



Club chartered May 22, 1955

## Saint Serra Club of Louisville VOCATION DIGEST

*"Always Forward, Never Back"*

*– Saint Junipero Serra*

**AUGUST, 2025  
Newsletter**

### MISSION:

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

### **JULY 1 MASS FOR ST. SERRA FEAST DAY & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

At our Mass celebrated by Assistant Chaplain Fr. Jeff Hopper, we installed the newly elected officers.

The officers now are: **Chuck Lynch** - President & VP of Communications; **Bob Hublar** – Secretary and VP of Vocations; **Jerry Gonsoski** -Treasurer; **Lynn Haner** - VP of Membership; **Melody Denson** - VP of Programs; **Ken Peet** - VP of Cultural Outreach.

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

**Ken Peet** will continue as the Club Rep with the Serra International Foundation. Also, Ken is now a member of the Serra International Board of Trustees.

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!

*(Thanks to Kathy Fehder for the pictures.)*

### **NEW MEMBER – BEN SMITH**

Ben became a member effective with the June 24 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Ben is married to Holly, and they have three girls, ranging from 5 months to 14 years old (soon to start at Assumption High School). The middle child is a fourth grader at Corpus Christi Classical Academy (CCCA).

Originally from the Kentucky Holy Land, with parents from Springfield and Lebanon, Ben grew up in



Left to right – Sam Willett, Ken Peet, Chuck Lynch, Lincoln Lewis, Bob Hublar, Jerry Gonsoski, Fr. Jeff Hopper, Deacon Bill Klump, and Lynn Haner. Not present for the picture were Melody Denson, Debbie Farmer, and Kevin Thieneman.



People who attended our St. Serra Feast Day Mass

Lebanon, going to St. Augustine School.

When he was 14, his parents found a way for him to go to St. Xavier High School with the help of host families from St. Agnes and Holy Family parishes.

Ben joined the Marine Corps Reserves at 19 and then transferred to the Army National Guard in 2013, where he still serves as an infantry officer. He and his wife owned an Allstate agency from 2016 to 2025, but he says none of that ex-



cited him as much as his current job as Director of Advancement at Corpus Christi Classical Academy, which he started just a few months ago.

He sees CCCA “fighting for the continuity of Catholicism in this country.” He talks of the two main pillars of this issue. First is the magisterium of the Church - our clergy and Church leadership. Second is the family - the home, family dinners, and regular practices like the Rosary at home.

He challenges us to find a school in this region that is more dedicated to supporting these two pillars than CCCA.

Ben sees the Church as not just looking for bodies to be priests and deacons but “good priests, and good deacons.”

He and his family live in Shelbyville and belong to the Church of the Annunciation, where CCCA landed after moving from Simpsonville.

Ben, welcome to the St. Serra Club of Louisville!  
(Thanks to Sam Willett for the picture with this article.)

### **KEN PEET SPOKE ABOUT HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE 82<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN KANSAS CITY.**

#### **About our speaker**

Ken has been a Serran since 2013. His wife is Pat; and they have three daughters, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



He's a retired mechanical engineer, who owned his own firm. He's a member of St. Gabriel Parish. He has been Secretary for our club, a member of our Board of Trustees, District Governor, Regional Director, Club Rep with the Serra International Foundation, and now a member of the Board of Serra International (SI).

Ken attended the June SI Convention in Kansas City; and he agreed to share with us a few things he learned at that mtg.

#### **His presentation**

Speakers included a cardinal, three bishops, several priests, and many others.

Ken said that we were designated as a USA Council Banner Group for the level of our individual member donations to the Serra International Foundation. Our club members gave a total of somewhere from \$1,000 and \$1,999 to the Serra International Foundation in the last year.



Strongly recommending that we check out the new USA Council (USAC) website at [www.SerraUS.org](http://www.SerraUS.org), Ken said there are many changes and lots of information.

Ken said there were about 330 participants this year – which is more than in some other recent international conventions. (And there were 3,000 at the Kansas City International Convention in 2000.)

Meetings are losing money. However, SI and USAC are working on this. In the future, USAC Rallies are to be held at seminaries, instead of downtown hotels; and there will be a focus on leadership. The January 2026 Rally will be held at the St. Augustine Institute in St. Louis. The 2027 Rally will be held in Scottsdale, AZ.

Ken announced the location of the SI Conventions for the next few years – 2026 in Indianapolis; 2027 in Rome; and 2028 in Toronto.

