



# Savannah Serra Club NEWSLETTER

April 2006

Coming to  
Savannah  
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## A Chat with Fr. Ray Levreault

Parochial Vicar, Blessed Sacrament Church

**When were you first aware of a call to religious life? How did you "hear", or recognize, this call?**

I've always been Catholic – well, from my baptism 2 weeks after my triumphant entry into this world – and my family always practiced the faith. I was heavily involved in my CYO/Youth Ministry beginning in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and continued to serve the church in many varied ways. It was when I was away from ministry (during some dark times of my life) that I came to realize how much I needed God and His Church in my life. It was then around the age of 28 that I began to seriously re-consider my 'call' to serve in a more meaningful way.

**Describe the process of discernment you went through, both individually and the process structured by your community.**

Individually – a lot of prayer...especially to our Blessed Mother Mary!

Community – first is the initial contact with the vocations director – then some sharing of information and the likes, letters of recommendations, application process, psychological testing, criminal background check, medical physical including AIDS testing, interviews with a priest or two of the diocese and then when all is said and done and they think you are crazy enough to become a priest, you meet with the Bishop who then makes the decision if you are to become a seminarian and study for the diocese or not.

**Did others help you to discern your vocation? How?**

There are many people who help you in your vocation...it's all part of God's plan, although you will never realize it until AFTER you have become that which God had planned for you. It's just how it works! There are always a few out front who encourage you and the likes, but truly the ones that you least expect are the ones who God uses to direct your life in certain paths.

**What led you to this particular ministry/community? Why is this life so attractive to you?**

What led me to the Diocese of Savannah, is God. Being from

Rhode Island, I never had any intention of coming this far south to be a priest. I did want a warmer climate, but I also wanted to be closer to home. Once again, when you open up to what GOD wants in your life...you will be pleasantly surprised at what He has planned for you. The bricks just fell into place and this Diocese is where I will build my house...(playing on the theme of 'bricks') ha-ha!~

**How do you serve in the community? What is your "job" and what does it entail?**

I'm just an ordinary parochial vicar – a priest who loves God, and whatever parish I am assigned to. I do what needs to be done...be it ministry, cleaning, patching the parking lot with cement or cold patch, moving furniture or rooting on the kids at a ball game – it is all part of the plan. Of course there are the meetings upon meeting to decide what meeting we should have next. There are also many great ministry opportunities – confessions, baptisms, homily preparations, Mass prep, and prayer.

**What kind of hours do you work?**

No day is like another in the Diocesan priesthood. The day begins around 6:45AM and ends by 11PM. Not all of those hours are 'work' but many are. Some days are a lot crazier than others, especially if the end of the week is approaching and you haven't gotten to the weekend homily yet...for me, the hours can extend beyond. There are some days when you say Mass in the morning, other days you may not have Mass but a funeral, or



wedding, baptism, it can be any number of events in any given day. Hospital and nursing home visits, shut-ins, confessions and blessings of buildings and rosaries or other things of importance to people. If you are assigned to a parish with a school, then you visit with the children at lunch time, you may teach a religion class, counsel a child or two – play, laugh, goof-off... there is no such thing as an “average” day in the diocesan priesthood. One thing for sure that is built into your day is prayer. The Divine Office/ Liturgy of the Hours... 5 times a day, we stop and pray to keep focused on the real reason Jesus called us to this ministry – and many times, it’s the ministry that gets in the way of prayer or becomes the prayer for some diocesan priests... this is a big no, no!!!

### **How much do you feel you have given up to serve God's People in this way?**

I've always felt, and still do think that the vocation of Marriage is the more difficult vocation. I deal with many types and ages of people all day. Young and old, crazy and sane, sick and healthy. At the end of my day, it's nice for me to come home to my room (even though I do live over the shop) and kick back, light a few candles, put some nice music on or watch television or read a book and not have to worry about anything or anyone at that moment but my own 'mental' health. Quiet time is few at times, but for a married couple, it's more difficult to work it in

when you want it – the other may want something else. The reality of what we read in the New Testament is so true – to those who give up father/mother/brother & sister for my sake will be given ten times the amount. I try to live by this simple philosophy – “God will never be outdone in generosity!” this is the basis for tithing – we give ten percent, God gives more back to us! I've given my life to serve Jesus as His priest for the people of the Diocese of Savannah and He has blessed me in so many wonderful ways! God is good... ALWAYS!

