



The Lubbock SERRAN

Volume 4 Issue 4

March 2001

President's Corner

Baseball season is upon us and although no authority on the game, I do know one thing... there are "players" and there are "spectators", right? Players are the ones who practice, stay in shape, work to form the team and hope to win the series. Spectators, pay their money to get into the game, sit around and talk with friends, eat hot dogs, shout when their team is winning or losing, and go home... (not worrying who will clean up the stadium, right?)

As members of the Serra Club, I CHALLENGE YOU, are you a "player" or a "spectator"?

Fr. David Cruz, Dir. Of Vocations, gave a wonderful speech to a relatively small group of Serrans at the February Dinner meeting. By the way 28 of you responded that you would be there... 17 actually attended. The caterer demands a minimum of 30. *Do the Math* ...our club (team) lost that night in many ways. First of all, with only 17 members the cost of the meal was approximately \$20.00 per person, next you missed one of the most marvelous talks of the year. Fr. David Cruz spoke from his heart about his love for his ministry and his vision for the Serra Club in the Diocese of Lubbock. Let me briefly outline his three objectives for our club:

- 1.) Continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life
- 2.) Serve as STRONG role models for the Catholic Community, especially our seminarians
- 3.) Fr. David needs our help to sponsor a benefit "Adopt-A-Seminarian" fund-raiser this fall in order to replenish the seminarian fund used to assist the seminarians with unexpected expenses during the year.

We need to form a planning committee(team) to organize this effort... **I haven't heard my phone ringing?**

Attendance at the Holy Hour for Vocations at Christ the King Cathedral has been embarrassing low. **Does anyone have a suggestion?**

Crippled this year by not having a membership chair, WE (AS A TEAM) DID NOT INDUCT ONE SINGLE NEW MEMBER?... **Who's fault is that?** (editors note; See article on membership in this issue).

If we hear any complaints about the food served at the meetings, I have solely had to arrange for the meals two times a month, decide on menu and price, set up the tables at the CRC, either pay \$2.50/per tablecloth and set the tables myself (sometimes with a little help), and clean up after every meeting... including taking out the trash, turning off the lights, locking up-by myself after 9:00 PM... only person offering to stay with me... Thank You Elmus! Any one care to help me? **My e-mail address is msdebe2000@yahoo.com**

Here are the objections I've heard to serving as an officer:

I haven't been a member that long.

Response: The best way to find out about an organization is to get involved!

continued on page two



*Debbie
Schuknecht*

Membership Drive Ready For Kickoff

Efforts to boost membership in the Serra Club are being kicked off by a Serra USA challenge and by our local Club with a concerted effort to seek candidates.

Serra USA issued a letter on February 16, 2001 challenging clubs to redouble their efforts in recruiting new members as well as bringing former members back.

A Serra Club of Lubbock Ad Hoc committee recently met and came up with a "game plan" to get membership moving in the right direction. This effort will be kicked off at the April 27, 2001 dinner meeting. The evening will include a briefing on the state of membership in our club, some reasons why members have left followed by a break-out of work groups by parish to identify potential candidates to be submitted back to the podium by meetings end.

Club President Schuknecht will in turn send a letter to those identified inviting them to a regular dinner meeting (probably in June) to learn about Serra and seek their enrollment. The Ad Hoc committee members will do one-on-one follow up with candidates prior to the meeting.

The Ad Hoc Committee urges all Serrans to do two things: first to think in advance about potential candidates, i.e. look around your parish for those who might make good Serrans: and secondly to make a serious effort to attend the April and June meetings.

Membership is vital to a dynamic club!

Regional Convention In Lubbock Is Still On – Just Moved To Summer 2002

The Serra Regional Convention originally scheduled for October 28-29, 2001 has been moved back to the Summer of 2002 to coincide with the Vatican Art Exhibit to be held at the Texas Tech University Museum from June 1-August 31, 2002.

The basis for the reschedule occurred after the Houston Regional Convention, held October 27-29, 2000. The Lubbock Club received a memo from Leroy Drury, Houston Convention Chair in which he described the disappointment with the turnout at their convention and cited reasons for the low attendance. Those reasons included: the competition between International Conventions and regional ones. In 2000 the International was held in Kansas City, MO and attracted many Serrans from our district. Those in turn did not support Houston.

