer for the Archdiocese of Louisville.

### *His Message*

Dr. Blackmon began his message by explaining that Pope Francis suggested that young people should not be afraid of what God might ask of them for the reason that God calls each of us to make definitive choices as he has a plan for each of us. Blackmon explained that in response to this plan, to move toward personal fulfillment, each of us must “discover that plan and respond to our respective vocations,” because it is in the Lord that we find profound joy.

Blackmon reminded his audience that they “have more opportunities than they think to encourage youth and young adults not only to ask the Lord for help but also to assure them that God will show them the way.” While it is easy sometimes to fall into the temptation of doing what others would want one to do, especially when secularism competes with our holiness, it is important to often reflect on the role of the family in which the seeds of vocations must be planted.

In *On Catechesis In Our Time*, Pope Saint John Paul II emphasized the unique and vital role of the family in catechesis, urging parents to begin faith education during the earliest stages of their children's lives. Blackmon highlighted that the family should serve as the primary school of love, mercy, and forgiveness. Asserting that it is our collective responsibility to nurture vocations among the youth, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide their paths thereafter, Blackmon emphasized to the lunch participants that young people hear more of what they see than what we say. He explained, “We’ve always got to be about the business of modeling our values. We must move forward, in every way, what it means to be about the dignity and respect of each human person, even the ones that drive you to distraction.”

Blackmon further articulated, “There is an overwhelming need in our world to be reoriented to the Lord. We need that right now more than anything. But to be able to receive the Sacraments, we need priests.” Explaining that this task is not merely reserved to the archbishop or vocation director, he said that the responsibility of fostering vocations rightly

belongs to each of us by virtue of our Baptism.

When speaking of himself and his own pastoral perspective, Blackmon simply conveyed, “If anybody asks you who I am, ‘Tell ‘em, I’m a child of God.’” Quoting the popular phrase of Archbishop Shelton Fabre of Louisville “to err on the side of mercy,” Blackmon asked whether we really presume the good, whether we are helping others, focused on truth, and turning over real leadership roles to young people in our parishes. He pressed the point that the Christian faithful must evangelize and do what is right, just, noble, and holy every day.

Speaking of his role as Vice Chancellor of Pastoral Services, he explained how he oversees various archdiocesan pastoral agencies like Faith Formation, Youth and Young Adults, Family and Life, Worship, Multicultural Ministry, Hispanic Ministry, Campus Ministry, and Diaconal Ministry. Blackmon emphasized how our pastoral agencies do not create programs to roll out to parishes and schools, but rather are endeavoring to foster relationships with pastors and parishes to serve the People of God.

In response to a question about where the archdiocese is going, Blackmon said that it’s hard to say exactly where we will be in a couple of years. However, he explained that if we are to “err on the side of mercy in presuming the good about all the people around us, and endeavor to be more synodal, ... to be on pilgrimage with one another, and to truly be companions on the journey, I think we can realize a lot.” Speaking of vocations, Blackmon commended Father Martin Linebach on having done a lot when one accounts for the number of seminarians we now have.

In closing, Blackmon mentioned that “this local church is going to reach new heights if we’re all committed and oriented towards what the Lord wants us to do, by virtue of our Baptism. If we’re walking together, looking for what the Lord wants of us, we cannot fail!” Blackmon simply ended by saying that if anyone asked what he’s about in his new roles within the archdiocese, there are three things – “Dr. Blackmon is about the evangelization of peoples, the salvation of souls, and not merely rolling out programs to parishes and schools because we don’t want to just throw things on the wall to see what sticks.”

For more information on DeKarlos, see The Record articles [here](#), [here](#), his recent, five-minute video [here](#) and his interview with Dr. Brian Reynolds on “What’s New in ArchLou?” [here](#).

We want to thank Dr. DeKarlos Blackmon for spending time with us, talking about his leadership roles, and sharing his views on vocations.