As a delegate, Ken voted on our behalf on policy issues. The new slate of SI officers and its budget were approved. A new standing committee, the HR Group, has been formed; and Ken is on that committee. Whenever there is an SI convention, the USAC Board also holds one of its quarterly meetings.

Dr. Moira McQueen, the outgoing SI President, also spoke at the convention.

The quarterly SI newsletter “Serra Connects” can be found on the SI website. Each newsletter provides reports from the councils around the world. It can be found online [here](#).

We have 8,000 Serrans in the U.S. and 4,500 Serrans in the rest of the world. The USA Council is one of nine councils worldwide.

Ken stressed that at SI they do talk about issues raised by regular members.

As our local club's VP of Cultural Outreach, Ken wanted us to know that the [SPARK website](#) is

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# NEWMAN CONNECTION

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## 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)

getting translated into Spanish, as is the [“Call to Holiness” book](#). Both should be available within a few months.

At the USAC Board meeting, there was discussion of a 2021 CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) Report regarding cultural diversity in vocations to religious life in the U.S. The details can be found [here](#).

Anne McCormack is back in the Chicago offices of USAC and SI. She is now the Director of Communications.

There are now people within the Serra organizations who are encouraging us Serrans to add a sixth decade to Rosaries we say – one for vocations.

Cardinal Collins, age 78, and our Episcopal Advisor, talked about his experience voting in the conclave that chose Pope Leo XIV.

Many of the SI convention presentations can be found on the Serra YouTube Portal [here](#).

Eleven videos from the January USAC Rally can be viewed [here](#).

Thanks to Ken Peet for attending the convention and giving us this update.

*(Thanks, too, to Sam Willett and Kathy Fehder for taking pictures at this meeting.)*

## **WE ARE CELEBRATING SEVERAL BIG THINGS THIS YEAR.**

- \* It's the Jubilee Year of Hope.
- \* This year we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canonization of St. Serra. (9/23/15)
- \* We celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our club.
- \* We are celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Serra International.
- \* June was the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jesus' revelation of His Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.
- \* This year marks the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' celebrated “cantic of creatures,” where he praises God for the sun, the moon and other natural elements he refers to as brothers and sisters.
- \* This fall, we are expected to have 23 seminarians – the most we've had in about 20 years.

## **THE LIFE OF ST. SERRA**

At the July 1 meeting, celebrating the feast day of St. Junipero Serra, President Chuck Lynch spoke on the life of our patron saint.

St. Junipero Serra was born in 1713 on the island of Majorca in Spain.

At age 17, he joined the Franciscans. He took vows and chose the name Junipero, in honor of a friend of

St. Francis. He spent the next seven years in his studies for the priesthood.

At age 24, he was ordained a priest and became a renowned professor of philosophy and theology at a university in Spain.

He eventually felt the call to go to the “New World” and evangelize to the non-Christians. At age 35, he received permission to do so.

After landing on the east coast of Mexico, he walked 250 miles to Mexico City. It was on this journey that he was bitten by an insect and developed problems with his leg. He suffered with these problems for the rest of his life and nearly died twice from them.

He spent the next 20 years as a missionary, teacher, and retreat director in different parts of Mexico, including the Baja Peninsula.

Around age 56 he led a group of Franciscans, accompanied by Spanish soldiers, to colonize the west coast of North America for Spain, and evangelize native Americans who lived on the cost of what is now California.

He established nine missions in California; and after his death, his fellow Franciscans established another 12 – for a total of 21 missions. From San Diego all the way up to Sonoma, 40 miles north of San Francisco – a distance of 537 miles. The missions are each about 25 to 30 miles apart.

His work in California is what St. Serra is most well-known for.

He walked over 1,000 miles back to Mexico City, the seat of the Spanish government in North America at the time, in order to advocate for the rights of native Americans. His list of recommendations ended up in what is now the state constitution for California.

Serra baptized over 6,000 people and confirmed more than 5,000.

He brought to the native Americans not only faith, but education, employment, skills for growing crops, healthcare, a decent standard of living, and the foundations of future cities.

Serra died peacefully August 28 of 1784, at the age of 70. He was buried in Carmel, in one of the churches he built.

To put his life in perspective, Serra's birth and death were each within 10 years of the birth and death of Benjamin Franklin. And on the east coast of North America, we had the American Revolution in 1776 – in the last five years of Serra's life.

He was considered so important to California's his-



tory that the state put a statue of him in the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capital Building in Washington, DC. in 1931, four years before Serra International was created. This is where every state can put two statues of its most important statesmen. (The other California statue is of Ronald Reagan.)

