



# The Lubbock SERRAN

Volume 11 Issue 1

Lubbock Serra Club • Club No. 318 • District 44 • Region 10

July 2007

## President's Message

By Carl Sundell

Our Serra Lubbock chaplain, Father Bill Anton, recently escorted five young men, including four Texas Tech students, on a four-day tour of several seminaries. Serrans donated \$400 to defray the cost of meals and gasoline. Knights of Columbus Councils made separate donations. Father Bill reported at the May 25<sup>th</sup> Serra meeting that overall seminary enrollments are increasing in the Texas area.

We were pleased to have Brian Wood, a seminarian, as a special guest at our May dinner. Brian spoke at length on his first year's experience as a seminarian and on his plans for the future, which include returning to the Air Force as a chaplain on assignment from the Diocese of Lubbock. Four seminarians were also guests at our June dinner at which Sister Charlotte Lujan, newly elected Provincial of the Saint Francis Mission Community, was the featured program speaker. Sister Lujan spoke about poetry therapy used in mental health treatment to assist patients with the healing process. She has led group poetry sessions at Lakeside Hospital's Mental Health Unit since 1991.

The April awards ceremony and reception for diocesan-wide altar servers at Christ the King was enhanced by Serran Pete Paniagua's success in recruiting the gift of 60 pizzas from Papa John's (owned by Robert Welsh). We thank Mr. Welsh for his generosity.

In Plainview a recent joint Planning Conference of Serrans from Amarillo and Lubbock was presided over by District Governor Don Wanjura. Serran officers met for a lively and productive exchange of views on how each club functions. Amarillo's dues are the same as ours, they have about the

### *New Officers Installed on May 25*



*(Front) Brian Beauchamp, trustee; Nasri Talamas, vp vocations; Ed Quitevis, secretary; Bob Goyette, trustee; (Back) Carl Sundell, president; Fr. Bill Anton, chaplain; Jim Christy, vp membership; and Elroy Simmacher, trustee.*

same number of members, and they meet for two luncheons monthly instead of a luncheon and a dinner. Don Wanjura led an extended discussion of the most desirable qualities to look for in a club leader.

The Communications Committee has produced a colorful and informative brochure aimed at educating prospective Serra members about our mission. A copy of the brochure has been distributed to all members by e-mail. Hopefully every one of us will find a candidate for membership who will read it and join. Copies will also be sent by e-mail to pastors in the hope that they will print them and distribute them to parishioners, especially by way of information packets given to new parish members and recent converts.

A special "Membership Drive Cook-Out" is scheduled for our July 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. More details will be e-mailed to members as the day approaches, but now is the time to be thinking about someone you know who is a viable candidate for Serra membership. Please give that someone a copy of the new

brochure and an invitation to join us for a pleasant get-together. It is rumored that Junipero Serra himself will make a brief personal appearance.

Nationwide, Serra membership has declined. Even so, I've heard that several Lubbock Serrans are discerning a call to the diaconate. Due to the many demands made upon their time and energy, deacons sometimes leave the Serra Club after they are ordained. We hope that is not so this time, but what a great reason to lose members! Speaking of the happy loss of Serra members to the priesthood, please be sure to read in this issue Elmus Beale's article on onetime Lubbock Serran Paul Key!

As you know, our telephone tree has been reduced to about eight members, since everyone else has e-mail. If you have not been properly notified either by telephone or e-mail of upcoming meetings, please let an officer know. Do let us know if you have recently changed your telephone number or e-mail address.

*(See President, Page Two)*

## Sisters Corner

### Summer Happenings at Our Lady of the Angels Convent

*By the St. Francis Mission Sisters*

In addition to the monthly Spiritual Direction Workshop by Mercy Center of Colorado Springs (still in process through December, 2007), we had the privilege of sponsoring a two-week Spiritual Direction Training Workshop that was presented by Father Gerry Weber, OMI and Mrs. Billie Castro from Oblate's New Direction Ministries in San Antonio.

These weeks, from June 18-29, were a time of learning and blessing for the 14 participants that included six Franciscan Mission sisters, one Mercy sister, two priests, and five lay ministers. The workshop days included:

- Presentations related to spiritual direction, including information on the spiritual journey of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross.
- Times of silent reflection and personal prayer.
- Periods of practicum, in groups of three.
- Daily Eucharist and centering prayer.
- Joyful sharing at meals.

A day of solitude for the Holy Spirit CursilloUltreya group was held on June 30<sup>th</sup>. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, we held the Patriotic Rosary to pray for the needs of our nation, for peace, and for the men and women serving in our armed forces, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our sisters, from all locations, came together for spiritual renewal, July 14-20. Father Paul Juniet, OFM, presided at the annual retreat to discuss the topic, "When You Seek Me with All Your Heart, You Will Find Me with You." (Jer.29:13-14) With God's grace we try to renew our lives so we can return to our ministries with renewed hearts to share more of Jesus with all God's people.

