



Savannah Serra Club NEWSLETTER

January 2004



Men's Winter Vocation Retreat

The Winter Vocation Retreat was held January 2-4, 2004 at Camp John Hope in Fort Valley, GA, about 30 miles southwest of Macon. It was attended by 22 high school, college and adult men as well as 7 of the seminarians from the Diocese of Savannah.

Fr. Brett Brannen, Vocation Director, asked the attendees to "check their plans at the door." He told the men to ask Jesus what His plans were for their lives, as they might need to change them!



Personal interviews were conducted with the attendees to explore the possibility of a priestly vocation. They were also given information on what the job of a priest entails, the qualities required to be a priest, the discernment process, the signs that one may be called, seminary experience and the application process. The men kept silence except

during meals, attended Mass, Holy Hours, Eucharistic adoration and said the rosary daily.

The seminarians assisted the vocation directors in leading the different spiritual exercises and answered questions about their discernment decision to become a priest and their experiences as seminarians.

Serra District Conference

For The Support & Sanctification of our Priests

The Serra District 169 will hold a Lenten Conference "For The Support & Sanctification of our Priests" on March 5 and 6, 2004 at Holy Spirit Church, Atlanta, GA. The conference will begin on Friday evening with a 6 p.m. daily mass followed by dinner. Saturday morning will begin at 8 a.m. with daily mass celebrated by Archbishop John Francis Donoghue.

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Membership Every Serran's Responsibility

How often do you think about candidates for membership?

The future of Serra is tied directly to finding new members. They will provide the vitality, energy and leadership for the future. The VP for Membership cannot do it alone. Look around you when you are at mass and spot those people who would benefit from Serra and would benefit the club. It's everyone's responsibility.

—The Lubbock Serran

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- Feb. 5 Holy Hour 7:00 PM Location TBA
- Feb. 8 World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
- Feb. 21 Mass/Mtg. 9:00 AM St. James Church



There will be confessions and adoration throughout the day. Fr. Brett Brannen will be one of the speakers. The conference will close with the regularly scheduled vigil mass followed by hospitality and dinner

Vocations Awareness Week

National Vocation Awareness Week, January 11-16, 2004 is an opportunity to promote awareness throughout the Diocese of Savannah of the need for more priests, brothers and sisters.

Fr. Brett has distributed the vocations video "Great Expectations," provided by Sister Donna Jo Loeper, to all the elementary schools and CCD programs in the Diocese for viewing next week.

In a letter to all parishes, Fr Brett asked, "As part of your vocation awareness catechesis, I would kindly request that you show a video, promoting vocations to both priesthood and religious life, to all the children in your parish school and/or CCD program. It was produced by the Diocese of Harrisburg for use in their Confirmation preparation and I find it to be excellent for children up to and including 8th grade.

Thank you for all that you do to help promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. May God bless you all in the new year."

The Elijah Cup



St. Joseph Church in Augusta recently initiated the Elijah Cup Program. "It is going very well," according to Jane Cordell, Program Coordinator. "We are doing it at one of our Masses to begin with, and so far we have three months covered!"

The purpose of the Elijah Cup is to provide a focal point for prayer. Each week at Sunday Mass the celebrant calls a family forward to receive the Elijah Cup. They take the chalice home putting it in a place of honor and pray daily for an increase and perseverance of vocations. The following Sunday they return the cup with the gifts at the Offertory and another family takes it home.

Praying for vocations is the most powerful way to support vocations. The Elijah Cup reminds everyone in the parish of their responsibility to pray for and raise up vocations.

Jane became aware of the Elijah Cup program after reading about it in the Vocations Newsletter. For more information please contact The Serra Club of Savannah via email at petepalu@aol.com.