



Club chartered May 22, 1955

Saint Serra Club of Louisville VOCATION DIGEST

"Always Forward, Never Back"

– Saint Junipero Serra

**NOVEMBER, 2025
Newsletter**

MISSION:

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

SERRAN DISTRICT 133 REGIONAL CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN CINCINNATI ON SEP. 26 & 27

By Lynn Haner

A regional conference was hosted by the Serra Clubs of Northern Kentucky, Cincinnati and the Northwest Deanery of Cincinnati (the NW Deanery includes the area around Dayton within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati). This conference follows the recent successful tradition of regional conferences in Indianapolis, IN and Columbus, OH.



Serra Clubs in our District include the states of Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and parts of Michigan.

Friday evening began the event with a "Cathedral

Crawl". We toured the Cathedral of Assumption in Covington, KY and then the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains in Cincinnati. Both cathedrals are exquisite in architectural style, but very different. The cathedral in Covington has expansive stained-glass windows illustrating the mysteries of the Rosary, and ornate wood carving throughout. All the stained-glass and hand-carved woodwork was imported from Germany. In addition to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, there is a large reliquary behind the main altar with dozens of relics on display.

The Basilica of St. Peter in Chains is

a Romanesque building, rebuilt in the 1950s with stylized painted details and a huge mosaic image of Christ handing the keys of the kingdom to St. Peter. We were also able to see historical artifacts including antique vestments nearly 200 years old, and the carriage used by the bishop in the 1830s.

The Cincinnati Serra Club meets regularly in the undercroft area of the cathedral. After our tours, they hosted dinner for us.

On Saturday, we met at the Bartlett Center on the campus of Mt. St. Mary Seminary and School of Theology. First, we prayed a Rosary for Vocations and afterwards a light repast was served.

The Most Reverend Robert Casey, Archbishop of Cincinnati then greeted us.

The program of speakers was designed to include a person from every state of life, sharing their journey and how their experiences enrich the Serran quest to support a 'Culture of Vocations'.

Reverend John J. Hollowell spoke of his experiences after receiving the diagnosis of a life-threatening brain tumor. It was around 2005; and the priest scandals were exposed everywhere. Fr. Hollowell felt deep compassion for the victims of these scandals, and desired to offer his sufferings in reparation for these sins. Later, he went to Lourdes and was subsequently healed of his brain tumor. His healing is under investigation at Lourdes. If found miraculous, it would be



the first confirmed healing of an American.

Mother Seraphina-Marie, FDM, is the Community Servant and Foundress of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary. Their charism is to uphold the dignity of every human person from the moment of conception until natural death in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. The sisters live this out with their ministry at the Rose Garden Home Mission in Covington, KY.

Maria Reinagel has been a Consecrated Woman of Regnum Christi for more than 30 years. She serves in adult ministry through spiritual accompaniment in the Ohio Valley.

Deacon Tom Kissel is the founder of a ministry for parents of children in consecrated religious life or diocesan priesthood / seminary: Parents of Vocations. He stated that when a discernor moves toward taking vows, much support is focused on them, but families must face and accept the changes in their relationship with their children with little support. This ministry addresses that isolation with support.

Molly Humpert is married with three young daughters. She recently graduated from the four-year Cana Program at her parish. This formation program both instructs and builds community for families within parishes.

We ate lunch in the seminary cafeteria, and I chatted with one of our own seminarians, Emerson Wells. It was an encouraging sight to see the entire room full of these young men answering the call towards priesthood.

Our own St. Serra Club chaplain, Fr. Pat Dolan, was an afternoon speaker. He spoke on the Colors of Listening, explaining that each person has a path of expression and connection with the Holy Spirit. As listeners and encouragers of vocations, we must be aware of these differences and patiently accompany others, even if their path is not like our own.

Our day concluded with Mass in the St. Gregory Chapel. It was an uplifting experience to share this time with fellow Serrans. I'm looking forward to the next conference!

(Lynn Haner is VP of Membership for the St. Serra Club of Louisville)

FR. PAT DOLAN SPOKE AT OUR OCT. 6 MEETING ABOUT THE MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL.

About Our Speaker

Fr. Patrick J. Dolan is a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, ordained in 1978, after 15 years in the seminary, which included earning a PhD in chemistry from Indiana University in 1974, followed by studies in Rome.