## President from page one

Please say a prayer for all Lubbock Serrans who are deceased and those who are presently ailing. Also, we cannot remind ourselves too often that we have a commitment to the First Friday Rosary and Mass at Christ the King, and also to the Holy Hour of Adoration on the second Thursday of each month at Christ the King ... our way of praying together for vocations.

## — Ask Father Bill —

*This question comes from Mr. Jim Christy, who asks:*

**Having personally known former Episcopalian or Anglican Priests who have, along with their families, converted to the Catholic Church where they are welcomed as practicing Catholic Priests, do you think the day will come when devoted Catholic Lay Deacons will be welcomed, together with their families into the Catholic priesthood, or does it remain that the only way they can aspire to the priesthood (without waiting for their wife to die) is to first become an Episcopalian or Anglican priest, and then return to the church?**



First, a little history is in order on the subject of clerical celibacy. In the early Church, deacons, priests and bishops could be married or celibate. We know St. Peter was married, though the New Testament is silent on the marital status of the other Apostles. We do know that those twelve men left their families and their jobs behind to follow Jesus for about three years, and that after Pentecost, they were sent out to the whole known world to preach the Gospel and found churches, leaving their families behind as they went off to spread the Good News.

At the Spanish Council of Elvira (295-302 AD) Spanish clergy (deacons, priests and bishops) were forbidden from living with their wives or begetting children. This was not a prohibition against marriage, but a prohibition against carnal marital relations; not celibacy (remaining unmarried) so much as chastity and continence. Celibacy did not become universal church law until Pope Nicholas II in 1059, four years after the East-West split of 1054. To this day in the Eastern Catholic churches (there are about 25 different Eastern Catholic rites) married men can still be ordained, but priests may not marry or re-marry after ordination.

In 1535, Henry VIII formally split the Church of England from Rome. In 1539, Henry promulgated "The Statute of the Six Articles," which actually upheld clerical celibacy. It wasn't until 1547, when the boy

King Edward VI ascended to the throne, that Thomas Cranmer was able to bring the Protestant Reformation to England; one of the first things to go under Cranmer was clerical celibacy. Meanwhile, Catholic Bishops were meeting at Trent (1545-1563), in the famous ecumenical council which continued to uphold, among other things, the 500-year-old western tradition of a celibate clergy.

Now to the question at hand: Insofar as celibacy is a matter of church law, not God's Law, the church (specifically, the Pope) may grant dispensations from this law on a case-by-case basis. This dispensation is routinely (though not automatically) given to ordained priests in the Anglican Communion (Anglicans, Episcopalians, etc.) who convert to Catholicism. These men must attend a Catholic seminary and must be re-ordained, since the Catholic Church does not recognize the validity of Anglican Orders. The dispensation is sometimes given to married clergy converting from Lutheran, Presbyterian and other mainline Protestant denominations as well. These are men who, through no fault of their own, were born and raised into a Christian tradition where marriage is allowed and even encouraged for clerics. The papal dispensation, when granted, is an acknowledgment that the same Holy Spirit who first called these men to ordained ministry, now calls them to full communion with the Catholic Church, and to the priesthood. Since they have already contracted marriage and perhaps started families, the only way they can respond to this divine call is by receiving a dispensation to become a Catholic priest, while remaining a husband and father.

The example given of a Catholic deacon converting to Anglicanism and then becoming a married Catholic priest could never happen. When a baptized Catholic leaves the Catholic Church and returns later, he/she returns not as a "convert," but as an apostate or lapsed Catholic who has returned—the lost sheep who has returned to his original fold, if you will. Such a person would not be eligible for the dispensation from clerical celibacy. Only life-long Protestants who become Catholic are eligible to be considered for the dispensation.

Permanent deacons who lose their wife are not normally eligible to be ordained  
(See Ask Fr. Bill, Page Four)

# Member Profile - Paul Key

By *Elmus Beale*

Paul R. Key, a member of the Serra Club of Lubbock from 1998 to 2002, will be ordained a priest in the Diocese of Tyler, Texas at 10 a.m., Sept. 1, 2007 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler. His journey to the priesthood has been on a winding road.

It began with Paul growing up, the son of a Presbyterian minister, in Midland, Michigan. Paul initially thought he wanted to be a scientist but ended up majoring in History. After graduation from college, Paul went to Venezuela for three years to teach English as a "short-term" missionary. It was during that time that Paul had a truly religious experience that led him to the seminary at age 26.

