



Club chartered May 22, 1955

Saint Serra Club of Louisville VOCATION DIGEST

*“Always Forward, Never Back”
- Saint Junipero Serra*

September, 2026
Newsletter

MISSION:

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

ON AUGUST 10 WE HOSTED OUR ANNUAL SEMINARIAN LUNCHEON

Every year we have a send-off luncheon in August, prior to our seminarians going back to their seminaries.

Club President Chuck Lynch emceed the meeting, which included Archbishop Shelton Fabre, Director of Vocations Fr. Matt Millay, Director of Seminarians Fr. Steven Reeves, Associate Director of Vocations, Todd Popson, 22 of our 23 seminarians, and many of our Serrans.

Archbishop Shelton Fabre led our meeting with a opening prayer and grace before we went to the buffet.



Fr. Matt Millay, Director of Vocations, and Pastor



at the Church of the Ascension (and youngest pastor in the archdiocese), spoke of how he's put many miles on his car since he began this job July 1. He's driving around the archdiocese to meet with discerners and has already met with 10 men in his first six weeks. He tries to meet them close to their parish and even meet with their

pastors. He asked for our prayers for his work. Fr. Matt also told the seminarians, “Don't doubt that people are praying for you, but also don't take it for granted.”

Fr. Steven Reeves, Director of Seminarians, and



Pastor at St. Lawrence Parish, spoke of how this annual luncheon is an institution; and he appreciates all the support and prayers by Serrans. He spoke of all the gifts that our seminarians bring to us.

Deacon David Vest was the first seminarian to speak. He was ordained to the diaconate this year and should be ordained to the priesthood next year. Deacon David said he spent the summer working at St. Patrick Parish, where he said he learned a lot. He got to sit in on marriage prep classes.



He also got to learn more about the annulment process. Then he said he spent time learning how a parish takes care of its facilities. Deacon David is going into his last year of theology at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Cincinnati this fall.



Deacon Cuong Le spent the summer working with and shadowing Fr. Tony Cecil at St. Raphael, where he said he learned a lot and called Fr. Tony an “amazing mentor.” Deacon Cuong preached once a week at weekday Masses and once a month on Sundays. He sat in on

staff meetings and helped with the summer picnic. This fall he'll finish his classes at the Theological College in D.C.

David Hairston spent the summer at the Cathedral of the Assumption, working with Fr. Fred Klotter – playing the organ, serving at daily and



weekend Masses, visiting hospice patients with his pastor, witness the pastor administering Last Rites, take communion to the dying, work with families of the deceased, and work at the soup kitchen. This fall he'll start his third configuration year at St. Meinrad Seminary. He hopes to be ordained to the transitional diaconate in 2027.

Tung Ho spoke of how it is such a joy to come to this luncheon each year. He was able to visit family and friends in Vietnam over the summer. He was also able to attend his sister's final vows as she became a religious sister. This fall, Tung will be



in third theology at the Theological College in D.C.

Conor McClure was unable to be at the luncheon as he was wrapping up his summer CPE assignment – a clinical pastoral experience working at Norton Audubon Hospital – visiting with patients. This fall, Conor will be doing his third-year configuration



at St. Meinrad.

Harrison Frey spent the summer at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, where he visited the sick weekly in a nursing home, where he developed relationships as he ministered to these individuals and delivered the Eucharist. He ministered to people nearing the end of their lives. This fall he'll be in third theology at the Theological College in D.C.

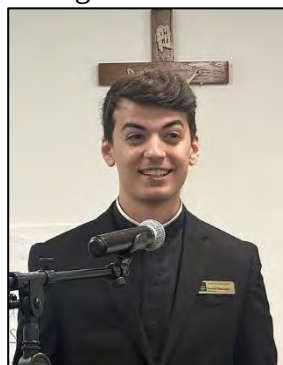


Amos Stinson was assigned to St. Bernadette Parish for the summer, working with Fr. Kirby Rust, and attending to people in the hospital. He also helped lead summer OCIA program, as well as help with parish administrative matters. He'll be going into second



theology at the Theological College in D.C. this fall.

Thanh Phan was assigned to St. John Vianney Parish for the summer, where he worked with Fr. Minh Vu, ministering to a parish which is primarily Vietnamese. He also spent part of the summer furthering his study of English. He spoke of learning humility and how to listen to others. This fall, Thanh will be at St. Joseph Seminary College in Louisiana.



