



# The Lubbock SERRAN

Volume 10 Issue 3

January 2007

## President's Message

The Serra Lubbock executive board has unanimously voted to change the regular meeting place for evening meals and programs from the Catholic Pastoral Center on 4<sup>th</sup> Street to Hanley Hall at St. Elizabeth's on Main Street. The first such meeting was scheduled for Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007. David J. Hentges, a former Serran, spoke on the *Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem*.

Hanley Hall is located next to the new St. Elizabeth's parking lot on Main Street. There is ample parking space.

As usual, our luncheon meetings will continue to be held at the Lakeridge Country Club. At the Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> luncheon program, our newly ordained young priest, Father Heriberto Mercado, told his conversion story. The luncheon for Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> will feature Dr. John Zak, Chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences at Texas Tech University. His topic is: "Creationism: Why the Fuss?" See the Serra Lubbock web site calendar at <http://www.serralubbock.org> for other upcoming programs through May.

At the October Serra Conference in Galveston, Serra Lubbock received two annual banner awards for 5 percent membership growth over the past two years. We congratulate Louise Sundell and everyone on her committee who worked so hard to spur the growth of our club.

A nominating committee is presently being formed to nominate a new slate of officers for the Serra Club. Elections will be held in April. Officers assume their duties on June 1<sup>st</sup>. If anyone would like to be an officer, please let me know. I will forward your name to the nominating committee.

The results are in for the Serra Club

(See **President Page Two**)



*John Conors and Bob Goyette hold certificates recognizing their charter membership in the Lubbock Serra Club and four decades of service. Both are former club presidents and continue to be active members.*

## 40<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebrated by Serra Club of Lubbock

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Serra Club of Lubbock was celebrated Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at the Catholic Renewal Center. The festive occasion, attended by over 50 people, recognized charter members and past presidents and included a roundtable discussion of the club's history by five of those members. The roundtable speakers included Dr. Eugene Scioli, D.P.M., past club president from 1964-65; Elroy Simnacher, past club president from 1971-72; Larry Craig, past club president from 1979-80 and 1996-97; and Father Malcolm Neyland, chaplain. Don Wanjura, current District Governor and past club president, served as moderator for the group.

The Serra Club of Lubbock was established Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1966 and was the 318<sup>th</sup> Club chartered under Serra International. Serra USA Council is

one of 10 councils that comprise Serra International worldwide.

The Serra Club of Lubbock was founded soon after the end of the Second Vatican Council which convened in 1962 and ended in 1965. Vatican II was called by Pope John XXIII and completed by Pope Paul VI who succeeded John XXIII.

Some critics say that reforms resulting from Vatican II caused a decline in religious vocations. In response to that argument, the panelists agreed that the Serra Club must "come out of a defensive pause" to become a vanguard of positive change. Dr. Scioli said it was important for Serrans to evangelize by word and example. Elroy Simnacher added that Serrans need to be "an example of a practicing Catholic." Everyone agreed that they had benefited from being a Serra member.

## Sisters Corner

### Eagle Scouts Help to Develop Grounds at Our Lady of the Angels Convent

David Glasheen was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout after completing a most helpful project on our grounds. He with his fellow scouts planted trees and placed an irrigation system along the driveway of our grounds. After two years the trees are looking very good and healthy and soon they will even outgrow other undesirables, helping our grounds immensely. Congratulations and many thanks to David and his crew for this wonderful project!

Another project completed this year was that of a gazebo in our back yard. Nicholas Badke from Holy Spirit Parish, provided a sidewalk, a concrete base, a stand for the Statue of Our Blessed Mother, and assembled the gazebo for us. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, we were able to have the blessing and May Crowning, joined by our pastor, Monsignor Gene Driscoll, the Badke family and other scouts and families who assisted Nick with this project. It was a delightful gathering followed by a picnic supper in our back yard! Congratulations to Nick, who is now attending Texas Tech, and to all his helpers and family!

We are most grateful to these two young men for their willingness to be of service to us, as well as to the many people in our world, because of their openness and training as Boy Scouts of America!\*

On this same note, we are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Glasheen for all the planting and care of our fields through the skillfulness of their helper, Robert, and for the many people who have given us or planted our trees.

