



Wheeling, WV
Serra Club
Prayer Leaders

- Janet Boyle – Oct. 5
Karen Dobkin – Oct. 19
Msgr. Ostrowski – Nov. 2
Mass for Deceased Serrans
Beth Zarate – Nov. 16
Judy Goudy – Dec. 7
Vickie Joseph – Dec. 21

If you can't make it to the meeting at which you are to lead the prayer, please find a substitute.

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 5 - Serra Club Meeting, with speaker Cassidy Roderick, a student from the University of Steubenville
- Oct. 19 - Serra Club Meeting, with speaker Maddie Davin, a student from Wheeling Jesuit University
- Oct. 28 - Priesthood Sunday Event - Catholic Heritage Center. Social at 5:30, dinner at 6.
- Nov. 2 - Mass for Deceased Serrans†

Serra Club News

Rev. Msgr. Quirk Leads Serrans on a Tour of Beautiful St. Joseph Cathedral

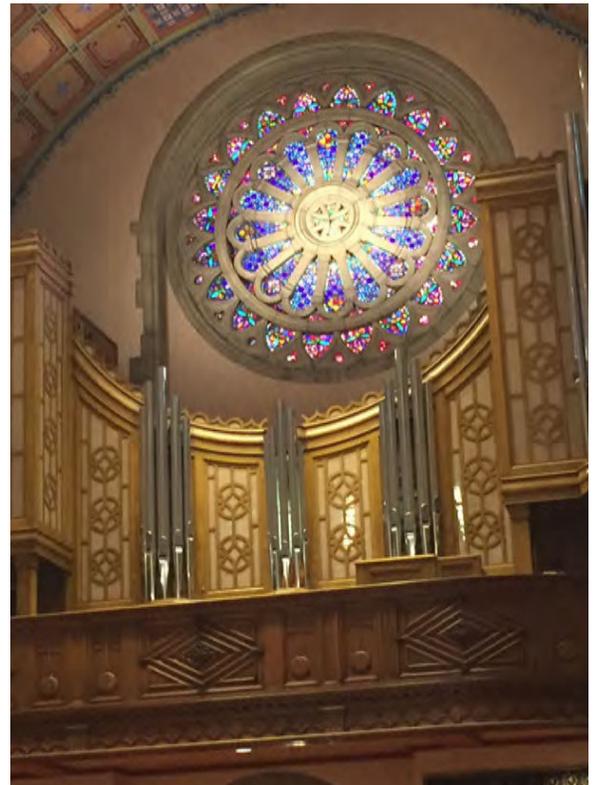
Rev. Msgr. Kevin Quirk gave us a fascinating look at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph last week, delving into architecture, spirituality, church history and the Cathedral's role in the empowerment of American workers. About 50 Serrans, spouses and other guests attended the presentation, which was followed by a beautiful prayer service led by our chaplain, Rev. Msgr. Eugene Ostrowski.

Here are just a few of the treasures that Msgr. Quirk shared with our club:

- Founded in 1822, the Cathedral community is Wheeling's oldest Catholic parish, predating the establishment of the Diocese by almost 30 years.
- St. James was the original patron saint of our Diocese, but Bishop Richard Whelan petitioned the Vatican to change it to St. Joseph, patron saint of workers, in light of the involvement of so many local Catholics in the American labor movement.



Above: Rev. Msgr. Quirk, discusses Cathedral history and architectural points of interest; below: the Cathedral's beautiful wheel window faces West, filling the church with streams of color at sunset



Continued on page 2



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Cathedral Tour

continued from page 1

- After WWI, Bishop Patrick Donahue wanted to build a new cathedral, but died before he could begin work on it. The original cathedral, which he hoped to replace, was destroyed by fire in 1923.

- Bishop John Swint undertook the building of our current cathedral, which was dedicated in 1926.

- In 1973, under Bishop Joseph Hodges, the building underwent renovations necessitated by Vatican II, including moving the main altar forward and removing the communion rail. Further renovations, including adding a wing with a kitchen and restrooms, continued in the 90s and 2000s under

Bishop Bernard Schmitt and Bishop Michael Bransfield.

- The building's beautiful stained-glass windows are arranged in pairs to depict parallel scenes from the Old and New Testaments. For instance, one pair shows Abraham about to follow God's order to sacrifice his son Isaac, next to a photo of the crucifixion, in which God the Father sacrificed his son Jesus Christ for our salvation.

