



# The Lubbock SERRAN

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April 2006

## Junipero Serra: Apostle to California

By Carl Sundell

*The following are excerpts of a talk given by Carl Sundell at Serra Lubbock's January 2006 Dinner. For the occasion Carl wore a Franciscan robe and toted a walking stick such as Serra would have used as he traveled up and down the coast of California.*

We hear it said that you cannot understand a man until you get into his skin. I don't know how to get into a man's skin, but I can get into his clothes... Franciscan in this case... then maybe into his skin, and finally into his soul. Junipero Serra's skin, by the way, was of a swarthy complexion. He had scant beard with dark hair and eyes. He was 5'2" tall, medium height by the standard of those days. Father Palou, his companion and biographer, said of him: "He was serious from childhood, which seriousness he retained all his life, so that on the surface he appeared to be austere and almost unapproachable. But as soon as one talked and dealt with him, one had to change his opinion and consider him gentle, amiable and attractive, for he won the hearts of all."

Serra was born to illiterate parents of the laboring class, both of them members of the Third Order of Saint Francis, in Mallorca, Spain. His mother was especially influential in cultivating Junipero's early spirituality. His birth name was Miguel Jose. Later, when ordained a Franciscan priest, he would choose the name Junipero, the name of

Saint Francis's friend and loyal comrade.

Inspired by the recently canonized Saint Francis Solano, who had almost single handedly converted to Christ 100,000 Indians of South America, at the age of 36 Serra dedicated himself to become a missionary in Mexico.

Arriving in the New World, he traveled by foot from the port to Mexico City, during which trek he was bitten in the leg by a spider, causing the limp and chronic pain he suffered in that leg for the rest of his life.

For the next few years Serra would preach and teach in the area surrounding Mexico City. He became famous for his tireless efforts and sacrifice, often praying until four o'clock in the morning. Meat became repulsive to him. He mainly survived on vegetables and fish.

On one occasion, while celebrating Mass, after drinking the Precious Blood he visibly changed color and was rendered partly speechless. Carried to the sacristy and examined, those in attendance were convinced someone had tried to poison him. Offered a diuretic to relieve himself of his discomfort, Junipero declined, replying in Latin the passage from Mark, 16:18 where Jesus spoke of the powers he conferred upon his apostles:

"Si mortiferum quid biberent, non eis nocebit.

If they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them."

Later that same morning Junipero followed his regular schedule of hearing confessions.

Concerning his travels his close friend and biographer, Father Palou, narrates the following remarkable story: "Serra and his companion, on a lonely road in the desert at nightfall, saw a house nearby, whose only vegetation besides cactus and thorn bushes was three cottonwood trees. Going there to

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## Officers Elected for 2006-2007

New officers were elected at the April 13 Serra lunch meeting. They will begin service on June 1 and serve through May 31, 2007.

Installation will take place at the May dinner meeting on Friday, May 26. Mass will begin at 6 p.m. that evening followed by a social time and dinner.

All new officers are encouraged to attend the annual Serra Leadership and Planning Conference in Plainview on Saturday, May 20. The conference will take place at the Cotton Patch Restaurant.

Newly elected officers are:

President

**Carl Sundell**

Vice-President for Programs

**Pete Paniagua**

Vice-President for Membership

**Marty Martin**

Vice President for Vocations

**Jim Gibler**

Vice President for Communications

**Judy Simmons**

Secretary

**Ed Quitevis**

Treasurer

**Tony Buxkemper**

Trustee (One-year)

**Elmus Beale**

Trustee (Two-year)

**Elroy Simnacher**

Trustee (Three-year)

**Bob Goyette**

Past President

**Gary McDonald**

Foundation Representative

**David Buescher**

## Prayer List

Paul Meyer, Jr.	Millie Callow
John Gaschen	Barbara Buescher
Bob Paikowski	Floyd Boone
Dan Prewitt	Vocations

## Sisters Corner

Sister Charlotte Therese Lujan will celebrate 50 years of Consecrated Life on Saturday, May 13, 2006, beginning with Mass at 10:00 A.M. at Christ the King Cathedral followed by a luncheon reception at Covenant Medical Center, Knipling 6th floor.

Indeed, Sister Charlotte has had an interesting journey in the way she has used her God-given gifts in response to her Baptismal Consecration through religious life as a Franciscan Sister. Born in Santa Fe, New Mexico, she entered the convent March 12, 1953.