His theology background includes an STB in Scripture, an MA in sacraments, an STL in medical ethics and an STD in just war theory. As the Ecclesiastical Assistant for Apostolat Militaire International (a Vatican connected NGO), he has used this training all over the world (as well as in his many parishes) in more ways than expected. He served in the US Army for nearly 28 years, retiring as a Brigadier



General chaplain, after having mentored the senior chaplains in each state and provided special care for all the general officers in the National Guard.

Fr. Pat has published many articles in various fields: from history to explaining the Eucharist to scientists, to colors of spirituality, and to gaming theory. He has written music and published a four-volume series of adventure stories about the Bluegrass area in Kentucky called "[Traces of Magic](#)," which is designed to help those who have drifted from the Catholic church to get involved in this adventure story which is permeated with Catholic heritage - and perhaps find their spark of faith rekindled.

Fr. Pat is currently retired, residing at St. Stephen Martyr, and serving as the Chaplain of the St. Serra Club of Louisville. However, he seems to be busier than ever traveling all over the world!

His Presentation

Fr. Pat explained that the Marriage Tribunal for the Archdiocese of Louisville is not like what you see on TV's divorce court. In fact, it's quite the opposite. The purpose of the tribunal is to find the truth - was the original marriage in question not valid? It's not a question of guilt or justice, but whether the original marriage was valid in the eyes of the Church.

The person requesting an annulment is called the *petitioner*, while the former spouse is called the *respondent*. Sometimes respondents don't cooperate or may even argue the marriage was valid.

Serving the Louisville tribunal for over 30 years, Fr. Pat currently works as a *Defender of the Bond*, arguing why the marriage in question should be considered valid - i.e., arguing for the validity of the sacrament. (The person representing the petitioner is called the *Advocate for the Petitioner*.)

Usually, the process begins in the parish; and then an advocate for the petitioner is appointed.

Fr. Pat reminded us that the tribunal does not even consider the question until there is a divorce decree because the tribunal does not want to be seen as the reason for the divorce. Their job is to determine the truth about the original validity of the marriage in question. This can be a Catholic marriage, for which the divorced husband or wife wishes to remarry in the Church. It can also be for someone (even non-Catholics) married outside of the Church, but divorced and now wanting to marry in the Church.

He says many people come to them months or even decades after the divorce, solely because they wish to remarry. And many have the mistaken notion that a divorce causes a break with God and means that people can't receive the Eucharist. However, a civil divorce, by itself, does not create these results. It is only a remarriage, without an annulment, that causes one to not be allowed to receive the Eucharist.

Three things are required of each marriage – First, each party must know who they are and what they are doing. (This is the purpose of Pre-Cana, or marriage prep, classes.) Second, each party must be freely entering the marriage. (Shotgun weddings or a feeling that too much has been spent to back out can cause a wedding not to be valid.) Thirdly, the marriage must be consummated. (If there's no chance of children, then the marriage is not valid.) If any one of these three is missing, the marriage was not a valid sacrament in the eyes of the Church.

Just as a person can't be unbaptized or unconfirmed, a valid marriage can't be undone.

The tribunal collects testimony from both sides, and from friends and relatives in order to get to the truth. Each party has rights throughout the whole process. Being human, we're all reluctant to speak negatively of ourselves; and this can, of course, complicate the process.

When a person marries but is later found to have not really known what they were doing, it is called *lack of due discretion* (LDD).

The Church respects the marriages of non-Catholics and presumes they are valid if the marriages are between baptized individuals.

Sometimes the Church concludes that there was a *defect of form* in a marriage. An example would be people married by a justice of the peace, or a Protestant minister, instead of by a duly authorized Catholic priest or deacon. A marriage that is not a valid Catholic marriage, can still be a valid natural marriage, but not a sacrament – for example when a Catholic marries a non-baptized person.

Fr. Pat reminded us that with marriage, the sacrament is effected by the couple themselves, not the priest or deacon.

He says that sometimes, “we can't find grounds that the marriage was *not* valid.” In this case, the marriage is presumed to have been valid.

The tribunal consists of three judges; and at least one must be a priest. In addition to the judges, there is the defender of the bond and the advocate for the petitioner. If a decision for annulment is made by the tribunal, then it goes to the bishop for ratification. There can also be appeals and reviews.

