



The Lubbock **SERRAN**

Volume 8 Issue 4

April 2005

News from the Lubbock Diocesan Vocation Office

We currently have four seminarians in our priestly formation program. Ernesto Lopez and Heriberto Mercado are finishing up their pastoral internships; in August they will return to Assumption Seminary in San Antonio for their final year of theological studies. God willing, they will be ordained in May 2006. Nahum Lopez Olvera is currently studying English at Assumption; he is scheduled to begin his first year of theology this August in San Antonio.

Manuel Perez is finishing his first year of college seminary at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving; he has 8 more years to go. In addition to these four men, we also have Wilfrido Carrillo Madrigal, who is currently

on a one year leave of absence. If he comes back in August, he will be studying English and theology at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio.

The vocation team is also in the process of evaluating five men who have applied for diocesan sponsorship as seminarians. Of these five, two or three appear to be solid candidates. At this time, the vocation team is continuing to gather documents and letters of recommendation for these candidates. God willing, we should have a few new faces in the seminary by this August.

Happy Easter!
Fr. Bill Anton

G.K. and Mrs. Chesterton make visit to Lubbock

G.K. Chesterton (AKA Carl Sundell) shared some of his humor and wit at the April 1 dinner meeting.



Polley Ahrens looks over the many books Carl brought.



Serra Officer Nominations 2005-2006

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Gary McDonald

President-Elect

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Leland Brockman

Vice-President for Membership

Louise Sundell

Vice-President for Vocations

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Floyd Boone

Trustee (Two-year)

Elmus Beale

Trustee (Three-year)

Elroy Simmacher

Past President

Brian Beauchamp

Foundation Representative

David Buescher

Presented by nominating committee:
Floyd Boone, Don Wanjura, Elmus Beale, Brian Beauchamp and Gary McDonald

Spring Membership Drive Scheduled for April 29

The Lubbock Serra Club Spring Membership Drive is scheduled for April 29th at the Catholic Renewal Center. Club members will talk detailing the history of Serra Lubbock. All current members are urged to nominate candidates who will receive a letter of invitation from the membership committee. Last year fourteen new members were inducted. We hope to double the number this time around.

The cuisine offering, arranged by Leland

Brockman, will be a wine and cheese tasting event followed by dessert and coffee.

Several varieties of wine have been donated by Raymond Shackelford II, the owner of Nehalem Winery in Dallas, Oregon. The cheese has been donated by Ben and Mary Mesman of the Mesman Dairy, Muleshoe, Texas.

Attendance of all members and their spouses would help to make this an informative, fun-filled evening.

A Letter from Fr. Tim Judd



Fr. Tim Judd

Dear Serrans,

The Year of the Most Holy Eucharist is now half over. It will end in October 2005, with a Synod in Rome.

Presently, it is now one full year since the Holy

Father signed the encyclical letter "Ecclesia de Eucharistia". In this letter, the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II brings to our minds what the church has been teaching since her beginnings. The Holy Father tells us that the Eucharist is the greatest gift Christ gave to his church. "The Church draws her life from Christ in the Eucharist; by him she is fed and by him she is enlightened".

The Most Blessed Sacrament is called the most sublime gift of Jesus to us. The Most Holy Eucharist is the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus.

There is a very interesting program on Eternal Word Television Network, each week, called "Coming Home". Mr. Marcus Grodi, a convert to the Catholic Church and a former Protestant Minister interviews a different Protestant Minister, who has converted to the Catholic Church. The program lasts a full hour so the convert can tell his or her story about why they became Catholics.

These prominent men and woman explain their position as former Protestant Ministers from whatever background they came from and from whatever church affiliation they had during their journey with the Lord.

After watching this program for years, I have found certain things in their conversations that almost always come up. They are the following: The authority of the Catholic Church in deciding issues, the testimony of the early Fathers of the Church, the reading of the works of John Cardinal Neuman, G. K. Chesterton and others.

