



Saint Serra Club of Louisville VOCATION DIGEST

**JULY, 2025
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

FATHER COLE MCDOWELL WAS ORDAINED A PRIEST ON MAY 31

Seminarian Deacon Patrick Cole McDowell’s ordination to the priesthood took place on Saturday, May 31, at the Cathedral of the Assumption, with an assembly that filled the cathedral. It included a great choir, cantor, servers, musicians, many priests and deacons, fellow seminarians, and people from Fr. Cole’s hometown of Bardstown, including his parents, brother, sister and other relatives.

The 31-year-old Fr. Cole was all smiles and yet very humble throughout the whole ceremony. Archbishop Shelton Fabre and Vocation Director Fr. Martin Linebach were obviously extremely proud, as were Fr. Cole’s family!

On the feast of the Visitation, Archbishop Shelton spoke of a priest’s relationship with Mary, the Mother of God. And using a tradition that Archbishop Shelton brought from Louisiana, he had Fr. Cole give his first blessing to the archbishop.

Fr. Cole has been assigned as Associate Pastor of St. James parish in Elizabethtown, effective July 1.

You can read more of his background in The Record article

[here](#)

and about the ordination itself [here](#). Finally, you can view the entire ordination Mass [here](#).



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 for these regular meetings will be \$12 for members and \$15 for guests. Non-members wanting to attend should contact Chuck Lynch in advance.

July 1 (Tue) – Feast Day of St. Serra. 11 am Mass at Holy Family Parish Chapel. Installation of officers. **Reservations required for lunch at the Pastoral Center.**

July 7 (1st Mon) – no luncheon since meeting was shifted to July 1.

July 9 (2nd Wed) - **Holy Hour for Vocations** – After the noon Mass in St. Margaret Mary Chapel.

July 14 (2^d Mon) – **Zoom Rosary for Vocations**, 7 pm. See the separate article for details.

July 21 (3rd Mon) – **Luncheon for all Women Religious** in the archdiocese, at the Marteen Room of St. Stephen Martyr. **Fr. Chuck Walker** will be our speaker. Cost \$20. **Reservations required.**

July 21 (3rd Mon) – **“Serra Meets”** by Zoom – 8 pm Louisville time. **Father Lawrence Lew, O.P.** will be the speaker. He is the global Promoter General for the Holy Rosary. See detailed [here](#).

July 29 (Tue) – 11:45 - **Serra Board Meeting** - St. Margaret Mary Spirituality Center.

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

ELLIE CRAWFORD, OF THE YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS, SPOKE AT OUR JUNE 2 MEETING.

Ellie Crawford is the current president of Young Catholic Professionals (YCP) in Louisville. She was raised the fourth of four kids in a Louisville Catholic family. After attending St. Raphael the Archangel



School and Assumption High School, she studied chemical engineering at the University of Louisville. She now works for C&I Engineering doing distillery process design.

Ellie has been involved with YCP since June 2023 and was Co-Director of Operations from March 2024 to March 2025. She says this community has been an amazing gift in her life and she is passionate about the faith formation of young adults.

Young Catholic Professionals is a national organization dedicated to uplifting Catholic young adults in their 20s and 30s in their workplace communities. YCP was founded in Dallas, TX in 2014 and has since spread across the U.S. with 39 chapters. YCP Louisville was launched in 2020 and has grown dramatically since then, especially during the last couple of years. They have active participation from both Louisville and Southern Indiana and have had visitors from Cincinnati, Frankfort, and Lexington.

YCP Louisville is led by a young adult leadership team and a board of directors. Joe Guelda, their VP and Director of Finance since 2023, also helped with Ellie's presentation. He's a CPA with the accounting firm of LBMC and has been involved since before the chapter was officially launched.

Our St. Serra Club Chaplain, Fr. Pat Dolan, is a spiritual advisor to YCP of Louisville. YCP gets around 60 people attending their events since all their events are open to non-members.

YCP has 3 different event types - Executive Speaker Series, Networking Events, and Panel Discussions. The Executive Speaker Series invites an experienced Catholic leader to discuss how faith has impacted their career. Networking events promote relationship building and fellowship allowing young Catholics to connect to one another. Of these, we have events at places like Churchill Downs, but Ellie says members really enjoy Happy/Holy Hour. This is an event started at a Church and includes Eucharistic Adoration and Confession followed by time at a social venue. The Holy Hours encourage people to be involved with parishes outside of just Mass and "gather in faith, to offset all the secular world pressures." They hope to "catch the eye of people returning to their faith." And they plan on growth to achieve average attendance of 80 people later this year.