Paul returned from Venezuela in December of 1969 and, in January, went to an ecumenical conference in Chicago where he met Pat Thames from Lubbock, a sibling of Sr. Celine Thames, also here in Lubbock, who was attending the same conference. They fell in love and were married the following Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. Though Pat was a cradle Catholic, both she and Paul enrolled at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. That was the same Presbyterian seminary that Paul's father graduated from in 1938.

Following seminary, Paul was ordained a Presbyterian minister and served as pastor of Kirk of the Lakes Presbyterian Church in Mundelein, Illinois for 19 years.

Interestingly, the New Vatican Lectionary had been adopted as a voluntary option in the Presbyterian Church and in some twenty other protestant churches, so Paul used it in preparing his sermons and lessons. As time passed, Paul began to write down reasons

that Catholic doctrine was correct. Soon he had 30 reasons, then 77. A friend suggested that, like Martin Luther, he should write 95 reasons, which he did. He then published them in a book entitled *95 Reasons for Becoming or Remaining Catholic*.

This along with Pat's influence began Paul's conversion. He met Fr. Donald McGuire, S.J., who became a mentor. Paul enrolled in the Franciscan University of Steubenville where, at the Easter Mass in 1992, he converted. As part of his formation, Fr. McGuire said "it would be best" if he received his formation for becoming a priest under the Jesuits at The Institute of Theological Studies in Brussels, Belgium. So, for five years, Paul commuted between Brussels and Tyler, where Pat and their two sons lived (somebody needed to make a living).

The language of instruction was French, which Paul had studied in high school. There, Fr. Pierre D'Ornellas took Paul under his wing. Upon finishing those studies, the challenge was to find a bishop in the United States who would want a converted, married priest. It seems that most did not like the idea.

Paul and Pat moved to Lubbock in 1997 where Paul served as Executive Director of the Catholic Renewal Center and as Director of Evangelization until our bishop reorganized the center and dismissed Paul and his staff. Paul describes that year as one of tremendous discouragement. However, he wrote many conservative bishops all over the United States trying to find a home. He was rewarded by responses from Alaska



("too far from family") and from Bishop Alvero Corrada, S.J., of the Diocese of Tyler. Paul and Pat moved to Tyler in 2002. He now works for Catholic charities serving Katrina victims. Their church home is St. Peter Claver, basically a Mexican immigrant parish. Paul says "the parish rocks." You can tell he loves it. Paul has been teaching confirmation classes there in English and other classes in Spanish for the past three years.

Soon Paul, the father of two sons and a foster daughter, will be Father Paul. Paul and Pat's first son, Mark, was born September 6, 1972 while Paul was in seminary. Mark lives in Lubbock with his wife and four children. Mark will receive his MD degree next month and begin his residency in Family Medicine at Texas Tech. Their second son, Francis, was born in Mundelein on September 16, 1977 when Paul was a Presbyterian pastor. Francis is currently in law school at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He was seriously injured in an auto accident in high school but still participates in sports. His team just won the National Wheelchair Basketball Championship.

Paul and Pat also have a foster daughter, Dorothy, who is also a convert. She is a nurse living in Chicago.

So finally, the dream is coming true. Paul was ordained a transitional deacon on March 4<sup>th</sup> and is set for becoming a priest next September. Bishop Corrada has not yet decided where to place Paul, but one thing they are talking about is a campus ministry for the three schools in Tyler. Paul says that the amount of ministry that needs to be done is immense so he will not lack for something to do. Goodness knows that he brings rich life experiences to the priesthood. What a great resume.

## Why I Am a Catholic

*Editor's Note*

By *Roni Vowels*

*Christ the King High School Students, grades 9 through 12, recently had the opportunity to submit entries for an essay contest sponsored by the Lubbock Serra Club. The students were given a choice of subject, "Why I Am a Catholic" or "My Favorite Saint." The following essay was one of four selected by the committee to receive a \$50.00 prize. Other winning essays will be selected and published quarterly in the newsletter.*

I am a Catholic because Jesus is my hero. I am a cradle Catholic, meaning that I was born and raised as a Catholic in a very Catholic family. As a young girl, I remember having to wake up every Sunday morning to get dressed up and to go to church. It was usually just a hassle as I would have preferred to stay home and watch my Sunday morning cartoons

instead. But my parents said that I needed to go, because I would get many graces and blessings from God. So I went to Mass each week. I was sent to a Catholic school in the first grade and also went on to make my first Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. However, all of this meant absolutely nothing to me. Everything that I learned as my morals and my Catholic education came down to nothing. It came

