



Savannah Serra Club NEWSLETTER

January 2005



Too many cooks? See page 3

Vocation Awareness Week



The Church starts each year with Vocation Awareness Week and in 2005 it falls during the week of January 9 – 15. It is important to the Church because of its mission to spread the Good News to the entire world and care for its members. The new vocations to the priesthood and the religious life provide the spiritual and moral leadership to guide the church and minister to us.

Like many of you I ask myself how can I be aware of vocations. We do not see someone with a label or sign that says, "I have a vocation". First of all, we must learn to be aware of our own vocation. Each of us has a vocation, some to the priesthood or the religious life but most of us to a married or single life. God has a plan for each of us.

Every Catholic has to ask him or herself "What is God's calling for me?" Think about your life as a calling from God and be aware of your own vocation. Use prayer to ask the Holy Ghost to guide and give you understanding. Be sure to ask yourself if you are being called to be a priest or a religious, just as you investigate other career opportunities. When you become more aware of your own vocation and see it as a calling by God, you will begin to be more aware of vocations of others to the priesthood and the religious life. You will begin to understand how important these vocations are to you personally, to your family, and to the church.

OK, so now I am more aware of vocations, what do I do about it? Who is responsible for vocation development? It is you and I. Each Catholic has a responsibility to promote and develop vocations to the priesthood. You can start by praying for vocations everyday. Attend mass and offer it for vocations to the priesthood once a week. Talk about the need for each of us to consider a religious or priestly vocation.

Very few men receive God's calling like St. Paul with a blinding flash of light. It comes in small nudges and thoughts about being a priest. These persist and become stronger over time. The calling can come at any age or stage of life. Frequently, a friend or member of the parish saying you could be a priest or nun starts the thoughts of a vocation in your mind.

Each of us should take note of people we think could be a priest or religious. Pray for them and ask them to consider the calling. Encourage them to think that they may have that ability. It takes considerable personal questioning, counseling, and study to discern a vocation. Throughout this searching and development, the person needs encouragement and prayerful support from many sources.

There are many other ways to support vocations. Your parish priest needs encouragement and recognition both publicly and privately. You could pray for the priests and nuns in your parish or write to a seminarian. Thank the parish religious education director or CCD teachers. Search for a way you can help in God's work in your parish. Remember each of us is responsible for raising up and supporting vocations.

—Joe Hasbrouck
Vice President – Vocations Committee
Serra Club of Savannah



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Holy Hour for Vocations

John Paul II has told us that the Eucharist is the source of all vocations in the Church and recently proclaimed the Year of the Eucharist.



On Thursday evening January 6, 2005 the Serra Club of Savannah sponsored a regular monthly Holy Hour for Vocations at St. Frances Cabrini Church. Fr. Tim McKeown, Club Chaplain, was the celebrant. Over 25 Serrans and friends came together to express gratitude for the new and soon to be ordained priests as well as to 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 last year four men were ordained to the priesthood and in June 2005, God willing, five more will be ordained. Our diocese has been truly blessed, but we must continue to pray for 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.

The Second Vatican Council was quite explicit in this regard: "The duty of fostering vocations falls on the whole Christian community."

An hour spent in the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the recitation of the Holy Rosary is a wonderful way to meditate 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!"

The Serra Club recommends this practice to parishes throughout the diocese.

—Peter Paolucci

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Serrans Celebrate Christmas Together

Once again The Serra Club of Savannah came together to enjoy some holiday fellowship and continue their Christmas Card Project for another year.



Too many kibitzers, maybe.

Our thanks to Cathy Gilligan who graciously opened her home to host the get-together.



My Dear Serra Club,

Thanks for your greetings. I was in Colombia for Christmas, and it was very nice to be at home with my family. This will be my last semester in Saint Vincent before I go to Georgia to work as a priest. It will be so nice to serve the people of God. I wish you the best for this year 2005, that the Lord bless you. I hope you have had a wonderful time.

Love in Jesus Christ,

Fredy Angel

Dear Walt,

Thank you and the Serra Club of Savannah for your greeting and prayers. I appreciate your apostolate very much.

In the Lord,

Fr. Charlie Hughes