In 2001 the International will be held in Los Angeles and is again thought to attract a sizable number of Texans. Another issue cited by Drury was the belief that International Conventions should be held on an every-other-year schedule. This subject reportedly has been discussed with Serra International officials but has not received a favorable response. Yet another issue is the fact that the Louisiana Serra Clubs have announced their intent to withdraw from participation with the Texas clubs in regional conventions and go on their own.

Based on the above information, Elroy Simnacher, our Convention Chairman received a letter from Sam Sacco, Region X Director asking us to defer the Regional Convention until 2002. Director Sacco cited 3 factors that should help Lubbock making a success of a Regional Convention including; nearly two years would have elapsed since the previous regional convention; the 2002 International Convention will be held in Toronto, Canada and is likely to attract fewer attendees from Texas; and the Vatican Art Exhibit would be a major incentive for Serrans to attend a regional convention in Lubbock.

Lubbock Serra Club President Deborah Schuknecht and Larry Craig met with Bishop Placid Rodriguez on January 10, 2001 and gained his concurrence to reschedule into 2002.

Forthcoming activities for the Lubbock

Club include the examination of Summer 2002 schedules of the National Council of Catholic Bishops and the Diocese of Lubbock and Amarillo for conflicts and schedule our convention accordingly.

Prayer List

John Gaschen
Bob Paikowski
Dan Prewitt
Millie Callow
Fr. Tim Judd
Seminarians
Vocations

Serra Slate Of Officers Finalized

The Serra Club of Lubbock Nominating Committee consisting of David Buescher and Bob Goyette has submitted a list of candidates for 2001-2002 leadership roles. Nominations include:

Joe Conboy	President
Brian Beauchamp	VP Programs
Floyd Boone	VP Membership
Deborah Schuknecht	VP Vocations
Gary McDonald	VP Communications
Don Wanjura	Secretary
Tony Buxkemper	Treasurer
Elmus Beale	Trustee (3 Year)

The election process next includes announcement of the nominees at the March 30 meeting followed by the election at the April 12th meeting.

Installation of officers will take place on May 25th.

Newly elected officers and those continuing to serve are asked to mark their calendars for the Spring Leadership Training Conference to be held in Plainview on Saturday, April 28, 2001.

Congratulations to all the nominees and special note of appreciation to Dave Buescher and Bob Goyette for their excellent work.

The Serra Club of Lubbock, Communications Committee publishes the **Lubbock Serran**. Larry Craig-Vice President, 3532 154th St. Lubbock, TX 79423, (806) 863-2570, Elmus Beale, Loyal Bessire, Gary McDonald, Doug Record.

Nelson Diaz To Be Next Priest

By Elmus Beale

On the final leg of his journey to become a priest, Nelson Diaz was ordained a Deacon by Bishop Plácido Rodriguez on February 3, 2001 at Saint Elizabeth's Church. The 55-year-old deacon was born in the Dominican Republic and immigrated to New York in the mid



photo by John P. Cervantez
Nelson Diaz

1960s. Nelson's desire to become a priest began when he was a boy, but circumstances and fate postponed his dream. He married and raised two daughters in New York. After the death of his wife of cancer, the Lord opened this new door and brought Nelson to West Texas. As Serrans, may we keep Nelson in our prayers. His ordination to the priesthood is scheduled for Saturday, June 30, 2001. Let's all be sure and put that date on our calendars and plan to celebrate the ordination of our next priest.

Alleluia!

President's Corner

from page one

I am a charter member and I've already served my terms .

Response: We need your seasoned wisdom. Serve again.

I work all week and do not have the time.
Response: Who does? Just make time.

I am not a leader.

Response: Leader are not born, they are molded. Be coachable.

So here is the game plan. Get involved (be a player) or there will not be a team... then the "spectators" will have no where to go.

I end by challenging you. "Are you a **"Player"** or a **"Spectator"**?"

Now you know, This blonde, female President can **"Play Ball!"**... **"Hard Ball!"** "Batter UP anyone?"

Deborah Susan Schuknecht
President-Serra Club of Lubbock

Stem Cell Research—Good or Bad?

By Elmus Beale

We hear a great deal in the news these days about the controversial issue of “stem cell research”. Some say full steam ahead while others say it should be banned completely. Here is a brief description to help you better understand the debate.

Every cell in our bodies has exactly the same genes. Early indications from the genome sequencing project is that we humans have a total of ~30,000 genes. Cells differ only as a result of which of those genes they utilize. For example, a muscle cell uses ~5,000 genes to do its job. A liver cell also uses ~5,000 genes, but most of those genes are different from the ones used by the muscle cells.

