



Club chartered May 22, 1955

Saint Serra Club of Louisville VOCATION DIGEST

“Always Forward, Never Back”
- Saint Junipero Serra

July 2026
Newsletter

MISSION:
To foster and promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.

NEW ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD – FR. EVRARD MUHOZA

On Saturday, May 30, at the Cathedral of the Assumption, Deacon Evrard Muhoza was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Shelton Fabre! The cathedral was quite full; and it included a number of people in colorful African attire! Fr. Evrard’s parents were there, as were his four siblings. Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Kurtz was even able to concelebrate the Mass.

People from Africa viewed the Mass by live video. Fr. Evrard has two uncles who are priests, and one cousin who is a religious sister. His home parish has been St. Bartholomew, from which there were a number of attendees.

In recognition of the African community that was in attendance, some of the Mass readings were in a language native to Burundi, with English translations in the worship aid.

Fr. Evrard’s family came from Burundi to Louisville when he was 15. He finished high school at Jeffersontown High School. And he became a US citizen on July 31 of 2020.

In the homily, Archbishop Shelton Fabre spoke of the humility of the priesthood, as well as the immense responsibility of the priesthood. He also compared the priesthood to the call of Jeremiah in the Mass readings for the day.

This ordination completes Fr. Evrard’s eight-year journey through Simon Bruté College Seminary, Marian University, and St. Meinrad Seminary.

Fr. Evrard, age 27, is being assigned to St. Patrick Parish.

For a link to the Mass itself, click [here](#). For a link to other articles, from *The Record*, about Fr. Evrard and his ordination click [here](#) and [here](#).

See pictures from May 30 on page 2.

Fr. Evrard, congratulations!

NEW MEMBER – ERIC GRANGER

Eric grew up in Mobile, Alabama; and his family converted to the Catholic faith when he was in the third grade.

Eric was a member of the Serra Club of Memphis before moving to Louisville. He now works as General Manager of the KFC Yum Center. He is a member, with his wife Daryl and two daughters (Danielle, 22 and Gabi, 17), of St. Raphael Parish.



He says his passion is his work at St. Raphael. Eric is Head Sacristan and heads the Altar Server program including being our contact for the Altar Servers Awards. He is sometimes asked to serve as Master of Ceremonies for the Archdiocese including serving as emcee for the Chrism Mass. Being very interested in promoting vocations, he wanted to get back into a Serra Club again.

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

DEACON NED BERGHAUSEN TOLD US HIS VOCATION JOURNEY JUNE 1

About Our Speaker

Deacon Ned Berghausen was ordained in 2020. At age 45, he is the youngest permanent deacon in the Archdiocese of Louisville. He is a high school

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theology teacher at Saint Xavier High School, with degrees from Notre Dame and St. Meinrad. After a long period of agnosticism, he returned to the Catholic faith after transformative experiences in Bangladesh in the U.S. Peace Corps.

Dcn. Ned directs the Unmarked Graves project at St. Louis Cemetery in Louisville, which has identified more than 1,500 Black Catholics buried without markers following the Civil War. He is married to Dr. Kate Bulinski, a paleontologist, and frequently teaches and preaches about the relationship between faith and science. Dcn. Ned and his wife have four children.



His Presentation

Dcn. Ned's interest in religion developed through the mixed religious practices of his parents. The couple split up when he was young and he would go with his mother to Catholic mass and his father to Protestant services on alternating weekends.

Dcn. Ned attended St. X High School and Bellarmine College. He went through a period of agnosticism, despite being interested in religion. He tried finding God intellectually and found faith came with an experience of suffering.

He joined the Peace Corps at age 23 with a strong sense of idealism. He experienced 9/11 and then in 2003 went to Bangladesh – a predominantly Muslim country. There was a lot of U.S. animosity and confusion about Muslims at that time. Bangladesh was a poor and densely populated country, with no privacy. As a white, U.S. citizen, he stood out and found his work very challenging.

Then a Peace Corps friend was attacked in her apartment; and this caused him a lot of suffering. His mother sent him a Rosary; and one day he found himself clutching it in his pocket as he walked through Bangladesh. A prayer came to him, "Walk with me, Lord," which he repeated.

Then on vacation in Thailand, he experienced their great tsunami in 2004. He found a friend who was experienced in emergencies; and they were able to help people get to helicopters to find safety.