Pope Francis removed the automatic second appeal. Fr. Pat said that 80% to 90% of the world's annulments are in the U.S. Also, in our diocese, there is no longer any charge by the diocese to process a request for an annulment. (The pope has requested this of all dioceses where it can be afforded.)

The *Pauline Privilege* (named after St. Paul of the New Testament, based on 1 Corinthians 7:12-15) allows local dissolution of a marriage where two non-baptized individuals divorce and one wishes to become a Catholic. The *Petrine Privilege* allows the pope to dissolve a non-sacramental marriage in which one of the two divorced individuals was not baptized.

Of those who complete all the required paperwork, Fr. Pat says the “vast, vast majority” of requests for annulment are approved. However, he says many do not complete the process when they realize their chances are slim.

We thank Fr. Pat for a very informative presentation.

(Thanks, too, to Ken Peet and Paul Willett for taking pictures at this meeting.)

KEN PEET SPOKE OF HIS SERRA INTERNATIONAL BOARD TRIP TO ROME LATE SEPTEMBER.

Our club member, Ken Peet, who is on our Board of Trustees, is also on the Serra International Board, which just made a trip to Rome to meet with the Prefect of the Dicastery of the Clergy, Cardinal Lazarus You Heung-sik, from Korea.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what Serra has been doing around the world. The Cardinal was most appreciative of our international efforts. Ken said that meeting lasted about an hour and a half.

Serra International was aggregated to the Vatican's Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations in 1951. Shown here is a picture of the cer-





Advent reflection. Click [here](#) for the link to participate.

Nov 25 (Tue) - 11:45 - Serra Board Meeting - St. Margaret Mary Spirituality Center.

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

DEACON RANDY PERKINS SPOKE AT OUR OCT. 20 MEETING

About Our Speaker

Deacon Randy Perkins is Director of Students at Trinity High School and the permanent deacon at Epiphany Catholic Church in Anchorage. He was ordained in August 2024 and is married to Colleen. They have three adult children: Adam, Grace, and Robbie.



Prior to Trinity, Randy taught for Jefferson County Public Schools (2009-2014) and practiced law (1994-2009). He also worked as a psychiatric rehabilitation counselor at Wellspring's Crisis Stabilization Units, which provide emergency services to people in severe mental distress (2012-2023).

Randy received his J.D. from University of Louisville School of Law, completed coursework for his M.A.T. at Morehead State University, and obtained his B.S. from Murray State University. He completed his diaconate formation through St. Meinrad Seminary and the Archdiocese of Louisville, being ordained a deacon in August of 2024.

The Presentation on His Ministry

Deacon Randy joined Trinity in 2014 and became the Director of Students in 2017. (He says this job is what used to be called the "disciplinarian." And he mainly works with juniors and seniors.)

He says Trinity really has noticed a significantly increased presence of the Vocation Office in the last few years, now that we have a full-time vocation director.

Deacon Randy believes his ministry at Trinity is largely shaped by his own life experiences, and he shared some of his personal faith journey to provide perspective. He said that he never would have believed he'd end up at Trinity H.S., since he

tificate (a little worn for age), courtesy of Ken Peet from when he was in Rome.

On the Sunday prior to the dicastery meeting, Ken went to St. Peter's, where Pope Leo XIV said the morning Mass. The altar was outside, just in front of St. Peter's Basilica door. In attendance that day were catechists from around the world. And Pope Leo had gifts for each of them.

On the day after the dicastery meeting, a Wednesday, Ken was in the outside audience with the pope, attended by thousands of people. Ken and his group had tickets that put them about a hundred feet from the altar where the pope had Mass. He also saw the pope in the popemobile that day. Ken also got to see the Vatican Gardens.

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.

Nov 3 (1st Mon) - Marnie McAllister, Editor of The Record, will speak on her role at The Record and her vision for the future of The Record.

Nov 10 (2^d Mon) - Zoom Rosary for Vocations, 7 pm. See the separate article for details.

Nov 12 (2nd Wed) - Holy Hour for Vocations - After the noon Mass in St. Margaret Mary Chapel.

