



# *The Lubbock* SERRAN

Volume 5 Issue 2

September 2001

## President's Message



Joe Conboy

Fellow Serrans,

Our First Friday coffee and donut feast after the Rosary and Mass was a great success. We had a record number of Serrans in attendance. Dave and Barbara Buescher did a great job of setting up the breakfast. Our dinner meeting in September is Friday September 28th.

Attendance at our August and May dinners is usually poor because of the Labor Day and Memorial Day holidays. We are considering having these dinner meetings a week earlier to enable more members to attend. Please let any Board Member know what you think of this proposed change.

We should all be saying the Serra Prayer for Vocations daily. This practice will help in our search for priests and other religious. It will also enable us to commit the prayer to memory so that we can recite it while waiting in a doctor's office; when stuck in traffic or whenever we have a free 20 seconds.

Please keep in mind 2 important dates. The Sisters Appreciation Dinner on Friday, October 26th and our Christmas Party on Thursday, December 13th. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

I finish this letter with a heavy heart as I view the disaster scenes from New York and Washington. Please remember, in your prayers, all the victims and their families.

Joe Conboy

## Membership Drive Continues

Remember all those names of potential new Serra members we came up with at our June meeting? We had over 30 names submitted.

Now is the time to invite those people to our meetings!!

We have lost a number of members over the past months. It is vital that we replace those members and in the process reenergize our club. Our diocese is in great need of ministerial vocations, ordained priests, deacons, missionaries, religious and brothers.

Besides rebuilding our club, sponsors have an extra incentive. For each new member accepted in the U.S.A. Council, one chance will be placed in the name of the sponsor in a drawing for a Caribbean cruise

So let's put out an all-out-effort in search of new members. Bring them to one of our meetings.

## Convention Update

Meetings continue to be held leading toward the Serra Regional Convention in Lubbock, August 9-11, 2002.

Convention Chairman Elroy Simnacher has signed the contract with the Holiday Inn Southpark. Royce Ellison has been finalizing two alternate hotels to handle potential overflow. Bob Goyette has been working on meal menus and has met with Citibus on transportation needs for moving conventioners to/from Christ the King Cathedral for the Saturday evening Mass. Transportation from alternate hotels and to the Vatican Art Exhibit also was discussed. Once these items are decided then the cost of attending the convention can be set.

Five hundred tickets to the Vatican Art Exhibition have been reserved for convention attendees.

An advance notice of the convention has been finalized and will be mailed to all Region 10 Club Presidents and District Governors asking them to spread the word to all Serrans in the District. Pamphlets on the Vatican Art Exhibit and things to do in Lubbock will be included. Serra USA has agreed to run an article in the Serra Magazine on our chaplain Father Malcolm Neyland, the Vatican Art Exhibition and our convention.

Program content for the convention and potential speakers is being worked on by David Hentges and Larry Craig.

There is still a need for more Serrans to step up and get involved. Call Elroy Simnacher at 795-4300 or 799-2570 to get involved.

## Fr. Malcolm seeks Serra involvement in Vatican Exhibition

Fr. Malcolm Neyland, the longtime Chaplain of the Serra Club of Lubbock and the key facilitator of the Vatican Museums Exhibition is seeking the help of Lubbock Serrans.

The Exhibition scheduled to run from June 2 through September 15, 2002 at the Museum of Texas Tech University is expected to attract large throngs to view the ancient frescos and other art from Mexico City and Houston.

Two areas need the help of Serra. First, people to act as docents are being sought. Docents are those who act as tour guides through the exhibit. Training will be provided to all who accept the assignment, in fact Kae Hentges, wife of Serran David, is the leader of the training activities.

For those who do not wish to be docents, Fr. Malcolm is asking that Serrans team up with members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchur to act as airport hosts for arriving dignitaries on June 1, 2002. Nearly all of the out-of-town visiting dignitaries will be staying in private homes



*One of the frescos to be on display.*

and the hosts are expected to provide airport transportation. The airport hospitality group will be asked to meet the visitors as they deplane, escort them to a VIP lounge specially set up on the second floor of the terminal building and lastly recover the luggage of the visitors.

Club President Joe Conboy is asking all Serrans to mark their calendars in order to be available to help with the hospitality.