All these experiences awakened a desire for Dcn. Ned to connect with God.

He eventually went to Notre Dame and took courses aimed at preparing educators for teaching in Catholic schools (the ACE Program); and he became a theology teacher. His faith deepened. He went to confession for the first time in ten years.

Through the ACE program, he was sent to live and teach in Oklahoma City for two years. While there, he worshipped in a primarily African American parish and was incredibly impressed with two of its deacons. He later applied to the permanent diaconate program in Louisville, with classes one weekend per month.

While at Notre Dame, run by the Holy Cross fathers, he even considered becoming a priest in that order. He even applied and was interviewed to become a seminarian, but was told to come back in a couple of years.

Back in Louisville, he taught at Mercy Academy and met his future wife, getting married in 2012. Dcn. Ned taught at Mercy for a dozen years, four years at Assumption High School, before his current position at St. Xavier.

He and his wife then got into faith and science work, which fit well with his wife being a paleontologist. They kept hearing of young people who didn't think you could believe in science and Jesus at the same time. And on top of that, they were involved with racial justice programs.

Ned even found that some of his ancestors owned slaves in the Kentucky Holy Land. With no literature on the subject, Ned began to research the Blacks buried at Louisville's St. Louis Catholic Cemetery. They found 1,588 graves with no markers; and 15 of these were even veterans of the Civil War. The Catholic Church has records on the graves; but markers were never put on those gravesites. With the help of Bellarmine students, they have begun to mark those graves and even find descendants of some of the deceased.

Ned started formation for the diaconate with no children. They had their son E.J. in 2016 and triplets in 2019. Parenting four children under age four during the covid pandemic, they weren't sure he was going to be able to finish the diaconate preparation. However, he managed to do so.

Starting in the diaconate at such an early age, having experienced all he's seen and done, and having four children (including triplets) while preparing for the diaconate, Dcn. Ned has a lot of experience to share with the Church.

We want to thank Dcn. Ned Berghausen for his presentation.

SERRA MEETS WAS HELD JUNE 15

This was the 67th Serra Meets, which started during the pandemic. The keynote speaker for this meeting was Dr. Anne Roat, the outgoing President of the USA Council of Serra. Although her term was for two years, ending June 30 this year, she was President Elect for the two years prior to that and will be the Immediate Past President for the next two years. So, she really



made a six-year commitment and has done a fantastic job!

Dr. Roat has been a member of the Lafayette, Indiana Serra Club for about 22 years. She's been a club Treasurer, a member of the Membership Committee, the By-Laws Committee, and a VP for Vocations.

There were many accomplishments in the last two

years. One was the Vision 2035 – working for Serra to be recognized as the worldwide resource for supporting religious vocations.

Another accomplishment was an increase in US members from 7,848 in 2024 to 8,099 in 2026 – an increase of over 3%. Along with that we had seven new clubs established in the U.S.

Another 2024-27 goal has been to foster a culture of vocations to the priesthood in parishes, schools, and families. The USA Council has also been working on expanding support to clubs.

One accomplishment, after surveying clubs, was to develop a grading system that determines the health of a club. From that came the Siempre Adelante Awards – Gold and Silver.

Another accomplishment was to translate the “Serrans Called to Holiness” book into Spanish; and they even got an Imprimatur!

One priority was to improve the [SPARK website](#) and get more clubs to use its 31 tools.

One goal was to get more people worldwide to know of our Serran organization and not confuse us with the Sierra clubs.

Along those lines, the Council also encourages clubs to interact at least annually with their bishop and vocation director. Resources for those meetings can be found [here](#).

Another priority pertains to developing more content to share with the media. Anne McCormack, in the Chicago office, has been instrumental in this development. And she's also putting more articles in “The Serran” to foster a culture of vocations.

The USA Council is making a point to share more CARA Reports with us, many of which pertain to vocations.

The council has formed a Relationships Committee to help clubs interact with other national Catholic organizations that also promote vocations.

They are also working harder to be sure that clubs follow our USA Council guidelines.

We were one of the sponsors of the National Eucharistic Congress. And we now have a committee that is planning for the 2029 Eucharistic Congress.

In the last year there have been five IGNITE Workshops, in the states of CA, AZ, TX, and KS.