Nov 17 (3rd Mon) - Terry Lesch, of Holy Trinity Parish's Peer Ministry Program, will speak on that program.

Nov 17 (3rd Mon) - "Serra Meets" by Zoom - **8 pm** Louisville time. **Bishop Thomas Daly** will give an

started out a Protestant growing up in Mayfield, KY. He had little exposure to Catholics, being taught by his fundamentalist church that Catholics drank, played bingo a lot, had good wedding receptions, and weren't going to Heaven.

Losing interest in religion while in a public high school, Deacon Randy says that he went to Murray State University seeking money and status after college. In 1991 he went to U of L Law School, but not for any noble reasons.

Deacon Randy met his wife Colleen, who was a parishioner at St. Margaret Mary Parish; and they married in 1994. Eventually deciding they needed a shared family faith, he went through the RCIA program and became a Catholic.

Not liking conflict, he decided that law really wasn't his ideal career. In fact, he felt the practice of law "damaged my soul." After practicing law for 15 years, dealing with addiction and a troubled marriage, he decided it was time for a change. Deacon Randy says, "God bless my wife for sticking with me." The faith of his wife and that of her parents, along with early help from a St. Margaret Mary priest, saved him and his marriage.

Deacon Randy started substitute teaching. He saw and identified with many students needing help. He also worked with people with mental illness issues at Wellspring. Seeing people on the margins was a very impactful experience for him. He even said he saw Jesus in these people.

In 2014 he was hired at Trinity H.S. and taught English and Social Studies. He really could see the strong Catholic presence in Louisville, his parish, and Trinity. It had a major impact on him. At Trinity, he felt he had a new vocation – helping youth. He says he "drank the Kool-Aid at Trinity" and is so happy to be able to walk with so many young men during their difficult moments.

Now, he has no problem getting out of bed each morning and feels the highlight of each work day is interaction with the students.

He finds it rewarding to help students in relationships with one another, with the school, and with God. Telling troubled youth, who expect to be yelled at, that they are loved means a lot to him as well as the students. He likes to tell students that the school won't give up on them if the youth won't give up on the school. He sees it as an evangelizing moment.

Since some students don't go to Mass on weekends, Trinity may be the closest thing they have to a church. Instead of being a taskmaster or punisher, he wants to be a face of recovery, a path forward, and the face of love. He can relate to these young men because he was once in their shoes.

Deacon Randy also likes to promote the idea of discernment, not only in a religious vocation way, but in a way that pertains to life, growing up, becoming a mature adult, and choosing a career / profession. He encourages youth to slow down before making decisions, taking time to pray, study, reflect, and discern on life and issues.

To close, he reminded us that the new apostolic exhortation by Pope Leo XIV, [Dilexi Te \(I Have Loved You\)](#), focuses on the poor, the marginalized, and the discarded people of the world, and that Catholic schools must do the same. Quoting from Paragraph 72, he read, "Christian education does not only form professionals, but also people open to goodness, beauty and truth. Catholic schools, therefore, when they are faithful to their name, are places of inclusion, integral formation and human development. By combining faith and culture, they sow the seeds of the future, honor the image of God and build a better society."

Only 70% of Trinity students are Catholic; and only 65% went to Catholic grade school. Deacon Randy sees his work as an opportunity for evangelization.

We want to thank Deacon Randy Perkins for the presentation on his ministry.

(Thanks, too, to Ken Peet and Lincoln Lewis for taking pictures at this meeting.)

NEW MEMBER – JOE CARTER

Joe was added as a new member at the September Board meeting. He was recommended by Fr. Pat Dolan and is a 47-year-member of the Knights of Columbus. He is also the K of C Seminarian Chair for Kentucky, working with the states 103 Councils and almost 13,000 Knights.

Joe and his wife Bettie belong to St. Michael Parish and have two grown sons. Joe is a retired CPA, with a masters in statistics. He's also a Certified Internal Auditor and has been in the military, worked for the Railroad for over 40 years, and has been an auditor for Amtrack.



He enjoys helping vocation directors across the state and recognizes that most of these priests only get to be part-time vocation directors.

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

SERRA INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT EMANUELE COSTA SPOKE AT OUR MONTHLY “SERRA MEETS” BY ZOOM.