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*Vatican Visitors Meet the Old West. Acting Director of the Vatican Museums, Dr. Francesco Buranelli and his family were treated with a visit to the OS Ranch east of Post during their visit to Lubbock. Pictured (l to r) is son Tommaso, Fr. Malcolm Neyland, wife Susanna, son Giacomo and Dr. Buranelli. The hats were gifts from the Lubbock City Council.*

## Lubbock Serrans, Already Involved in Vatican Art Exhibit Activities

A couple of Lubbock Serrans have had the opportunity to observe up close the happenings in Lubbock leading to next year's Vatican Art Exhibit.

At the request of Fr. Malcolm Neyland, Larry Craig and Bob Goyette aided the Lubbock visit of Francesco Buranelli, acting director of the Vatican Art Museums, his wife, Susanna, and their two sons. The Buranelli's were in and around Lubbock from August 12 through the 21st, and were on a whirlwind schedule of visits, press conferences and presentations. Other Vatican people involved in the activities were Fr. Richard Bourgeois, who is the Patron of the Arts for the Americas, and Fr. Don McMann a language educator.

Craig acted as driver for several days' local activities and Goyette attended the opening press conference and escorted Fr. Bourgeois to the airport when he departed.

Craig said that the visitors were exceptionally gracious and friendly and

seemed to be awed by the hospitality of West Texas. He also said that the level of commitment by the community of Lubbock is beyond description.

Fr. Bourgeois provided Lubbock city leaders with a very complementary description of what the Serra Club is all about at one of the luncheons.

### Prayer List

John Gaschen  
Bob Paikowski  
Dan Prewitt  
Millie Callow  
Royce Ellison  
Joe Conboy  
Joe Botik  
Seminarians  
Vocations

In Memory  
Jay Cloninger  
November 30, 1914- August 31, 2001

# Tom Nichols—a Member Profile

by Elmus Beale

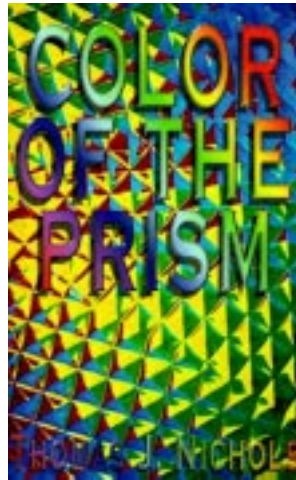
We know Tom Nichols as a leader with a great deal of energy. We knew him first as the Lubbock Police Chief, and now as the LISD Police Chief. We know him as the guy in charge of the St. Elizabeth's building project. We know him as a member of Serra. So who is he? What makes him tick? Perhaps this short biography will shed some light.

Thomas J. Nichols was born December 28, 1939 in Kansas City, Missouri. Asthma, brought on by molds or other unknown airborne allergens, was the scourge of his early years. He was sick constantly. In the summer of his ninth year, doctors told Tom's parents that he would be dead by Christmas if the family did not move to a drier climate. Tom's father was a union butcher, which created a dilemma. If he quit his job, the family would be destitute. Dire circumstances dictate drastic actions, so with the help of sisters at the family's parish, Tom moved to an orphanage in Tucson, Arizona. His parents and siblings remained behind in Kansas City. At first, Tom was lonely and miserable. But kids are resilient and Tom made friends and adjusted to his new situation. Fortunately, the move alleviated his asthma. He thrived and grew from a scrawny little kid into a healthy young man. Tom lived in the orphanage for three years until the rest of the family moved to Tucson in 1952. Times were tough, but the family pulled together and worked hard. They were poor but didn't know it. Thanks to his parents' sacrifices, Tom was healthy and prospered in Tucson.

Most kids at some time in their lives want to grow up to be policemen. Tom was one of those kids who meant it. After he graduated from Salpointe Catholic High School Tom became a police officer in Tucson and took advantage of a college scholarship program for law enforcement officers that worked much like the GI bill. When he worked night shifts, he went to class in the daytime. When he worked day shifts, he went to school at night. It was hard work because the shifts were 12 hours,

but that was the way things were back then. Cops went to school when they weren't on duty. The hard work paid off when Tom graduated Magna Cum Laude, with a BS degree in Public Administration from the University of Arizona. He is also a graduate of the FBI Academy and the FBI Executive Development Program. Officer Nichols then used his experience and training to enter the executive ranks. He served as Deputy Chief of Police in Tucson from 1961 until 1983 when he and his wife, Gwen, moved to Lubbock to assume the position as Chief of Police. Tom left that position in 1990 and entered his current position as LISD Director of Police and Safety Services. If you ask him if he enjoys his work he responds enthusiastically, "I love it".