In 1934, when the cause for sainthood for Serra was initiated, several men on the west coast started talking about an international organization to help the Church. In 1935, Serra International was formed.

Serra was beatified 9/25/88 by Pope John Paul II, after a 1960 miracle attributed to him was confirmed by the Vatican. A nun in St. Louis was cured of lupus by the intercession of Blessed Serra. So, it took 28 years to go from miracle to beatification.

After the accumulation of 7,500 pages of documentation, Serra was canonized by Pope Francis on 9/23/15, without a second miracle due to Serra's holiness, which the Vatican explained in three categories: his missionary zeal; his Marian devotion; and his witness of holiness.

He was the first U.S. Hispanic saint, and the first saint canonized on U.S. soil.

We all know of Serra's motto – Always forward, never back.

Thanks to Chuck for speaking on St. Serra.

*(Thanks, too, to Sam Willett and Kathy Fehder for taking pictures at this 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**, at the **Golden Corral** (4032 Taylorsville Road) in Hikes Point, unless noted otherwise below. The charge will be \$12 for members and \$15 for guests. Non-members wanting to attend should contact Chuck Lynch in advance.

**Aug 4 (1<sup>st</sup> Mon)** – No meeting due to the Seminarian Luncheon later that week.

**Aug 8 (Fri)** – **Seminarian Luncheon** (not open to the public) – 11:30 at the Pastoral Center.

**Aug 11 (2<sup>d</sup> Mon)** – **Zoom Rosary for Vocations**, 7 pm. See the separate article for details.

**Aug 13 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed)** - **Holy Hour for Vocations** – After the noon Mass in St. Margaret Mary Chapel.

**Aug 18 (3<sup>rd</sup> Mon)** – **Fr. Bertrand Hebert, OP**, of St. Louis Bertrand Parish, will speak on his vocation journey.

**Aug 18 (3<sup>rd</sup> Mon)** - “Serra Meets” by Zoom – 8 pm Louisville time. **Bishop Michael Burbidge** will speak on fostering vocations. See details [here](#).

**Aug 26 (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).

## **OUR ANNUAL LUNCHEON FOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS WAS JULY 21**

Attending this special luncheon were members of several orders – Sisters of St. Benedict, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Dominican Sisters, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, Little Sisters of the Poor, and the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph.

### **Our Musician Rick Knoop**

Throughout the luncheon, we also had background music from Rick Knoop, the Music Director for Holy Family Parish and organist at St. Thomas More, as well as a retired teacher of science, German and music at DeSales and St. Xavier High School. In addition, Rick musically directed 28 high school musicals at St. Xavier.

Rick is always honored to play for the sisters of all orders, who helped many future church keyboardists develop great piano and organ skills to promote great sacred music programs. He personally is most grateful to Sisters of Charity, Sr. Mary Elizabeth SCN and the late Sr. Mary Pauline Englert SCN, who inspired intense piano studies at St. Thomas More.

Rick specifically said, "Sisters, please know the gratitude we all feel for the sacred prayerful musical approach you have always instilled in our students for the sacred liturgy, along with opportunities to perform theatre and choral productions. The stages of many concert halls worldwide are graced with musicians and singers whose foundation began with determined holy religious women. May God bless you all!"

### **Our Keynote speaker was Fr. Chuck Walker**

The stork brought Charles DeWayne Walker to the Loretto, Kentucky home of Buddy and Kitty Walker on September 5th, 1952. (At least that's what his parents told him.) He's the oldest of their three children. They were very active members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Marion County until 1965. He finished grade school at St. Rita after his family moved to Louisville to be



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# Bringing Back Fallen Away Catholics

*Net Proceeds to Seminarian Education Fund*

Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025  
St. John Paul II Community  
Center,  
3539 Goldsmith Ln., Louisville, KY,  
40220  
9am – 11:30am



## OUR SPONSORS INCLUDE

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Anonymous



## Gary Montgomery

Gary, an award-winning catechist, will help us grow in our faith as we pray for and approach our fallen-away Catholic friends and relatives.

With inspiration, motivation, and Scriptures, he will guide us in how to get them back into the Church.

Admission -

Free Will Offering

To register, contact: Chuck  
Lynch -

502-442-9302 or  
ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com





out that the Hebrew word for “blessed” can also be interpreted as “happy.” So, happy are the poor in spirit; happy are the meek; happy are the sorrowful. If we live our lives in complete trust in God, we can have joy.