*(Thanks, too, for Lincoln Lewis and Tom Kennedy taking pictures at the meeting.)*



## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**Regular meetings** - We target to have most meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month, at **11:30**, 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.

**May 31 (Sat) - Ordination of Deacon Cole McDowell to the priesthood.** Cathedral of the Assumption - 11 am.

**June 2 (1<sup>st</sup> Mon) – Ellie Crawford** of the Young Catholic Professionals will speak.

**June 9 (2<sup>d</sup> Mon) - Rosary for Vocations**, 7 pm, by Zoom. See separate article for details.

**June 11 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed) - Holy Hour for Vocations** – After the noon Mass in St. Margaret Mary Chapel.

**June 16 (3<sup>rd</sup> Mon) – Seminarian Emerson Wells** will speak on his vocation journey.

**June 16 (3<sup>rd</sup> Mon) – “Serra Meets”** by Zoom – 8 pm Louisville time. **Saint John Vianney Center President & CEO David Shellenberger** will be speaking on “The pressures and struggles that those in spiritual vocations encounter.” See [here](#).

**June 24 (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).

## WE CELEBRATED THE 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CLUB CHARTER

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, we had a very special Mass with **Archbishop Shelton Fabre** at Holy Family Church,

In the Mass homily, Archbishop Shelton spoke of love, including the love we Serrans have for Christ, the Church, and for promoting all religious vocations. He even said that the increase in seminarians this fall is partly due to the efforts and prayers of Serrans, as well as that of the Vocation Office.

We want to thank the clergy who assisted with the Mass – **Archbishop Shelton Fabre, Fr. Jeff Hopper (our Assistant Chaplain), and Deacon Pat Wright.**

Also, **Frank Hartge**, the Regional Director for the Great Lakes Region, which includes KY, came all the way from Columbus, Ohio, to be with us. Frank is taking over the position of Regional Director which used to be held by our very own Ken Peet. He has



had a number of roles in his own club in addition to

having a son who is a diocesan priest in the diocese of Columbus. During our luncheon, Frank read to us the letter from USA Council President



followed by a luncheon at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center. This was to celebrate that on May 22, 1955, the Serra Club of Louisville was first chartered.

Anne Roat, recognizing this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Anne's letter is copied on the next page.

Archbishop Shelton Fabre also spoke at our lunch-

**continued on page 5**



## US Council of Serra International



May 19, 2025

Dear Serrans,

It is with great joy that I wish you, the Serra Club of Louisville, Kentucky, a Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This is a significant milestone in the history of your club and a cause to celebrate. To receive a charter for a Serra Club is an honor and shows a commitment to the mission of Serra International. For over seventy years you have fostered and affirmed vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life. For this I want to sincerely thank you.

I am pleased that Frank Hartge is here to represent the United States Council of Serra International Board at this momentous celebration. I know you will join me in welcoming him as the new Regional Director of the Great Lakes. From my own experience in visiting the Louisville Serra Club for the *Ignite* training, I know you to be a model Serra Club!

When he addressed the Serrans gathered for the Serra International Convention in Rome, our late Pope Francis spoke about friendship with clergy. *"to be friends to priests, sustaining their vocation and accompanying them in their ministry: with this great gift you enrich the Church! This is, above all else, what a Serran is – a special friend whom the Lord has brought into the lives of seminarians and priests. Friends who can offer priests support and regard their generous efforts and human failing with understanding and tender love. The Church and priestly vocations need you."*

In fulfilling the mission and ministry of Serra – you are following your unique vocation to be friends of priests and religious. For this dedication, on behalf of the United States Council of Serra International I want to wish another 70 years of fellowship and commitment to the legacy of St. Junipero Serra - *Siempre adelante* – always forward!

