



The Lubbock SERRAN

Volume 9 Issue 1

July 2005

Officers Installed and New Members Inducted at May 27 Dinner Meeting

On May 27th, the Lubbock Serra Club held its annual swearing-in of officers. The event was held at the Catholic Renewal Center and was preceded by a Mass conducted by Fr. Bill Anton, Serra Club Chaplain.



(l to r) New Officers are Leland Brockman, Carl Sundell, Louise Sundell, Mary Lou Trelford, Mike Custy, Floyd Boone, Gary McDonald, Fr. Bill Anton, Elroy Simnacher and Tony Buxkemper.

Sworn in as officers were: Gary McDonald, President; Carl Sundell, President Elect; Leland Brockman, Vice President of Programs; Louise Sundell, Vice President for Memberships; Mike Custy, Vice President of Communications; Mary Lou Trelford, Vice President of Vocations; Tony Buxkemper, Treasurer; Ed Quitevis, Secretary; trustees Floyd Boone, Elroy Simnacher, and Elmus Beale.

The Lubbock Serra Club's Spring Membership Drive was held on April 29th at the Catholic Renewal Center. All current members were urged to nominate candidates who received a letter of invitation from the membership committee. As a result of the drive five new members were recruited and four were sworn in at the May 27th

ceremony.

New members are:

Katherine Richardson has been with the Lubbock ISD for 43 years.

She taught 1st grade for 5 years and Special Education for 38 years. Her greatest pleasure is to see the children's eyes light up when they have learned something new. Katherine is a member and Usher at Christ The King Cathedral, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, life member of NEA, and a member of TSTA/LEA.

She is a charter member of the Lubbock Diocese and served on the City of Lubbock Inc's Board for a number of years. She also served on the Grand Jury for 10 years under Judge Wright. Her motto is "With love, patience, and time all children can learn, but on their individual levels." Katherine currently teaches at Alderson Middle School.

America Ramos is from St. John Neumann parish. She is the mother of two children, Veronica in Indianapolis and Steve in Michigan. America graduated from Christ the King High School.

Her sports interest are biking, jogging, and working out.

America owns her own business - America's Hair Design Studio.

She has recently taken an interest in religious studies, especially the Bible.

Gary Simmons was born into an Air Force Family. Oldest of six children, he served twenty years in the Army. He and his wife Judy moved to Lubbock almost three years ago. Gary is a radiologist working at Covenant Medical Center. He teaches CCD, attends Bible Study Class, and is a member of the Catholic Medical Association.

He likes to run and bicycle.

Judy Simmons was born in Chicago,

the older of identical twins.

She attended the University of Mississippi and met her husband while attending Signal Officer Basic Course at Fort Gordon, GA.

Judy is a member of Christ the King Women's Organization, the Lubbock Symphony Guild, and attends Bible Study Class. Judy enjoys decorating, arts and crafts, symphony concerts, the fine arts, and antiques.

She and her husband Gary have one son, Patrick.

Roy Towle was inducted at the June 24th meeting of the Serra Club. Roy is married to Betty. They have three children, three grandchildren and one daughter-in-law. Roy is employed at Bowman Lumber Company. He is Chairman of the Religious Education Commission at Christ the King. He also ushers at the 5:30 Mass on Sunday and is a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus.



(l to r) New members Kathryn Richardson, America Ramos, Judy Simmons and Gary Simmons.

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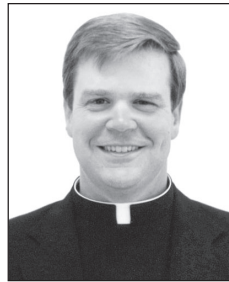
'The Harvest is Abundant but the Laborers are Few'

This quotation appeared on the back of my holy cards at my ordination three years ago. One of the main reasons I became a priest for the Diocese of Lubbock instead of Galveston-Houston was that I saw how great the need was for priests around here. When I first moved to the Diocese in 1994, there were only 34 priests available to serve 63 parishes. Today it's not much better; by my count there are 36 priests available to serve 62 parishes (not counting retired priests or priests without a parish assignment).

In the last 10 years, we have had 13 new priests ordained, but in that same 10 years, 5 priests have died, 3 left the priesthood, 10 priests retired, at least 2 diocesan priests left the diocese to go elsewhere, plus all the Irish Pallotine fathers are gone now. The only reason we (barely) have enough priests today is because our bishop has asked bishops in other countries to send us priests. This is why we have so many priests from India, the Philippines, and elsewhere. Thank God for these missionaries! Were it not for the

foreign priests and seminarians, many rural parishes would not have a priest every Sunday.