Samuel Mattingly spent a month at the Institute of Priestly Formation in Nebraska, receiving many spiritual gifts, he said. Then he spent time in the archdiocesan finance office while living at St. Joe's Parish in Butchertown, serving at the parish on weekends and using his Spanish. Since he just graduated in May from Sacred Heart College and Seminary, he will be going to St. Meinrad this fall for his first year in theology.

Zachary Moore was assigned to work in Marion County at St. Charles Parish. He enjoyed the people from that area as well as their cooking. He experienced many things but specifically enjoyed visiting the homebound. He will be starting first theology at the Theological College in D.C.



Emerson Wells was assigned to St. Margaret Mary Parish for the summer, working with Fr. Bill Hammer, where he says he witnessed a lot of things. He helped with vacation Bible school; was looking forward to the kids first weeks of school before he goes back to seminary; experienced the transition between associate pastors effective July 1; sat in on important administrative business; and learned a lot about a parish



handling a new building project. Emerson will be going to Theological College in DC. this fall.

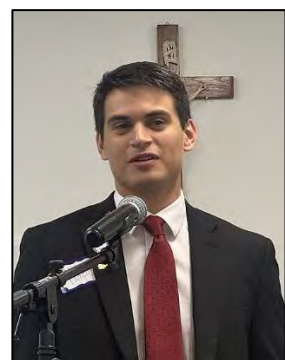
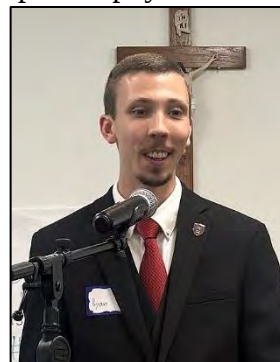
Trenton Thieneman spent the summer working at the Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green, along with several others of our seminarians, which he found to be an incredible and meaningful experience, although it was an exhausting 24/7 experience.

He found working with young people, and their special stage in life, to be very unique. This fall he'll start first theology at the Theological College at Catholic University of America in D.C.



different people do in different departments; and interacting with many volunteers from other parishes, including committed elderly people. George says he learned a lot about commitment. This fall he'll be at St. Meinrad doing his second year of philosophy.

Ryan Rasmussen was assigned to St. Michael's in Fairfield and All Saints Parish in Taylorsville – both with Father Quan Nguyen. Ryan spoke of learning a ministry of presence from Fr. Quan, including the managing of personal time. He spoke of it all being a great experience, while training altar servers. This fall, Ryan will be going into his second year of philosophy at St. Meinrad.



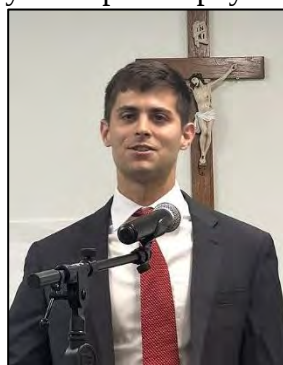
Nicolas Caicedo spent the summer at Annunciation Parish in Shelbyville, working with pastor Fr. Jean Gonzalez. Nico shadowed Fr. Jean as they visited the sick, the homebound, and the dying. He learned Fr. Jean's emphasis that the Catholic Church is one, even if it is a parish where some speak English and some speak Spanish. This fall Nico will be in his third year at St. Meinrad, studying his second year of philosophy.

Peter Bifone spent the summer with Fr. Chris Lubecke at St. Albert the Great Parish, which he said was a really good experience. Peter spoke of Fr. Chris being a "ministry of presence," from whom he learned a lot. This fall Peter will be in his third year at St.



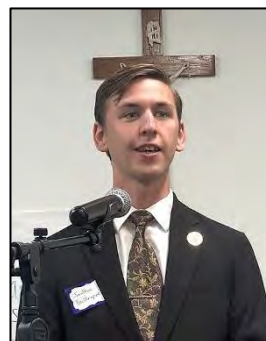
Meinrad, studying his second year of philosophy.