God bless,

Dr. Anne D. Roat  
President  
US Council of Serra international

*Creating a culture of vocations in the United States.*





eon. He announced that we expect to get at least five new seminarians this fall. And, for the first time in a long time, we expect to have four men in

college seminary, two from U of L. He also said that Deacon Cole McDowell will be ordained to the priesthood on May 31. Although we only ordain one new priest this year, the archbishop says the number entering the seminary will far outweigh the priests retiring or leaving the archdiocese.

A “culture of vocations” is what Archbishop Shelton says he really wants to create; and he knows that this is something Serra clubs promote. He says getting more seminarians is not about numbers. However, if young men see our posters showing a lot of seminarians, then the idea is not so foreign to them. He feels that young men can say to themselves, “If all of these guys are

thinking about it, maybe I can, too.” These posters nurture a culture of vocations.

Fr. Martin Linebach, our Vocation Director, stays in touch with many young men discerning a vocation. The archbishop thinks that all our new seminarians this fall have been working with Fr. Martin for at least a year.

The archbishop also spoke of the “Pope Leo effect” — that the new pope might have an impact on the growth of the Church as well as the number of young men considering a vocation.

He also mentioned that Fr. Kien Nguyen has decided to move back to Vietnam. Our policy has always been that when we educate Vietnamese seminarians, then after five years of priesthood in service to our archdiocese, they can choose to return home.

Archbishop Shelton also spoke of the federal regulations that are still being discussed in Washington,

**continued on page 7**

# NEWMAN CONNECTION

## Help your new college students CONNECT to their Catholic faith in campus communities at all colleges and universities.

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.

We are speaking here of all colleges and university campuses across the country. And if there's not a Newman Center or Catholic ministry *on* campus, there are parishes close to the campus.



Did you know:

- \* There are 6,000 college and university campuses in the U.S.
- \* Also, Pew Research shows that 79% of disaffiliated Catholics leave the Church by age 23 – during the college years.
- \* Thirty percent of U.S. adults now identify with no religion, with higher percentages among Millennials (born 1980 - 1995) and Gen Z (born 1996 - 2010).
- \* Despite 3.1 million Catholic college students in the U.S., only one in four four-year institutions and one in 64 community colleges have a campus ministry presence.
- \* Eighty-two percent of students engaged in Catholic campus ministry remain active in their faith post-graduation.
- \* Students engaged in campus ministry are six times more likely to attend Mass regularly post-graduation.
- \* They are five times more likely to consider a religious vocation.
- \* They are eight times more likely to stay connected to parish life after college.
- \* Students who are active in their faith during college and attend Mass, give four times more than their non-church going counterparts after college. (Source: Catholic Campus Ministry Association)

### 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 information 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 information passed on to 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 information and resources to help your graduating high school seniors at <https://newmanministry.com/#CTA-Forms>.

**Or, you can contact us with the information; and we'll take care of the rest.**

This information is sponsored by the **St. Serra Club of Louisville.**

Saint Serra Club of Louisville Contact: **Chuck Lynch**, (502) 442-9302, [ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com](mailto:ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com)



pertaining to foreign born priests, rabbis, and imams who have not become U.S. citizens. A rule change under the Biden administration has inadvertently forced some of these individuals to leave the U.S. and reapply for a visa to come back. Unfortunately, this affects some of the religious order priests in our archdiocese, as well as some of our diocesan priests.

We want to thank Frank Hartge and Archbishop Shelton Fabre for joining us for this special occasion, as well as the rest of the clergy who helped celebrate our special Mass.

*(Thanks, too, to Sally Lynch and Paul Willett for taking pictures.)*

## **SOME OF THE 70-YEAR HISTORY OF OUR CLUB**

*By Ralph Williams*

*Member of the St. Serra Club of Louisville*

The Serra Organization was formed by some Catholic businessmen in the state of Washington to fill a void in the Catholic Church. This was in 1934 when recruiting people to enter religious life was mostly left to individual priests and religious. Serra was born in 1935 to help the Church promote vocations. Serrans always think of themselves as ‘planting seeds.’