Jesus said at the last supper, “I have

closer to GE, where his dad worked. He graduated from DeSales High School in 1971. He attended seminary at Bellarmine and St. Meinrad and was ordained to the priesthood in 1981.

He served as associate pastor at St. Raphael and Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Danville. He has had the honor of being the pastor of good people at the Churches of Emmanuel in Albany, Holy Cross in Burkesville, St. Pius X, St. Polycarp, St. Clement, St. James in E-town, UofL Cam-



told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete” (John 15:11) “As I have done, so you must do,” Christ also said, telling the Apostles and all of us to treat life with abandon, with joy, and to live life freely.

We are to have trust in Christ. Joy doesn’t come from possessions or

pus Ministry, St. Peter the Apostle, Good Shepherd, Christ the King, Immaculate Heart, St. Augustine, St. Martin de Porres, and St. Bernard. He is currently the senior associate at St. James in E-town and the Vicar for Senior Priests. He has been blessed by God in the countless people he has served with and by God's people.

#### Fr. Chuck Walker’s Presentation

Fr. Chuck spoke on “The Joy of Ministry.” At one time he had the joy of working with people in the Southern Kentucky Missions, near Somerset, when it was part of the Louisville archdiocese. He spoke of the joys of working with so many groups in that area.

Referencing the encyclical “The Joy of the Gospels” by Pope Francis, Fr. Chuck reminded us that our Christian duty is to be joyful. We are called to live the Gospels in a joyful way. He talked about the Beatitudes and the use of the word “Blessed.” He pointed



power but from trusting God.

He remembered the time a young boy read the petitions at Mass at St. James in E-town. The fifth grader read, “We pray for respect for life, from *constipation* until natural death.” Fr. Chuck said everyone had trouble keeping a straight face in the rest of the Mass. But they had joy!

Another story, from St. Pius X parish, was about a kindergarten teacher telling him of the kids being tested on knowing their colors, spelling out the color next to a blotch of colors. One boy kept looking over

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**"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](mailto:vocations@monks.org) or call 502-549-4116.**



the side of his desk, and got all the colors right, except for one. For that color, he wrote WASHABLE – obviously cheating by looking at his box of markers.

Fr. Chuck spoke of how he finds it rewarding to help people who are having a hard time dealing with pain, suffering, death, etc. “It’s a joy to bring comfort to somebody,” he said. He added, “It’s a joy to point them toward a heavenly future.”

In giving us the Eucharist, Christ said, “Do this in memory of me.” And Christ wasn’t just talking about the meal, but also what he was about to do the next day – self-giving and sacrifice. This is joy. Happiness comes from that kind of trust.

He asked us, have you ever gotten complimented for something you didn’t do or say? Or were you ever complimented for something you have forgotten? Fr. Chuck said that it happens to him a lot. But somehow the Holy Spirit was involved, even though he personally got the credit. He finds that very humbling and very joyful, because he’s seeing God at work in people’s lives. People getting messages he’s not capable of delivering can be a joyful moment.

“We all make impacts that we don’t even know about,” Fr. Chuck said. And most of the time we know it’s not really to our credit that it happened.

Fr. Chuck ended by saying to the sisters, “It is an honor to be with you because all of you are an inspiration to somebody else, including me; and it is humbling; it is joyful; and it is holy to be in the presence of great ministers.” He encouraged us all to thank God for the people who influenced us and to thank God for putting us where we can influence others.

#### We had a great time!

We had a great meal, catered by Goose Eatery and Hangout. And after the meal, we gave goodie bags to each of the sisters.

We had a show of hands indicating which sisters had been with their orders for 20, 30, 40 years, etc. A few have been with their orders for over 80 years!

And at the end, we had Rick Knoop on the keyboard as all the sisters sang “Edelweiss.” You can view a video of the singing [here](#).

We want to thank Debbie Farmer for organizing the caterer and volunteers to set up before the luncheon and to clean up afterward. Thanks to Lynn Haner for coordinating all the goodie bags. And thanks to all the other Serrans who helped with the luncheon.

Thank you, too, to St. Stephen Martyr Parish for allowing us to use the Marteen Room.

As one of the largest of our meetings, our annual gathering with the women religious is always a day of great pride. And the sisters were very appreciative.

*(Thanks also to Lincoln Lewis and Sam Willett for taking pictures.)*

## **“SERRA MEETS” WAS HELD ON JULY 21, 2025**

This was the 56th “Serra Meets” held by Zoom.

