



Savannah Serra Club NEWSLETTER

Rosary for
Vocations
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APRIL 2005

A Solid Religious Education the Key to a Strong Faith

Ann Pinckney, Director of Religious Education, was our speaker at the March 19, 2005 meeting of the Serra Club of Savannah. Her Mission is to provide service, aid, and help to schools and parishes and to promote religious education. In her position, she gets involved with the Catholic formation programs including Religious Education, Adult Education and the RCIA program. She also helps with Evangelization and the Diocesan Library at the Pastoral Center.

Since Religious Education happens in the parishes, Ann primarily helps the various religious education coordinators fulfill their responsibilities to insure that the faithful are well prepared. As time permits, she visits schools and religious education programs to see the process firsthand.

How she got to this point is an interesting faith journey. Born in Savannah, she lived her early life in South Carolina where her family was one of the 1st Catholic families in the Low Country. After an early stint as a teacher, Ann concluded that the classroom was not for her. While working for Bishop (then Father) Boland in Columbus, she received a scholarship to Fordham University where she received her Masters in Religious Education.

Subsequently, she came to the Savannah Diocese to work in Religious Education for Bishop Lessard who was soon replaced by Bishop Boland, with whom she now has had a 20-year working relationship. Ann has now progressed to the point where she knows how to work with people to help them better teach the faith.

In the question and answer period, Ann commented that in the U.S., Catholic school attendance is down overall but in our diocese, that is not the case. Our Catholic population is expanding due to the overall population shift to the South, the success of evangelization programs and Hispanic migration into the diocese. The latter development presents particular challenges in religious education, where children are bilingual but parents still only communicate in their native Hispanic tongue.

—Peter Paolucci



Ann Pinckney

New Serra Club Officers Elected

On March 19, 2005, 20 members of the Serra Club of Savannah being present, the proposed slate of officers was elected unanimously for the June 1, 2005—May 31, 2006 Serra year as follows:

President	Byron Stephens
President Elect	Joe Hasbrouck
VP Programs	Marilyn Stephens
VP Membership	Suzanne Aviles
VP Vocations	Joe Hasbrouck
VP Communications	Peter Paolucci
Secretary	Josie Lee
Treasurer	Marilyn Stephens
Trustees	Frank Saponaro
	Julio Aviles
	Alex Guira
Past President	Don Waters

Peter Paolucci reminded the membership that the Induction of Officers will be on May 21, 2005, at our normal monthly meeting. Pat Carden, Serra District Governor is planning to come down from Atlanta to officiate at the proceedings.



ROSE OF SHARON Residents Pray for Vocations

For the past 10 years, 10-15 Catholic residents at the Rose of Sharon gather each weekday in the library room to pray the Rosary for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Diocese of Savannah. Using the Vocation Prayer cards they pray for all the priests, active, retired and deceased who have served so faithfully in our diocese over the years. A poster of the current seminarians is up on the wall to remind them of those men studying to become priests. They pray for the seminarians too and have written notes of encouragement to them.

But the rosary is the central part of their daily exercise. Pope John Paul II has stated that "Prayer moves the heart of God. It is a powerful key to resolving the vocations question." The recitation of the Holy Rosary is a wonderful way to contemplate on the mysteries of the rosary and invoke the Blessed Mother's aid in asking "the Lord of the harvest to send many priestly and religious vocations for His Church!"

"I wonder if anybody even knows we are doing this" observed long time participant, Millie Roush. "But there has been an increase in vocations to the priesthood here in the Diocese since we started doing this," replied prayer leader Jenna Nobles. "Last year four men were ordained to the priesthood and in June 2005, God willing, another five are projected to be ordained. Our

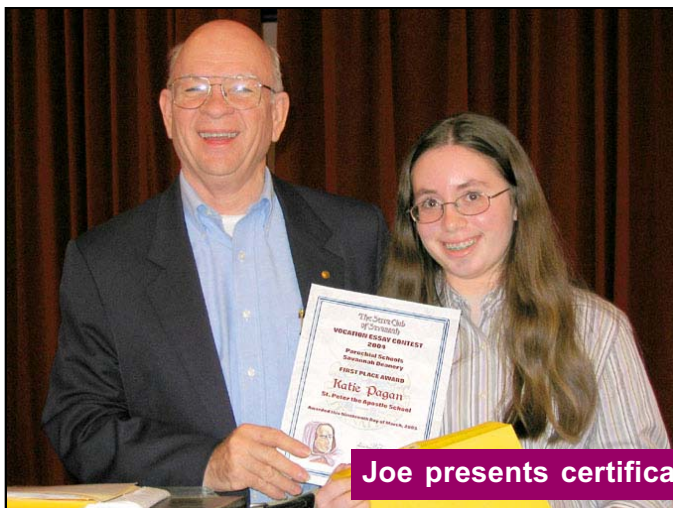


diocese has been truly blessed." Certainly somebody seems to be listening.