A MOST GRACE-FILLED  
NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR SERRAN  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS. WE THANK  
YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS AND  
PRAYERS. –The Franciscan Sisters

\* David, a member of Troop 157, achieved Eagle rank in Nov. 2004. He is currently a junior at Lubbock High School and is now a member of Christ the King Parish. Nicholas belonged to Troop 114 and achieved Eagle rank in March 2006.

*The Lubbock Serran* is published quarterly by the Serra Club of Lubbock Communications Committee. Judy Simmons, Vice President Communications, 9302 Quinton Ave., Lubbock, TX 79424, 794-4384; Elmus Beale, Larry Craig, Mike Custy, Bob Goyette and Gary McDonald.

## Lubbock Serra Club Receives Newsletter of the Year Award for Third Time

An award for the most outstanding Region 10 newsletter was presented to the Serra Club of Lubbock at the 2006 Serra Region 10 Convention held in Galveston, Texas, Oct. 27-29<sup>th</sup>. The local Serra Club has won this award and the International Award three times.

District Governor Don Wanjura, accepted the award on behalf of editors Mike Custy and Gary McDonald who were later formally recognized at the annual

Christmas Party held in Lubbock, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. Both were cited for their excellent efforts to produce the newsletter.

Past recipients of the Newsletter of the Year Award include Larry Craig (1999) and Bob Goyette (2003).

The newsletter is published quarterly by the Serra Club of Lubbock Communications Committee and can be viewed at <http://www.serralubbock.org>.



Gary McDonald, Mike Custy and Judy Simmons with newsletter award.

## Membership Dues to Increase

An increase in membership dues will be necessary to offset higher expenditures expected in FY 2007, according to Treasurer Tony Buxkemper in his recent financial report to the club's Board members in December.

Locally, there will be a \$1.30 per plate increase in the monthly lunches charged to the Lubbock Serra Club by the Lakeridge Country Club beginning January 1st. Currently per plate costs run \$10.33, including a gratuity of 18 percent. The new per plate cost, including gratuity, will be \$11.75. No tax is charged to the club.

There will also be a yearly \$2.00 per

member increase needed to support the Regional Director's allowance for travel expenditures, plus a yearly \$3.00 per member increase in the allowance given to the District Governor. Buxkemper says allowance assessments for the club are required by Serra USA Bylaws. Additionally, Serra International will require all Serra clubs to pay a \$2.00 per member increase bi-annually to cover higher administrative costs.

Overall, dues costs per member will increase \$5.00 a quarter from \$85.00 to \$90.00 upon approval by the Board.

## President (from page one)

Essay Contest. The following students from Christ the King School are the winners: Regan Scheppler, Kelly Tishler, Roni Vowels, and Kevin Mantooth. Each participant will receive a \$50 prize and a Serra Club Certificate of Appreciation. Essay topics selected by the students included "Why I Am a Catholic" and "My Favorite Saint."

At the recent Serra Club Christmas party,

Bishop Placido Rodriguez was presented with a check in the amount of \$1,920 for the annual Seminarian Burse Gift. Bishop Rodriguez accepted the gift "as a sign of your great dedication to our vocations," and expressed his hope that Serrans would branch out to include more members from more parishes.

## Deacon Profile - Clarke Cochran

One might ask: “How can a Blue Devil become a Deacon?” Read on about the life of Deacon Clarke Cochran for the answer.

First, he was born and raised through high school in Baltimore, Maryland. Clarke then attended Ivy League Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island (Founded in 1764). Upon graduation Clarke and Anne were married after a courtship that included two years of high school and four years of college. They immediately entered a humble existence as Clarke attended Duke University in Durham, North Carolina (those Blue Devils) where he earned both masters and doctorate degrees in Political Science. He immediately entered into academic teaching at Texas Tech, arriving in Lubbock in August 1970 just after the infamous tornado.

As a Professor of Political Science, Clarke teaches classes to undergraduates as well as graduate students. This term he has one class of approximately 250 students which, needless to say, is pretty much straight lecture. Other classes are smaller and involve lectures plus discussions with students. He is the lead instructor on Public Administration for Health Care Professionals.

Clarke and Anne are the parents of four adult children including: David, who teaches Political Science, at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, a 165 -year old Catholic institution. He and his wife have a son and daughter; Kathy, who lives in Lubbock with her husband and their two boys; Lee and family who live in Charlotte, North Carolina with their four little ones; and Margaret, who is single and lives in Austin.