Our Speaker, **Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP**, is the Promoter General for the Holy Rosary for the Dominican Order. He has made it his mission to travel the world, preaching and promoting the power of the Rosary. He is also an [accomplished photographer](#) and [published author](#).

He uses literature and sacred art as part of his ministry. And Fr. Lew leads retreats and international missions, as well.



Born in Koala Lampur, in Malaysia, his family moved to Singapore, an island country and city-state in Southeast Asia, before he was a teenager. Some of his relatives were very devout Protestants, especially his grandmother who read Scriptures regularly. However, they were very anti-Catholic.

Fr. Lew grew up with a “great sense of longing for liturgy.” He also was surprised that religions other than his own had artwork in their churches. When he asked his relatives why they did not put art in their churches, an uncle said, “We have the word of God.”

At age 12 in Singapore, he ended up going to a Catholic school but told the Catholic students that they were not Christians and would go to Hell!

Being an avid reader, he became familiar with the Catholic faith and began to see it differently. Fr. Lew studied the history of our dogma and doctrines, eventually realizing that the Catholic Church was “the real Church of Jesus Christ.” He discovered the Mass and was deeply moved by all he saw and learned of our faith. A Jesuit chaplain taught him to serve and then become a sacristan, even though he was not yet baptized a Catholic.

He knew he had to become a Catholic and started the RCIA program in a parish that had about 1,000 converts every year! Fr. Lew read the Catholic Cate-

chism as well as encyclicals.

Becoming a Catholic at age 15, he says he had not yet developed any true love for Mary; felt the Rosary was boring and repetitious; and felt he didn't need anyone but Christ. However, he says that Our Lady was patient with him. Studying the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe, he began to see the importance of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Church.

Having many questions from aunts and uncles about his conversion to Catholicism, he took that opportunity to teach them our faith and answer their questions. Some said, "At least he loves Jesus."

After living in the Philippines for some time and having studied to be a lawyer, he moved to England and joined the order of the Dominicans, where the emphasis was on teaching, preaching, prayer and study. He spent time studying at Cambridge and Oxford.

Fr. Lew was ordained a priest in 2011, spending four years in university chaplaincy at Edinburgh.

It took Fr. Lew a few years to fall in love with the Rosary; but he did. And he was appointed the Promoter General of the Holy Rosary in 2019. He now says his attitude is that if Mother Mary prescribes the Rosary, then he should trust it and pray it out of love of Mary our Mother.

In 2020, Fr. Lew was elected Prior of St. Dominic's [Rosary Shrine](#) and has also served as its rector.

So, this story explains how a Protestant boy goes from telling Catholics they're going to Hell to becoming the worldwide Dominican Promoter General for the Holy Rosary!

You can view the entire presentation [here](#), along with the business portion of the meeting.

### **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."

**FABRE, ARCHBISHOP SHELTON**, 8/5/89, 36 yrs  
**HAMILTON, REV. MARK M.**, 8/6/94, 31 yrs  
**HERNÁNDEZ, REV. PABLO A.**, 8/12/06, 19 yrs  
**JOHNSON, REV. JOHN R. \***, 8/27/11, 14 yrs  
**JUDIE, REV. JOHN T. \***, 8/1/87, 38 yrs  
**MEIMAN, REV. LOUIS J.**, 8/1/87, 38 yrs  
**MUWONGE, REV. EXPEDITO**, 8/20/89, 36 yrs  
**NICOLAS, REV. JEFFREY S.**, 8/7/93, 32 yrs  
**RANKIN, REV. JOSEPH M. \***, 8/4/79, 46 yrs  
**SSAMBA, A.J., REV. DEOGRATIAS**, 8/21/10, 15 yrs  
**TOBIN, REV. T. MICHAEL**, 8/7/93, 32 yrs  
**ZULU, REV. JACOB**, 8/9/08, 17 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:

**Thanh Phan – August 5**

You can get more information on all our seminarians, as well as where they're going to school, and other information 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 [Chuck-Lynch4782@gmail.com](mailto:Chuck-Lynch4782@gmail.com).

### **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.

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



## **DEACONS CELEBRATING ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST**

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.