May 22 of 1955, the Louisville chapter was chartered by **Louis Aaru**, **Emmett Ratterman** and **Tom Ransdell** (all now deceased).

The Louisville Club provided many national and international leaders. Louis Aaru was the International President at one time. Emmett Ratterman and Tom Ransdell were on the advisory board for The Serra International Foundation (the fundraising arm of Serra); and **John Tichenor** (now deceased) was President of the USA Council. Serran **Ken Peet** has spent the last few years as a Regional Director and sat on the USA Council Board of Trustees.

The Louisville club initiated "Dinner with the Archbishop" - which was an annual pizza party for all the high school young men and women to learn about various vocations. They usually had about 200 to 300 youth in attendance.

The Louisville chapter once hosted the international convention held at the Kentucky Fairgrounds. The club also maintains contact with our archdiocesan seminarians on a regular basis (through our Adopt-A-Seminarian program) and sends ordination anniversary cards to all our priests.

The club once had silhouettes made of a priest and a nun. The kids would put their heads in the opening; and Serrans would take Polaroid pictures to give them.

Junipero Serra, chosen to be the Serra International's patron, was a Spanish Franciscan missionary who gave up teaching in Spain to come to Mexico and the U.S. in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and convert native Mexican and American souls to the Catholic faith. Along with Spanish soldiers and other Franciscans, he founded missions on the western coast of California – missions that turned into some of today's California cities. Rules written by Serra on behalf of native Americans became part of the laws in California; and many schools and roads were named after Serra.

Today, the club works with the Vocation Office on such projects as the Vocation Poster and Essay Contests and starting Parish Vocation Ministries. The club also promotes “31 Clubs” of people praying for vocations and for the Vocation Office; the Traveling Chalice and Traveling Crucifix programs; Altar Server Awards; Priesthood Sunday; Deacon Sunday; National Sisters Week; World Day for Consecrated Life; National Vocation Awareness Week; and much more.

When Pope Francis came to the U.S. in 2015, he canonized Junipero Serra. Afterwards, the Louisville club of lay men and women added ‘Saint’ to its name. The club's chaplain is **Fr. Pat Dolan** (of St. Stephen Martyr Parish), while its assistant chaplain is **Fr. Jeff Hopper** (of St. Christopher Parish).

For more information on the St. Serra Club of Louisville, go [here](#).

## **“SERRA MEETS” WAS ON MAY 19, 2025**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> monthly “Serra Meets” was held by Zoom, with **Fr. John “Jack” Wall, President of Catholic Extension Society**, as the speaker. He spoke on “Supporting Priestly Vocations in Mission Dioceses.”

Ordained in 1968 and now in his 80s, Fr. Jack was pastor of the old St. Pat's Parish in Chicago, the second oldest parish in that city. He also served in the vocations office of the Archdiocese of Chicago and was once the chaplain for a Serra Club.



The United States was once considered a mission country. But this ended in the early 1900s.

In many cities, dioceses could build cathedrals, parishes, hospitals and more. Yet, in poor rural areas, parishes were closing due to a lack of parish resources. The Catholic Extension Society (CES) was created in 1905 through the efforts of Fr. Francis Kelly. It had the first lay board of any Catholic organization in the country. Then it became affiliated with the Vatican.

It is a national, non-profit, fundraising organization that supports and strengthens poor mission dioceses across the United States. Currently, 86 of the 196 dioceses in the U.S. qualify for assistance from the CES.

The CES President is appointed by the Vatican and Fr. Jack was appointed to this position in March of 2007. He is now in his fourth five-year presidency.

Their mission is to work in solidarity with people to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities among the poor in the poorest regions of the U.S. They do this in three ways: (1) constructing church buildings (14,000 over the years); (2) promoting and supporting young people who will be future leaders of the Church, including priests as a primary focus; and (3) support diocesan ministries themselves.

They now support 400 to 500 young men studying for the priesthood.