Certainly, the Blessed Mother comes up and they demonstrate, in general, their ability to see her as she really is with regard to Jesus and the Church.

In the end, they most always mention the extreme importance for the Blessed Eucharist. They are most grateful for this sacrament and completely enthralled with their belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist. This is indeed a key issue for them.

Youth 2000 will be held, in early April for the young people of the Diocese. The meeting will be at the Catholic Center. This is a student retreat and they will have the opportunity for all day and night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

You and your work are in my daily Holy Mass. Keep up the good work.

In our Blessed Mother Mary

Father Timothy E. Judd
Assistant, Chaplain

The Lubbock Serran is published quarterly by the Serra Club of Lubbock Communications Committee. Mike Custy- Vice President Communications, 4401 78th St., Lubbock, TX 79424, 797-2756; Elmus Beale, Larry Craig, Kent Dooley and Bob Goyette.

From the District Governor

Dear Serrans,

The next district event will be our annual Spring Leadership Planning Conference to be held in Plainview sometime in May. We will firm up the date in April after the clubs have finalized their list of incoming officers.

Considering the great year you are having, I know you will have many ideas to share at the meeting.

I am very much looking forward to seeing all of you again and I hope this Easter season has brought you many blessings.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Jake Richards

Serrans to participate

Junior High Teen Rally

On Saturday, May 21, the diocese will be conducting a junior high teen rally. Greg Ramzinski, youth director for the diocese, has asked the Serra club to help prepare and serve lunch to those attending the rally. Greg needs the help of at least 10 to 15 Serrans from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. A meal of hamburgers and hot dogs will be served. The rally takes place at the Catholic Renewal Center.

The day should be both fun and meaningful for the teens that will be attending and a great way for us to provide a ministry to the youth of the diocese.

Eucharistic Procession

Sunday, May 29, the Church celebrates the Feast of Corpus Christi. To mark the occasion the diocese is conducting a eucharistic procession at the Cathedral following the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Bishop Placido Rodriguez is to lead the procession and has requested Serra club members be part of the procession.

Make plans to wear your vests and take part in this event.

Priest Profile - Rev. Msgr. Eugene Driscoll

Monsignor Gene Driscoll was born in Philadelphia, the youngest of seven children and attended catholic schools. Ordained to the Society of Mary or Marists 35 years ago, his first assignment was as an assistant pastor at Saint Pius X parish in Bedford, Ohio from 1970 through 1974. Msgr. Gene then went to Our Lady of Assumption in Atlanta, Georgia as pastor. In 1976 he returned to Saint Pius X as pastor. He also served as chaplain to the police and fire departments.

He left Bedford in 1983 to become Provincial of the Washington, D.C. Province of the Marists where he was responsible for the welfare of 130 priests. He next heard the calling to the missionary Diocese of Lubbock and became pastor of Sacred Heart parish in Plainview. In 1996 he became the Pastoral Administrator of St. Elizabeth University Parish in Lubbock. In 1998

Bishop Placido Rodriguez asked him to establish a new parish in southwest Lubbock and he moved to Christ the King Cathedral as assistant pastor/founding pastor of Holy Spirit. Starting in 1999 with 50 families, the new parish held Masses at the Knights of Columbus #3008 Hall and moved to the permanent campus in 2002. With 550 families currently registered and growing weekly, Msgr. Gene is directing the start of Phase II construction which initially involves a 1200 seat sanctuary and an expanded office complex. Ground breaking is scheduled for May 15, 2005.

Msgr. Gene also performs other duties such as Vicar for Priest of the Diocese, defender of the Bond for the Marriage Court and is on the Bishop's Presbyteral Council.

