



# Savannah Serra Club NEWSLETTER

February 2009

## Sister Camille Addresses Serra Club

Sister Camille Collini, CSJ, addressed the Serra Club of Savannah on February 21, 2009. Her discussion initially focused on her own call as well as her experiences as a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Although her mother was a Baptist from Guyton, Georgia, she did teach the children their catechism. Sister Camille's father who was Catholic knew many sisters and invited them home to the house for dinner on numerous occasions. As she grew up, Sister Camille interacted with the sisters after school, helping them doing various jobs. As a result, she was exposed to various sisters, got to see what they did and what they were like. Sadly today, young women don't get a chance to interact very often with sisters.

When she was in high school here in Savannah, Sister Camille thought she might have a vocation but she was refused by one group and told she had no vocation. So for the next two years she worked in the Chatham County Commissioners Office. After that she worked at Sacred Heart Church in the office as a secretary. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet were teaching at Sacred Heart School and when she expressed interest in becoming a sister, she was invited to apply. Sister was accepted and went to St. Louis to begin her studies.

After taking her first vows and receiving her BA degree, she taught grade school at St. Mary's on the Hill in Augusta before going to Waco, Texas to teach. Sister returned to St. Mary's on the Hill as the Director of Religious Education for children in the public schools. Sister also taught religion in the school and directed the grade school choir.

When Sister Camille left St. Mary's, Bishop Lessard asked her to come to Savannah to direct a pilot program in several parishes in Savannah including the Cathedral and Sacred Heart. Subsequently she went up to Statesboro for three years, as the pastoral assistant at St. Matthew's where she also served as a Campus Minister at Georgia Southern. Then back to Augusta to teach Religion at Aquinas



High School to five classes. Along the way, she also spent some time in Fairburn, Georgia near Atlanta where she worked at a children's home.

Although she retired a few years ago, after Sister Virginia Gillis went back to San Diego, Bishop Boland appointed Sister as the Vicar for Religious. In this role she looks after the interests of the 18 Religious Communities of Women in the Diocese.

In Savannah there are 25-30 Sisters who get together every quarter for prayer, a meal, and conversation. Sister Camille tries to get around the diocese to visit the other sisters and recognizes them on their significant anniversaries.

Sister Camille has certainly had a long and varied career. The Serra Club of Savannah appreciates her faithful and dedicated service to the Lord.



# 2009 ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

SHOULD PARENTS ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILDREN TO BECOME  
PRIESTS, RELIGIOUS, OR DEACONS?



**Denasia Devore 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Notre Dame Academy**

Parents today have lots of questions if their son or daughter indicates an interest in becoming a priest or a religious brother or sister.

By accepting children as a gift from God you embraced sacrifice with a loving and generous heart. If a child is called to the priesthood or a religious life, it should be recognized as an awesome calling to serve God and be supported with the same loving and generous heart that was clear when a parent decided to marry or have children. Therefore, I feel that parents should encourage religion in their children.

I feel that it is a desire of every parent's heart to see their children grow to be happy and successful in life. If children today truly seek and find God's will for them, their lives will automatically be happy and successful. Parents have the responsibility of teaching children to pray and help them discover their gift as children of God. This will help a child receive their calling from God, whether it is priesthood or to live a religious life.

Young children should always be encouraged to consider all kinds of possibilities for their life. If they want to play priest, parents should help them to understand how priests serve God and God's people. Parents should encourage their children's imagination to embrace all different ways of living their faith and being a service to others. Parents do this in many ways by how they live their own life and model such behavior. Children may have a direct interest in religion, deacons, pastors, or priests. Parents should encourage their children to interact and talk with those people who have given their lives to Christ.