Each of us is called to discern and embrace the way of life to which God calls, and to return God's gifts by sharing them generously with others. This Sister Charlotte has done in a most generous and unselfish manner. After teaching in Catholic Schools she served in Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry on the Navajo Reservations. She opened two Catholic Charity Centers in Arizona and New Mexico as well as a temporary House of Prayer.

One of Sister Charlotte's great contributions has been in the ministry to the sick. During her residency at the Clinical Pastoral education Program at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, DC, she initiated a Religious/Pastoral Program for patients who upon being discharged from the hospital could integrate into a community of faith outside a hospital environment. Upon her completion of her residency and internship program in the Acute, Long-Term and Residential Division at St. Elizabeth's she worked as a Biblio/



*Sr. Charlotte Lujan*

Poetry Therapist both in D.C. and Burbank, CA where she was also Chaplain at the Central Juvenile Hall in L.A. From there she returned to Texas to serve Formation Directress for the community. After serving as Chaplain at Covenant Health System of Lubbock for several years, she now holds the position of Directress of the Spiritual Care Department. One very dear ministry which in spite of her busy schedule she maintains is that of a Poetry Therapist which she uses with mental patients very effectively.

Besides her various ministries to God's people, Sister Charlotte has served our Religious Community in multiple areas, as Formation Team Member and as Provincial Councilor.

We pray that more young women may follow in Charlotte's footsteps and respond to a call to face the challenges of our times and the grace to spread peace and the goodness of Jesus Christ, our Lord, to all in the spirit of St. Francis.

Serrans are invited to the mass and the luncheon reception. Please call so we can have a number.

St. Francis Mission Sisters  
Our Lady of the Angels Convent  
8202 CR 7700  
Wolfforth, TX 79382-4734  
(806) 863-4904

## Stewardship

*By Fr. Bill Anton*

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need (Acts 4:32-35).

These early Christians were faithfully following Jesus' command to "sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Matt. 19:21; Mark 10:21; Luke 18:22). Perhaps nowadays we would call these early believers "fundamentalists," for their belief in the literal truth of the Gospel. One might even call them "communists," but such a label tends to miss the point. These First Century believers were not practicing communism, so much as Christian worldly detachment. By giving up worldly possessions for the good of the Christian community, these early Christians were living witnesses to the fact that Christians live *in* the world, be we are not *of* the world.

The worldly person glories in the multiplication of his possessions. His wealth gives him power and control, so that he need not depend on anyone or anything but himself. His pride and arrogance grow along with his assets. He boasts proudly of his achievements and is the envy of many. Eventually, however, his wealth begins to control him, until he reaches the point where money is no longer a means to an end (e.g., to put food on the table), but an end in itself. Moreover, his whole sense of self-worth and self-esteem are tied to his wealth and earning potential. Ultimately, his wealth becomes his god.

The Christian, on the other hand, understands that all his earthly blessings come from Almighty God. Whether rich or poor, the Christian glories not in his earthly possessions, but in the Cross of Jesus Christ

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## Junipero Serra (from Page 1)

ask for lodgings, they found a venerable man with his young wife and child, by whom they were given the most kind welcome. In the morning they thanked their hosts and continued their journey until they met some muleteers who asked them where they had spent the night. Upon being told, they exclaimed: 'There is no house within leagues of here!' Serra and his companion returned to have another look at this humble house, and found the three cottonwood trees easily enough but no habitation of any kind. Then the two friars, remembering the cordiality with which they had been received into so

poor – but so clean and neat a place – could only believe that they had been entertained by Jesus, Mary, and Joseph."

### In Old California

The Spanish had decided to make a last attempt to hold onto the California territory, increasingly coveted by the English, the French, and the Russians. At first, in 1767, Father Serra was made president of all the 15 missions earlier established by the Jesuits below San Diego.

*See Part II in the next issue of The Lubbock Serran*

*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, and Judy Simmons.

## Priest Profile - Rev. Reynaldo Reyes

By Larry Craig

Father Reynaldo Reyes, Pastor of St. Michael's Church in Levelland is a superb example of a man of God who finds joy and happiness in everything he does especially being a priest and serving people.

Fr. Reynaldo was born January 19, 1965 in Lamesa, Texas to Fedrico and Juanita Reyes and was the 5<sup>th</sup> of 8 children. He described his family in glowing terms and laughed about the number of tortillas his mother had to cook to keep the crew fed. He attended Lamesa schools and graduated from Lamesa High in 1983. Fr. Reynaldo then entered the College of Santa Fe (NM)

and in 1987 entered the University of St. Thomas in Houston where he completed studies to the priesthood. Fr. Reynaldo was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Michael Sheehan on June 12, 1993.