George Olokojo spent the summer working at the Cathedral of the Assumption, with Fr. Fred Klotter. He spent time working in the kitchen while they fed the homeless; helping with liturgies; interacting with the staff; learning what



Thomas Wichmann spent the summer at Holy Spirit Parish, working with Fr. Anthony Chandler, who he called "an administrative genius." Thomas said he learned a lot from Fr. Chandler. Then he also spent time at the Office of Worship working with Dr. Karen Shadle, who he labeled as "brilliant." He'll be at St. Meinrad again this fall.

Jonathan Heitkemper was assigned to the Gasper River Youth Camp, where he said it was wonderful working with the youth, who he said were from many dioceses, including some outside of Kentucky. Jonathan said it was a wonderful experience. This fall he'll be in his third year of college seminary, which is philosophy, at the St. John Paul II Seminary in D.C.



Joseph Randolph also spent his summer at the Gasper River Youth Camp. He really enjoyed working with the youth, who he said ranged from grades 3 through 12. He said they were assigned different age groups

each week. He was most impressed by “just how faithful, knowledgeable, and ready to learn about the faith that these kids are.” Joseph thinks how this will help him in the future as he relates to youth and even potential future priests. This fall he’ll be entering his third year of philosophy at CUA at St. John Paul II Seminary.



Donald Whitworth also spent his summer at the Gasper River Youth Camp, where he thought it was so unique to have all these kids looking up to him. He spoke of it being a lot of hours and a lot of work, and yet fun. He felt the responsibility to know what he was talking

about since the youth looked up to him, even though he’s still got a lot of learning ahead of him. This fall, Donald will be in his second year of philosophy at St. John Paul II Seminary in D.C.

Next were our three *new* seminarians for this fall.

Eric Crane grew up in the St. Gabriel Parish. Two years ago, when he moved into the Highlands, he joined St. Francis of Assisi Parish. In 2020 he graduated from IU Southeast with a degree in geography. He has been working as a pet store manager. On St. James feast day last year, he applied to our Vocation Office and was accepted earlier this year. This fall he’ll be attending St. Meinrad for his propaedeutic year.



Joseph Paterson is originally from Buffalo, NY, where he was raised Catholic. He graduated in 2024 from Virginia Tech with a degree in agricultural science. He moved to Elizabethtown to work for the Cooperative Extension Service; and E-town, where he joined St. James Parish, was the beginning of



his call to the priesthood. This fall he’ll be attending St. Meinrad for his propaedeutic year.

Jeremy White, who introduced himself as a “not so young guy,” grew up in Louisville at St. Raphael’s Parish. For the last 10 to 15 years, he’s been a member of the Cathedral of the Assumption. He’s enjoyed interacting with our seminarians who were at the Cathedral for their summer assignments. He’s been a math professor at Spalding University for about 18 years. Feeling the call to the priesthood for about 10 years, he decided to take it seriously and apply. This fall he’ll be attending St. Meinrad for his propaedeutic year.



The seminarians were all very appreciative of the cards, letters, emails, and prayers by members of the St. Serra Club of Louisville. And they said they keep us Serrans in their prayers.

Todd Popson, Associate Director of Vocations, was not a speaker at this luncheon. But Nicolas Caicedo said of Todd, “I think that he has been a quintessential team player for the growth of our vocations in our diocese; and I think it’s been too long since we have been able to formally say ‘Thank you’ to Todd. But thank you so much for being there for us.”

Club President Chuck Lynch reminded us that while the national average is 4.3 diocesan seminarians for every 100,000 Catholics, our archdiocese is at 11.5!

For more information on all our seminarians see the Vocation Office [seminarian webpage](#), where you can also click a picture and get details on a seminarian’s hometown, parish, past education, family background, the seminary he’s attending, current level of classes, favorites, hobbies, and more.

To read the article in The Record about this meeting, click [here](#).

(Thanks to Jerry Zimmerer for pictures with this article.)

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.

SEP 7 (1st Mon) – No meeting due to Labor Day Holiday.

SEP 9 (2nd Wed) – **Holy Hour for Vocations** – after the Noon Mass at St. Margaret Mary.

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

SEP 21 (3rd Mon) – **Fr. Charles Dittmeier** will speak on his vocation journey.

SEP 21 (3rd Mon) – “**Serra Meets**” by Zoom – 8 pm Louisville time. **Bill Newbrough** will speak about the Archdiocese of the Military and the challenges to serve our military. Click [here](#) for details.