**ABELL, JAMES H.\*** (MARY JO), 8/28/93, 32 yrs / **AGE, STEPHEN A.** (SHANNON), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **AUFFREY, TODD C.** (ELIZABETH), 8/21/10, **15 yrs** / **AYERS, TIMOTHY B.\***, 8/26/06, 19 yrs / **BABIN, JEREMIAH S.\*** (SUSIE), 8/23/08, 17 yrs / **BAKER, EARL** (ELLEN), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **BARNES, DERRICK A.** (MISTIANNA), 8/25/12, 13 yrs / **BARTLEY, RALPH E.\*** (JANE), 8/25/12, 13 yrs / **BEAVIN, GREGORY A.** (SHIRLEY), 8/23/08, 17 yrs / **BECKMANN, CHARLES B.\***, 8/28/99, 26 yrs / **BELL, KENNETH**, 8/28/99, 26 yrs / **BENT, CHARLES "CHUCK"** (CYNDI), 8/26/06, 19 yrs / **BERGHAUSEN, IV, EDWARD J. "NED"** (KATHERINE BULINSKI), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **BISIG, SR., DANIEL G.**, 8/21/10, **15 yrs** / **BLAND, JOSEPH E.\*** (VIRGINIA), 8/25/12, 13 yrs / **BOWLING, T. STEPHEN** (SUSAN), 8/23/08, 17 yrs / **BROWN, ANTHONY T.** (NAOMI MARIE), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **BROWN, CHARLES K.\*** (FRANCES), 8/17/96, 29 yrs / **BRYANT, ROBERT C.\***, 8/17/96, 29 yrs / **BUEHNER, JEROME L.\*** (CONNIE), 8/25/12, 13 yrs / **BURCHETT, K. MICHAEL\*** (CAROL), 8/21/10, **15 yrs** / **BUSH, R. BRYAN** (JENNIFER), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **CALVERT, JOSEPH D.** (BERTA), 8/23/08, 17 yrs / **CARTER, KENNETH J.** (LINDA), 8/28/99, 26 yrs / **CARUSO, LUCIO A.** (THERESE), 8/21/10, **15 yrs** / **CARUSO, ROBERT R.\*** (KIM), 8/25/12, 13 yrs / **CECIL, JAMES A.\*** (PEGGY), 8/21/10, **15 yrs** / **CLARK, GEORGE B.**, 8/22/87, 38 yrs / **CLARK, WILLIAM V.** (NICKI), 8/17/96, 29 yrs / **COOPER, ERNEST A.\***, 8/22/87, 38 yrs / **COTTRELL, FRANK E.\*** (ELLY), 8/24/02, 23 yrs / **COULTER, W. DONALD**, 8/21/10, **15 yrs** / **CREELY III, JOSEPH J. "JIM"** (ELLEN), 8/24/24, 1 yr / **DACHILLE, NICHOLAS G.** (CAROLYN), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **DALTON, DAVID L.\*** (KAYE), 8/17/96, 29 yrs / **DANT, JOSEPH R.** (LINDA), 8/18/90, **35 yrs** / **DAPONTE, STEPHEN J.** (LYNDA), 8/26/06, 19 yrs / **DIEMER, DARRYL J.** (SUSAN), 8/23/08, 17 yrs / **DOWNS, WILLIAM ARNOLD\*** (LINDA), 8/17/96, 29 yrs / **DRERUP, KARL A.** (PAT), 8/21/10, **15 yrs** / **DUGAN, LOUIS B.\*** (JOANN), 8/26/06, 19 yrs / **EDWARDS, MICHAEL L.** (JOYCE), 8/28/82, 43 yrs / **FAGAN, RICHARD J.** (JULIE), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **FAHRINGER, CARL A.**, 8/25/12, 13 yrs / **FELLONNEAU, JOHN M.** (KELLY), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **FITZMAYER, MICHAEL J.\***, 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **FROEHLICH, JOHN G.** (HELEN), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **GITSCHIER, GREGORY M.** (TRACY), 8/21/10, **15 yrs** / **GIULITTO, DEAN R.** (MAY), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **GRANT, JR., JOHN A.** (KIM), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **HALL, ROBERT C.\*** (CHERI), 8/28/99, 26 yrs / **HANER, SCOTT R.** (JOANN), 8/23/08, 17 yrs / **HART, ROBERT J.** (KATHY), 8/23/08, 17 yrs / **HASSON, ANTHONY P. (TONY)\*** (JUDY), 8/20/77, 48 yrs / **HEDGES, SCOTT T.** (BETH), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **HEIL, STEPHEN A. "STEVE"** (SUSAN), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **HEINSOHN, J. ANDREW** (JOAN), 8/25/12, 13 yrs / **HERBERT, CHRISTOPHER J. "CHRIS"** (LESLIE), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **HETTICH, PHILIP L.\*** (THERESA), 8/28/99, 26 yrs / **JOHNSON, W. TIMOTHY** (TRACY), 8/25/12, 13 yrs / **JONES, J. MICHAEL** (DEBBIE), 8/17/96, 29 yrs / **KELLEY, MARK D.** (JULIE), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **KELLY, CHRISTOPHER** (LAURIE), 8/24/24, 1 yr / **KING, SAMUEL J.