



Savannah Serra Club NEWSLETTER

February 2005



Dick Lee prepares for the meeting

The Ministry of the Priesthood

"I am not the Vocations Director," said Fr. Tim. "God is really the Vocations Director who calls people. I just help them discern their call". With these words, our Chaplain, Fr. Tim McKeown opened his talk at the Serra Club Meeting on January 15, 2005.

He referred us to the Vatican II documents on "The Life and Ministry of the Priesthood" as the church's teaching in this area.

All priests share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ who is the eternal priest. The priest offers the Sacrifice of the Mass but we faithful are all called to offer sacrifice too. This is made practical in the Offertory of the Mass when we bring up the gifts, which are symbolic of all the sacrifices that we made during the past week, and offer them up to the Father.

The Lord appointed men as his ministers. The apostles' job was the continuation of the sacramental work of Jesus. Bishop Boland, being a direct successor of the Apostles, and as such the Catholic Church, has an

apostolic priesthood. Bishops, who possess the fullness of Holy Orders, hand over part of their ministry to priests who as coworkers with the bishop, share in his ministry.

Priests also take the promise of obedience to go wherever the bishop sends them and do as he asks them to do.

Priests share in the threefold ministry of Jesus.

- Teacher
- Priest
- King/Leader

The goal of priests should be the procuring of God the Father in Christ, to share Jesus in the Word and in the Eucharist. Since no one can be saved unless they believe, it is the first task of the priest

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to preach the gospel of God to all men. Celebration of the Eucharist is the sacrifice of the Church. All sacrifices are bound up in the Eucharist. Christ himself is the bread that gives life to men. He is the source and summit of the gospel.

Another point: the priest, as leader of his flock, must unite the efforts of lay people; he must lead by serving like Jesus did. Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve.



Priests are called to live free in the world but not to be conformed by the world. Priests are called to work on their own spirituality in their ministry by preaching the word of God and offering the Sacrifice of the Mass.

The Diocese of Savannah has been blessed with many Vocations. In the past we benefited from the many priests who came from Ireland to serve here. And now we're getting missionary priests from Africa, Poland and South America. "Where are our Georgia vocations?" asked Fr Tim. "We need to also call forth our own vocations and not count solely on missionaries from abroad to serve the growing number of our faithful. We don't have a vocation crisis but rather a hearing crisis."

We need to pray constantly that the Lord of the Harvest will send many vocations to his church. And be ever alert for people who may seem like good prospects for the priesthood and not be afraid to ask them, "Have you ever thought about becoming a priest?"

—Peter Paolucci

St. Frances Cabrini Starts a 31 Club

Parishioners at St. Frances Cabrini have committed to form a 31 Club. What it entails is having at least 31 people sign up to attend Mass on the same date each month throughout the year and offer Mass on that day for an increase in Church vocations. Every month for the next year, they offer Mass on that date and also pray for past, present and future priests,

religious sisters and brothers, and deacons. The membership lasts for three years and then ends. Members are asked to rejoin the club at that time.

Pope John Paul II has stated that "Prayer moves the heart of God. It is a powerful key to resolving the vocations question." The 31 Club is a valuable program that gives parishioners a unique

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We know the Christmas season is over, but thought those of you not in Savannah might like to see what Brother Robert wrought this year at the Cathedral.



opportunity not only to attend an extra Mass and receive Communion each month but also to dedicate each thought, word, and deed of the day for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Angela and Jerry Egan have piloted this program at St. Frances Cabrini Parish over the past several months. Angela reported that they had easily signed up enough people to cover all 31 days. She indicated that the key to this success was having Fr. Tim McKeown make an announcement at Mass encouraging participation and the rest is history.

If you want more information about starting this program in your parish, please call Joe Hasbrouck at 912-897-6956 or contact him via e-mail at j_hasbro@bellsouth.net



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Letter from Memphis



Dear Serrans,

I attended my first Serra Club meeting today. It is held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month on the campus of Christian Brothers Univ with a mass at 11:30 followed by lunch and a business meeting. Three of my high school friends and football team members were there.

One is a cousin who I have seen occasionally over the years, but the other two I had not seen in over 50 years. Also, the club president is the brother of my brother's college roommate.

The Memphis club goes back some 50 plus years, however from the president's report, I gleaned our Savannah club is doing a lot of what is being done here. For example, they held a Christmas dinner for all the religious as many thank you letters were read. Instead of a holy hour, they have a 12 hour adoration each month.

They have a speaker at each meeting. Today we had the principal of one of the Catholic high schools. The student body of 300, is 97% black and 80% non-Catholic. They even have a junior Serra club.

They did mention a newsletter and I will try to get copies to share with you. In the future I hope they will give me some time at the meeting to share the activities of the Savannah club and get some info that you might want to pursue there.

I also have to learn a new "Prayer for Vocations." Seems as if they use the Serra International one.

One last item. They have about 65 members in a metro area of almost 1 million, so not so bad in Savannah with half the number and 20% of the population.

Yours in Christ,
 Graham Crawford

Dear Serrans of our diocese of Savannah,

Thank you so much for your ongoing efforts and prayers on behalf of our diocese, and especially for those of us called to ministry or discerning a possible vocation. I appreciated your Christmas card.

May God richly bless your efforts in this Year of the Eucharist.

In Christ,
 Mark Van Alstine