Of the 13 priests ordained in the last 10



Fr. Bill Anton

years, 2 have already left the priesthood. Of the 11 who remain, 4 came from other states (myself included), 3 from Mexico, and 1 from the Dominican Republic. Only 3 of the 11 (27%) came from West

Texas. This is why we are called a "missionary diocese," because we are not self-sufficient—we need missionary priests to help us.

The problem, unfortunately, is not getting any better in the foreseeable future. God willing we'll have 2 ordinations in 2006, but then it will be a few years until

the next ordination. Meanwhile, in the next ten years, eleven of our priests will reach retirement age. We need to average two ordinations per year just to stay even. But we really need to shoot for three ordinations per year if we are to be a self-sufficient diocese someday.

Whose fault is it? God knows how many priests we need. He chooses and calls the men He wants to be His priests, but often times the answer is "no." In a prosperous country like ours there are many career choices for bright young men. It is easy to lose sight of one's true calling. Often times Catholic parents fail to encourage their boys to even consider giving their life to the Church. This is too bad, because for those who have the call, priesthood is not just about service—it is their path to personal fulfillment and happiness.

The promotion of vocations is the responsibility of all Catholics. Priests have the responsibility of being good priestly role models and of inviting young men, when appropriate, to consider entering the seminary to further explore and discern their calling. Catholic parents have the responsibility to encourage their sons and daughters to consider priesthood or religious life, and to teach them to pray for divine guidance in making these profound life choices. All Catholics have the responsibility to pray for vocations, and to realize as they pray that they themselves or someone they love may in fact be the one God is calling!

Board approves compensation to ordained speakers

The board approved a motion to take up a collection at each meeting that a priest or sister is our speaker. It is suggested that members donate \$2 a piece towards as a gift to the speaker. We are hoping to collect approximately \$50 for the speaker for that meeting. Tony will have a container at the front table where you can leave your donation as you enter.

In approving the motion, the board hopes this will be a way through which we can further support the religious men and women who serve the Church. We certainly want to let them know how much they are appreciated and what their efforts mean to the Lubbock Serra Club.

A Letter from Fr. Tim Judd



Fr. Tim Judd

The Year of the Eucharist is almost over. It will end in mid-October with a Synod in Rome with the Cardinals, Archbishops, and Bishops of the world. The big

question is how did this Year of the Most Holy Eucharist affect me? How did it affect the Serrans? What impact did it have on our local church – the Diocese of Lubbock?

Saturday, June 18th there was a meeting with the District 44 Governor. Mr. Jake Richards from the Amarillo club had the meeting at the Plainview Country Club. There were about 15 of us present. I really enjoyed each second with these most marvelous Serrans.

Their goal was to come up with ways to share the message of Serrans. They all were very well focused on the needs to increase awareness of the Serra Club both in Amarillo and Lubbock. There was indeed a lot of sharing with all members on many different aspects of the two clubs. They went through concepts such as: leadership, communications, membership, and activities.

All went very well. I received a deep positive impression of their fine work.

This goal of District 44 was specific when it specified: "To get more parishes involved with fostering a culture of vocations."

Next year Dr. Don Wanjura will be our District Governor.

You are remembered each day at Holy Mass for all of your intentions.

Thank you for your great work.

Rev. Timothy E. Judd

P.S. While we were having our meeting with the District, Fr. Bill Anton was on his way to Mexico. He and a few members of his parish were traveling to Ojinaga, Mexico, to an orphanage, to bring them food and clothing. Ojinaga, Mexico is just on the other side of Presidio, Texas. The name of the orphanage is Casa a Hogar de Ninos. I am sure that he will tell you all about this trip when he returns.

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.

Priest Profile - Rev. James O'Conner

Father James (Jim) O'Conner, Pastor of St. Elizabeth University Parish in Lubbock is the subject of this issue's profile and is a story of unselfish and complete dedication to our Lord and the people of west Texas.

Fr. Jim was born January 2, 1947 in County Tipperary, Ireland. The third oldest of 3 boys in the family followed by 4 sisters, Fr. Jim attended 12 years of primary and secondary education at the Christian Brothers School. He entered St. Patrick's Seminary at Thurles, Tipperary, Ireland in 1964 where he was ordained June 13, 1970.

Fr. Jim immediately came to the then Amarillo Diocese and served 4 Associate Pastorships at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church-Amarillo, then Christ the King-Lubbock, then St. Joseph-Amarillo and finally St. Margaret Mary Church-Lamesa.