"Father" Gene was named Monsignor by

Pope John Paul II on January 16, 2004 with the title of "Chaplain of His Holiness" In celebration of his new title, Holy Spirit held a parish-wide dinner celebration where many accolades were bestowed on Msgr. Gene. Listed below are some of the remarks made by Serran Larry Craig that reflects the wide held admiration of Msgr. Gene:

"Msgr. Gene to me is the Hollywood version of a priest, that is he is the best of everything that makes a priest endearing:

He's Irish

He clearly loves what he is doing and has the capacity to juggle many responsibilities, tasks and crises.

He has a huge caring heart, the energy level of a teenager, the creative soul of Michelangelo and the patience of Job.

Msgr. Gene is our spiritual leader but more importantly he is our friend."

Member Profile - Jim Gibler

By Elmus Beale

Jim was formally inducted into the Serra Club at the October 29, 2004 dinner at the Catholic Renewal Center. Jim and I had a nice visit over a cup of Day Break coffee while we got to know each other better.

Jim was born on September 11, 1932 in Mattoon, a small farming community in central Illinois. Jim attended high school in Mattoon where he met his future bride, Betty Ann. After high school Jim attended 2 years of college at Eastern Illinois University and at the Citadel. But the lure of flying reared its head and he enlisted in the Air Force in 1953. He and Betty Ann also got married right after he enlisted.

At that time, there was a pilot training program available for enlisted men, and Jim was one of the fortunate applicants to be admitted. Jim received his wings in March of 1955 and remained in the Air Force for 24 years. During that time he served for 14 years as a pilot instructor, and the remainder of the time he was a tactical fighter pilot and special operations pilot. Jim flew F100s, F101s, and the O-2, a forward air control operations aircraft. The Air Force took Jim and his family to Alabama, San Antonio, Virginia, Vietnam, England (which was "wonderful duty"), and finally Reese AFB. Jim left the Air Force in 1977 when he was reassigned from Reese AFB to the Pentagon and refused to go by retiring.

During their 46 years of marriage, Jim

and Betty Ann raised four children—Valerie, Stephen, Angela, and Michael. Betty Ann kept a diary during the Air Force years which showed that Jim was absent for 9 of the 24 years that he was in the Air Force. Fortunately, Betty Ann was a great organizer and kept the family running. She was an active crafter and taught the kids to enjoy crafts as well. In fact, Angela, who is now a secretary in the College of Human Sciences at TTU, owns a small business that re-covers airplane surfaces. Jim says that this is a natural progression from the crafting her mom taught her.

Stephen also still lives in Lubbock where he owns Solar Advantage Window Tinting, which tints automobile windows. Valerie lives in Dayton, Ohio where she is a registered nurse in a pediatric ICU. The youngest, Mike, is a career infantry battalion commander in the Army. He is currently serving his third tour of combat duty in Iraq. Mike previously served in Desert Storm and in Afghanistan.

After retiring from the Air Force, the Giblers remained in Lubbock, from 1977 to 1981, where their children were attending Christ the King School. Three of the four graduated from CTK High School, and Mike was in the last graduating class before the high school closed in 1981. Jim and Betty Ann were very active in the CTK School Booster Club, along with many current Serrans. He remembers those days

fondly. In fact, one of those parents was John Mosser who recruited Jim into the club.

During the years 1977-87, Jim worked for Occidental Petroleum. After Mike graduated from CTK High School, Jim and Betty Ann moved to Borger and later to Houston. But in 1987, Occidental wanted Jim to move to Chicago, so he retired from that job, moved to San Antonio and worked as a consultant for McDonald-Douglass. He describes that as the best job he ever had because it was interesting and allowed him to have more quality family time than had been possible with his previous jobs.

Jim retired permanently in 1997 when Betty Ann's health failed. She was a life-long smoker and suffered from emphysema, and lung cancer. She died in 1999 from complications of surgery to remove the cancer.

Jim moved back to Lubbock in 2001 because he had fond memories of the city and has two children who still live here. He lived in his RV for a year before buying a home where he now lives with his Golden Retriever, "Sadie".