The duty of fostering vocations falls on the whole Christian community, and they should discharge it principally by living full Christian lives. We are all responsible for raising up priestly and religious vocations and there is an urgent need nowadays, for a more widespread and deeply felt conviction that all the members of the Church have the responsibility to call forth vocations.

These residents of the Rose of Sharon recognize that the problem of not enough priestly vocations cannot be delegated to some vocations group. The fostering of vocations is a vital problem, which lies at the very heart of the Church and must be at the heart of the love which each Christian feels for the Church. They have put their faith into action by praying for more vocations each day. Each of us should try to follow their example and do likewise.

—Peter Paolucci



Joe presents certificate to Katie Pagan

Vocation Essay Contest Winner Celebrated

All of us must follow the example of Christ and serve the needs of others. The sooner young people become aware of the possibility of a religious vocation, the better are their chances of exploring it as a life commitment. To stimulate the awareness that God has a plan for each of us, the Serra Club of Savannah sponsored a Vocation Essay Contest for 7th grade students in the Savannah Deanery parochial schools and the CCD programs. It was our first effort to promote vocation awareness at the elementary school level.

Joe Hasbrouck, VP-Vocations, reported that the 1st Vocations Essay Contest was a



success. Over 120 7th grade students participated in the contest, writing essays of 200 words on "Where Is Jesus Today?" a topic picked by Father Tim McKeown, Serra Club Chaplain.

Joe presented a certificate to Katie Pagan, winner of the Essay Contest for Parochial Schools at the meeting on Saturday, March 19, 2005. Katie's mother and sister were in attendance. The \$100.00 U. S. Savings Bond prize will be presented to Katie in her class at St. Peter the Apostle School.

Michelle Demasi, winner for the CCD program, also from St. Peter the Apostle Parish, was unable to attend. Her certificate and \$100.00 Savings Bond prize will be presented at a later date.

Certificates will also be presented to the 2nd and 3rd place winners as follows:

Parochial Schools:

2nd Place - Sean Lavrisa - St. James School

3rd Place - Rachel Lynn Frank - St. James School

CCD Programs

2nd Place - Teresa Samaras - St. Peter the Apostle

"Next year we plan to hold the contest again and will try to broaden the participation so that we get essays from all Savannah Deanery Parochial schools and CCD programs," concluded Joe.

Two New Members Inducted

We inducted two new members into the Serra Club of Savannah at the March meeting. Chris Krukowsky (left) and Betty Ferraro, both of St. Frances Cabrini Parish, pledged to commit their time, efforts and prayers for promotion of a better understanding and appreciation of the life and ministry of the ordained priest and religious, and thus the encouragement and preservation of vocations to Church ministry.

Chaplain Fr. Tim McKeown presided over the induction and asked them to be faithful in attending the Serra Club meetings and, by the example of their own Catholic lives, to promote and deepen Christian justice and charity, and continually strive to fulfill their own Christian vocation to service.

They also agreed to share the Serra community with others who likewise have much to give and gain from Catholic friendships gained through membership in the Serra Club.

He concluded with a prayer, "Loving God, look with favor upon the Serrans assembled here today and especially our new members. Bless their important Ministry and help them grow in their faith and promote priestly and religious vocations. May many generous people, in their vocations, preach the Good News of Jesus and make His love visible in the lives of those whom they serve. We ask this through Christ our lord." Amen



Byron Stephens pins new Serrans

Byron Stephens and Peter Paolucci assisted Fr. Tim by distributing membership certificates, Serra pins and badges to the new members.

—Peter Paolucci

Published by
The Serra Club of Savannah
 Supporting Vocations in the Diocese
 of Savannah.

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