(See **Why I Am**, Page Four)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>July 6</b>	First Friday Rosary & Mass Christ the King Cathedral 6:35 a.m. Donuts and coffee follow
<b>July 11</b>	Board Meeting Christ the King Cathedral 7:00 p.m.
<b>July 12</b>	Lunch Meeting Lakeridge Country Club Larry Holley 12 Noon
<b>July 12</b>	Holy Hour for Vocations Christ the King Cathedral 7:00 p.m.
<b>July 27</b>	Dinner Meeting Serra BBQ Membership Drive 711 Sunset Lane 6:30 p.m.
<b>Aug. 3</b>	First Friday Rosary & Mass Christ the King Cathedral 6:35 a.m. Donuts and coffee follow
<b>Aug. 8</b>	Board Meeting Christ the King Cathedral 7:00 p.m.
<b>Aug. 9</b>	Lunch Meeting Lakeridge Country Club Deacon Leroy Behnke 12 Noon
<b>Aug. 9</b>	Holy Hour for Vocations Christ the King Cathedral 7:00 p.m.
<b>Aug. 31</b>	Dinner Meeting Hanley Hall, St. Elizabeth's Msgr. Joe James 6:30 p.m.
<b>Sept. 7</b>	First Friday Rosary & Mass Christ the King Cathedral 6:35 a.m. Donuts and coffee follow

Date / Facility	Speaker / Topic
<b>July 12 Luncheon</b> Lakeridge Country Club	<b>Larry Holley:</b> <i>Sr. Correspondent, South Plains Catholic "Desert Fathers"</i>
<b>July 27 Dinner</b> 711 Sunset Lane	Serra BBQ - Membership Mixer / New Member Drive Program by <b>Blsd. Junipero Serra &amp; Fr. Bill Anton</b>
<b>Aug. 9 Luncheon</b> Lakeridge Country Club	<b>Rose Donaldson:</b> <i>Youth Ministry Coordinator CTK "Youth and Goals"</i>
<b>Aug. 31 Dinner</b> Hanley Hall, St. Elizabeth's Parish	<b>Msgr. Joe James:</b> <i>Pilgrimages and Holy Shrines</i>
<b>Sept. 13 Luncheon</b> Lakeridge Country Club	<b>David Powell</b> <i>"The Book of Revelations"</i>

**Why I Am a Catholic** *from page three*

down to nothing because I never put it to use. I never understood its full meaning.

Finally as I entered the LifeTeen program at my church, I began to process some of what had been said to me over and over through the years. I came to know the beauty of the Catholic Church. I finally understood, especially the one essential subject, which is the basis of Catholic teaching and beliefs: The Eucharist. The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, our Savior. This is the reason that I am Catholic and not some other religion. This tells me that whenever I am receiving the Eucharist, I am sharing in the sacrifice of our Lord. I am receiving His very Body and Blood from the altar. I finally understood what was taking place up on the altar as the priest recited the words. As in Matthew 16:12, Jesus eliminates all metaphorical meaning to his Body and Blood in the Eucharist. He proves that the bread and wine that we begin the Mass with truly do become His Body and His Blood through Transubstantiation.

This also leads to the beauty of the Mass. The Mass allows us to become a part of Jesus. and to share in His sacrifice. It prepares us to receive Him through the readings, prayer, and song. The true beauty of the Mass is not only with the Liturgy of the Eucharist, but also within the unity that it creates. The Catholic Church is universal, meaning that each Sunday, all across the world, the same readings are being read and the same words being said because it is everywhere. This unites not only the communities or parishes, but also Catholics with the same beliefs all around the world. Within the Mass, Jesus invites us to be loved and to give us the eternal life that is incessantly mentioned- throughout the gospels.

Another major reason for which I am proud and love to be Catholic is knowing

that someone has always got my back, no matter what. Even when everyone else has turned away and all doors are closed, He opens a window for me. He is eternally offering His endless mercy and love. Jesus is my hero. He gives us all as his children or his flock, his agape love. His unconditional love. He gives us that one special feeling of being loved completely and individually. There is no greater feeling than knowing that someone would lay down one's life for you a thousand times and knowing that at the end of everything, you are still offered His unending mercy and a shared place in eternal paradise and peace.

Not only can we receive the love of Christ, but He also sends us the love of His very own Mother. Through Her, I have found a strong sense of peace and answers to many prayers, especially through the Rosary. Being Catholic allows me to see this extraordinary love made just for me, made just for you, made just for him, or her. In John 3:16, Jesus tells us that God loved us, each and every one of us, so much, that He sent His one and only son to save us from our sins. He loved us so much that he was willing to die for us, to rise for us, and to save us. There is no greater love than this!

**Ask Fr. Bill** *from page two*

priests, since they were formed and educated specifically for the diaconate. Of course, exceptions can be made here too. A deacon is a cleric, not a lay person, but his call is one of service, charity, and works of mercy, not to the Holy Sacrifice of the Altar. Could this change in the future, under some future pope? Perhaps to a degree, but any such changes would have to be faithful to the received apostolic tradition, because in Christianity we believe there is nothing new, only what has been handed down from Jesus through the Apostles.

*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.

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