### **How do you feel about your celibacy? How does this help your ministry?**

Celibacy is a gift – by being united to God and His Church, those who promise celibacy, are free to come and go as needed without being tied down to a wife and family. The sacrifice can be difficult at times, but God provides and blesses those who live celibate lives.

Sadly, Raymond H. Levreault, father of Fr. Ray Levreault,, died April 17th in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Mr. Levreault and his wife, Jeanne, had been married for 50 years. Besides Fr. Levreault, Mr. Levreault is survived by another son and three daughters. The Serra Club offers its deepest sympathies to Fr. Ray.



## **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

Sunday May 7, 2006 is Good Shepherd Sunday, a special celebration of our Christian Vocation. The worldwide Church unites in prayer on this World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The Good Shepherd calls us and guides us on our Christian journey. By our Baptism we are all called to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ. In the scriptures the Lord asks his disciples to pray to the harvest master to send more workers for the harvest. Today we should pray that those called to priestly and religious life give a generous response to the Good Shepherd.

*"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 look after vocations." John Paul II*

## **New Serra Club Officers to be Installed**

The newly elected officers of the Serra Club of Savannah for 2006 – 2007 will be installed at our next meeting on May 13, 2006.

The new officers will be asked to make the club truly a University of Christian Principles to help members fulfill their vocation to service and to promote, foster, and help preserve vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

All club members are asked to attend this important meeting to show support to our new officers as follows:

President	Joe Hasbrouck
President- Elect	Suzanne Aviles
VP Programs	Marilyn Stephens
VP Membership	Suzanne Aviles
VP Vocations	Rosemarie Burns
VP Communications	Peter Paolucci
Secretary	Josie Lee
Treasurer	Mike Burns
Trustees	Julio Aviles
	Alex Guira
	Dolores Clark
Past President	Byron Stephens



## VOCATIONS MONSTRANCE COMING TO SAVANNAH

His Holiness John Paul II blessed a monstrance for the Church in North America so that during the Year of the Eucharist we all might pray for vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life. In cooperation with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation, the USA Council of Serra International is coordinating and sponsoring the tour of this Monstrance to US Catholic dioceses throughout the Year of Eucharist and beyond.

The monstrance is scheduled to be in the Diocese of Savannah from August 28 until September 8<sup>th</sup>. "This will be a great opportunity to pray for vocations," according to Fr. Tim.

We will use the monstrance in the Serra Holy Hour scheduled for September 7, 2006 and are currently developing a schedule for utilization of the monstrance in a variety of parishes throughout the Savannah Deanery.



**Sin wouldn't be so attractive, if the wages were paid immediately.**



## Serra Club Sponsors Bus to Ordination in Augusta

The SERRA CLUB of SAVANNAH will sponsor a bus trip to Augusta on Sunday, May 21, 2006, to attend the Diaconate Ordination Ceremony for Johnny Johnson and David Koetter, as transitional deacons at St. Joseph's Church at 1:00 PM.

The bus will leave Savannah at 9:00 AM from Benedictine Military School, on Seawright Drive off Eisenhower, where ample parking is available. All attendees are invited to a reception in the church hall immediately following the ceremony. The bus will depart for Savannah about 4:00 PM and should arrive by 7:00 PM.

Bus fare for adults is \$25.00 per person and \$15.00 per child. A family rate is available upon request. There is a limit of 56 passengers so sign up early. There is a restroom on the bus.

We would encourage parents to bring a young person along to witness this wonderful ceremony.

Make checks payable to the Serra Club of Savannah and mail to Byron Stephens, 22 Vista Pointe Drive, Savannah, GA 31406 For more information, contact Byron Stephens @ 355-7276 or via e-mail at [bstep28991@aol.com](mailto:bstep28991@aol.com).

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