Fr. Jack reminded us that “faith says we are more than our circumstances.” He spoke of millions of people in this country who are aspirational about their children. He gave many success stories for the CES. For example, the Diocese of Little Rock, where only 15% of the population is Catholic, is served by CES; and yet they ordained 50 priests in the last 15 years! One young man was from a poor family in South Carolina and was helped by the CES; this young man eventually became Cardinal Joseph Bernardin.

Few of the poor communities served by CES have colleges or seminaries. So, they must be sent to seminaries in other dioceses. (In Kentucky, the Owensboro and Lexington dioceses are served by CES.)

CES receives no government support and get their funds from donors around the country. They do direct mailing and once sold the “Extension Magazine” to 800,000 people. It’s now a quarterly magazine sent to anyone giving \$25 or more per year to the CES.

He also spoke of how many religious women are the evangelical leaders in the poor communities they serve.

Statistics and basic information on CES can be found [here](#). A map of the parts of the country helped by CES can be found [here](#).

You can watch Fr. Jack Wall’s presentation, as well as see the business part of the meeting [here](#).

## **FR. DALE CIESLIK IS RETIRING.**

Fr. Dale Cieslik, who was ordained May 22, 1982, will retire as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in Mount Washington. He will continue to serve as historian for the Archdiocese of Louisville.

We want to thank Fr. Dale for his many years of service to the archdiocese.



## **CELEBRATE SERRA INTERNATIONAL’S 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH THE CONVENTION IN KANSAS CITY, JUNE 26-29, 2025.**

The 82nd Annual Serra International Convention is coming to Kansas City! Slated to unfold at the Marriott Downtown Kansas City, the event begins Thursday, June 26, 2025, and concludes on the following Sunday, June 29, 2025.

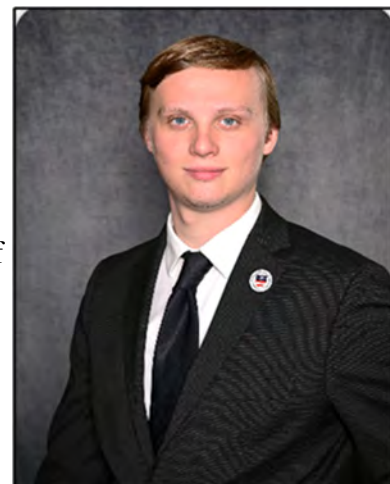
Speakers include Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Bishop James Johnston, Stephen Minnis, Cardinal Thomas Collins, Bishop Thomas Daly, Abbott Primate Gregory Polan, OSB, Sr. Nancy Rose Gucwa, OSB, Rev. Paul Sheller, OSB, and others.

Learn more about the convention and register [here](#) and [here](#).

## **CONGRATULA- TIONS TO A SEMINARIAN GRADUATING THIS SPRING**

The St. Serra Club of Louisville wishes to congratulate one seminarian who is graduating this spring. **Trenton Thieneman has graduated** from his undergrad work at Theological College in Washington, DC.

You can read more on Trenton, as well as all our seminarians [here](#). This site includes a video of their vocation journeys as well as their hobbies.



**ALL OF US SERRANS ARE RECRUITERS FOR THE  
SERRA CLUB. “EACH ONE, BRING ONE.”**





## **Seeking Sponsors for St. Serra Club Annual Retreat**



**\*\*Speaker:\*\* Gary Montgomery**

**\*\*Topic:\*\* Bringing Back Fallen Away Catholics**

**Saturday, September 6, 2025**

**St. John Paul II Community Center**

**3539 Goldsmith Lane, Louisville, KY 40222**

**9:00 am: Registration, coffee, and donuts**

**9:30 - 11:30 am: Presentations**

**\$10 per person**

**ALL Net Proceeds to the Archdiocese Seminarian Education Fund**

St. Serra Club of Louisville promotes religious vocations in the Catholic Church and fosters faith formation among its members.