Mr. Emanuele Costa, President of Serra International, spoke at the October 20 Zoom meeting of *Serra Meets*. He is the sixth of nine children, raised in Genoa, Italy, has a degree in economics and commerce,



spent 20 years between Genoa, New York, and Miami managing his family-owned shipping business, and then ran his own private equity company. He has been a Serran for almost 30 years. He and his wife Beatrice now live in Switzerland. He has three children and five grandchildren, all living in the U.S.

President Costa has had many roles in Serra, including club president, district governor and President of the Italian National Council of Serra. He titled his presentation, “The Serra I Love.”

Why he loves Serra – President Costa spoke of the spirit, the action, and the great heart of Serra, as well as the friendship and affection we have for priests, those who have chosen the consecrated life, and fellow Serrans. He says he and his wife are friends with many Serrans, seminarians and priests.

While most of the faithful turn to their priests, we Serrans offer something to our priests – our friendship. Also, in a society that marginalizes priests, we need to pray for them.

What Serra means to President Costa – Being a Serran is, itself, a vocation. Our organization is the only lay Catholic association in the world dedicated to vocations. We have three wonderful goals in promoting vocations, affirming them, and seeking our own holiness. And “our call is to respond to a need.”

Church and society need good priests and consecrated individuals, especially since there are priest shortages even in many developed countries. And the priests and consecrated need our friendship.

Pope Francis said, “The Serra Club is a place where this beautiful vocation grows – being lay friends of

priests – friends who know how to accompany and support them with faith, steadfast prayer, and apostolic commitment, friends who share the wonder of the call, the courage of a definitive choice, the joys and struggles of the ministry. This is a great gift with which you enrich the Church.”

What it means for Serra to be international – We bring together diverse groups from around the world, all seeking the same mission, all praying for the same goals. This diversity gives us richness in our Serran experience.

“Communication is everything, especially for an international organization,” President Costa said. And now we have [Serra Connects](#), our international newsletter.

Our “Always Forward” motto has been echoed by Pope Francis and Pope Leo. And President Costa asks that we “never lose the joy of what we do.”

In 2017, [Pope Francis spoke](#) of “the courage of vocation ... the joy of the Gospel, and ... that boldness typical of the Christian mission.”

President Costa reminded us that “We’re not just an institution; we’re also a family. ... We are called to serve, inspire and build.”

The video of this presentation, along with the business portion of the meeting, can be seen [here](#).

FRIENDS OF SERRA

The Friends of Serra program was instituted in 2020. It exists for non-members who wish to support the mission of Serra financially. For more on this program, click [here](#).

The following people in the Archdiocese have recently made donations to the St. Serra Club of Louisville:

New Friend of Serra – **Richard Lechleiter**

We thank all Friends of Serra and we keep them in our prayers.

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK BEGINS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2 THIS YEAR

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

Click [here](#) for prayers and homily ideas; info for DREs, teachers, catechists, parents and youth ministers; fact sheets; vocation terms; things to do; parish resources; answers to questions; find your spirituality

type; and more.

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

ANNUAL VOCATION POSTER AND ESSAY CONTESTS

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

The Contest starts with the National Vocation Awareness Week (the week beginning November 2 this year); and entries must be received in the Vocation Office by January 14.

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

OUR CHAPLAIN PUBLISHED A BOOK OF POEMS

Fr. Pat Dolan, the Chaplain for the St. Serra Club of Louisville, has published four books prior to this year. And now he's published a book of poetry, entitled "*Vigil Light Echoes, Poems and Prayers for the Margins of the Month.*" All five can be found [here](#).

Fr. Pat said that a free digital version of the 19-page book of poems can be found [here](#).

SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS

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

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

Franciscans - click [here](#).

Passionists - click [here](#).

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

Trappists in Gethsemani - click [here](#).

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

SAVE THE DATE – SERRA LEADERSHIP RALLY

Calling all Serrans! The next USA Council Leadership Rally will be Jan 22-25, 2026 (Thu. to Sun.), at the Augustine Institute Retreat Center, St. Louis, Missouri. You can view videos about the Rally [here](#) and [here](#). You can register [here](#).

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

PRIESTS CELEBRATING ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to one priest celebrating the anniversary of his ordination this month.

REV. MARIO SERRANO, OFM CONV.

11/4/16, 9 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](#).