** (SHEILA), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **KINSELLA, BRENDAN E.\***, 8/28/99, 26 yrs / **KLINGLESMTIH, GREGORY L.** (PAT), 8/26/06, 19 yrs / **KLUMP, WILLIAM R.** (BARBARA), 8/17/96, 29 yrs / **KOENIG, JOHN C.** (DONNA), 8/25/12, 13 yrs / **KORFHAGE, DOUGLAS B.** (PATTY), 8/24/24, 1 yr / **KRAMER, JAMES P.** (KELLY), 8/24/24, 1 yr / **LISH, CRAIG T.** (JULIA), 8/24/24, 1 yr / **LUCKETT, THEODORE C. "TED"** (MELINDA), 8/23/08, 17 yrs / **MAGUIRE, TERRY W.\***, 8/24/02, 23 yrs / **MAHER, JOHN P.\*** (CAROLYN), 8/17/96, 29 yrs / **MARKERT, C. ROBERT\*** (PATSY), 8/21/76, 49 yrs / **MARKS, EDWARD M. "TED"** (THERESA), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **MASTERSON, DONALD E.\***, 8/21/76, 49 yrs / **MATTINGLY, GERALD J.\*** (MARY JO), 8/26/06, 19 yrs / **MAXWELL, DAVID S.** (ANGELA), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **MCCARTY, JAMES M.** (EMILY), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **MCDONELL, CHRISTOPHER F.** (MELANI), 8/25/12, 13 yrs / **MCGINTY, DAVID L.\***, 8/22/87, 38 yrs / **MCGOFF, JAMES I.\*** (CAROL), 8/21/10, **15 yrs** / **MCKENZIE, KEITH L.** (CATHY), 8/26/06, 19 yrs / **MCNALLY, THOMAS M.\*** (MARYSUE), 8/23/08, 17 yrs / **MITCHELL, KENNETH J.** (JAN), 8/28/93, 32 yrs / **MOBLEY, III, JOSEPH V. "TREY"** (KAREN SHEETS-MOBLEY), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **MOORE, JOSEPH F.** (SANDY), 8/21/10, **15 yrs** / **MURPHY, MICHAEL J.\*** (BETH), 8/28/99, 26 yrs / **NASH, DENNIS M. "DENNY"** (TERESA), 8/25/12, 13 yrs / **NIEMEIER, WILLIAM H.\*** (BEV), 8/26/06, 19 yrs / **NOLTEMEYER, PHILLIP L.\*** (ALICE), 8/26/06, 19 yrs / **OLRICH, JAMES C.\*** (BEV), 8/21/76, 49 yrs / **PERKINS, RANDALL K. "RANDY"** (COLLEEN), 8/24/24, 1 yr / **PREISCHEL, MARK A.** (HOLLY), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **PUGA, AURELIO A.** (WANDA), 8/26/06, 19 yrs / **RAIBERT, JOSEPH A.\*** (CISSY), 8/19/78, 47 yrs / **RENDON, PETER "PETE"** (CARMEN), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **RICHERSON, JAMES D. "JIMMY"** (THERESE), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **ROBBINS, DONALD P.**, 8/24/24, 1 yr / **ROBERTS, CRAIG S.** (THERESA CORRIGAN), 8/24/24, 1 yr / **ROBERTS, JR., KENNETH E. "KEN"** (TERRY), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **ROTH, THOMAS L.** (BECKY), 8/26/06, 19 yrs / **ROUGEUX, MARK J., D. MIN.** (KIM), 8/23/08, 17 yrs / **RYAN, MICHAEL A.** (GINA), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **SCHMITT, MICHAEL A.** (AUDREY), 8/24/24, 1 yr / **SEARS, DEAN W.** (SUSAN), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **SHIELDS, JAMES F. "JIM"** (LISA), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **SHUMWAY, MICHAEL M.** (CHARLOTTE), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **SMITH, DAVID U.** (THERESA), 8/26/06, 19 yrs / **SMITH, STEPHEN J.\*** (JAN), 8/24/02, 23 yrs / **SOWERS, MICHAEL S.** (TONI), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **STEWART, TIMOTHY E.** (TOMMIE), 8/23/08, 17 yrs / **STRAIN, JOHN P.** (DEVON), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **SULLIVAN, BRUCE A.** (GLORIA), 8/29/20, **5 yrs** / **TOLBERT, MICHAEL A.** (BONNIE), 8/29/81, 44 yrs / **TOMES, DAVID R.\*** (DAYNA), 8/25/84, 41 yr / **TRIBBEY, OFS, WILLIAM P.** (MARTHA), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **TURNER, JAMES R.** (ANNETTE), 8/29/81, 44 yrs / **TURNER, SCOTT R.** (WANDA), 8/23/08, 17 yrs / **VESSELS, MICHAEL J.\*** (BETTY), 8/28/82, 43 yrs / **VILLALOBOS, FRANCISCO "FRANK"** (MONIKA), 8/23/08, 17 yrs / **WARREN, BRUCE J.** (LAURIE), 8/20/16, 9 yrs / **WEBB, MICHAEL K. "KEVIN"** (DONRITA), 8/24/24, 1 yr / **WRIGHT, JOSEPH P.** (SANDY), 8/18/90, **35 yrs** / **ZOLDAK, RICHARD P.** (CHERIE), 8/21/10, **15 yrs**