Dr. Roat reminded us all to consider attending the Serra International Convention in Indianapolis in July. And she also reminded us that we're trying to get District Governors for seven areas as some are retiring this year.

We want to thank Dr. Roat for all she has done and is still doing for the USA Council of Serra International!

In the business portion of Serra Meets, one speaker mentioned an organization out of the Covington, KY diocese – Parents of Vocations – formed by a parent of a young lady who felt the call from God to become a religious sister. He developed [this website](#) to help other parents in the same situation.

At [this site](#), you can view a video of the whole meeting, including Dr. Roat's talk, as well as the business part of the meeting.

JUBILEE MASS AND LUNCHEON ON JUNE 17

The St. Serra Club of Louisville assisted the Vocation Office with a celebration of special anniversaries for men and women who belong to religious orders and live or work in our archdiocese. The Mass and luncheon were held in the Motherhouse on the Ursuline Campus in Louisville.

The Mass was concelebrated by **Archbishop Shelton Fabre, Fr. Martin Linebach** (the retiring Vocation Director), and **Fr. Matt Millay** (the incoming Vocation Director, effective July 1). Serran **Deacon Craig Roberts** also assisted with the Mass. The

servers were seminarians **Thomas Wichman, Harrison Frey, and Amos Stinson.**

Archbishop Shelton spoke of the Gospel reading (Matt. 16:24-27), about denying ourselves and carrying our crosses, as it relates to the kind of service provided by all our jubilarians. He also spoke of how as a child, and later as a seminarian and a priest, he was deeply influenced by men and women of religious orders. The archbishop also spoke of he and his classmates being scared to death of some of the sisters who taught them.

Archbishop Shelton also had the three servers step forward; and he asked them to take a close look at the religious order members before them. He spoke of how they are a very important part of the Church and an example to us all.

At the luncheon, Fr. Martin Linebach also spoke of being influenced by many sisters throughout his childhood, though he claims he wasn't fearful of them! In fact, he said some of his religious sister teachers even kept in touch with him.

Chuck Lynch, President of the St. Serra Club of Louisville, reminded the attendees that Helen Keller once said, "Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes real happiness. It is not obtained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy cause." He said that we see this again and again in the lives of our religious order men and women.

To each Jubilarian we gave an envelope of thank-you cards prepared by students. And we want to thank **John Paul II Academy, St. Margaret Mary School, St. Edward School, and St. Francis of Assisi School** for assisting with this project. The sisters loved the cards! (None of the religious order men were able to attend that day.) Jubilarians who were unable to attend will have their cards mailed to them.

The full list of over 40 Jubilarians this year can be found in The Record.

For some of the pictures taken that day, click [here](#).

We want to thank the administration of the Ursuline Campus, Archbishop Shelton Fabre, the priests, deacons, and servers, the Vocation Office, and especially **Vanessa Haulk**. Thanks to the many Serrans who helped out that day. And thanks to **Sally Lynch** for the pictures.

Some of the pictures from that day are on page 6.

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 in Louisville, 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.

July 1 (Wed) - FEAST OF ST. JUNIPERO SERRA - 11 am Mass at Holy Family chapel. Installation of Officers. Lunch in the Brennan Room which is in the Saffin Center behind the Pastoral Center. Reservations required by June 26 due to ordering food. Chuck Lynch to speak on training parish vocation ministers.

July 6 (1st Mon) – No meeting due to holiday weekend.

July 8 (2nd Wed) - **Holy Hour for Vocations** – After the noon Mass in the Chapel of St. Margaret Mary Parish.

July 13 (2nd Mon) – **Zoom Rosary for Vocations**, 7 pm. See the separate article for details.

July 20 (3rd Mon) – **Amos Stinson, Seminarian**, will speak on his vocation journey.

July 20 (3rd Mon) - **"Serra Meets"** by Zoom – **8 pm** Louisville time. Click [here](#) for details.

July 28 (Tue) - 11:45 - **Serra Board Meeting** - St. Margaret Mary Spirituality Center.

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

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

There was an election of officers at the June 1 meeting.

The newly elected slate of officers: **Chuck Lynch** - President & VP of Communications; **Bob Hublar** – Secretary and VP of Vocations; **Charlie Francesconi** - Treasurer; **Lynn Haner** - VP of Membership; **Melody Denson** - VP of Programs; **Ken Peet** – VP of Cultural Outreach.

