



Savannah Serra Club NEWSLETTER

MAY
2004



New officers of the Serra Club of Savannah are sworn in by District Governor, Pat Carden. Inset: New president Don Waters with Gavel.



President Don Waters

SERRA CLUB INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

On May 15, 2004 the Serra Club of Savannah inducted their newly elected officers.

District Governor, Pat Carden came down from Atlanta to do the honors.

The officers and Trustees for the coming year are:



Dist. Gov., Pat Carden

President	Don Waters	Cathedral	VP Programs	Suzanne Aviles	Cathedral
President Elect	Byron Stephens	St. James	VP Vocations	Joe Hasbrouck	St. Peter
Secretary	Sandy Humphrey	St. James	VP Communications	Peter Paolucci	Cathedral
Treasurer	Marilyn Stephens	St. James	Trustee	Julio Aviles	Cathedral
VP Membership	Graham Crawford	St. James	Trustee	Frank Saponaro	St. James

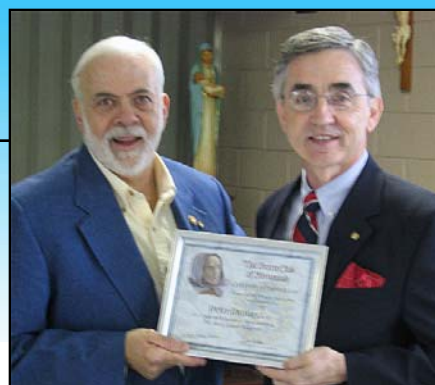
Pat asked President Don Waters and his fellow officers to dream great dreams and set challenging goals. "You should try to make your club truly a University of Christian Principles and help your members fulfill their vocation to service and to promote, foster and help preserve vocations to the priesthood and religious life," concluded Governor Carden.

Continues



Outgoing President Peter Paolucci was honored for his efforts during

his tenure over the past two years. Incoming President Don Waters presented Peter with a Certificate of Appreciation, signed by Bishop Boland recognizing him “For Dedicated service in Re-establishing The Serra Club of Savannah”.



Serra Club Celebrates Accomplishments

“For the past two years, I have had the distinct honor of being President of the Serra Club of Savannah. When I think about all we have accomplished together during that time it feels pretty good,” said Peter Paolucci outgoing President at the May club meeting.

We established a Serra Club here in Savannah with over 30 members, from numerous parishes throughout the Savannah Deanery and received our Charter from Serra International.

Initially we focused on creating a prayerful environment that would be conducive to vocations, here in the Savannah Deanery, with our principal effort being to encourage the saying of a Prayer for Vocations at all the Masses throughout the Savannah Deanery. This practice has been reasonably well established.

At our regular monthly meetings we attended Mass together at St. James Church, enjoyed fellowship at coffee and doughnuts and heard talks from numerous priests and religious to better understand how they received their call.

And for the past year we have sponsored regular monthly Holy Hours for Vocations, which are being held at various churches throughout the Deanery.

From the outset, we supported Fr. Brett by preparing and serving the food at several Vocations Retreats for young men who were considering a vocation, as well as at the retreats for high school boys and girls.

We also funded a scholarship for a young man interested in discerning his call to a priestly vocation.

And this year the club was instrumental in distributing the Vocations Video, “Great Expectations,” to the schools and CCD programs throughout the Diocese during Vocations Awareness Week.

On the affirmation front, we have adopted seminarians as pen pals writing to them regularly to encourage them in their studies, sent out Christmas Cards to all priests, sisters and seminarians in the diocese and recently held an Appreciation Dinner for the Sisters serving in the Savannah Deanery.

This is truly an impressive summary of what we have done together and you should all be proud of these accomplishments.

I would like to thank my fellow Serrans for all of their help during my tenure as President and would also like to publicly thank Bishop Boland for being so supportive of our efforts to organize and establish a Serra Club here in Savannah.



A Banner Year for Ordinations.

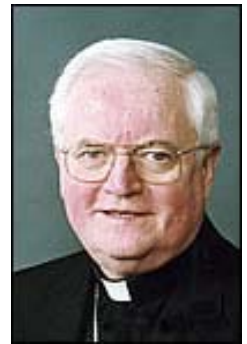
The Diocese of Savannah will ordain 4 priests and five deacons, the most men ordained in a single year since the 60s and 70s. Bishop Boland invites everyone to attend these awesome occasions in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

Diaconate Ordination
May 29, 2004 at 10:00 AM

Priesthood Ordination
June 5, 2004 at 10:00 AM

Please join us to celebrate these wonderful gifts from God.

2004 EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS JUNE 12, 2004



Join Catholics from around the state at the new Georgia International Convention Center in Atlanta on the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ, for the 2004 Eucharistic Congress.

Get full information and schedule at the following web site:

<http://www.archatl.com/congress>

- [Who's Speaking?](#)
- [Congress Schedule](#)
- [revive - Friday Young Adult Track](#)
- [Map & Directions](#)
- [Hotel Reservations](#)
- [Banner Specifications](#)
- [Logos](#)
- [Resources and Links](#)
- [Tribute to Service Men and Women - Deadline June 4th](#)
- [Promotional Video](#)

Sr. Pat addresses Serrans



This month's speaker was Sr. Pat Brown who spoke on her vocation as a Sister within the order of St. Mary of Namur. If you're looking for one of these sisters in a crowd, you won't be able to find them based on their habit. Instead, you must look for the special crucifix worn by each sister. The crucifix, designed by one of the nuns, shows a stylized recessed corpus on burnished gold metal.



The order was founded on November 11, 1819 by Fr. Nicholas Joseph

Minsart. Working as a priest in Belgium he saw a need to help homeless women and children. He realized that without assistance many of Namur's poor and uneducated would turn to prostitution to earn money. At the heart of their work, the sisters help disadvantaged people by finding solutions to suffering and injustice. Efforts in education took emphasis in the early years of the order. Currently other ministries such as social work, counseling, campus ministry, and victim advocacy make up a large part of their tasks.

Members of the order work in the United States, Brazil, Republic of the Congo, Belgium, England and Rwanda. Many of the sisters are native to these countries. Sister Pat told us how one of the sisters from Rwanda lost her entire family to civil war and has not been able to return home for years due to a tense political situation. Fr. Nicholas desired that the order would be one small world-wide community. This contrasts with other religious orders which are divided into many small communities scattered throughout the world. So regardless of distance, when something affects one of the sisters, the other members take the situation very personally.

To keep up with news of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, Serrans are invited to sign up for the free quarterly newsletter. To receive a subscription to "Visions" send your request along with name and address to Sr. Pat Brown at SavannahOFL@aol.com. The website of the order is www.ssmn.org.

— Suzanne Aviles