The YCP of Louisville just reached its five-year anniversary in January; and they hope to have a special party soon to celebrate that occasion. Many of their members are products of good Catholic educations and recently graduated college and are entering the workplace. A good number of them belong to St. Louis Bertrand or St. Martin of Tours parishes. Sever-

(continued on page 4)

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

al members are looking into the priesthood; and one is studying to become a Jesuit.

YCP Louisville partners with our Archdiocesan [Office of Youth and Young Adults](#), for which new leadership was just [announced](#) – **Fr. Tony Cecil and Jonna O'Bryan**.

YCP Louisville advertises in The Record, parish bulletins, Catholic social media, and through their [website](#).

Their emailing list was 350 people in 2024 and is up to 600 people now. They also have over 200 young adults connected through a GlueUp Channel, 300 followers on Facebook, and 50 on LinkedIn. They have recently connected with UofL and Bellarmine and are looking to connect with various high schools as well.

Some of the YCP leaders are also members in [Legatus](#), who call themselves “ambassadors for Christ in the marketplace.” Several other related groups have been created from connections made through YCP including pickleball and reading clubs.

We want to thank Ellie Crawford and Joe Goulda for updating us on YCP Louisville.

(Thanks, too, to Jerry Zimmerer for taking pictures at this meeting.)

SEMINARIAN EMERSON WELLS SPOKE AT OUR JUNE 16 MEETING

Our Speaker



Emerson Wells grew up in the Lyndon area. His family had him baptized at Our Lady of Lourdes and this is where he went to church much of his youth, though he grew up in the St. Albert Parish territory. He went to public schools K-12 and went to Eastern High School in Middletown (where Fr. Martin Linebach went to high school). He personally stopped attending Church from late elementary school or early middle school until his sophomore year of college.

He has a twin sister, one older brother, and one younger brother.

Emerson graduated high school in 2018 and attended Western Kentucky University where he received a B.S. in Business Economics in 2022 and ran cross country, as well as track and field for three years. He

ZOOM & SEE

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Sitting at the Well with Jesus

Sentada en el poso 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@opeace.org

Dominican Sisters of Peace

Sisters and Associates in Mission www.opeace.org

Scan here to register by Wednesday, July 16!

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



had a profound re-conversion to the faith in his sophomore year and started attending the Newman Center where he got to know the chaplain and began to fall in love with the priesthood. He entered Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, OH in 2023. He is a parishioner at St. Albert the Great in Louisville.

His Vocation Story

First thanking us for all we do to promote vocations, Emerson then told us that a little over five years ago, he would not have believed he'd be back in the Church and now a seminarian. He credits it all to the grace of God. He also says that his vocation story coincides with his conversion back into the Catholic faith.

As a child, he said the Catholic faith was not all that special to his family. His “faith was not richly fostered.” He remembers a parish priest at Our Lady of Lourdes who seemed special, but he wasn't quite sure what it was. Although he had “an awe” for the priesthood, he didn't know why a man would give his life like this. Late in middle school and early in high school, Emerson considered himself an atheist.

However, he saw Christianity in some of his friends. He felt they were good people; but he couldn't share their life. Athletics became a “proto-salvation” for him. A high school coach who showed his Christian faith did have an influence on Emerson.

Feeling he entered college with a “triumphant air,” and a scholarship, he felt he had his own three commandments to live by – stay out of trouble; get good

grades; and be good at athletics. He studied meteorology and then switched to business economics. However, he had a nagging sense of loneliness and an existential crisis, along with no strong relationship with any young women.

He said that he had a growing sense that even with school and running, something was missing. His internal dialogue made him realize that even if he developed a relationship with a young woman, it wasn't going to be enough. A sense of emptiness kept growing, even though he had a full "life with distractions."

His older brother had gone through some of this himself, and played a large role in Emerson's faith journey. The older brother eventually dated and married.

At one point, Emerson asked himself, "If God existed, how do I serve him?"