Fr. Jim first became a Pastor in 1973 at Holy Cross Church in Post where he served until moving to San Jose Parish in Hereford

in 1978. In 1983 he was assigned back to St. Margaret Mary in Lamesa as Pastor a place where he had been ten years earlier. In 1988 Fr. O'Conner moved to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Lubbock where he spent the next 13 years and 4 month. The church witnessed incredible growth..

Fr. Jim moved to his present assignment at St. Elizabeth's in October 2001 facing the fearsome task of leading the first parish in his 31 year vocation that was not predominately Hispanic. Further he was faced with dealing with newly started construction of the new church that stands magnificently on Broadway. Quoting Serran Brian Beauchamp, one of St. Elizabeth's lay leaders, "Fr. O'Conner proved to be a terrific facilitator and great human being and quickly brought the parish together skillfully resolving many issues facing the parish."

Fr. O'Connor loves to play golf in the little spare time that he has. He enjoys reading

especially history and more specifically church history. His travels for the most part involve returning to his Irish homeland to visit sisters and brothers, all of whom are married, and many nieces and nephews. One additional trip occurred in the fall of 2004 when he went on a sabbatical to Rome and attended the Institute for Continued Theological Education of Priests. Part of the study course involved a weeklong retreat in Siena. Otherwise weekends were free and he visited Naples, Florence, Venice, Tuscany and lots of sightseeing in Rome.

Fr. O'Conner was asked if he had any thoughts that were not covered in the interview and he replied "One." He went on to say that he has never for a second regretted leaving his home in Ireland with all its vistas and greenery for west Texas. While this area is very different, he has been very happy here.

All of us Serrans should say a prayer of thanks for Fr. Jim being in our midst.

Member Profile - Marty Martin

Bernard Nyles "Marty" Martin, Jr. was born January 2, 1947 in Detroit, Michigan. He is the eldest of three kids (two boys and a girl). Like many Lubbockites, it was the Air Force that brought Marty and his wife, Rosalie, south many years ago (33 years to be exact).



Marty Martin

The nickname started during Air Force basic training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio. After all, a nickname in the military seems to be obligatory. In keeping with the infinite wisdom of the military, the company computer truncated last names at 5 letters. So for role call, all that appeared on the computer printout was 'Marti'. It only took about two role calls before he was known by all as Marty (he just simplified the spelling by changing the 'i' to a 'y').

Marty has always been very active in the Church. His involvement began at home because his parents were both active and involved Catholics. Marty attended grades 1-8 at Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic School in Detroit. The parish was operated by the LaSalette Fathers whose work was as

missionaries, and the school was administered and taught by the Sisters of Mercy. Unfortunately, Marty has rather unhappy memories of grade school—the Sisters were too harsh.

In contrast to grade school, Marty describes high school as 'one of the best times of my life'. He attended Brother Rice High School, a boy's school of almost 300 students—Marty's graduating class had approximately 73 members in 1965. High school was great even in spite of sports coat & ties uniforms, being addressed as "Mr. Martin, and corporal punishment. The school was run by the Christian Brothers of Ireland whose mission was to bring education to the inner cities. Kids like Marty who did not actually live in the inner city were bussed in from the suburbs. The Brothers have similar schools in other large cities including New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles. Marty's only lay teacher at the school was his coach (he ran track). Marty recalls "you've never been taught French until you've been taught French by someone with an Irish brogue!" Brother Rice High School is a real success story in Catholic education. It is still open today and boasts a student body of around 7,000.

Marty's wife Rosalie also grew up in Detroit. They met when he was in the 8th grade and Marty was dating her younger sister who had a sock hop at her home. Rose

attended Mercy High School, an all-girls high school in Detroit taught by the Sisters of Mercy. They began dating in high school and got married May 27, 1967. Rose and Marty had three children—Eric was born in April 1968, Rachel in April 1969, and Nyles in June 1975. That makes "the baby" a 30-year-old. The current big event at home is that Rachel will be married to Harry Carroll on July 23rd.

Tragically, Eric was killed in an automobile accident on December 27, 1988 while he was home on leave from the Navy. Marty describes his feelings as extreme anger at God for letting it happen. He never stopped believing but was simply angry. He was especially bitter that he had not told Eric goodbye that fateful day. He was finally able to give up his anger when a counselor had him write a letter to Eric. It was sort of a catharsis.