After regaling us for nearly an hour, Msgr. Quirk had to leave to attend a

meeting. At the request of Serra President Chris Freeman, he promised to continue the presentation at another time. †



Cathedral Tour Photos by Karen Dobkin & Larry Bandi



Our club is pleased to welcome two new members, Judy Goudy and Vickie Joseph, both of St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

We hope to introduce these members more fully in our next newsletter. In the meantime, please introduce yourself to Judy and Vickie and let them know how happy we are that they've joined us. ✝

Archbishop William Lori Seeks “Truth and Justice for Individuals and the Church We Love”

By now everyone has heard that Pope Francis has appointed Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore to serve as Apostolic Administrator of our Diocese. The announcement came from the Holy See when Bishop Michael J. Bransfield turned 75 and submitted his resignation.

As part of his duties, the Vatican announced that Archbishop Lori was assigned to conduct an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment against Bishop Bransfield.

During the Archbishop’s first Mass in Wheeling, which took place Sept. 15 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, he acknowledged that the Vatican announcement regarding the former bishop was upsetting to many, and promised that the allegations will be investigated fully and fairly.

While the Archbishop has been assigned by the Vatican to supervise the investigation, he stressed that it will be conducted by “competent laypersons with the necessary skills.”

The ultimate goal is uncovering “truth and justice for individuals and for the common good of the Church we love,” he said. Archbishop Lori called it a privilege and joy to help West Virginians begin moving forward.

He spoke of the widening abuse crisis within the Catholic Church, including the findings



Archbishop William Lori speaks to the faithful at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling on Sept. 15th. CNS photo by Colleen Rowan, The Catholic Spirit, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; used with permission

announced last month by a Pennsylvania Grand Jury. The steady drumbeat of revelations has created a crisis of trust, he said.

However, he said the discussions between the Pope and American bishops are proceeding well, and bishops will be held accountable for their own conduct and for failing to deal with abusive priests in their dioceses.

Archbishop Lori said our Diocese is working to strengthen protections for children and young adults by implementing strict policies. Some of these are thorough training for clergy and laity, including volunteers, background checks and fingerprinting.

All allegations will be reviewed by the diocese and an independent lay board, he said.

Even with these commitments in place, he said, “we cannot forget that we have a long, long way to go.” He invited the faithful to join him in the journey to achieve healing and reconciliation. “It is a journey I wish to make with you,” he said.

The Archbishop promised to do his best to promote healing within the diocese, and asked for prayers and the help of God’s grace. †

Fr. Smay Urges Remaining Faithful to God

By Karen Dobkin & Cindy Stanley

Fr. Martin Smay had an interesting weekend just before addressing Serrans at the September 6 meeting. On Saturday he celebrated his first wedding. On Monday he celebrated the 70th Anniversary Mass for Jack and Katie Fahey.

Fr. Martin admitted he had some thoughts running through his head before celebrating his first wedding. "I couldn't help but wonder – how is this going to work out for this young couple?"

On Monday he had no such thoughts as he celebrated Mass for the Faheys. "I already knew how things had worked out for them," he quipped. Think about how these two people have been faithful to their marriage for 70 years, he said, "And then ask yourself 'How much more faithful is God to us and His church?'"

As we work through this sad and frustrating time in the Church,

Fr. Martin recognizes many people may be wondering, what do we do? "Remain faithful to God and He will remain faithful to you. The Church and the priesthood are still at work," he said. Fr. Martin suggested that we all seek sanctity through prayer and fast as a penance. "Why should we pray for the sins of others?" he asked.

"Because we are all one body and when one part of the body hurts, the rest suffers." So, as we struggle with the difficulties in the Church, we should pray for the sins of the offenders as well as their victims.

What is the value of fasting? Fr. Martin gave an excellent historical overview of fasting. Food is abundant now, but not so in the past. People might have meat only once a



Fr. Martin Smay

week in the past, so giving that up was a real sacrifice.

"Food and pleasures of the flesh are both licit and they serve to attach us to this world. Detach yourself from pleasure and free your spirit so it can attach itself to God. Pray that we are all

sanctified."

In case you haven't heard, Fr. Smay will not be returning to Rome to continue his studies, as he had expected to do. Archbishop Lori decided he was needed in West Virginia, where our priest shortage is reaching critical proportions. Fr. Smay will continue to be assigned to St. Michael Parish in Wheeling. †

Priesthood Appreciation Dinner set for Oct. 28th

Please plan to join us as we honor our priests on Priesthood Sunday, October 28, 2018. Our Priest Appreciation Dinner will take place in the Bishop Schmitt Catholic Heritage Center at 2000 Main Street in Wheeling. The social hour begins at 5:30 and dinner begins at 6.

For the first time, our club

will host this event with the Knights of Columbus Carroll Council #504.

Priesthood Sunday is a special day set aside to honor the priesthood in the United States.

It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one. This nationwide event is coordinated

by the USA Council of Serra International. It is sponsored by the USA Council of Serra International and the Serra Foundation. †