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

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

SR. MARY RICHARD MORRIS, LSP, SPOKE AT OUR AUG 17 MEETING.

About Our Speaker

Sr. Mary Richard is a native of New Jersey. She entered the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor (LSP) in 1974 and received her initial formation in Baltimore and at St. Ann's Novitiate in Queens Village, NY. After her first profession of vows, she gained experience in the care of the elderly through assignments in Baltimore, Cleveland, Scranton, PA and Brooklyn before going to France for a year of preparation for her final vows which she made at the LSP Motherhouse in 1981.



Returning to the USA, she served as a formation assistant at their novitiate and then spent four years at the service of the elderly in Scranton before being asked to assume responsibility for the LSP's publications in the USA, which she did for eight years. In 1994, she was named Director of Novices, an assignment which was to last for 26 years, until she was named Mother Superior at St. Joseph's Home in Louisville in 2021, her current mission.

Her Presentation

Sr. Mary broke down her presentation into three parts – a summary of her vocation journey; the beauty of a vocation with the LSP; and an unexpected gift to the LSP related to St. Junipero Serra.

She just celebrated the 50th anniversary of her joining the order.

As a child, with one brother, she attended Catholic Schools. In second grade, she learned of the existence of religious sisters. One night, at age 8, she stayed up late to watch the 1957 movie “Heaven Knows Mr. Allison,” with her dad. It featured Deborah Kerr playing a religious sister. She was “bowled over” by the idea that one could belong to God in such a way. Later in life, she had that same sense of longing as she learned a phrase used by St. Jeanne Jugan (1792-1879), the foundress of the LSP – “God wants me for himself.” (More on St. Jeanne Jugan can be found [here](#).)

As a freshman in high school, through her uncle, a priest, she was introduced to the LSP. She volunteered at their Home for the Aged, but was also interested in music, and considered being a teacher when she grew up. But her desire grew to pursue a monastic vocation and she applied twice; but she was turned down both times due to her physical handicap.

One day, at the Little Sisters' Home she saw a Little Sister kneeling motionless in prayer. This is when Sr. Mary realized that it should be possible to be both a contemplative and a Little Sister. In fact she has come to understand that in order to live the Little Sisters' vocation profoundly, one needs to have a “contemplative gaze” to see Jesus in the aged poor. She eventually entered the community in 1974.

Next, speaking on the beauty of a vocation with the LSP, she talked about the fact that this Congregation is one of the few in the world that are “hospitallers.” In addition to the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, they also take the vow of hospitality. They serve the elderly poor, as it says in their Constitutions, “with the same spirit of worship that we would have in serving Jesus Christ Himself.”

Their Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan would always remind her sisters that, “The poor are our Lord.” And when she was dying, she was quoted as saying, “I no longer see anything but God.” She was canonized as a saint in 2009.

Finally, Sr. Mary spoke of a special event that occurred during the canonization of St. Junipero Serra on

Sep 23, 2015. Word had gone out to seminarians and religious across the country to come to DC for the canonization. Sr. Mary was the novice mistress at the time; and she took five of their women in formation to the event. The Little Sisters have a home near the National Shrine where the event was being held. Getting word that Pope Francis would go by the retirement home on his way to a seminary, they were able to leave the National Shrine and go to be with about 40 Little Sisters from the nearby Homes.

In spite of his exhaustion after the canonization, the Pope did stop to visit; and he ended up greeting all 40 of the sisters, thanking them for taking care of the elderly. He said, "There will come a day when you will see the doors open for you, and Jesus will be there, and he'll say to each one of you, it was Me." Sr. Mary said the tears were flowing. Then the Pope led them in a prayer before he departed.

The Little Sisters have also been encouraged by the words of Pope Leo XIV when he visited their Homes in Algeria and in Istanbul, where he said, "You are Little Sisters of the Poor. This is a beautiful name, and one that makes us think. Yes, the Lord has called you not only to assist or help the poor but has also called you to be their sisters. You are to be like Jesus."

Sr. Mary said that in Pope Leo XIV's message for this year's World Day of Prayer for Vocations, he said the one who pauses, listens, prays, and welcomes the shepherd's gaze can say with confidence, "I trust him. Life with him can be truly beautiful. I want to walk this path of beauty."

