



# Savannah Serra Club NEWSLETTER

July 2005

## Bishop Boland Hosts Seminarians' Luncheon

As he has done over the past several years, Bishop Kevin Boland again met with the Seminarians and their families on Sunday, July 17. We had a very good turnout of over 60 people including Seminarians, family members and Serrans.

Bishop Boland celebrated the 11:30 AM Mass at the Cathedral. Bishop Raymond Lessard gave the homily and concelebrated the Mass along with Msgr. William O'Neill, Fr. Tim McKeown, Fr. Douglas Clark, and Fr. Ted Hofstetter, a priest from Peoria, who knew Johnny Johnson.

The Seminarians, their families, and the SERRA Club members all sat up front during the Mass and were recognized by Bishop Boland. Serrans Jerry and Angela Egan and Suzanne and Julio Aviles brought up the gifts during the Offertory.

With good humor, Bishop Lessard said that preaching the homily was his "ticket" into the luncheon. Reflecting on the patience of the landowner in the gospel of "wheat and weeds," he urged the Seminarians to exercise patience, in pursuing their vocation and, God willing, in their ministry as they work to separate the good wheat from the weeds and gather it into the barn.

After Mass Bishop Boland, Bishop Raymond Lessard, Fr. Tim McKeown, Fr. Doug Clark, and Brother Robert Sokolowski shared lunch with the Seminarians, their family members and Serrans in the Cathedral Parish Center.

Bishop Boland had asked the Serra Club of Savannah to arrange for this event and host the luncheon by assisting with setting up the Parish Hall and welcoming the attending family members. He praised the Serra Club for their continuous visible presence and support of all vocation related events, as well as everything else we do in support of





Pablo

increasing vocations in the Diocese of Savannah.

Bishop Boland welcomed a new Seminarian, Pablo Migone, who has just completed his studies at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. He will be going to North American College in Rome this fall, to pursue his seminary studies. Pablo was born in Lima, Peru, but grew up in Augusta.



The Seminarians introduced their attending family members, spoke about themselves, their experiences on their spiritual journey, and voiced their appreciation to the Serra Club for our prayers and encouragement. Their parents also expressed their thanks for our support.

Once again this was another great event and uplifting experience.  
—Peter Paolucci

Top: Sems with Bishops Lessard and Boland.

Right: Dcn. Justin Ferguson, who will be ordained to the Priesthood next year.

Far right: Aaron Killips (Third Theology) with family.



President Byron Stephens with Suzanne Aviles, VP Membership, Cathy Waters, Don Waters, Past President, Julio Aviles, Trustee.

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## Annual Report to Bishop

Recently, Don Waters, Past President of the Serra Club of Savannah presented his annual report to Bishop Kevin Boland outlining the progress of the club during the past year. Don stressed that the many club accomplishments were the result of strong committees and chairpersons.



Past President, Don Waters

The Program Committee, led by Suzanne Aviles, had a very successful year! They organized nine Holy Hours and improved attendance by keeping the Holy Hour in one location versus moving through various parishes. This coming year the committee will try to use the Holy Hour as a means to improving visibility of the Serra Club.

They also held nine regular monthly meetings with many outstanding speakers as follows:

Fr. Tim McKeown on the topics of "Life as Vocation" and the "Ministry and Mission of the Priesthood."

Fr. Desmond on the growth of vocations from Africa.

Br. Francis Eaton on the call to Religious Brotherhood.

Paul Thigpen on the significance and history of the Georgia Martyrs.

Ann Pinckney on Religious Education within the Diocese.

Fr. Jim Costigan on his work with Retrouvaille.

Serrans also assisted in the Priest Ordinations by serving as ushers and hosts for the families of the newly ordained priests.

The Communications Committee, headed up by Peter Paolucci, continued to communicate the activities of the Serra Club of Savannah to our membership and throughout the Diocese by publishing a monthly newsletter, writing numerous articles on Vocations for the Southern Cross and speaking about vocation issues to Parish Councils, schools and other groups.

They also publicized the celebration of key vocation events: Vo-

cation Awareness Week, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, and Priesthood Sunday.

And lastly, our club newsletter, edited by Walt Kessel, received an award at the Serra Convention.

The Membership Committee led by Byron Stephens actively recruited new members and was able to maintain our membership level at 35, despite several resignations over the past year. Membership by parish in the Savannah Deanery is as follows:

Blessed Sacrament	3
Cathedral	8
Our Lady of Lourdes	4
St. Frances Cabrini	8
St. James	10
St. Peters	2

Nancy Hasbrouck was appointed as club historian and began documenting club activities on a regular basis.

The Vocations committee, ably lead by Joe Hasbrouck, had an outstanding year. They sponsored a Vocations Essay contest in conjunction with Vocation Awareness Week. Over 120 Catholic school students and CCD attendees participated.

And we promoted the establishment of 31 Clubs in conjunction with World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Thus far the following parishes have established 31 Clubs:

Cathedral  
Cabrini  
Blessed Sacrament  
Most Holy Trinity  
Plus others forming.

Jim Wegman was appointed representative for the Serra Foundation.

The officers for the coming year are:

President:	Byron Stephens
President Elect:	Joe Hasbrouck
V.P. Programs:	Marilyn Stephens
V.P. Membership:	Suzanne Aviles
V.P. Communications:	Peter Paolucci
Secretary:	Josie Lee
Treasurer:	Marilyn Stephens
Trustees:	Frank Sapanaro
	Julio Aviles
	Alex Guira