After graduating from high school Marty attended the University of Detroit, a Jesuit school, for 1 year. That ended when January 2nd became '#2' in the draft lottery and his draft notice arrived a few days later. He immediately joined the Air Force. While in basic training at Lackland the Army sent him orders to report for induction. When he showed his Air Force drill instructor the notice from the Army the reply was "son, you can just throw that in the trash, we got you first." The MPs even paid a visit to his home in

(See **Marty Martin** Page 4)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 12** Board Meeting
CTK Parlor house
7:00 p.m.
- July 14** Lunch Meeting
Lakeridge Country Club
12 Noon
- July 14** Holy Hour for Vocations
Christ the King Cathedral
7:00 p.m.
- July 29** Dinner Meeting
Catholic Renewal Center
6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 5** First Friday Rosary
and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M.
Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Aug. 9** Board Meeting
Tony Buxkeimper house
7:00 p.m.
- Aug. 11** Lunch Meeting
Lakeridge Country Club
12 Noon
- Aug. 11** Holy Hour for Vocations
Christ the King Cathedral
7:00 p.m.
- Aug. 26** Dinner Meeting
Catholic Renewal Center
6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 2** First Friday Rosary
and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M.
Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Sept. 6** Board Meeting, TBA
7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 8** Lunch Meeting
Lakeridge Country Club
12 Noon
- Sept. 8** Holy Hour for Vocations
Christ the King Cathedral
7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 30** Dinner Meeting
Catholic Renewal Center
6:30 p.m.

Program Calendar

Meeting	Speaker	Topic
July 14 Luncheon Lakeridge Country Club	Beth Pratt	Lubbock Avalanche-Journal Religion Editor
July 29 Dinner Catholic Renewal Center	Msgr. Comisky	The development of his novel
Aug. 11 Luncheon Lakeridge Country Club	Msgr. Driscoll	
Aug. 26 Dinner Catholic Renewal Center	Dr. Benny Phillips	Spirituality of Grief
Sept. 8 Luncheon Lakeridge Country Club	Bishop Placido Rodriguez	Update on our Bishop
Sept. 30 Dinner Catholic Renewal Center	Fr. Malcolm Neyland	The Vatican and the recovered slides

Marty Martin

(continued from page 3)

Detroit where his mom explained what had happened. Personally, I'll bet there is still a warrant for his arrest.

Marty served in the Air Force for ten years. He had three different jobs: maintenance on aircraft instruments, training pilots in instrument flight procedures, and encoding/decoding communications. He and Rose were stationed at Chanute AFB in Illinois, Randolph AFB in San Antonio, and finally at Reese here in Lubbock (from 1972 - 1977). He had originally received orders to go to Viet Nam from Randolph. Unbeknownst to them at the time, President Nixon had decided to pull out and Marty's orders were rescinded, but not before his job at Randolph was closed.

When Marty retired from the Air Force in 1977 he and Rose had planned to return to Detroit where he would return to a high paying job at Ford. However, Marty's father warned them that the economy in Detroit had turned south. They decided to remain in Lubbock. Marty's first job was with Handy Dan (a Home Depot-like business at 50th and Indiana, where Albertson's is now) as an assistant manager. However, the hours and rotating shifts were not so great so late in 1977 Marty took a job as a delivery truck driver for Bullard's Furniture. That lasted for about two weeks when Mr. Bullard made him assistant warehouse manager. Bullard's was later bought out by Hollon's Home Furnishings who was bought out by Lack's in 1986. Like part of the property, Marty worked for each company in turn. Today Marty is manager of the Lubbock Lack's Furniture Store on Frankfort Ave. He loves the job. It remains a family-owned business that owns 39 stores (two locations in Lubbock). They treat their

employees well.

Marty and Rose are both very active in the Church. They have attended Christ the King since the early 1970s. Rose sings in the Chancel Choir and works at the Diocesan Offices. Marty has served in many capacities at Christ the King over the years, including president of the Parish Council. Currently he is vice chair of the CTK Liturgy Commission, chair of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission, Ceremonial Minister for the 11:00 am mass, vice chair of the Red Mass Committee, and MC for the Bishop at ceremonial masses in the diocese. His MC function is new. Marty claims that he was "twicked" into doing it. He even wears a cassock.

Hobbies? Golf! Need I say more?

When asked, "What took you so long to join the Serra Club?" I was surprised by the answer: "Nobody ever asked me before." Garland Casey finally asked. Marty said, "Serra is so natural for me. I am already doing Serran activities and have been for years."

Welcome to the club Marty. We are blessed to have you.

Prayer List

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