Parents should talk with their children about priesthood or religious life and never discourage them if they bring it up. God calls some people to



**Luke Usher CCD 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
St Boniface Catholic Church**

Parents should encourage their sons and daughters to choose priesthood or religious life. With parents encouragement they will feel more confident to make that decision. God calls to them when they are ready to become a priest, religious or deacon but the child may not want to do it because of what their parents might think. With their parents encouragement then they will feel less embarrassed to tell their parents about it. Also with the parent's support the child can receive more help when making the decision.

The downfall to the parent's encouragement is if the kid does not want to make the decision of becoming a priest or religious the parents will push him to do something he does not want to do.

Becoming a priest, deacon or religious is a very hard decision to make because you have to be obligated and be able to dedicate your life to God and the church, but with the parent's support the decision can be made a lot easier. Parents are one of the main influences in a kid's life and if parents step in, they will listen.

Parents should always encourage their children to become and do good. God both wants and needs families to become more religious and more responsible towards God and what better way to do that than to become a priest, brother, sister or deacon?

priesthood or religious life, some to marriage, and some to life as single people. All children have a gift and a talent. Parents should guide their children to pray. This will help a child discover and use the gifts God has given.



## Serra Augusta Organizing Effort Underway

A meeting was held in Augusta on Sunday, January 25, 2009, at St. Mary's on the Hill with a group of people interested in beginning an exploratory effort to establish a Serra Club in their deanery. Michelle Migone, sister of seminarian Pablo Migone, a member of St. Mary's parish, along with Richard Ramirez of Most Holy Trinity, organized the meeting. Fr. Gerry Ragan and Fr. Mark Van Alstine were also in attendance and very supportive of the effort.

Joe Hasbrouck and Peter Paolucci reviewed the Mission of Serra and the progress made in Savannah, over the past several years, in promoting Vocations to the Priesthood and religious life. "Everybody is responsible for

calling forth and promoting vocations. After spending the past several years as part of the Serra Club, we firmly believe that the problem of not enough priestly vocations cannot be considered a marginal activity, but must be fully incorporated into the life and activity of every parish community," commented Peter. "A Serra Club is a vocations resource, complimentary to Vocation efforts now underway in the Diocese and there are proven programs available to help promote vocations efforts in your Parish. And it is also an opportunity for individual spiritual growth," added Joe.

After they confirmed their support for a Serra Chapter in Augusta, we recommended that

a committee, comprised of at least two representatives from each parish, be established to lead the effort. Fr. Ragan was asked to pursue this matter with his fellow deanery priests. The committee should work on organizing an informational reception, hosted by Bishop Boland, for people from all the parishes in the Augusta Deanery, who might be interested in joining Serra. At the reception, they will learn more about the vocations issue and be asked to join the Serra movement. Afterwards the club should be formed and proceed to work on being chartered by Serra International.



## BISHOP BOLAND WILL CELEBRATE A HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

On Thursday evening March 5, 2009, the Serra Club of Savannah will sponsor a Holy Hour for Vocations with Bishop J. Kevin Boland as the celebrant. Please join Bishop Boland and the members of the Serra Club of Savannah to express gratitude to the Lord of the Harvest for the new and soon to be ordained priests, as well as ask Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist to bless our diocese with many priestly and religious vocations.

We all have heard about the shortage of priests facing the church today or seen one of the news reports of various church and parish closings throughout the country. This seems to be in sharp contrast with the evidence here in the Diocese of Savannah where this year, God willing, four men will be ordained to the priesthood in June. Our diocese has been truly blessed, but we must continue to pray for more vocations to insure that there will be enough priests and religious to serve the growing number of faithful in the years ahead.

We are all responsible for



raising up priestly and religious vocations. 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. According to Bishop Boland, "I believe that prayer is the key to gaining more vocations here in Savannah." And Fr. Tim McKeown, Vocation Director, echoed this sentiment, commenting that "Eucharistic Adoration was key to my own call to the priesthood and influential in the call of others."

John Paul II has told us "The Eucharist is the source of all vocations in the Church." An hour spent in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and 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!"

So please join us to do your part.