DEACONS CELEBRATING ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to one deacon celebrating an ordination anniversary this month.

JOHN B. HAMILTON (wife ANN),

11/3/84, 41 yrs

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

SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Happy Birthday to two of our seminarians this month:

DAVID HAIRSTON II, NOV 9

JOSEPH RANDOLPH, NOV 10

You can get more information on all our seminarians, as well as where they're going to school, and other information by clicking [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 HOLINESS: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHING

by Chuck Lynch

I've read in several national Catholic newspapers about *Magisterium AI* – an artificial intelligence (AI) tool created, with the Church's input, to help everyone get answers to questions about the Catholic faith. The website is at www.Magisterium.com.

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LET GOD *INSPIRE* YOU

through Robert Rogers' story

TO LIVE A LIFE OF *no regrets!*



In 2003, Robert experienced a tragedy of Biblical proportions. After 8 years as a father, nearly 12 years as a husband, and 13 years as a professional electrical engineer, Robert's life completely changed one night on his family's way home from a wedding in Wichita, Kansas.

Through his immediate trust in God, Robert has risen above adversity and freely shared his *compelling* message across the country by invitation, and with ABC, CBS, CNN, EWTN, Montel Williams, Integrity Film & Video, the Billy Graham TV Crusade, GriefShare, and Focus on the Family. An accomplished worship leader, pianist, songwriter, and author, Robert inspires others to *live a life of no regrets!*



"The children will be mighty in the land" Psalm 112



Sunday November 16, 2025

6:30 pm

St. Louis Bertrand Church
1104 S Sixth Street
Louisville, Ky 40203

AUTHOR OF 6 BOOKS!



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
LET'S BE THANKFUL
FOR GOD, FRIENDS, LOVED
ONES, AND
SO MUCH MORE!**

After studying it for over a year now, I'm impressed with all it can do. With the free version (up to 60 questions per week) I've got answers to hundreds of questions. (More sophisticated versions cost \$3.99 per month and up.) The free version is made possible by some non-profit organizations; and there are no ads.

According to one article, "the information is limited to authentic Church data" because it was "taught" using *thousands* of Catholic documents, but nothing else; and it is being given more documents all the time.

It's not intended to replace a priest or spiritual director, but simply to provide brief, but thorough, information on Church teaching. Every answer I've received can be read in less than five or ten minutes.

Who will want to use this AI tool? The website explains how it can be used by clergy, catechists, theologians, parents, and even regular lay people. And every answer includes numerous references to Church documents.

One secular article I read claims "the ultimate questions" of life are (1) Where did I come from? (2) Who am I? (3) Why am I here? (4) How should I live? and (5) Where am I going? So, I fed each of these into the AI tool and received great, faith-based answers.

I'm also part of a parish Scripture study group. I found that I can give the AI tool a request such as, "Explain Colossians 1:24."

Few of us have time to read all the encyclicals or other Church documents; however, you can give this AI tool a request such as, "Summarize 'Laudato Si.'"

Some other sample questions I've tried: What is the role of the laity in promoting vocations? / How do we know God really exists? / What is natural law? / What is friendship with Christ? / How do we know what is and is not moral? / Explain grace from God. / Besides the Sacraments, what are other ways to receive God's grace? / What is truth? / Summarize "Compendium of the Social Doctrine." / What are all the encyclicals of Pope St. John Paul II? / Summarize the life of St. Charles Borromeo. / Can I pray for a plenary indulgence for a non-Catholic? / Why did Martin Luther reject seven books of our Old Testament? / What is meant by Dominican spirituality? / What does the

**GRATITUDE & TRUST: LESSONS
FROM THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS**

The Dominican Sisters of Peace invite **all Catholic, single women, ages 18-45**, to join them on Sunday, November 9, 2025, to reflect on the lives of Dominican Saints and learn from their deep reliance and friendship with God. This free virtual mini-retreat will be from 2-5pm ET (1-4pm CT; 12-3pm MT; 11-2pm PT) and will include presentations, prayer, and faith sharing.

For more details, please email Sr. Mai-dung Nguyen, OP at mai-dung.nguyen@opeace.org or call or text her at 405-248-7027. To register for this mini-retreat, go to <https://opeace.org/2025-november-mini-retreat-registration-form/>.