As humans develop from a single cell, the fertilized egg, two important things must happen: 1) cells must divide many times to generate the 30 trillion cells in a typical adult; and 2) the proper genes must be turned on or off in the proper cells at the correct times. Birth defects occur when this fails. Cancer is another result of failure to coordinate cell division and gene control. Trying to understand how these events are controlled is the topic of a great deal of exciting research these days.

The following figure illustrates the process of development. It is a lineage of cells similar to a family tree. A few, very specialized cells, “stem cells”, develop along the way. These cells have the ability to generate a few cells (multipotent), many cells (pluripotent), or all cells (totipotent) in the body. When stem cells divide, one of the two daughter cells remains

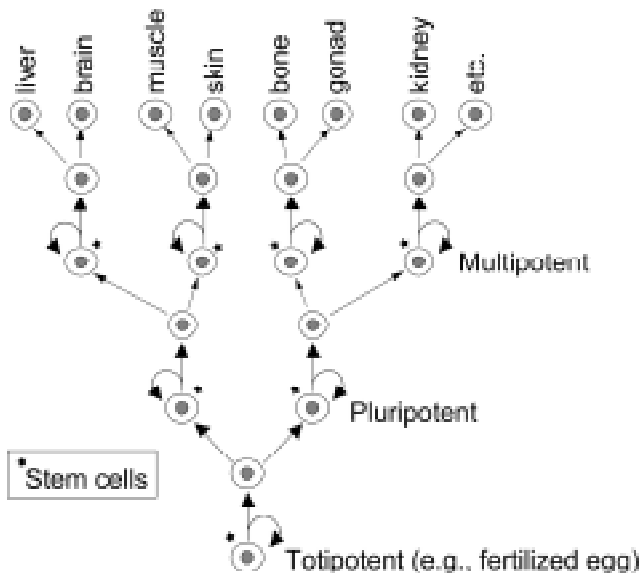
behind as the stem cell, while the other cell produces the lineage. This ability to self-renew AND produce a lineage is essential.

Embryos are the most abundant source of stem cells. Until “Dolly” the sheep was made a few years ago, it was believed that embryos were the ONLY source of totipotent stem cells. Dolly was made from the mammary gland (she was named after Dolly Parton) of an adult sheep which proved that totipotent stem cells can be produced from adults.

So why are stem cells so important? They are invaluable in research to understand development and cancer. They have also been shown to regenerate numerous tissues in animals. The hope is that they can be used to regenerate body parts to treat many diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and severed nerves.

So what is the problem? Is it ethical to obtain them from human embryos? Is it ethical to play God and produce body parts or (heaven forbid) cloned people? The stance of Pope John Paul and the Catholic Bishops is that any work with embryonic stem cells should be forbidden. What do you think?

For more information, check out the world wide web. Here are some useful links: from Pope John Paul II: <http://www.cogforlife.org/stemvatican.htm>; from the Conference of Catholic Bishops: <http://www.nccbuscc.org/prolife/issues/bioethic/comments.htm>; and from the NIH: <http://www.nih.gov/news/stemcell>.



Jan. 22, 2001 in Washington D.C.

March For Life

By Rev. Timothy E. Judd

HISTORY

His Holiness Pope John Paul II has written a most marvelous Encyclical Letter entitled “The Gospel of Life” in 1995. This most wonderful document spells out the Church’s position with regards to all of life. It is truly a masterpiece in every respect with regard to basic and fundamental truth. This is a statement from that Encyclical:

“To claim the right to abortion, infanticide and euthanasia, and to recognize that right in law, means to attribute to human freedom a perverse and evil significance: that of an absolute power over others and against others. This is the death of true freedom: “Truly, truly, I say to you every one who commits sin is a slave of sin” (Jn 8:34).

PRAYER

Holy Mass was celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception by His Eminence, Cardinal William H Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore and more than twenty bishops as well as over a hundred priests. The Basilica was *continues on page four*

David Dzik To Continue As District Governor For Another Term

David Dzik, Governor of District 44 will serve a second year in that position starting in June 2000. Larry Craig the District Governor-Elect from the Lubbock Club will assume the position after Dzik’s term ends in June 2003.

Historically, District 44 Governors have served a one year term however Serra USA has suggested that governors serve two-year terms in order to benefit from what they have learned early in their tenure.