In the middle of Emerson's sophomore year, his older brother asked his younger brother to go to Christmas Mass with him. He said yes; and it was there that Emerson had a rebirth of faith. Going back to school, he joined the Newman Center activities, where Fr. Mike Williams was chaplain. The sense of awe was again revived in Emerson. He got back into regular Mass and the sacraments and became a regular at the Newman Center.

And yet, Emerson was afraid to tell his parents that he was considering the priesthood. Then one day his dad asked, "Are you thinking about the priesthood?" Then his dad said, "Well, there's a lot worse things you could want to do." Then Emerson told his mom.

Though the loneliness was receding, Emerson said that all discerners experience some loneliness. He met with a priest for spiritual direction; but covid hit and made things more difficult, with the sacraments being taken away to some extent.

Emerson was not confirmed when younger and received that sacrament in the summer of 2020. He graduated from WKU in 2022 and did some transitional work for a year after college, teaching religion at St. Francis of Assisi School, where he got to know Fr. Jonathan Erdman well. Then he applied, through Fr. Martin Linebach, to go into the seminary. He spent a summer sharing a rectory with Fr. Pat Dolan; and he's now completed his [Propaedeutic Year](#) (which includes eight months without a cell phone), as well as a year of pre-theology. He said that during the propaedeutic stage he rediscovered prayer.

We want to thank Emerson Wells for telling us of his vocation journey. And we wish him well in all his studies.

(Thanks, too, to Sam Willett for taking pictures at this meeting.)

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER, DR. THOMAS DAVIS!

Thomas Davis (not 'Tom' since that nickname is used by his father) is a physician in an emergency medical practice at Baptist East. He is also the Director of Stewardship at Immaculata Classical Academy. He



pointed out that about five percent of all male graduates of Immaculata (a very young school) are in the seminary; and this was a factor in his wanting to join the St. Serra Club.

Thomas grew up in Louisville, graduated from St. X High School in 2006, and did all his undergrad, medical school, and residency in Nashville. He also spent some time working in Mexico.

He was referred to us by Serran Lincoln Lewis and others. Thomas is married to Jillian; and they have four children - three girls and one boy, at ages 6 months to seven years.

Thomas is excited that his children, at Immaculata, see the religious life as a normal thing to do.

Thomas, welcome to the St. Serra Club of Louisville!

(Thanks, too, to Charlotte Tucker for the picture with this article.)

"SERRA MEETS" ZOOM MEETING WAS JUNE 16

About the Speaker

David Shellenberger, RN, BSN, serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the [Saint John Vianney Center](#) (SJVC) near Philadelphia. In this role, he works to increase awareness of the Center's prevention and educational services, as well as its assessment and behavioral health treatment programs.

David served as Chief Operating Officer at SJVC since 2014 and has worked at the center since 2008. Previously, he was the Chief Nursing Officer responsible for all clinical practice and medical care performed by the nursing department. Past positions also included Infection Control and Patient Safety Officer and Director of the Complex Extended Stay Program. David

helped develop the weight management and wellness program at the Saint John Vianney Center which assists residents with weight loss and healthy living through



diet, education, treatment, and emotional and spiritual support. David also provides workshops for SJVC as part of its outreach services. Topics include Stress Management, Health, Wellness and Weight Management. He is also a proud member of the Catholic Speakers Organization.

David has over 15 years of administrative experience in various

health care settings including Beaumont at Bryn Mawr in Bryn Mawr, PA, and HCR Manor Care in Pottstown, PA. He received his BSN from York College of Pennsylvania and maintains his RN license through the State of Pennsylvania.

The center now also does psychological vocation assessments for seminarians. And starting next year, they'll have a suicide prevention and education program.

His Presentation

The title of his presentation was “**The Pressures and Struggles Encountered by Those in Spiritual Vocations.**”

David spoke of the challenges faced by many clergy and religious – mental, physical, and spiritual. The SJVC was founded in 1946 for their local diocese but has become a national resource for the Church.

David spoke of clergy and religious facing issues of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, stress, fatigue, burnout, questioning their vocation, living in isolation, the pressures of lacking support, and sometimes having to do more with less. The center focuses on holistic treatment of the mind, body, and spirit.

The SJVC can house 50 people at a time, and averages around 40. The average stay is about four months. And 85% of their residents return to their active ministry.