Visit our website <https://www.ArchLou.org/Serra/>

### **Sponsor Levels:**

**Platinum: \$1,000 or more**

**Gold \$ 500 to \$999**

**Silver \$200 to \$499**

**Supporting Sponsors**

**\$100 to \$199**

**Contact Chuck Lynch, President**

**(502) 442-9302 or**

**ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com.**

**\*\*Deadline:\*\* July 15, 2025**

### **Sponsor Benefits**

- 1/8-page ad in \*The Record\* with a circulation of 57,000 households, listing all sponsors
- A full-page ad in two issues of our monthly newsletter, reaching 2,400 individuals, also on our website
- A full-page ad sent to all 110 parishes in the Archdiocese for potential inclusion in parish bulletins.
- Printed program listing sponsors and contact information if desired.
- Event posters thanking our sponsors.

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF PRIESTS**

Established by Pope St. John Paul II in 2002, the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests takes place every year on the **Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**, and encourages priests to reflect upon the importance and dignity of their vocation.

This year, the celebration is **June 27, 2025**.

### **Prayer for the Sanctification of Our Priests**

Divine Savior, Jesus Christ, who has entrusted the whole work of your redemption, the welfare and salvation of the world, to priests as your representatives, I offer you through the hands of your most Holy Mother Mary, this present day, whole and entire, with all its prayers, works, and sacrifices, its joys and sorrows, for the sanctification of your priests, and for all those preparing for the priesthood. Give us truly holy priests, inflamed with the fire of your divine love, who seek nothing but your greater glory, and the salvation of souls.

And you, Mary, good Mother of priests, protect all priests from dangers to their holy vocation; and with the loving hand of a mother, lead back to the Good Shepherd those unfortunate priests who, unfaithful to their exalted vocation, have gone astray. Amen.

## **ANNOUNCING THE NEW SLATE OF CLUB OFFICERS**

There will be an election of officers at the June 2 meeting. We need a quorum 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; **Ken Peet** - VP of Cultural Outreach.

The following will be Trustees: **Debbie Farmer**, **Kevin Thieneman**, **Lincoln Lewis**, and **Sam Willett**.

### *Positions not elected by the members*

**Ken Peet** will continue as the Club Rep with the Serra International Foundation.

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

For the record, our District Governor is now **Michael Murray** of the Northern Kentucky Serra Club. And our Regional Director is **Frank Hartge** of the Columbus Ohio Serra Club.

We thank all our volunteers!

## **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."

**BREEN, O.P., REV. JOSEPH ANTHONY**, 6/13/63, 62 yrs  
**CHUMO, F.M.H., REV. HILLARY**, 6/7/14, 11 yrs  
**DO, REV. PETER Q.**, 6/8/02, 23 years  
**ECKINGER, O.P., REV. AMBROSE**, 6/5/81, 44 yrs  
**ERDMAN, REV. JONATHAN M.**, 6/29/17, 8 yrs  
**GATLIN, REV. JEFFREY D.**, 6/3/00, 25 yrs  
**GOODIN, OFM, REV. RICHARD**, 6/14/14, 11 yrs  
**GREENWELL, O. CARM., REV. MICHAEL A.**, 6/2/79, 46 yrs  
**HUBBARD, REV. J. RANDALL**, 6/2/90, 35 yrs  
**KENNEY, REV. BRIAN A.**, 6/8/02, 23 yrs  
**MILLAY, REV. MATTHEW**, 6/1/24, 1 yr  
**MITCHELL, C.P., REV. JOSEPH**, 6/13/81, 44 yrs  
**NAUERT, REV. KENNETH**, 6/1/24, 1 yr  
**NAYLOR, REV. DAVID W. \***, 6/3/00, 25 yrs  
**PADGETT, REV. GARY T.**, 6/5/99, 26 yrs  
**RAMIREZ ARENAS, REV. J. CLAUDIO**, 6/10/14, 11 yrs  
**REAGAN, C.P.M., REV. THOMAS**, 6/4/16, 9 yrs  
**RITTER, REV. MICHAEL D.**, 6/6/15, 10 yrs  
**ROGERS, CPM, REV. JOEL C.**, 6/10/00, 25 yrs  
**SÁNCHEZ, REV. DAVID**, 6/8/02, 23 yrs  
**SCHULTZ, REV. MICHAEL**, 6/1/24, 1 yr  
**SCHWARTZLOSE, REV. JOHN A.**, 6/3/00, 25 yrs  
**STEVENS, REV. GLADSTONE**, 6/3/00, 25 yrs  
**STOLTZ, REV. JOHN J.**, 6/2/90, 35 yrs  
**TRAN, REV. V. YEN**, 6/1/24, 1 yr  
**TRAN, REV. VAN D.**, 6/1/24, 1 yr