In response to a question about this order still wearing the habit, Sr. Mary said that around the time of Vatican II, they modified the habit to make it more practical but specifically chose not to get rid of it. She said that residents in these retirement homes recognize the habit; their vow of poverty calls for simple attire; it is a reminder of their consecration; and people more readily ask them for prayers.

There are around 1500 sisters in the Congregation worldwide, with 13 missioned in Louisville. Fortunately, they still have young women discerning their vocation and one will begin formation in Baltimore this fall. They welcome the needy elderly to 150 homes in 31 countries. However, the reduction in vocations has required them to merge or close some homes, in order to preserve the vibrancy of their communities.

More information can be found on the local St. Joseph's Home website [here](#). Donations are always welcome.

We want to thank Sr. Mary Richard Morris, lsp, for her presentation.

(Thanks also to Sam Willett for the picture with this article.)

FR. TIMOTHY MONAHAN SPOKE AT "SERRA MEETS" AUGUST 17.

About the Speaker

Fr. Timothy Monahan has been a priest for 16 years, the last nine of which have been as Vocation Director (VD) for the Archdiocese of Chicago. In his time, the Vocations Office has seen, on average, seven men from the local community begin seminary formation each year, with a 75% retention rate.

Father is the fourth of eight children, and he's an Irish American who loves Jesus, the Catholic Church, people, sports, reading, and travel.

Since July 1, 2026, Fr. Monahan has been pastor of Little Flower Parish in Waukegan, IL.

Fr. Monahan talked at this Zoom meeting about what he learned in his nine years of being the vocation director for the Archdiocese of Chicago, and his new 2026 book ["Jesus is the Vocation Director."](#)

His Presentation

Fr. Tim realized that there was no book aimed at vocation directors; so, he decided to write his own. He wanted to thank many people who helped make this book possible - including families of seminarians, a professor at Mundelein Seminary in Illinois, Serrans, and other vocation directors.

At the back of the book, he lists "essential documents." And Fr. Tim says the book is not just for vocation directors but can be useful for bishops and other priests. One priest read it in a day and wants to give copies to all his diocesan priests.

Fr. Tim points out that many priests don't have a good idea of what a vocation director does. He's even given the book to women religious since it can be applied toward discerning new members for their own orders.





PIONEERS FOR OUR TIMES:

*Living Humbly,
Praying Courageously*

A Discernment Retreat for Catholic Women

Un Retiro de Discernimiento para Mujeres Católicas

Khóa Tĩnh Tâm Phân Định Ôn Gợi dành cho Phụ Nữ Công Giáo



Date

Friday, October 2 -
Sunday, October 4, 2026



Location

St. Catharine Motherhouse,
2645 Bardstown Rd.
St. Catharine, KY 40061



Details

Free event,
travel assistance available



About the Retreat

Welcome the grace of fall with a weekend of prayer, reflection, and fellowship.

Single Catholic women, ages 18–45, are invited to a peaceful retreat at the historic Motherhouse in St. Catharine, Kentucky, to pause, reconnect with God, and explore the Dominican Sisters of Peace way of life.



Scan to register

For more information or to register, please contact Sister Ana Gonzalez, OP, at ana.gonzalez@oppeace.org.



The book has five chapters; and Fr. Tim summarized those chapters in his talk.

Chapter 1 gets into expectations. Being a VD requires a lot of travel to work with discerners in a diocese, as well as staying in contact with the seminarians.

He pointed out that although the average VD is in office for under 3.5 years, the longer he can serve, the better.

One of the first jobs is to clarify what the bishop wants and expects. His book identifies 11 tasks for the VD – including promotion (which has six separate tasks), accompaniment, discernment, screening, and the process of seminarian applications.

Chapter 2 addresses how to do the job, a chapter that would be very appreciated by Serrans. It's not just telling young men they'd make good priests. But it also involves helping young men understand the top priority – the sense that we *all* have the “universal call to holiness.” The second sense is that there are different states in life under the heading of a call to holiness – single, married, ordained, or consecrated. Even if a young man considering the priesthood ends up discerning out of the seminary, hopefully he realizes that the other ways to holiness are still options for him. The third sense is the concept of personal vocation – using our gifts and talents to be applied to our call to holiness.