## **INTERVIEW WITH BISHOP FILBERT** **MHASI FROM TANZANIA**

**Fr. John Judie** (a retired Louisville diocesan priest) does a lot of missionary work in east Africa, helping dioceses with seminarian education, among other things. In 2024, he introduced us to **Bishop Filbert Mhasi**, from a rural diocese in Tanzania - the Tunduru-Masasi Diocese.

Though the official language is Swahili, many in the country do speak English.

This is just one of the country's 36 dioceses. Bishop Filbert visited several parishes while in Louisville in 2024 to raise funds to educate seminarians in his diocese. And he visited more Louisville parishes this summer. We Serrans agreed to raise funds for his seminarians' education; and we thought readers would be interested in some more information on the seminarian program in that diocese.

There are 22 parishes in Bishop Filbert's diocese and 140 mission stations (areas led by catechists since they don't have enough priests). In his diocese there is one minor (high school age) seminary, with 165 seminarians from seven dioceses. Of that 165, there are 110 from Bishop Filbert's diocese.

His diocese also has 16 students attending major (college level) seminaries in other dioceses within Tanzania.

The minor seminary runs about \$800 U.S. dollars per semester for tuition, room and board per student per year. The major seminaries run around \$800 for tuition, plus another \$200 for room and board.

The funds he raised in Louisville will help all of his diocesan seminarians, at the minor and major seminaries.

His is a remote area of the country, where the priests don't get a salary and often must work for farmers and others in order have an income to support themselves. Parishes (with anywhere from 60 to 600 Catholics each) support their Seminarian Fund; but it's never enough.

The Salvatorian Order also helps out in his diocese of about 60,000 Catholics. In this diocese, 85% of the population are Muslim; and 10% are Protestant, while 5% are Catholic. But the different religions get along well. In fact, many of the non-Catholics choose to go to the good Catholic schools. The Tanzania Interreligious Faith Group is one example of their multi-faith efforts.

Bishop Filbert says his hobbies are jogging, basketball, and reading.

His diocese has a staff of six people including the bishop.

Our club is taking up a collection, through Aug 31,

and is forwarding the funds to Bishop Mhasi, through **Fr. John Judie Ministries, Inc.**

Anyone wishing to donate to this cause should give a check, made out to the St. Serra Club of Louisville, to our Treasurer, Jerry Gonsoski. Thanks for the support.

## **ST. SERRA AND** **SCRIPTURE SLOGANS**

Just as St. Serra had the slogan "Always forward, never back," we can adopt a number of brief Scripture verses as slogans or prayers throughout the day:

- I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. - Philippians 4:13
- Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. - 1 Samuel 3:9
- Everything is possible to one who has faith. - Mark 9:23
- Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. - Romans 12:12
- A person is justified by works and not by faith alone. - James 2:24
- With God all things are possible. - Matthew 19:26
- If God is for us, who can be against us? - Romans 8:31

## **VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **Serran Birthdays this month:**

Ben Smith, Aug 12      Theresa Fiedler, Aug 25  
Kevin Thieneman, Aug 27      Ralph Williams, Aug 28  
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### **Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of August –**

**For mutual coexistence** - Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

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**A US diocese defies trends and ordains its largest class of Catholic priests in decades** - Read the article [here](#).

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**Letting go to grow: Understanding self-denial in Catholicism** – Read the article [here](#).

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.