



# Savannah Serra Club NEWSLETTER

August 2005



## Say “Thank You” to Your Priest

Sunday, October 30, 2005 is Priesthood Sunday. The Serra Club is encouraging parishes to embrace this event and recognize their priests in some appropriate way in their church and support them with prayer, celebration and dialogue.

On this special day, we should make our appreciation known to our priests. A simple note, a smile or a phone call to assure him of our loving care and

gratitude for his presence in the life of your local church, will go a long way to serve the greater good of our wonderful and growing Catholic Church. Last year some parishes held an appreciation supper or coffee for their priests while others took them out to dinner.

As the number of priests per Catholic has declined over the past 40 years, it is important to remember that without a priest, no parish is able to be a Eucharistic community. We need to reaffirm the importance of the

priesthood of Jesus Christ and its central place in the life of our Church. Please take this opportunity to do something special to say thank you to our priests for their generosity in faithfully serving the people of God.

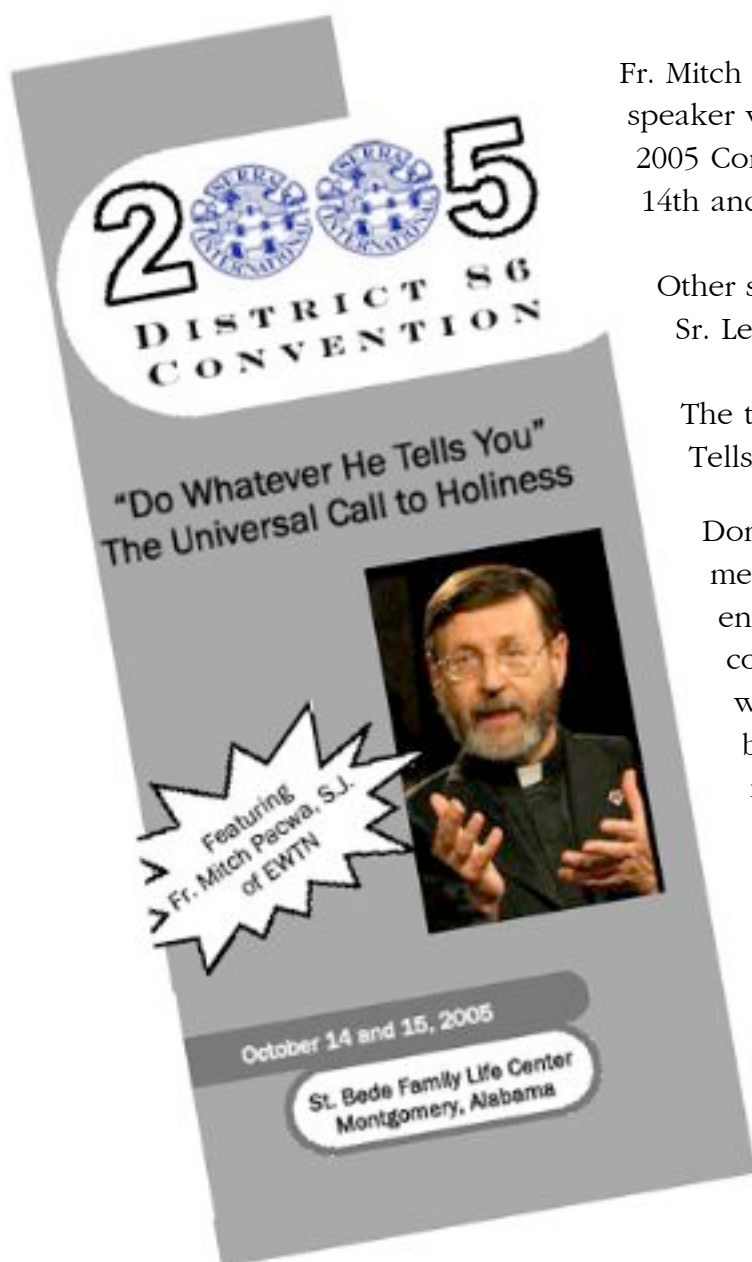


**Our Seminarians (with Fr. Tim McKeown) waiting to have their pictures made for the new poster.**



# Three Serra Districts to Hold Combined Convention

Serrans from Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, and Georgia will meet in October



Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J. of EWTN will be the Keynote speaker when Districts 86, 30, and 169 hold a combined 2005 Convention in Montgomery Alabama this October 14th and 15th.