In this chapter Fr. Tim also speaks of capacity, freedom, and desire. Is the discernor capable of handling the formation process, as well as the job? On freedom, the book recognizes that some young men have too much college debt or have struggles with chastity. He said that Fr. Brennan's book [“To Save a Thousand Souls”](#) lists the fears a young man can have in discerning the priesthood. As to desire, he says some young men admire the priesthood but don't really have the necessary desire to proceed. There's a subtle distinction between admiration and desire.

Chapter 3 is about developing relationships – the VD's relationships with discerners, parents, priests, his bishop, his local Serra club, a leadership team, and even leveraging his relationship with existing seminarians to help the new discerners.

Chapter 4 gets into the interior life of the VD, looking at pressures, expectations, and the fact that sometimes VDs don't feel they have the time to take care of themselves. He mentioned two VDs who left the

priesthood during the time they worked in the vocation office.

Chapter 5 addresses the freedom of the VD and what fruitfulness looks like. Although everyone focuses on the number of seminarians and ordinations, success is more than just the numbers. The VD needs to be able to say to himself, “All right, am I in a good place with God, and do I experience His great love for me as His beloved Son and as His priest, so that I can then look at this candidate and ask what's best for him?” We don't want to manipulate discerners just to increase the number of seminarians. Not only does seminary attendance take seven to eight years, but it may be another five years after ordination to know if the priest is truly going to make it.

To view the entire video, including the business portion of the Zoom meeting, click [here](#).

We thank Fr. Timothy Monahan for his presentation.

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.

AÑOVER, REV. ALBERT C., 9/20/05, 21 yrs

HARRIS, REV. DAVID W., 9/6/08, 18 yrs

OVERTON, REV. TROY D., 9/1/89, 37 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 our seminarians celebrating birthdays this month:

NICHOLAS “Nico” CAICEDO – September 18

ERIC CRANE – September 28

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.)

Get your questions
answered at the

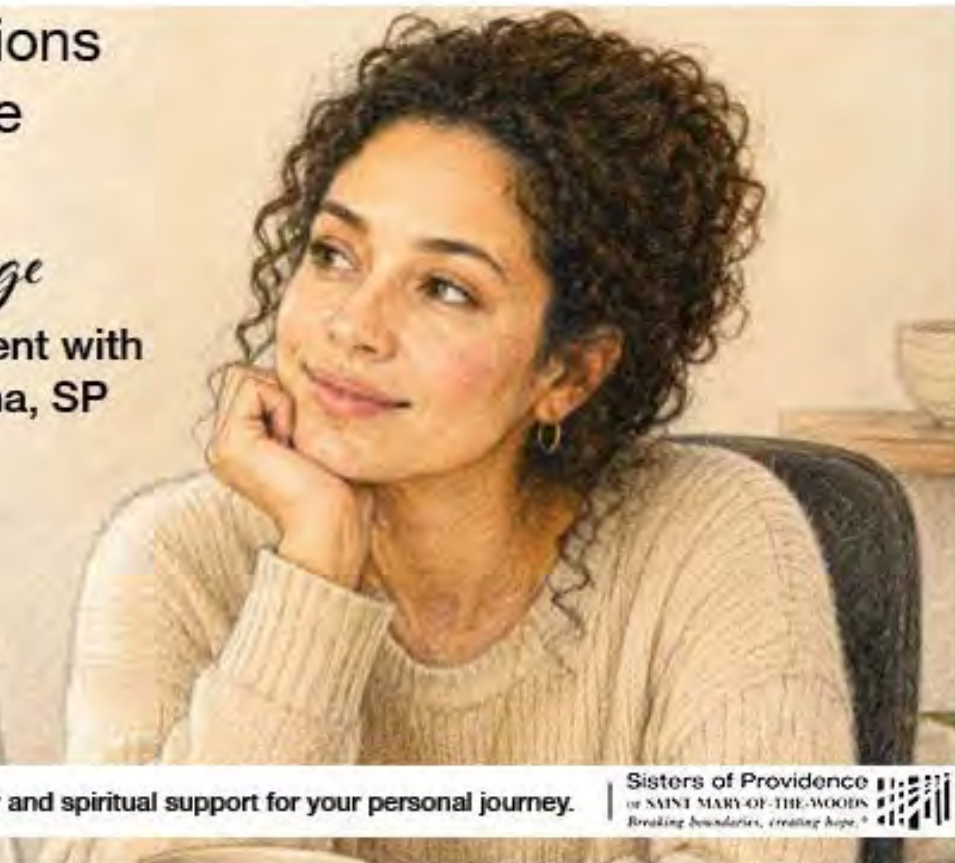
Discernment Lounge

A new virtual event with
Sister Joni Luna, SP

- Tuesday, July 7
 - Friday, August 7
 - Monday, September 7
- all sessions at 7 p.m. (EDT)

