



Savannah Serra Club NEWSLETTER

June 2004

The Lord of the Harvest has answered our Prayers

On Saturday, June 5, 2004 Bishop Boland ordained four new priests for the Diocese of Savannah. Coming on the heels of the previous Saturday's ordination of five seminarians as transitional Deacons, our diocese has been truly blessed.



Four new Priests concelebrate Mass with Bishop Boland



Bishop Boland acknowledged Fr. Brett Brannen, outgoing Vocations Director, for his efforts in this significant accomplishment.



The cathedral was filled to capacity as people from all over the Diocese came to witness this wondrous event. Steve Angell, Eric Filmer, Dan Firmin and Thong Nguyen became priests according to the order of Melchizedek. These new priests will join the ranks of the diocesan priesthood to minister to the faithful.

Rev. Karl Rabner's words in today's program eloquently reminded us that, "The priest is not an angel sent from heaven. He is a man chosen from among men...to speak the word of God. So we must pray for him so that he might be able to sustain others by bringing the mystery of God's love revealed in Christ."



Top: Fr. Eric Filmer
Bottom: Fr. Daniel Firmin

And, God willing, Ray Levreault, Fredy Angel, Rafael Estrada, Chidi Osondu and Mark Van Alstine are waiting in the wings to join them next year.

Surely the Lord of the Harvest has heard and answered our prayers.



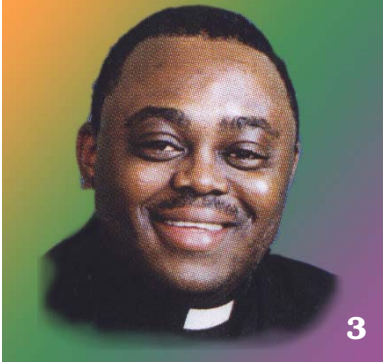
Top: Fr. Thong Nguyen.
Bottom: Fr. Steve Angell



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1: Dcn. Ray Levreault with Wray Kessel. 2: Dcn. Mark van Alstine with his parents
3: Dcn. Chidi Osondu.
4: Dcns: Fredy Angel and Rafael Estrada.



Fr. Adam to get his own Parish.

Fr. Adam Kasela, Parochial Vicar at St. James for the past 3 years, has been appointed Pastor of St. Peter Claver in Macon replacing Fr. Brett. The Serra Club presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation at the Vocation Holy Hour on Thursday, June 3, 2004.

A native of Poland, Fr. Adam has served faithfully as Chaplain of the Serra Club of Savannah since its inception three years ago. He celebrated Masses and Holy Hours for the club as well as attending our meetings and sharing his own vocation story with the members.



Fr. Adam, Doris Crawford

Fr. Adam has been particularly dedicated to promoting vocations by saying the Prayer for Vocations at all his Masses. He acted as sponsors for Dariusz Zurek and Mariusz Fuk's, two young men from Poland who are now in the seminary program for the Diocese of Savannah and he continues to foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life through his efforts with the Deanery Youth Group.

Fr Adam has been a great chaplain and good friend. We will miss him very much.

Farewell Fr. Brett

The Serra Club of Savannah recently thanked Fr. Brett for his support during the formation efforts over the past three years. He provided us many opportunities to serve and this was very important to the club in its early days as we were searching for our identity and sense of purpose.

In addition, he was always there when we needed him, attending our various events, celebrating Holy Hours for the club, as well as including the Serra Club in various vocation events with the seminarians. It was a truly collaborative relationship to advance the vocation agenda here in the diocese, which was very special.

The success of Fr. Brett's tenure as Vocations Director has been significant as the record number of ordinations this year will attest. The men ordained during the past ten years will serve the Diocese of Savannah for years to sustain and grow our Catholic faith here in South Georgia.

We wish him all the best in his new assignment as Pastor of Most Holy Trinity Church in Augusta.