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](#).

## **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, 44 yrs  
**DEVER, ROBERT G. ^\* (BONNIE)**, 6/1/96, 29 yrs



LEWIS, JOHN M. (DOTTY), 6/5/99, 26 yrs  
MATTINGLY, THOMAS E. ^\*, 6/11/83, 42 yrs  
STOUT, TIMOTHY (KELLY), 6/4/16, 9 yrs

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



**DEACON COLE  
MCDOWELL TO BE  
ORDAINED A  
PRIEST ON MAY 31**

Seminarian Deacon Cole McDowell's Presbyteral Ordination is scheduled for Saturday, May 31, at 11 AM at the Cathedral of the Assumption. All are welcome.

Also, Deacon Cole recently published a 3-minute video for young men discerning the priesthood. You can watch it [here](#).

**NEW LOUISVILLE  
VOCATIONS WEBSITE**

Our Vocation Office recently set up a new website for young people considering vocations. Check it out [here](#).

**PARISH VOCATION  
MINISTRY IDEAS**

If your parish has a vocation ministry, be sure to check out our updated "Parish Vocation Ministry Ideas" document [here](#).

If you do not have a parish vocation ministry but would be interested in setting up one for your parish, please contact Chuck Lynch at (502) 442-9302 or [ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com](mailto:ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com).

**THANKS TO FR. KIEN NGUYEN!**



We want to thank Fr. Kien Nguyen for his service to the Vocation Office as its Associate Vocation Director for the last few years. Ordained May 26, 2018, and most recently serving as pastor at St. Gregory Church in Cox's Creek, Kentucky, Fr. Kien has decided to move back to serve his family's diocese in Vietnam.

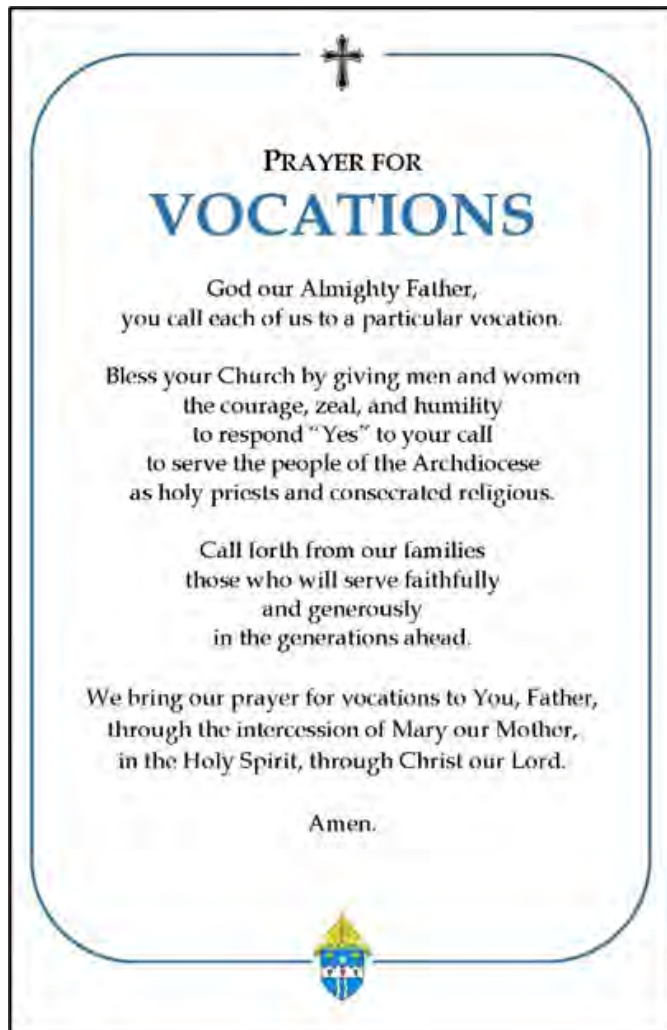
We wish Fr. Kien well in all his future endeavors!

