



# Savannah Serra Club NEWSLETTER

May 2005



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## Cathedral Parish Starts a 31Club

Sunday April 17, Good Shepherd Sunday, was also designated as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. On that day, parishioners at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist were asked to become more involved and address the need for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

They were reminded that our beloved Pope John Paul II had said that, "All members of the church have the responsibility to look after vocations, as the duty of fostering vocations falls on the whole Christian community."

And that Bishop Boland has told us that "Parish communities are responsible for promoting and calling forth vocations by prayer and sacrifices."

At the Cathedral, parishioners are principally promoting vocations by saying the Prayer for Vocations at all the Masses. In conjunction with the observance of World Day of Prayer for Vocations they were invited to consider participating in a new program to pray for an increase in vocations called the 31 Club.

### WHAT IS THE 31 CLUB?

It is a proven parish vocation program. At least 31 people sign up to attend one extra Mass on the same day each month throughout the year. Hence the name. They offer that Mass for an increase in

vocations and also pray for past, present, and future priests, religious sisters, brothers, and deacons. If you miss your chosen date, the nearest convenient date is fine. The membership lasts for three years and members are asked to rejoin at that time.



Our beloved Pope John Paul II has stated that "Prayer moves the heart of God. It is a powerful key to resolving the vocations question."

The 31 Club is a valuable program that gives parishioners a unique opportunity not only to attend an extra Mass and receive Communion each month, but also to dedicate each

thought, word, and deed of the day for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

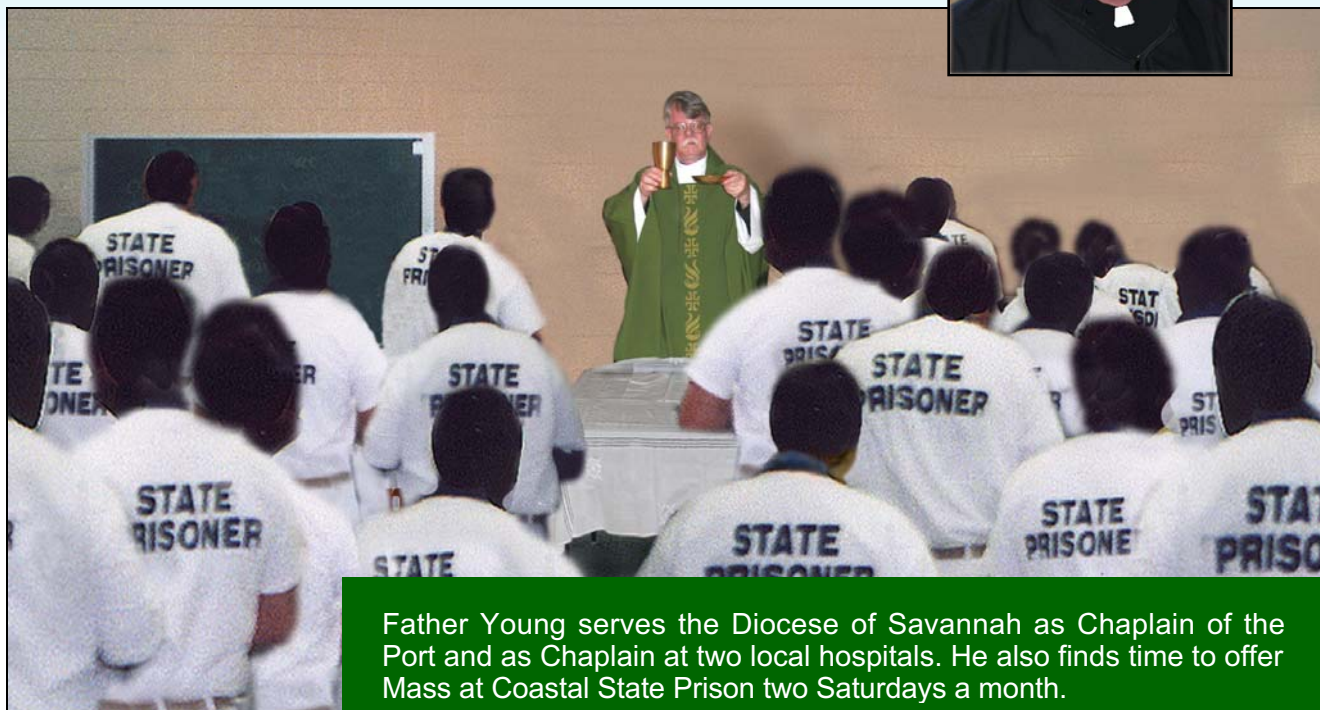
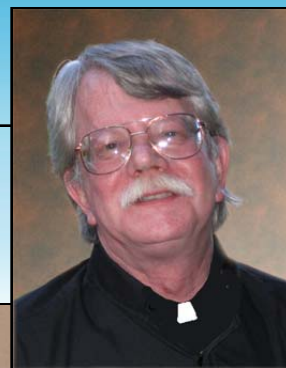
Parishioners were asked to consider making vocations a vital personal concern and putting their faith into action by joining the 31 Club. Over 40 people signed up after mass and promised to attend one extra mass a month to pray that the Lord of the Harvest may send many good priests and religious to his Church.

—Peter Paolucci





## A Vocation Story: Fr. Richard Young



Father Young serves the Diocese of Savannah as Chaplain of the Port and as Chaplain at two local hospitals. He also finds time to offer Mass at Coastal State Prison two Saturdays a month.

This is a photo illustration. We are not allowed to take photos inside the prison. Heads are blacked out to protect identity.