IN MEMORIAL TO JOHN TRELFORD

This newsletter is being printed at no cost to the Serra Club by The Print Shop, 2414 Avenue E, Lubbock, TX 79404, Robert Hurmence, Proprietor. Robert and John had a long-standing business relationship. Thanks also to Quinton Strube and the staff. Anyone needing quality printing might want to contact The Print Shop. Their phone number is 747-3512.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Mar 25** Serrans Supper for TTU Raider Awakening Students 6:00 P.M. St. Elizabeth Student Cen.
- Mar 30** Dinner Meeting CRC 6:30 P.M.-
- Apr 6** First Friday Rosary and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M.
- Apr 10** Board Meeting 7:00 P.M. Larry Craig's 3532 154th.
- Apr 12** Luncheon Meeting CRC 12 Noon-
- Apr 12** Holy Hour for Vocations CTK, 7:00P.M.
- Apr 27** Dinner Meeting CRC 6:30 P.M.-
- May 4** First Friday Rosary and Mass CTK 6:35 A.M.
- May 8** Board Meeting 7:00 P.M. Location TBA
- May 10** Luncheon Meeting CRC 12 Noon-
- May 10** Holy Hour for Vocations CTK 7:00 P.M.
- May 25** Dinner Meeting, CRC 6:30 P.M.-Installation of Officers w/spouses.
- Jun 1** First Friday Rosary and Mass CTK 6:35 A.M.
- Jun 12** Board Meeting 7:00 P.M. Location TBA.
- Jun 29** Dinner Meeting CRC 6:30 P.M.-
- Jul 6** First Friday Rosary and Mass CTK 6:35 A.M.

Don't Forget your "31 club" Date!

Report On March For Life *from page three*

packed with adults and students from all parts of the nation for Life. Monsignor Michael J. Bransfield told me after Mass that this was the largest group of people that he had ever seen in the Basilica of our Lady.

His Eminence Cardinal Keeler gave a super homily, at which time he was applauded many times. He took issue with the Federal Supreme Court.

Here are some of his remarks: "How far our culture in the United States has moved from

a sensitivity to life as a gift from above, as the privileged right of which the Declaration of Independence spoke, was brought home last summer by the decision of the Supreme on partial-birth abortion. The decision flies in the face of logic, even of political logic. We have come to a very sad day when five people can write words that constitute a death sentence for children being born. What medical experts have called 'bad medicine' is, sadly, now the law of our land."



Fr. Tim Judd, Assistant Chaplain, Serra Club of Lubbock (r) is shown with Rev. Frank Pavone, National Director of the Priests for Life (center) and Robert K. Doran, former U.S. Representative from Orange County, CA and now a pro life radio talk show host. The Washington Monument is in the background.

MARCH

Holy Mass was celebrated by His Eminence, Cardinal Bernard Law at 7:30 a.m. in the Basilica on the 22nd of January. There were about six bishops and about twenty of us priests who concelebrated with the Cardinal.

My guess would be about 25,000 took part in the March and I was right up in front behind the marching students in red with Bishop Hart from Norwich, Connecticut and other bishops and priests.

Tradition Can Cloud Reason

By Elmus G. Beale

I recently received the following in an email from a friend. It made me stop and reflect on my own sense of what is right—especially in relation to the current Lubbock controversy over smoking in public places. I thought I would share it with you.

"There is such truth in Nature."

Start with a cage containing five monkeys. Inside the cage, hang a banana on a string and place a set of stairs under it. Before long, a monkey will go to the stairs and start to climb towards the banana. As soon as he touches the stairs, spray all of the monkeys with cold water. After a while, another monkey makes an attempt with the same result—all the monkeys are sprayed with cold water. Pretty soon, when another monkey tries to climb the stairs, the other monkeys will try to prevent it. Now, turn off the cold water. Remove one monkey from the cage and replace it with a new one. The new monkey sees the banana and wants to climb the stairs. To his surprise and horror, all of the other monkeys attack him. After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs, he

will be assaulted. Next, remove another of the original five monkeys and replace it with a new one. The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment with enthusiasm. Again, replace a third original monkey with a new one. The new one makes it to the stairs and is attacked as well. Two of the four monkeys that beat him have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs, or why they are participating in the beating of the newest monkey. After replacing the fourth and fifth original monkeys, all the monkeys that have been sprayed with cold water have been replaced. Nevertheless, no monkey ever again approaches the stairs. Why not? Because as far as they know that's the way it's always been around here. And that's how "policy" begins...

It seems to me that we humans have perpetrated similar things on each other over the millennia. Examples are slavery and suffrage for only white males. I wonder what stupid things we are doing now in the name of tradition. May God give us the wisdom to see...