Tom loves to write. He has written and published many articles about law enforcement. But he also writes fiction as a hobby. He is just finishing the final chapter of *Axis*, his third book. Tom's second book, *The Third Dawn*, is finished and waiting for him to find time to get it published. It is a novel on the life of Christ and his family as seen through the eyes of a special guardian angel. Best of all, his first book, *Color of the Prism*, was published last year. It is available at Barnes and Noble bookstore or online at 1stbooks.com, bn.com, amazon.com, and borders.com. Copies are also available at the Lubbock City-County Library. *Color of the Prism* is a police thriller about the drug underworld. Its readers have given it the highest rating—5 stars. The latest



development is that Tarantino Productions in Los Angeles is making it into a movie. Tom says, "I don't know what will happen now, but it has been a lot of fun getting to this point." Perhaps he will put his short stories into a collection and publish that. Maybe we have another Tom Clancy story developing right here in Lubbock.

Tom has been a member of the Serra Club for many years. When asked to reflect on the Serra Club he had this to say. "My days are long. I start work by 7:30 am and I hit the ground running so I can never attend the early morning First Friday Rosary and Mass, though I do go to the noon Mass that day at St. Elizabeth's. Police work means that I never know when I will get home at the end of the day. On Friday nights, if I don't have a ball game to cover, I just want to go home and spend the time with my wife. I don't see that I will be able to attend any Serra meetings in the foreseeable future. Even so, the purpose of Serra is vital and I plan to remain with the club, if for nothing more than to give it my financial support. I do feel that the club lacks a clear purpose and that is, in part, why we are losing members. Perhaps I will become more active when I retire, but that won't be soon. We are just now beginning a new phase of our building project at St. Elizabeth's and that promises to take a lot of time."

That is the short version though, in truth, it would require a book to tell the complete story of Thomas J. Nichols.

## Christmas Dinner



Mark your calendars for the annual Christmas Dinner on Thursday, December 13, 2001. That date is special because it is the anniversary of ordination for Bishop Plácido Rodríguez. We will begin with a Mass at Christ the King Cathedral at 6:00 PM. Following Mass we will go to Bishop Plácido's home for the social hour and dinner. Please note that the Holy Hour for Vocations is normally scheduled for that same day. Perhaps we could offer the Mass as the Holy Hour. More on that later. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions please contact Elmus Beale.

### IN MEMORIAL TO JOHN TRELFOED

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**

- Oct 2 Board meeting 7:00 P.M  
Location TBA.
- Oct 5 First Friday Rosary  
and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M.  
Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Oct 11 Holy Hour for Vocations  
CTK 7:00 P.M.
- Oct 26 Sisters Appreciation  
Dinner with spouses,  
Arnett Room  
Covenant Lakeside  
Hospital  
6:30 P.M. Reception  
7:30 P.M. Dinner.  
Bring a gift.
- Oct 30 Board meeting 7 P.M.  
Location TBA.
- Nov 2 First Friday Rosary  
and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M.  
Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Nov 8 Holy Hour for Vocations  
CTK 7:00 P.M.
- Note No November Dinner  
Meeting.
- Dec 4 Board Meeting 7 P.M.  
Location TBA.
- Dec 7 First Friday Rosary  
And Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M.  
Donuts and coffee follows.
- Dec 13 Christmas Mass and  
Dinner with spouses.  
Mass 6:00 P.M. at CTK  
Dinner afterwards at  
Home of Bishop Plácido  
Rodriguez, 3505 37th  
Street.

*Just A Note  
To Remind  
You!*



**Sisters Appreciation Dinner**

**Arnett Room at Covenant Lakeside  
Friday, October 26  
6:30 p.m. Reception  
7:30 p.m. Dinner**

*Bring a gift*

**USA  
Council  
of**



**invites you to join in a  
Fundraising  
and Fellowship**

**7 Night  
Eastern Caribbean Cruise**



**December 1-8, 2001**

**aboard Royal Caribbean's  
Explorer of the Seas**

*On board  
daily  
Mass*

**SPECIAL RATES**

**Deluxe Balcony Stateroom  
\$1095 per person\***

**Ocean View Stateroom  
\$975 per person\***

*\*Does not include airfare*

**Call Sally Nance or Mary Winton Hughes  
Cruise Galore for rates 800-667-9784**



**white-collar  
workers needed.**

Serra for Priestly and Religious Vocations