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

Positions Not Elected by the Members:

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 **Mike Murray** of the Northern Kentucky Serra Club. And

PICTURES FROM THE JUNE 17 JUBILEE MASS AND LUNCHEON



our Regional Director is **Frank Hartge** of the Columbus Ohio Serra Club.

We thank all our volunteers!

PRIESTS CELEBRATING ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to our priests celebrating anniversaries of ordination this month. We always include here any priests, from religious orders and other dioceses, who are working in our archdiocese. The asterisk (*) indicates "Retired."

DAY, C.P., REV. JOHN P., 7/8/72, 54 yrs

**FONSECA MARTINEZ, REV. SILVIO J., 7/3/81,
45 yrs**

HAYDEN, REV. JOSEPH F.*, 7/14/63, 63 yrs

**IFEAKOR, REV. EMMANUAL-GARRET N.,
7/11/09, 17 yrs**

OTUMA, A.J., REV. GEORGE, 7/21/01, 25 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 details on all our seminarians, as well as where they're going to school, hometown, and other information by clicking [here](#). (Then click the pictures to get more background.)

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.

SERRA'S INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IS IN INDIANAPOLIS THIS YEAR.

"The Crossroads of America" event will be Serra's 83 International Convention, to be held July 9-12, 2026. To learn more about the convention, how to register, the schedule of sessions, and how to reserve a hotel room, check out the details [here](#).

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE

What: Emmaus Discernment and Prayer Group – Is that you, God? How to Know if God is calling you?

For whom: Single women ages 18-45.

Step away from the busyness of daily life and enter into a prayerful conversation with the Dominican Sisters of Peace. This gathering offers a sacred space to listen more deeply for God's invitations and to reflect on how God calls us in different seasons of life.

Through shared stories and honest dialogue, we will explore how to discern God's call to religious life, marriage, or single life. The evening will feature a dynamic panel with a Dominican Sister, a married couple, and a single layperson, sharing wisdom from knowing God's call to their lived experiences.

Guest Panelists: Ceal Amendolia, OPA, Mark Butler, OPA, Susan Buttler, and Sr. Bea Tiboldi, OP

When: Friday, August 21, 2026, from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Where: Zoom (Link will be provided upon registration)

For additional information and to register for the event, please email Sister Ana Gonzalez, OP at ana.gonzalez@oppeace.org.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

In 2021, Pope Francis started the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, celebrated on the fourth Sunday of July (**July 26 this year**), near the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne (which is always on July 26), the parents of Mother Mary and, thus, the grandparents of Jesus.

Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme this year to be "I will never forget you," from Isaiah 49:15.

For more on the celebration and the Pope's theme this year, click [here](#).

It "offers an opportunity to bring the Church closer to the elderly and to acknowledge their contribution to families and communities."

ST. JOHN PAUL II PARISH VOCATION MINISTRY

The Parish Vocation Ministry Committee of St. John Paul II Parish presented a Vocation Information Table at all Masses for the June 20-21 weekend. Shown here is **Serran Lynn Haner**. **Eloise Campbell** and **Serran Chuck Lynch** also assisted at other Masses. They had handouts, answered questions, and illustrated a number of parish activities to promote and support religious vocations.



JULY 1 IS ST. JUNIPERO SERRA'S FEAST DAY

In the U.S., we celebrate his feast day on July 1 because he officially entered the Alta California to begin his major missionary work on that day in 1769. The rest of the world celebrates his feast day on the anniversary of his death, which was August 28 of 1784.

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 it [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](#).

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF PEACE

What: Mass, Meal, and Crafting with the Dominican Sisters.

For whom: Single women ages 18-45.

Make room for prayer, good food, and a little creativity! Join the Dominican Sisters of Peace for Mass, a shared meal, and crafting our own rosaries - an easygoing day to connect, laugh, and enjoy community while being renewed in faith.

When: **Sunday, August 2, 10:30 am – 2:00 pm**

Where: St. Catharine's Dominican Sisters of Peace Mother House at **2645 Bardstown Rd, Saint Catharine, KY 40061**.

For additional information and to register for the event, please email Sister Ana Gonzalez, OP at ana.gonzalez@oppeace.org.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

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 Respect For Human Life - Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

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

Newsletter comments, questions, or submissions?
Contact Chuck Lynch writer/editor at
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