Now listen to a story of priestly mobility. Fr. Renaldo first was assigned to St. John Neumann as an assistant pastor to Msgr. Curtis Hoffman, then to St. Elizabeth-University Parish again as an assistant where he was very involved with Texas Tech campus ministry and gained a reputation of being an excellent homilist. Next Fr. Reynaldo assumed his first pastorship at St. Anthony's Church in Brownfield. In 2000

he went to Seminole St. James Church and its satellite St. Paul's in Seagraves. Next Fr. Reynaldo was assigned to Sacred Heart in Plainview for 2 years and then to his present location at St. Michaels. He has enjoyed all of his assignments and is very impressed with his parish family in Levelland.

Travel and dining out are Reynaldo's favorite respites, often with fellow priests. He plans to take a break after Easter to visit Corpus Christi.

Fr. Reynaldo is one of the most joyful people you will ever meet and we are blessed to have him in our diocese.

## Member Profile - Vickie & Wally Al-Souki

By Elmus Beale

Vickie and Walid (Wally) Al-Souki have been members of the Serra Club since 2003.

Wally was one of four children—one boy and three sisters. He was born February 5, 1957 in Beirut, Lebanon. Because the country was so dangerous, his mother wanted him to leave for safety's sake. So, in 1979 at age 21, Wally immigrated to the US with an acceptance to Weatherford College in Weatherford, Texas.

Before beginning school he was required to take English at the language center in Houston. Though he had learned English in Lebanon, as a foreigner he was required to pass the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam, which he did without problem. Nonetheless, he was shocked to learn how expensive life was living in Houston and paying tuition. So after 3 months Wally joined a family member in Lubbock and began his College career at South Plains College while working at the Exxon Station at 902 Avenue H in Levelland.

After receiving his Associate degree, Wally came to Texas Tech where he studied towards a degree in marketing. Unfortunately, Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 made it difficult for Wally to concentrate on his studies. He dropped out of school and joined the US Army. He was stationed two years in Germany and one at Ft. Dix, NJ. He was discharged in 1986 and returned to Lubbock to be near his girlfriend, Vickie Noyola. Wally became a US citizen in the same year.

Vickie Noyola's father an immigrant, worked as a foreman for the Santa Fe



Vickie Al-Souki



Wally Al-Souki

Railroad while living in Texas. She was the 6<sup>th</sup> of 7 children (three brothers and three sisters). Unfortunately, Vickie's mother and father were killed in an automobile accident when she was only 14 months old. Vickie and her siblings then went to live with their uncle Eustascio Vargas. Eustascio and the kids were migrant farm workers around Dimmitt, Hart and Hereford. They harvested potatoes and onions. Eustascio became an entrepreneur who started an import business here in Lubbock. He owned "La Bodega" ("The Warehouse"), now a law office on Broadway. He imported curios, food and religious items from Mexico. Vickie speaks proudly of the way Eustascio was able to improve the family's life with this business.

Vickie graduated from Slaton High School. She had planned to attend the University of Texas. However, her brother was a single parent of two children so Vickie decided to remain in Lubbock and attend Tech so that she could help raise Greg and Monica (ages 8 and 2 at the time).

It was during her years at Tech that she met Wally. Vickie worked at Pinkie's on the Buffalo Springs Road (now closed) and Wally worked next door at the Minimart. They met at work and started dating. They

dated for five years before getting married—two of those years were after Wally returned from his tour of duty in the Army. Wally and Vickie were married on August 18, 1987. Their daughter Leena was born September 9, 1992, and son Omar was born October 13, 1997. Leena, now 13 years old, attends O. L. Slaton Jr. High and Omar, 8, attends Rosco Wilson Elementary.

Vickie was a "cradle Catholic" whereas Wally was Druze.

*"Druze are a Muslim sect that live primarily in Lebanon, southern Syria, and northern Israel. The basis of the Druze religion is the belief that at various times God has been divinely incarnated in a living person and that his last, and final, such incarnation was al-Hakim who announced himself at Cairo about 1016 as the earthly incarnation of God. The Druze believe in one God."*

Wally attended inquiry classes and RCIA under David Wood at Christ the King. When he decided to join the Church he encountered a great deal of red tape because Church officials thought that he was being coerced to join by Vickie to accommodate the children. Wally's petition to join the Church was to have been sent to the Vatican for approval. However, in an interview with Fr. Malcolm Neyland, who was the diocesan judicial vicar at the time, Wally simply said, "I am doing this because I want to be Catholic." Problem solved! Wally came into the Church at the Easter vigil in 1993. He was the first non-Christian to be baptized at Christ the King Cathedral.

