



# DELCHESTER SERRA CLUB



July 2024

## Ordinations of Record Number of Priests in Four Archdioceses

The crowd filling the pews and aisles of the largest Catholic church in the United States witnessed the largest ordination class in Archdiocese of Washington in 64 years, as Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory ordained 16 new priests for the archdiocese during a June 15 Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

It is the archdiocese's largest ordination class since 1960, when 17 men were ordained the year that John F. Kennedy was elected as the nation's first Catholic president.

The 16 men ordained range in age from 25 to 64 and include a survivor of the 1994 civil war and genocide in his home country of Rwanda, a former emergency room physician, a former District of Columbia police officer, a former supervisor of commercial construction projects, and veterans of the U.S. Navy, Marines and Army, including now-Father Stephen Wong, 62, who came to the U.S. from Jamaica when he was 17 and served with the U.S. Army for four decades, in active military service and then as a civilian.

Besides the Washington Archdiocese, other U.S. archdioceses have seen record ordination classes this spring, including the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, with 13 new priests, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles with 11 and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee with nine.

At the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul, Minnesota, roughly 3,500 people packed the pews and filled the aisles to witness Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis ordain 13 men to the priesthood, the most since 15 were ordained in 2005.

Ranging in age from 26 to 48, the men enter the priesthood with a variety of backgrounds and talents, the archbishop noted in his homily May 25.

In Los Angeles on June 1, Archbishop José H. Gomez ordained 11 new priests at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. More than 3,500 invited guests and 260 priests attended the ceremony.

It's the largest number of new priests the archdiocese has had "in several years," according to Father Peter Saucedo, the archdiocese's director of the Office for Vocations, which hosts the ceremony.

The men range in age from 28 to 40, and like their peers in Washington and St. Paul, they come from varied backgrounds. Among them is a former caterer, a former therapist, a former football player who was a coach and a teacher; three were born in Mexico; one is the only child of Vietnamese immigrants; another is the oldest of two sons of immigrant parents from South Korea; and another, the son of Croatian immigrants.

On May 18, Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI of Milwaukee ordained nine men to the priesthood at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

Excerpted from an article in OSV News on June 1, 2024 by Mark Zimmerman of the Catholic News Service. View this newsletter at the [Delchester Serra website](#) and read the full article at [the link](#) there.

**Please keep our current and deceased  
Delchester Serra Members and their  
families in your prayers.**

## Schedule for July - August 2024

July 6	There is no scheduled monthly membership meeting in July
August 3	Monthly Mass 8:30 a.m. at the <b>Church of St. Joseph, Aston - Upper Church</b> . Membership meeting will follow at 9:00 a.m. in the <b>Neumann Meeting Room - Lower Level</b> . Officers and Trustees meeting will immediately follow the Membership meeting.