He had several suggestions, especially for how we can help the parish priest. After a great Mass and homily, while the priest is saying goodbye to parishioners at the door of the church, it's not a good time to tell him a light is out in the restroom. Get someone else to take care of things like that.

David also suggests we encourage clergy and religious to take care of themselves through fitness and

nutrition. Don't make every gift unhealthy sweets. Remind them to take their day off, and to not give in to all the pressure to simply work more hours. Priests “often don't prioritize their own wellbeing.” He also said we need to respect their days off.

While building strong relationships with our clergy and religious, we must respect their boundaries – personal and ministerial. “Be judicial in what we ask for. Ask how we can help.” “Be patient and understanding,” David said.

Stressing volunteerism as part of the way to help our pastors, and spread the work around, David suggested telling your parish the areas in which you have gifts and strengths, knowing they'll come back and seek your help.

David also said we need to “pray for our clergy and religious – for their wisdom, peace, and inspiration.”

We should always take time to express our appreciation, whether by text, email, letter, or a short note. And we were reminded to use occasions like *Priesthood Sunday* (the last Sunday in September) and the *International Buy A Priest a Beer Day* (September 9 each year).

David also suggested that each parish work on encouraging positivity and addressing negativity.

Finally, Mike Downey (Immediate Past President of the USA Council) reminded us that Pope St. Francis [told us Serrans](#) “to be friends” to priests.

You can hear David's entire presentation, along with the business part of the meeting, [here](#).

TRINITY PLAQUE HONORING RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS AMONG THEIR ALUMNI

The St. Serra Club of Louisville is proud to announce that we've worked with the administration of Trinity High School and prepared a plaque naming all the Trinity alumni who have gone on to be members of the clergy. There are 10 priests, 1 consecrated religious and 14 deacons.

A simple framed version will be placed in one of the display cases in the rotunda where the history and different activities of Trinity life are displayed. A more formal matted and framed version will be placed in the school, perhaps in or around the chapel where it will be a reminder to all of Trinity's young men that fellow Trinity students have gone on to answer the call to a religious vocation.

On the following page is a copy of the information on the plaque honoring the Trinity High School Alumni who answered the call to be priests, deacons, and brothers.



**"THE HARVEST IS ABUNDANT BUT THE
LABORERS ARE FEW. SO ASK THE MASTER
OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS
FOR THE HARVEST." (MATTHEW 9:37-38)**



THESE HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL.

Rev. David Zettel, 1958
Ordained 5/14/1966

Bro. Carl Sternberg, CSC, 1958
First Vows 8/16/1959

Rev. Thomas Batsis, O.Carm, 1959
Ordained 5/16/1970

Rev. Gerald Bell, 1960
Ordained 12/15/1973

Rev. Kenneth Fortener, 1960
Ordained 5/17/1969

Rev. George Kilcourse, 1966
Ordained 5/29/1976

Rev. Mark Keene, 1974
Ordained 6/2/1984

Rev. Matthew Richard Roehrig, SSP, 1973
Ordained 11/17/1984

Rev. Louis Meiman, 1978
Ordained 8/1/1987

Rev. Jeffrey Nicolas, 1981
Ordained 8/7/1993

Rev. Brandon DeToma, 2000
Ordained 5/26/2018

Dcn. Louis Dugan, 1961
Ordained 8/26/2006

Dcn. John Koenig, 1963
Ordained 8/25/2012

Dcn. William Gnau, 1966
Ordained 8/24/2002

Dcn. Michael Layman, 1966
Ordained 8/21/2010

Dcn. Joseph Bishop, 1967
Ordained 6/11/1983

Dcn. Robert Hart, 1967
Ordained 8/23/2008

Dcn. Daniel Bisig, Sr., 1971
Ordained 8/21/2010

Dcn. Timothy Golden, 1971
Ordained 8/25/2012

Dcn. Tim Weinmann, 1974
Ordained 6/7/2008

Dcn. Michael Schmitt, 1980
Ordained 8/24/2024

Dcn. Mark Kelley, 1982
Ordained 8/20/2016

Dcn. Timothy Stout, 1986
Ordained 6/4/2016

Dcn. Timothy Ayers, H'06
Ordained 8/26/2006

Dcn. Randal Perkins, H'23
Ordained 8/24/2024

St. Serra Club of Louisville
For Vocations

"COME AND SEE" VOCATION WEEKEND

29 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER, 2025



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 not stopped praising and worshipping God daily in the heart of the Church for over **175 years (1848-2025)**

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE

Friday, August 29 - arrival in the afternoon before 3 p.m.