For fun, Vickie likes to read, garden, sew, do crafts, exercise and spend time with Leena and Omar. Wally is an avid hunter

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Apr. 11** Board Meeting  
Elroy Simmacher's Office  
7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 13** Lunch Meeting  
Lakeridge Country Club  
12 Noon
- Apr. 13** Holy Hour for Vocations  
Christ the King Cathedral  
7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 28** Dinner Meeting  
Catholic Renewal Center  
6:30 p.m.
- May 5** First Friday Rosary  
and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M.  
Donuts and Coffee follows.
- May 9** Board Meeting  
TBA  
7:00 p.m.
- May 11** Lunch Meeting  
Lakeridge Country Club  
12 Noon
- May 11** Holy Hour for Vocations  
Christ the King Cathedral  
7:00 p.m.
- May 20** Serra Leadership & Planning  
Conference  
Cotton Patch Restaurant  
Plainview, 9:30 a.m.
- May 26** Dinner Meeting  
Catholic Renewal Center  
Mass & Officer Installation  
6:00 p.m.
- June 2** First Friday Rosary  
and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M.  
Donuts and Coffee follows.
- June 6** Board Meeting  
TBA  
7:00 p.m.
- June 8** Lunch Meeting  
Lakeridge Country Club  
12 Noon
- June 8** Holy Hour for Vocations  
Christ the King Cathedral  
7:00 p.m.

Program Calendar		
Meeting	Speaker	Topic
Apr. 13 Luncheon Lakeridge Country Club	Carl Sundell	Planning Session
Apr. 28 Dinner Catholic Renewal Center	Deacon Jessie Esquivel	Deacon Formation and Continuing Education
May 11 Luncheon Lakeridge Country Club	Fr. Jerry Kenney	Seminary Life
May 26 Dinner Catholic Renewal Center	New Officer Installation	

**Stewardship** *(from Page 2)*

(cf., Galatians 6:14) who suffered and sacrificed everything for us. The poor Christian depends on God's Providence, which comes to him through the benevolence of his Christian brothers and sisters. The rich Christian, on the other hand, recognizes his wealth as God's gift—a gift that was meant to be shared. He understands that his wealth gives him the power to make a difference in this world.

By humbly sharing his blessings, he becomes a blessing to others, while at the same time amassing his own heavenly fortune. Furthermore, since the Christian does not equate wealth and prosperity with his own sense of self-worth, he is better-able to withstand times of economic hardship. All Christians, whether rich, poor, or somewhere in-between, are called to give away some of what we have received, a sacrificial gift according to our means, as an expression of the charity (love) that God has placed within our hearts. By giving to the poor or to the Church, we demonstrate that

we are in control of our wealth—it does not control us. It is not money or profit that compels us, but the love of Christ (cf., 2 Cor. 5:14).

During the next two or three months, every Catholic in the Diocese of Lubbock will have an opportunity to make a sacrificial pledge to "The Love of Christ Compels Us Capital Stewardship Campaign." On the surface, this campaign is about raising money for our parishes and for our diocese. When you look deeper, however, you'll see there's far more to it than that. Ultimately, this campaign is about living the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who suffered and sacrificed for us. It's about trusting Jesus enough to make him Lord of our lives and Lord of our earthly possessions as well. But watch out! Just when you think you've given more than you ever thought you could, get ready to be blessed more richly than you ever thought possible, because Jesus won't be outdone when it comes to generosity.

**Vickie & Wally Al-Souki** *(from Page 2)*

and loves the outdoors (whereas Vickie likes to camp in hotels). He loves to hunt deer and birds. He has taken Omar with him several times which they both enjoy.

Both Wally and Vickie have been actively involved in church and community activities. Wally is past chair of the Spiritual Life Commission and the Parish Council at Christ the King. He participates in the Men's Spirituality group, serves as a lector and is a Eucharistic Minister to the sick. They both teach CCE and are involved in the Capital Campaign. More recently they joined the Serra Club. Both commented that they are often the only couple in their organizations that still have young children

at home. They suffered a "bump in the road" when Vickie was injured in an automobile accident on April 19, 2004. She could not walk and was diagnosed, for a year, as having a sprained ankle. That was until Mark Scioli found that her ankle had been broken. So after surgery, she is on the mend. Nonetheless, the accident took both Wally and Vickie out of circulation for almost the past two years. It not only made work difficult (both are realtors with RE/MAX of Lubbock), but participation in church activities were greatly curtailed. They look forward to becoming more active in Serra in the future. For now, they are busy "chasing kids" and healing the ankle.