I was 41 years old when I entered the seminary in 1991 after two years of discernment. Now, after ten years as a priest, I look back on that two-year period as a grace-filled time of joy in which I grew spiritually and emotionally and really enjoyed living. Not that I don't now, but it was a really special time!

I was in my 30s and happy in my career, but still wondered what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, so I began to take my faith more seriously and to attend Mass almost every day. Praying the Rosary and asking St. Joseph to take care of me every night began to give everything about the Catholic faith a deeper meaning for me and I began to feel that God wanted something more from me.

I could hardly verbalize what it was, but I somehow got the courage to make an appointment with my pastor. I began by saying, "I might be crazy and I don't want to waste your time, but what is involved in becoming a priest?"

He didn't laugh and a month later I found myself at an appointment with the Vocations Director, who also didn't laugh.

I took a whole year to complete the application process and another year still discerning. I learned about my defects and weaknesses, strengths and talents, inclinations, fears, likes and dislikes through prayer and meditation and interacting with others in a new way.

Early on in the process two chance encounters at Mass with strangers who are now friends opened doors for me.

On both occasions I had stayed after Mass to pray for a moment. The first time, a woman came right out and asked me if I had thought about a vocation! The second time a woman handed me a note with her phone number asking if I would like to pray the Rosary at her house with friends on a Sunday night.

These women and the friends I met through them put me on solid ground. I became more active as a volunteer in the parish and the community. When the time came to go to the seminary I was still scared but as ready as I ever was going to be.



## Fr. Brett visits seminarians



(From left to right) Mariusz Fuks, Scott Winchel, Ethan Rintoul, Rafael Estrada, David Koetter, Dariusz Zurek, Larry Napier, Fr. Brett Brannen, Johnny Johnson, Jim Livingston, Matthew Ericksen.

During a recent visit to Mount St. Mary's Seminary, former Vocations Director Fr. Brett Brannen and the Savannah group enjoyed a night out at dinner. Thanks to Scott Winchel for the picture.



Serrans Jerry and Angela Egan congratulate Bishop Boland on the tenth anniversary of his ordination as Bishop.

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...

...and best wishes to Serran Betty Ferraro and her husband Fred as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary May 14th. May our loving God continue to bless them with many more happy years.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Diocesan Web site contains a lot of info about vocations. Just go to [www.diosav.org](http://www.diosav.org) and click on Priestly Vocations on the Main Menu.

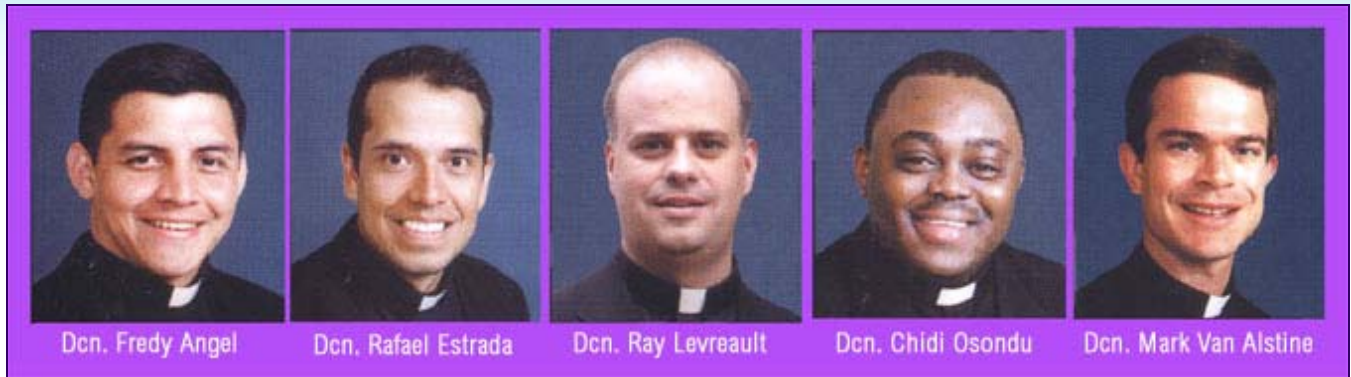
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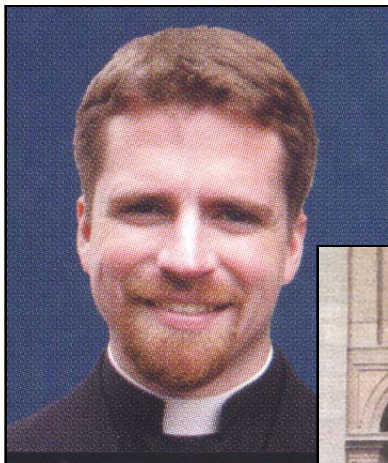
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## Five Seminarians Scheduled for Ordination June 4, 2005



The Savannah Diocese will gain five new priests on Saturday June 4th when Deacons Fredy Angel, Rafael Estrada, Ray Levreault, Chidi Osondu, and Mark Van Alstine are ordained to the Priesthood. The ceremony begins at 10:00 AM at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Savannah. This will be the largest ordination in recent years. Four priests were ordained in 2004.



The Diocese of Savannah was honored to have one of our seminarians, Justin Ferguson, proclaim the first reading at the Inaugural Mass of Pope Benedict XVI on April 24th. Thanks to Justin for the photo.



Justin on the "Big Screen"

### INDUCTION OF OFFICERS

Officers will be inducted at the May 21st meeting after the 9 AM Mass at St. Frances Cabrini. District Governor Pat Carden from Atlanta will officiate at the installation.



Dist. Gov. Pat Carden