Monday, September 1 - 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.

We also provide 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.

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, 53 yrs
FONSECA MARTINEZ, REVEREND SILVIO J., 7/3/81, 44 yrs
HAYDEN, REV. JOSEPH F.*, 7/14/63, 62 yrs
IFEAKOR, REV. EMMANUEL-GARRET N., 7/11/09, 16 yrs
OTUMA, A.J., REV. GEORGE, 7/21/01, 24 yrs

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](#).

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 where they're going to school, videos on hobbies, and videos on vocation stories by clicking [here](#).

CALLING ALL SERRANS TO BE MENTORS FOR AN IGNITE WORKSHOP

We are having an **IGNITE Workshop on Saturday, October 11, 2025**. Volunteers from several parishes will be attending the workshop to learn how to establish and run a Parish Vocation Ministry in their own parishes.

Anne Roat, President of the USA Council of Serra International, says that what makes IGNITE workshops successful are the mentors. After several parishioners attend an IGNITE workshop, the parish is assigned a Serra Club mentor, who can come from anywhere in the country, but ideally from a nearby Serra Club. The mentor attends a 45-minute online webinar (**7:30 pm on Tuesday, August 12**) to learn how to be a mentor.

The mentor attends the October 11 Workshop and accompanies the parish for one year, typically calling a parish contact person once a month to check in on their status, asking how the parish vocation ministry is coming along, answering questions, and asking if

there's anything they can help with - usually taking 45 to 60 minutes per month.

If any Serran can help with this project, please contact Chuck Lynch at (502) 442-9302 or ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com.

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 ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com or (502) 442-9302.

JULY 1 IS ST. JUNIPERO SERRA'S FEAST DAY

You can learn more about Serra's life [here](#).

For a lengthier summary of his life, see the article [here](#).

Some quotes from St. Serra:

- "Let us bear every hardship for the love of God."
- "Be humble, as the humble find favor with God."
- "To a willing heart, all is sweet."
- "Always forward, never back."

For a good, four-minute video on the life of St. Junipero Serra, view [here](#). This is by Christian Clifford, author of "Saint Junipero Serra: Making Sense of the History and Legacy."

Fra Junipero Serra's 3-month Diary from 1769 (only 64 pages) can be purchased [here](#).

Google offers a free digitized version [here](#).

For five things you didn't know about St. Serra, read the article [here](#).

For 16 short lessons from the life of St. Serra, read the article [here](#).

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.



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 40220

9:00 am: Registration, coffee, and donuts

9:30 - 11:30 am: Presentations

Free Will Offering

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.

See 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, will list sponsors by ad closing
- A full-page ad listing sponsors in two issues of the monthly newsletter, reaching 2,400 individuals, also on our website
- A full-page ad will be 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.

VOCATIONS IN THE NEWS

Telling prominent monastic Catholic orders from one another - Read the story [here](#).

A 'PR' for the priesthood: Louisville seminarian offers Boston Marathon for vocations – Read the article [here](#).

Brazilian nun who was the world's oldest person dies at 116. - Read the article [here](#).

Record number of men attend military chaplain discernment retreat amid Armed Forces vocation shortage. - Read the article [here](#).

Pope urges young people to embrace vocation as 'pilgrims of hope.' - Read the article [here](#).

Exclusive photos: The hope of the world - See the photos [here](#).

Sister Tosca Ferrante, from the police force to the convent – Read the article [here](#).

Vatican switchboard nuns field growing calls about pope — but no, you can't speak with him directly – Read the article [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:

6 Bible verses to help you get fit this year - Read the article [here](#).

Want a Happier 2025? It Comes Down to Two Words - "Helping others" – Read the article [here](#).

Strive to put into practice your daily resolutions. – Read the article [here](#).

Everyday Lessons from St. John Paul II – Read the article [here](#).

Art on the Apostles – See the artwork [here](#).

This is what pleases Jesus best, according to St. Faustina – Read the article [here](#).

Ten Spiritual Lessons from St. Teresa of Avila – Read the article [here](#).