Fr. Kien, thank you for your service!

**JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY  
"ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS"**

Our Saint Serra Club of Louisville gathers online by **Zoom** for a 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.



**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**  
**TO ALL**  
**FATHERS AND**  
**ESPECIALLY TO**  
**ALL OUR PRIESTS!**

## VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Serran and Vocation Office

#### Birthdays this month:

Debbie Farmer, June 7  
Fr. Kien Nguyen - June 20  
Justin Fout - June 22  
Paul Koprucki, June 27  
Ramsey Kraft, June 28  
Sam Willett, June 28

\*\*\*\*\*

**Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of June –**  
**That the world might grow in compassion** - Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.



## **HOLY ANGELS ACADEMY**

presents the 22nd annual

*Sr. Elise Benefit*

**"Hope Does Not Disappoint"**



### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ARCHBISHOP OF LOUISVILLE - SHELTON J. FABRE**

- Ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ on August 5th, 1989
- Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans (2006-2013)
- Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux (2013-2022)
- Catholic Relief Services Board Member (2017-2023)
- Archbishop of Louisville (2022-present)
- Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development (2024-present)

**MONDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2025 | 6:00 PM  
MELLWOOD ART CENTER, LOUISVILLE, KY**

Complimentary Tickets: [advancement@haalou.org](mailto:advancement@haalou.org)

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

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

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

## THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

presents

### **FLAGET DAY 2025**

Bishop Benedict J. Flaget was named the first Bishop of Bardstown in 1808. In 1839, he became the first Bishop of Louisville.

Flaget Day is a 1-day event sponsored by the Archdiocese of Louisville and led by the seminarians.

The day is filled with dynamic talks, small group discussions, prayer experiences, as well as plenty of fun.

Flaget Day is available **for high school men** who want to grow in their relationship with the Lord and to learn more about the priesthood.

**When:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025,  
8:30 AM – 5:30 PM

**Where:** Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, 501 Cherrywood Road, Louisville, KY 40207

**Dress:** casual, food and snacks will be provided.

**Scan to Register:**

**Direct questions:**  
to Todd Popson  
at email  
[tpopson@archlou.org](mailto:tpopson@archlou.org)  
or call/text  
(502) 727-7774



<https://www.archlouvocations.org/register-flaget-day>

## **ZOOM & SEE DISCERNMENT RETREAT**

Sitting at the Well with Jesus  
Sentada en el pozo con Jesus  
Ngôi bên giếng với Chúa Giêsu

**DATE & TIME:** July 19, 2025,  
10 AM TO 2 PM, and 5 PM TO 8 PM EST

**CONTACT:** SR. MAI-DUNG NGUYEN, OP  
(405) 248-7027 or [mai-dung.nguyen@oppeace.org](mailto:mai-dung.nguyen@oppeace.org)

Dominican Sisters of Peace

Sisters and Associates in  
Mission [www.oppeace.org](https://www.oppeace.org)

**Scan here to register by  
Wednesday, July 16!**

<https://oppeace.org/come-and-see-retreats/>