Jim volunteers at the Texas Air Museum in Slaton. His favorite hobby is flying his Wolfe W11, a small homebuilt biplane which is also known as the "Boredom Fighter". It is a 1-seat, open cockpit plane that Jim bought specifically to do aerobatics. Jim

(See Jim Gibler Page 4)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 12** Board Meeting
Floyd Boone's house
7:00 p.m.
- April 14** Lunch Meeting
Lakeridge Country Club
12 Noon
- April 14** Holy Hour for Vocations
Christ the King Cathedral
7:00 p.m.
- April 29** Dinner Meeting
Catholic Renewal Center
6:30 p.m.
- May 6** First Friday Rosary
and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M.
Donuts and Coffee follows.
- May 10** Board Meeting
Mary Lou Trelford's house
7:00 p.m.
- May 12** Lunch Meeting
TBA
12 Noon
- May 12** Holy Hour for Vocations
Christ the King Cathedral
7:00 p.m.
- May 27** Dinner Meeting
Officer Installation
Catholic Renewal Center
6:00 p.m.
- June 3** First Friday Rosary
and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M.
Donuts and Coffee follows.
- June 7** Board Meeting, TBA
7:00 p.m.
- June 9** Lunch Meeting
TBA
12 Noon
- June 9** Holy Hour for Vocations
Christ the King Cathedral
7:00 p.m.
- June 24** Dinner Meeting
Catholic Renewal Center
6:30 p.m.

Program Calendar		
Meeting	Speaker	Topic
Apr. 14 Luncheon Lakeridge Country Club	Jeff Malpiede Cheryle Franke	Catholic Family Services
Apr. 29 Dinner Catholic Renewal Center	Club Members	Wine and Cheese event prospective new members invited
May 12 Luncheon Location TBA	TBA	
May 27 Dinner Catholic Renewal Center		Mass and Officer Installation

President's Message

The past several weeks you have probably been following like me the TV coverage and news reports on the death and funeral of Pope John Paul II. Catholics and non-Catholics alike have expressed their admiration for the way he lead our Church the past 26 years. As Catholics we can take pride in the way he proclaimed the Gospels and reached out to those of many different faiths.

John Paul was very aware of the Serra Club and very appreciative and supportive of our efforts to foster religious vocations. The following section of the new member induction ceremony comes from a letter John Paul II wrote to the Serra organization. "On behalf of the Church, I must tell you of my esteem and my encouragement for your numerous initiatives in favor of priestly and religious vocations. It is really admirable that lay people, deeply convinced that the Church and society needs priests and religious, take as a purpose of their commitment as Christian prayer and hard working action for the spread, development, perseverance, increase and assistance of vocations. You are mindful of this in Jesus' words: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Let us continue to be encouraged by his words as we work to foster and promote vocations.

God bless,
Gary

Jim Gibler *(Continued from Page 3)*

and the other museum volunteers often perform aerobatic stunts for museum visitors.

Jim is a convert to the Catholic Church. He was baptized at RAF Bentwaters in the United Kingdom and then confirmed at Chu Lai Vietnam by the Bishop of Da Nang during a mortar attack.

Jim now enjoys his many volunteer activities and spending time with his children and grandchildren. He is a parishioner at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. He is active in the Knights of Columbus and in the Perpetual Adoration Programs at Holy Spirit and Christ the King. As a new Serran, Jim looks forward to becoming a part of the leadership. He would like to see more young people involved in Serra and to generate more money with which the club can do more to foster and support religious vocations. Welcome to the club Jim!

ATTEND DAILY MASS AT HOME

On Eternal Word Television Network

EWTN

7 AM, 11 AM, 6 PM, 11PM

Cox Digital Basic Cable 793-2222
Channel 344

Prayer List

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| John Connors | Dan Prewitt |
| Paul Meyer, Jr. | Millie Callow |
| John Gaschen | Barbara Buescher |
| Bob Paikowski | Alicia Chavez |

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