Other speakers will be Fr. Manuel Williams, C.R., Sr. Leanne Sitter, and Fr. Michael Farmer.

The theme of the Convention is "Do Whatever He Tells You" The Universal Call to Holiness.

Don't miss this unprecedented opportunity to meet Serrans from 3 Districts for support, encouragement, and inspiration. The combination of excellent speakers and sharing with members beyond the normal district boundaries is an event that you don't want to miss.

A PDF brochure and registration form is attached with this issue.

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 Supporting Vocations in the Diocese  
 of Savannah.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hosting the Seminarians' luncheon at the Cathedral Sunday July 17, 2005 was the closing event for Serra Club of Savannah calendar year 2004-2005. It was a wonderful experience for me to enjoy the company of not one, but two Bishops of the Savannah Diocese, Bishop J. Kevin Boland and Bishop-emeritus Raymond W. Lessard. Our additional guests were twelve Seminarians, plus their proud parents and friends. What an outstanding day for Serra with a record turnout of 21 members!

The Cathedral social hall brought memories back to me of my teenage years as a member of the Catholic Young People Association (CYPA). Fifty years ago a beautiful three story house occupied the site, and was the setting for many wonderful times. Three of my school mates and fellow CYPA members were accepted as seminarians for the Diocese of Savannah. Many of you know these wonderful priests; Father Lawrence Lucree, Father John

Fitzpatrick, and Father Richard Canty.

The Serra Club was not active in Savannah at that time, but the prayers for religious vocations were obviously effective.

As we prepare for Serra calendar year 2005-2006, let us first and foremost continue with the Holy Hours each month. Some SERRA meetings will also feature "The Serra University of Christian Principles", our national program where we continue to learn and study our Catholic faith. In support of this, His Eminence John J. Cardinal O'Connor humorously stated, "We cannot expect to be Christian leaders if we do not know our stuff."

Serra of Savannah has become a real presence in our diocese, with our bishop both requesting and acknowledging our efforts. This Serra presence is gaining recognition for the support of vocations, and, most importantly, this Serra presence is a reminder to all parishioners to PRAY FOR VOCATIONS.

My phone is starting to ring requesting information about SERRA. This is exciting after three years of listing Holy Hours and meetings in the Southern Cross and parish bulletins.

I will close by asking you to pray for a successful year and thank you for your continued support.

Your Brother in Christ,

Byron

Forget to pay your dues?  
If you did, please send them now  
to Marilyn Stephens, 22 Vista  
Point Drive, Sav., GA 31406  
Make check to Serra Club of  
Savannah.  
\$75 single; \$115 couple.

### Savannah Newsletter Honored Again

The Serra Club of Savannah's Newsletter has once again been honored. This year, it was named the outstanding newsletter in Region 14 by the USA Council Communication Committee. It was recognized for both content and layout. Pat Carden accepted the award on behalf of the Editor Walt Kessel and Publisher Peter Paolucci. The award was presented by Betty Monaghan, VP of Communications for the USA Council of Serra at the Serra USA Annual Meeting on August 13 in Breckenridge, CO

Don DeDecker was installed as the new USA Council President. His theme is "Celebrate Serra Now." The new President-elect is Gary Davis, the treasurer is Joe Donahue, and the secretary is Tom Manderfield. Also installed were the new District Governors and Regional Directors. Dennis Leiber, from Michigan, is the new SI President and he made some remarks to the council.