



Savannah Serra Club NEWSLETTER

December 2006

Father Jozef Musiol speaks at December meeting About the cause for beatification of Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross

Rev. Jozef Musiol, SDS JCD, a native of Poland, a member of the Society of the Divine Savior, known as Salvatorian Fathers, spoke at the Serra Club Christmas Meeting on Saturday December 17, 2006.

Fr. Jozef was ordained a priest in 1972 and served as a missionary in Tanzania, Africa for 13 years, in Rome, Italy, for 7 years and in the USA for the last 13 years. He has a Doctorate in Canon Law and worked in the Tribunal of the Diocese of Austin, TX, for 9 years and at the same time was a pastor of two parishes. For the past three years, he has been the regional superior of all the Polish Salvatorians serving in the USA (32 priests and two brothers).

Fr. Jozef has been here serving at the Cathedral for the past several months, while researching the cause of Father Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan, Founder of the Salvatorians, as part of the beatification process.

Francis Jordan was born in Gurtweil, Baden, Germany, not far from the Swiss border, on June 16, 1948. He was a very devout young man spending much time in private prayer. His piety continued to grow as he matured into adulthood. Through prayer and reflection he gradually became aware of his vocation, that God was calling him to be a priest.

It was not an easy call for a man of Jordan's position. His father was deceased, the family had no resources to assist him in his call and he had no secondary education. But he had experienced God's call, so he pursued it persistently over the next several years. He studied privately with Monsignor Werber, attended the University of Freiburg and was ordained a



Frs. Martino and Jozef



Fr. Jozef Musiol



Pres. Joe and Fr. Jozef



Attentive Serra listeners

Serra Christmas Party
Once again the Serra Club of Savannah came together to celebrate the Christmas season with a pot luck supper after the 5:30 Mass on December 17, 2006, at St James Church. Since our Christmas cards for the priests and religious of the diocese had already been distributed, we enjoyed a good meal, fellowship and listened to a very interesting presentation by Fr. Jozef Musiol regarding the cause for beatification of Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan.



priest on July 21, 1878 at 30 years of age.

During this time, there was an anti-Catholic movement raging in Germany. Many seminaries were closed, priests were imprisoned and bishops were required to obey anti-clerical laws. Fr. Jordan was ordained behind closed doors, celebrated

his first Mass in Switzerland and in 1878 went to Rome to continue his language studies. By this time he was beginning to understand that God was calling him to more than the life of a simple priest. God was asking him to found a movement dedicated to the salvation of souls.

In 1880, Fr. Jordan had a private audience with Pope Leo XIII, who listened to Jordan's plan with interest and gave his papal blessing to his project. On December 8, 1881, Fr.



Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan

Jordan joined with two other priests and took private vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. This date is considered the beginning of the Society of the Divine Savior.

Fr. Jordan, who took the religious name of Francis Mary of the Cross, subsequently also jointly founded the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother and the Salvatorian Sisters. The first Salvatorians came to the USA to St. Nazianz, Wisconsin in 1893. Fr. Jordan led the Society as its Superior General until 1915 and died on September 8, 1918. Today there are over 1300 Salvato-

rian priests worldwide.

His canonization process started over 40 years ago. Besides living a saintly life, practicing heroic virtues to a saintly degree and having a reputation of sanctity, at least one miracle attributed to the person, must be investigated and proven, to qualify a candidate for beatification, the first step on the road to sainthood. The inquiry on the miracle must be *investigated* separately from the inquiry on virtues.

The Diocesan phase of the process begins with a very detailed investigation into the life and sanctity of the person. In addition a miracle must be found, investigated and documented. Fr. Jozef has been involved in that phase of the process. In 1975, a 31 year old woman living in Augusta, Georgia was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer and given a two month survival prognosis. She is still living today and attributes her survival to the intercession of Fr. Jordan.

The key to this case is that there is strong medical evidence along with considerable documentation to support this claim of a miracle. Fr. John Markham, a physician, has been of assistance to Fr. Jozef in reviewing the medical records in this case.

The case is now in the Roman phase where all the information submitted will be reviewed and a determination will be made. Fr. Jozef passed out pictures, prayer cards and medals of Fr. Jordan and requested that we pray for the success of his cause.

National Vocations Awareness week, January 8–12

The Catholic Church annually gives us opportunities throughout the year to celebrate vocations. National Vocations Awareness week, January 8–12, 2007, is one such opportunity. This celebration coincides with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The Baptism of our Lord is a climactic moment where Jesus is consecrated through baptism, marking the beginning of his public ministry. As we renew our baptismal vows, we strengthen our covenant with God. We ask for the Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide us as we respond to God's call.