Find encouragement, community and spiritual support for your personal journey.

Sisters of Providence
of SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS
Breaking boundaries, creating hope.®



Free

The Discernment Lounge: A New Virtual Event is a welcoming space for women who are exploring God's call in their lives, particularly the possibility of religious life. In a relaxed and supportive environment, participants gather online to share their questions, experiences, and hopes with sisters and other women who are discerning as well.

Through prayer, conversation and reflection, the lounge offers an opportunity to learn more about discernment, deepen one's relationship with God and connect with a community of faith.

There is no pressure or expectation, just an open space to listen to God's voice, ask honest questions and journey together.

Whether you are just beginning to wonder about religious life or have been discerning for some time, the Discernment Lounge offers companionship, encouragement, and spiritual support along the way.

For more information, contact Sister Joni Luna at 361-500-9505 or jluna@spsmw.org. You can register online [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.

COLLECTION FOR TANZANIAN SEMINARIANS

As in the last two years, with the help of Fr. John Judie Ministries, Inc., we are forwarding funds collected (several thousand dollars) from the members of our club to support seminarians in the **Tunduru-Masasi Diocese of Tanzania headed by Bishop Filbert Mhasi**.

For more on this project, you can read the articles on page 6 of our September 2024 newsletter [here](#) and page 12 of our August 2025 newsletter [here](#).

NEW TO THE VOCATION OFFICE

Alexandra (Alex) Rodenburg, the new fulltime Secretary in the Vocations Office, was born and raised in Louisville as a proud graduate of St. Nicholas Academy and Mercy Academy. She graduated with a Bachelor's in Communication Studies and Pastoral Leadership Minor from Marian University and a Master's from Ball State University.



Alex is newly married to her wonderful husband Nate. Her favorite saint is Joan of Arc and she is a member of Our Mother of Sorrows parish.

In her free time, Alex enjoys knitting, petting her cat and playing card games with her family.

Alex, glad you have joined the Vocations Office!

OUR PRIESTS IN THE NEWS

Fr. Jeff Nicolas, Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Mt. Washington, was noted as one of the 100 outstanding alumni of the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. (Source: St. Meinrad Seminary)

Fr. Martin Linebach, spiritual director and founding member of Family Renewal Project, is the recipient of the 2026 Alumnus Lifetime Service Award from the Theological College, the national diocesan seminary of the Catholic University of America. He will be honored at the alumni day mass and award banquet on October the 15th. The mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Kurtz. (Source: Family Renewal Project)

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

Now is the time to start preparing for Priesthood Sunday, which is a special day set aside for Catholics to thank, affirm and share their love and support for our priests. It is celebrated on the last Sunday of September each year (Sep 27th this year).

Some ideas for you, your family and your parish for celebrating this occasion: Pray for your priest and all priests. You could personally thank your priest on Priesthood Sunday, or any day. Send a thank you note or letter. Invite your priest for dinner with your family or friends. Send a card or letter to a priest who used to serve at your parish. Have children make a homemade card or color a picture. Go on an outing together - a restaurant, a play, golf, concert, or a movie. Send them goody baskets, balloon bouquets, or flowers.

For more ideas click [here](#) and [here](#).

VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

Serran Birthdays this month:

Phil Lawver, Sep 9	Deacon Bill Klump, Sep 10
Jim Williams, Sep 20	Jerry Gonsoski, Sep 21
Paul Willett, Sep 22	Thomas Davis, Sep 25

Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of September

– For The Care of Water - Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

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

Newsletter comments, questions, or submissions?
Contact Chuck Lynch writer/editor at
(502) 442-9302 or ChuckLynch4782@gmail.com