Catholic Church mean by synodality? / Summarize "Gaudium et Spes." / What is the book of Revelation all about? / Do unbaptized infants go to Heaven? / If I share my suffering with that of Jesus, can I participate in the salvation of souls?

When I feel an answer is worth sharing, I simply show the question to a friend and give them the link to the website!

What a great way for us all to grow in our faith! (Chuck Lynch is President of the St. Serra Club of Louisville, its VP of Communications, and Editor of this newsletter.)

**FEAST OF ALL SOULS -
LET'S PRAY FOR
OUR DECEASED SERRANS:**

Here are some who died in the last 18 years.

David Schoen 3/25/07 at age 77

Chet Pierce 1/26/09 at age 87

Kenneth Aschbacher 8/8/10 at age 84

Henry Zena 11/7/10 at age 91

George Goetz 12/21/10 at age 99

Emmett Ratterman 5/14/11 at age 92

John Werkman 3/5/12 at age 96

John "Tom" Nelson 5/19/12 at age 72

Joe Capalbo 11/3/12 at age 84

Thelma Hausman Dunlevy 12/13/12 at age 82

Bob McAdams 10/07/13 at age 94

Frank Scinta 1/27/16 at age 81

Joe Herrmann 3/25/16 at age 95

Al Carr 1/09/17 at age 84

Ray Schlader 1/11/17 at age 89

Ed Stivers 3/17/17 at age 93

Al Graves 5/10/17 at age 88

Jack Noonung 12/28/17 at age 66
 Frank Hausman 9/20/18 at age 82
 Tom Ransdell 1/07/19 at age 94
 Bill Lippy 3/2019 at age 93
 Carl "Bud" Kamer 3/22/19 at age 94
 Paul Schlich 6/26/19 at age 91
 Rosemary Barth 7/30/19 at age 97
 Donna Richardson 9/21/19 at age 71
 Marie Heckel 12/26/19 at age 94
 James Dougherty 1/13/21 at age 83
 Lou Straub 1/31/21 at age 92
 Dan Fusting 8/2/21 at age 84
 Bert Trompeter 5/14/22 at age 93
 Ron Mazzoli 11/1/22 at age 89
 Fr. Joe Voor, Chaplain, 11/6/22 at age 97
 John Tichenor 11/15/22 at age 90
 Norman Beat 3/31/25 at age 90

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful depart-

ADVENT IS COMING SOON!
It's always good to pick out some spiritual reading for Advent, especially since we get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping and decorating this time of year. See if you can find something to read that is not only spiritual, but pertains to the reason for the season.

ed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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:

Six Key themes from the Pope's encyclical on the Sacred Heart – Read the article [here](#).

How to hold more of God's grace - Read the article [here](#).

Finding meaning in wonder: A journey of the heart – Read the article [here](#).

VOCATIONS IN THE NEWS

Highlights from the 2025 National Study of Catho-

lic Priests. Read the report [here](#).

New study evaluates how the Church assesses 'suitability' of candidates for priesthood. Read the article [here](#).

Called by name ... and hundreds are responding. Read the article [here](#).

Study looks at devotion to Mary and impact on vocations. Read the article [here](#).

Homeschooling and vocations - Read the article [here](#).

VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

Serran Birthdays this month:

Don Buckler, Nov 18

Jerry Zimmerer, Nov 27

Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of November – For the prevention of suicide - Let us pray

that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

Patron of Seminarians - November 4 is the feast day of St. Charles Borromeo, the Patron Saint of all Seminarians. He lived from 1538 to 1584, dealt with a speech impediment, became a civil and canon lawyer at age 21, and was made a cardinal at age 22! For more on this great saint, click [here](#).

November 24 – On this day in 1713, St. Junipero Serra, the "Apostle of California," was born and baptized in Spain. He entered the Franciscan order in 1720, two months before his 17th birthday; was ordained a Franciscan priest in 1737; spent several more years in obtaining degrees in philosophy and theology; taught college in Spain; decided in 1748 to become a missionary; traveled to Mexico in 1749; moved to California in 1768; founded the first nine of 21 Spanish missions in California; died in 1784 at the age of 70; was beatified September 25, 1988; and was canonized a saint on September 23, 2015.

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