National Vocations Awareness Week is a special time in which the Church prays for the renewal and strengthening of vocations with dedicated people, married and single, as well as men and women to serve as priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.



This is important to the Church because of its mission to spread the Good News to the entire world and care for its members. New vocations to the priesthood and the religious life provide the spiritual and moral leadership to guide the church and minister to the growing number of faithful.

Vocation Awareness Week instructional kits were distributed to area Catholic schools and Religious Education programs in the diocese by the Savannah Serra Club. These materials will assist and enrich lessons to foster a culture of vocations to the Church.

The feast ordinarily falls on a Sunday, however, in 2007 it will be on Monday, January 8th. Since parishes may choose to include National Vocation Awareness week in the Sunday celebration of Epiphany, January 7, 2007, prayer resources were provided to each pastor.



We've
learned so
much!

By Peter Paolucci



We've all learned a lot about our Catholic faith by being in the Serra Club.

When we started the Serra Club of Savannah 5 years ago, we all embraced the Mission of Serra to "Foster and affirm vocations to the ministerial priesthood and vowed religious life in the USA & Canada and through this ministry further our members' common Catholic faith".

The first part of the mission to "foster and affirm vocations" was easy to understand and pursue. But the second part of the mission "through this ministry further our members' common Catholic faith," was not as easy to comprehend.

Recently, Byron Stephens commented to me that he has learned more about his Catholic Faith, through his involvement in Serra, than from being a practicing Catholic for over 60 years.

Reflecting upon his comment, I tried to understand how this had happened. Initially when we began booking speakers for the club meetings, our approach was to have priests and sisters to speak to us about how they received their call. This was very helpful to us in understanding how the Holy Spirit works to move people to commit their life to serve the Lord.

After a while our programs became more diverse.

Fr. Tim McKeown talked to us about the ministry of the priesthood and how vocations are born and nurtured.

Fr. Michael Kavanaugh addressed the club in a far-ranging discussion from Ecumenism to Islam and also touched on Intelligent design and Evolution.

Fr. Costigan told us about the Retrouvaille movement, a renewal experience to help troubled couples rebuild their relationship and improve their communication skills.

Fr. Mark Ross told of his commitment to the Pro-Life movement and told us that Catholics need to be more pro-active and evangelical to combat this evil.

Lt. Colonel Fr. Lee Yoakam, a Benedictine priest serving in Iraq as a Chaplain with the 48th Brigade of the 3rd Infantry division, spoke to our club on his recent combat experience and ministering to the spiritual needs of our soldiers serving in harm's way.

Ann Pinckney, Director of Religious Education, discussed her mission to promote religious education by providing, service, aid and help to schools and parishes.

Paul Thigpen talked about the Georgia martyrs, five Franciscan priests who brought the faith to Georgia in the late 1500s.

Fr. Richard Young told us of his diverse ministry serving as Port Chaplain as well as at two local hospitals.

Thabo Bailey and several youth group members who participated in World Youth Day in Germany related their experiences and the effects the trip had on their religious beliefs.

Fr. Ray Levreault described the rewards and challenges in the first year of a newly ordained priest by relating his involvement with the Church's Sacraments.

Fr. Martino introduced himself to the Serra Club as its new Chaplain with a stirring tale of his journey from communist Vietnam to a vocation to the priesthood in the Diocese of Savannah.

And Fr. Jozef Musiol, spoke to us this month about the cause of Beatification of Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan.

Although this list is not complete, looking back, we certainly had an impressive set of programs. Thanks to Marilyn Stephens, VP Programs, for her vision of the diversity, complexity and knowledge of the religious orders in the Savannah Diocese, that provided the exciting and stimulating programs for the club members and guests to experience.

This enabled us all to learn more about our Catholic faith.

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Rosemarie and Mike Burns (here with Bishop Boland) were among those honored as 2006 Gartland Award recipients. Mercedes Espaillat read the 2nd reading in Spanish for the Mass. Suzanne Aviles helped pin the medals on the recipients.

2007 Serra International Convention, Atlanta, GA



The 2007 Serra International Annual Convention will be in Atlanta, GA August 9-12, 2007. It promises to be informative, historical, and very enjoyable. We hope to see you in Atlanta, GA!