Notably, of the eight grandchildren, none are older than eight years.

Clarke and Anne’s church home for the past 37 years hasn’t geographically changed but has undergone three name changes. They originally attended mass at a Catholic school site that was supposed to become a new parish of St. Peter’s. That didn’t happen, so St. Elizabeth took over the school and offered a mass there. Next, St. John Neumann was formed.

Clarke became involved in the creation of the Deaconate Program for what was then the Amarillo Diocese and as part of the formation committee which established the plan and guidelines for the program. He also participated in the selection process of candidates and was not a candidate at the time. The first group of deacons was

ordained in 1977. Clarke later entered the program and, after completing three and a half years of study, was ordained in 1981. When the Lubbock Diocese was established, Bishop Michael Sheehan appointed Clarke as Director of the Deaconate and he has continued in similar leadership roles ever since. Currently, Clarke is Director of Formation for the program.

As a deacon, Clarke is note by his many accomplishments and in particular by his brilliant homilies. When asked about the highs and lows of his years as a deacon he cited as a high, “the personal growth that comes from the many challenges that are faced,” and as a low, the belief that “the Church can make you ‘crazy’ if you don’t keep your perspective.”

Clarke is clearly a major asset to all of us in the Catholic Diocese of Lubbock. We should all offer a prayer of thanksgiving.

*Note: Deacon Clarke Cochran will address the Serra Club on the upcoming Deacon Formation Initiative at the Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting.*

## Member Profile - Elroy Simnacher

Elroy has been a member of the Serra Club since 1969 or thereabouts, we are not sure exactly. Over the years he has held every office except Treasurer. Elroy was club president in 1971-72, and currently serves as Trustee.

Elroy was born Jan. 8, 1934, in the hospital in Littlefield and grew up with a brother and two sisters on the family farm north of Pep. Elroy’s paternal grandparents, Frank Simnacher, Sr. and Wilhemina (Minnie) Brueggerman emigrated in the late 1890s from Muensterhausen, a village near Munich, Germany. Elroy still has numerous relatives living in and around Munich. The Simnachers still live in the original home in which Frank, Sr. was born. Both grandparents were German Catholics. The family has baptismal records dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century in the Augsburg region. They settled in Slaton where Frank was a carpenter and farmer. Frank built the home where Elroy’s father, Phillip Simnacher, lived. The house still stands and is occupied by the Derek Kitten family. After Philip got



*Elroy Simnacher*

married, he bought the farm in Pep and left part of the family behind in Slaton.

Elroy’s maternal grandparents came from a very different background. His grandfather, L. B. Downs, was a Native American Indian—Choctaw. Grandmother,

Lila Oliver, was English. They resided in the Abilene, Texas area.

He attended grades 1 through 12 at Pep, graduating high school in 1951 in a class of eight students. Motivated to escape “German slave labor” (i.e., the family farm) Elroy, along with three of his classmates, attended Texas Tech University (TTU) and graduated in 1955 with a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) degree.

When he was a junior at Tech, Elroy met Patricia Verkamp at a dance held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Slaton where Pat attended St. Joseph’s Church. In fact, Pat was the daughter of H. Verkamp, a childhood friend of Elroy’s father, so the Simnachers and Verkamps have known each other for a long time. Pat went to high school in Wilson and was a couple of years behind Elroy. Lucky guy—they were married on Aug. 28, 1954, at St. Joseph in Slaton.

Elroy and Pat have two children, Bradley and Laurie. Brad teaches math at Crosbyton  
(See **Simnacher** Page 4)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 2** First Friday Rosary & Mass  
Christ the King Cathedral  
6:35 a.m.  
Donuts and coffee follow
- Feb. 6** Board Meeting  
Location TBA  
7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 8** Lunch Meeting  
Lakeridge Country Club  
Dr. John Zak  
12 Noon
- Feb. 8** Holy Hour for Vocations  
Christ the King Cathedral  
7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 23** Dinner Meeting  
Hanley Hall, St. Elizabeth's  
Sr. Mary Ann Mishurda  
6:30 p.m.
- Mar. 3** First Friday Rosary & Mass  
Christ the King Cathedral  
6:35 a.m.  
Donuts and coffee follow
- Mar. 6** Board Meeting  
Location TBA  
7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 8** Lunch Meeting  
Lakeridge Country Club  
Frank Schmidt  
12 Noon
- Mar. 8** Holy Hour for Vocations  
Christ the King Cathedral  
7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 30** Dinner Meeting  
Hanley Hall, St. Elizabeth's  
Benny Phillips, MD  
6:30 p.m.
- Apr. 6** First Friday Rosary & Mass  
Christ the King Cathedral  
6:35 a.m.  
Donuts and coffee follow
- Apr. 10** Board Meeting  
Location TBA  
7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 12** Lunch Meeting  
Lakeridge Country Club  
Roberta Meyer  
12 Noon
- Apr. 12** Holy Hour for Vocations  
Christ the King Cathedral  
7:00 p.m.