The wisdom of ikigai, the Japanese secret to longevity – Read the article [here](#).

How could my fasting help stop a war? – Read the article [here](#).

The One Thing Necessary – Read the article [here](#).

The mental trick that enabled me to become a servant – Read the article [here](#).

What Pope St. Paul VI said is the mystery to understand the whole of Christianity. – Read the article [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 formation in discernment - Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

The Fifth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, celebrated on the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Grandparents of Jesus, will be Sunday, July 27 this year.

The theme this year is “Blessed are those who have not lost hope.” (cf. Sir 14:2). Read more on the subject [here](#) and [here](#).

QUOTE - St. John Paul II said in [*Novo Milenio Ineunte*](#) (At the beginning of the new millennium), “... young people, whatever their possible ambiguities, have a profound longing for those genuine values which find their fullness in Christ. ... If Christ is presented to young people as he really is, they experience him as an answer that is convincing and they can accept his message, even when it is demanding and bears the mark of the cross.” (NMI #9)

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

Thanks to **Paul Willett** for maintaining our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SerraLouisville.

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

FRIENDS OF SERRA - Affiliates of the Saint Serra Club of Louisville

PROMOTING VOCATIONS THROUGH PRAYER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

WHAT IS THE SAINT SERRA CLUB? WHAT DO WE DO?

We are an international lay group of men and women, who do what we can to support all people who have chosen a religious vocation. We also promote future vocations, and try to develop the faith formation of our Members.

We usually meet twice a month (first and third Mondays for lunch, usually at the same location each month), with speakers at almost all our meetings.

In addition to prayers for vocations, we have organized annual luncheons for women religious; sponsored send-off luncheons for our seminarians in August of each year; sponsored the Men's and Women's Archdiocesan Conferences; Coordinated with the Vocation Office for the Vocation Poster and Essay Contests (providing certificates and cash prizes); promoted the Newman Connection, which keeps college students in touch with the Church through campus ministry or nearby parishes; sponsored the pictorial seminarian prayer card for the Archdiocese; sent birthday cards to our seminarians; promoted the Traveling Chalice Program and the Traveling Crucifix Program in schools and parishes; given boxes of candies to 500 sisters for Christmas; promoted the 31-Club of parishion-

ers each picking a day of the month to pray for vocations; promoted Adopt-A-Seminarian and Adopt-A-Priest programs; promote Priest Appreciation Day and Deacon Appreciation Day; and much more.

About \$4,000 of our budget is spent on these items. Member dues (\$110 every six months) help cover the cost of the many things we do. Also, about 42% of our Member dues help support Serra International and the USA Council of Serra International.

WHO ARE FRIENDS OF SERRA?

Some Serra Clubs have "Friends of Serra" for people who are unable to become full Members due to time constraints or the physical constraints of getting out of their homes.

The Saint Serra Club of Louisville has decided to start a Friends of Serra program, asking for donations of **at least \$50 per year**. (That's less than \$5 per month.)

Our club could do so much more if we had additional financial support. This would include increasing prizes for vocation poster and essay contests, doing more for Clergy Appreciation Day, senior women religious, seminarians, etc.

BENEFITS OF BECOMING A FRIEND OF SERRA

- 1 - You never have to attend meetings, pay Member dues, or pay national or international dues.
- 2 - If you ever choose to attend our meetings, you can attend at Member Prices, instead of the higher price we normally charge non-Members.
- 3 - You will receive our monthly Club Newsletter.
- 4 - You can provide input to our Club and its Board of Directors. We always welcome ideas on how to improve the methods to achieve our mission.
- 5 - Financial support is tax deductible.
- 6 - We will recognize you as a Friend of Serra in our newsletter. (Of course, anyone wishing to remain anonymous can do so.)
- 7 - You'll have fellowship with other like-minded Christians who care about the future of the Catholic Church.
- 8 - Through interaction with our Club and its Members, you can learn more about Serra and hopefully consider becoming a full Member at some later date.

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION ON BECOMING A FRIEND OF SERRA, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM.

You can mail it to Bob Hublar (our Secretary) at 300 East Daisy Lane, New Albany, IN 47150.

Or you can just call Bob at (502) 216-0945.

Or you can email the information to Bob at RJHublar@Bellsouth.net.

Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____