Date / Facility	Speaker / Topic
<b>Feb. 8 Luncheon</b> Lakeridge Country Club	<b>Dr. John Zak</b> , Chair, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Texas Tech University: <i>Why the fuss: Creationism</i>
<b>Feb. 23 Dinner</b> Hanley Hall, St. Elizabeth's Parish	<b>Sister Mary Ann Mishurda</b> , St. John Neumann: <i>The Secular Franciscans</i>
<b>Mar. 8 Luncheon</b> Lakeridge Country Club	<b>Frank Schmidt</b> , Formation Director, Discalced Carmelite Seculars: <i>History of Carmel: The Spiritual Journey: What's it all about?</i>
<b>Mar. 30 Dinner</b> Hanley Hall, St. Elizabeth's Parish	<b>Benny Phillips, MD</b> : <i>Theology of suffering: A Physicians Perspective</i>
<b>Apr. 12 Luncheon</b> Lakeridge Country Club	Election of Officers Program by <b>Roberta Meyer</b> : <i>Catholic Education vs. Public Education</i>
<b>Apr. 27 Dinner</b> Hanley Hall, St. Elizabeth's Parish	<b>Lawrence D'Souza</b> : <i>The Nurturing Center: True Compassion in Action</i>
<b>May 10 Luncheon</b> Lakeridge Country Club	<b>Deacon Clarke Cochran</b> : <i>Deacon Formation Update in the Lubbock Diocese</i>
<b>May 25 Dinner</b> Hanley Hall, St. Elizabeth's Parish	<b>Installation of Officers</b>

## Simmacher (from page three)

and is a scratch golfer. Laurie lives in Houston and teaches drama and arts. Laurie and her husband have two children, Rachael, age 11 and Brandon, age 5.

After graduation from TTU, Elroy worked at Montgomery Ward while awaiting orders for active duty with the United States Air Force. Pat worked at Penney's during that time. Elroy, along with two of his high school classmates, entered the Air Force Pilot Training School.

Elroy spent 13 years reserve and active duty as an Air Force instructor pilot, fighter pilot, and heavy transport aircraft commander. He applied for release from active duty in 1961. However, he was activated in 1968 for two years to fly cargo planes into and out of Vietnam.

During those years as a reservist, Elroy enrolled in law school at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. He graduated in 1961 and went to work for a San Antonio law firm. After two years, he and Pat moved to Lubbock where Elroy began his own law practice.

Church life began early in life for Elroy in Pep. Mom and dad took the kids to church with no exceptions. That probably came from the Frank Simmacher, Sr. family. Elroy's father's family used to have to travel from Slaton to Amarillo by wagon for Easter duty. Motivated to have a church closer to

home, Frank, Sr. was one of the founding members of St. Joseph Church in Slaton.

Over the years, Elroy has been very active in the church. As a boy he was altar server. Now he is a Eucharistic minister and lector. He served on the Christ the King Parish Council and School Board. Though not presently active, he is a Third Degree Knight. He serves on the Catholic Foundation Board and has been on the Red Mass Committee since its inception. Both he and Pat are members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

Elroy's hobbies include hunting and golf.

I think it is safe to say that Elroy has served as mentor and example for many a new Serran. What enthusiasm and faith he shows, and what a great friend he is.

## Father Bill Anton to Pen New Column

Beginning in April, the Lubbock Serran will introduce a column called "Father Bill" written by Father Bill Anton. Father Anton will provide readers advice, insights, and information on vocational issues. Father Bill would like to solicit your questions and concerns. Please write him at St. Ann's Church 105 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Morton, Texas 79346 or email him at stann@valornet.com.