



# *The Lubbock* SERRAN

Volume 6 Issue 2

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## Serra Region 10 Convention a Big Hit!



*Lubbock Serrans John Mosser, Al Arreola, Larry Craig and John Connors work the registration desk on Friday afternoon.*

Many West Texas Serrans are a little more relaxed now that the 2002 Serra Region 10 Convention has been completed. The Aug. 9-11, 2002 event was rated a resounding success based on feedback from attendees. Our Bishop Placido Rodriguez met with the Convention Committee team shortly afterward and was very complementary of the entire convention and hosted a celebration dinner with the team at his home on Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>.

Highlights of the Convention Feedback Survey included exceptional marks for:

- Saturday Evening Mass at Christ the King Cathedral
- Banquet Keynote address by

Archbishop Michael Sheehan

- Friday Evening Get Acquainted Social

A total of 151 registered Serrans and spouses attended the Convention while 198 attended the banquet. Seventeen clergy including 2 Archbishops and 5 Bishops participated. The Executive Directors of Serra International and Serra USA as well as 3 national officers and the Regional Director of the USA Council were on the program.

While many Lubbock Serrans performed admirably, special recognition goes to Elroy Simmacher as Convention Chairman and Bob Goyette as Vice-Chair.

## President's Message

I would like to thank all our members for their hard work in hosting the Region 10 Serra Convention here in August. Elroy and his committee did a

marvelous job of planning and execution. Countless hours went into the preparation of this event but the planning certainly produced the desired results. The event came off without a hitch. We



*Brian Beauchamp*

were even able to accommodate a Bishop that we were not expecting. The response sheets from the attendees were very positive. I think our West Texas hospitality was well received by our fellow Serrans from around the state. I think our club really came together to make the convention a successful event. Thanks for your hard work.

We are returning to noon luncheon meetings this month on the second Thursday of the month and then an evening meeting on the fourth Friday.

The noon meetings will be at the McInturff Conference Center at UMC. The meetings will start at 12:00 PM. If you will enter the south parking lot of UMC there are signs to the McInturff Center.

Our evening meeting will be October 25th and it will remain at the Christian Renewal Center on 4th street.

Elmus has some interesting programs lined up. If you have an idea for a program that you would like to see, please pass it along to Elmus.



## S.J. Neyland

As a charter member of the Serra Club of Lubbock, nobody has been with the club longer than S. J. As a “younger” member of the club I thought it would be fun to learn more about S. J.

S. J. Neyland, Jr. was born September 26, 1919 in Algiers, LA, just across the river from New Orleans. He was the oldest of three boys. Unfortunately, his two brothers died very young, one was just a few months old and the other, Malcolm, was just 7 years old. Their loss hurt the family deeply and took a long time to heal. S. J.’s future wife, Iris, was born across the river in New Orleans, and though she and S. J. grew up as acquaintances, they did not start dating until S. J. was in college. We’ll get back to that in a minute.

S. J. is particularly proud of the fact that his entire education has been in Catholic schools. Both of his parents were Catholic so he began his religious formation early at home. The Sisters of the Holy Cross taught him in Grammar School. They so influenced him that he entered the Minor Seminary with the Benedictines in St. Benedict, LA for his freshman year in high school. S. J. describes that year in the seminary as “the best year of my life” because he never felt so close to God. He also discerned that he did not truly have a calling to a religious vocation. However, S. J. said that he would advise all Catholic men to spend a year in seminary for the religious experience as well as the discernment opportunity it provides. S. J. moved back to New Orleans to finish high school at St. Aloysius high school under the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. That was an adventure in itself since the trip to and from school was about an hour each way and included a ferry ride across the Mississippi. S. J. played football part of the year, which caused him to occasionally miss the closest ferry. He then had to walk an additional six miles for the Canal Street ferry. After high school, S. J. attended Loyola University, a Jesuit school in New Orleans, on a working scholarship. He graduated with a BA in economics with a minor in finance. It was a classical education with plenty of religion and philosophy. He notes proudly that he was the first member of his family to receive a college education.

Following graduation from Loyola, S. J. went to work for Sears in management training, and he and Iris were married in 1941. They had two sons, S. J. (Jay) Neyland, III (born in 1942) and Malcolm (born in 1943). Of course, we know Malcolm as Fr. Malcolm, our club’s chaplain. Iris and S. J. very much wanted a daughter and their prayers were answered in 1950 when Linda was born. WWII was raging when the two boys were young and S. J. wanted to walk home to take care of the family.

However, the draft caught up with S. J. in 1943 so he spent the last two years of the war in the naval amphibious forces assigned to the Pacific. S. J. was stationed in San Diego and was able to bring the family with him. Fortunately the war ended just at the time he was scheduled to go to sea.

S. J. went back to work for Sears, but because of the huge influx of men into the workforce, his original job was not available, and he got a less desirable and lower-paying job. Iris’s uncle by marriage, Mr. Blankenship, owned approximately 20 movie theaters in 10 counties in West Texas and offered S. J. a job. They moved to Lubbock and have remained ever since. S. J. was the general manager for the theaters as well as the Town and Country Shopping Center at 4<sup>th</sup> and University for 20 years. For 10 years, he and his partner, Royce Blankenship, also owned a hardware store in Town and Country. Times always change, and so TV drove the theaters out of business and trading stamps drove the hardware store out of business. S. J. then went to work with the Texas State Comptroller’s Office as an auditor until he retired. S. J. describes all of his professional life as quite satisfying.

S. J. speaks with great pride about his and Iris’s activities in the name of the Church and Christianity. When they arrived in Lubbock there were only two Catholic Churches, St. Elizabeth’s and St. Joseph’s, and there were very few Catholics.

In 1948 Iris and S. J., along with Joe and Evelyn Botik and several other Catholic couples, founded the Merry-Go-Round Dance Club. The club is still active and vigorous now in 2002, with almost 50 Catholic couples as members. Its original purpose of providing safe, inexpensive, and wholesome recreation has not changed.

S. J. and Iris were involved in starting a school (through 4<sup>th</sup> grade and taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph) at St. Elizabeth’s. Iris served as a teacher’s assistant and librarian while S. J. was on the Parish Council.

The Bishop then decided to form Christ the King Parish and School because the city was growing toward the South. The Neylands were actively involved in its beginnings. S. J. taught CCD and was a member of the Parish Council. They are still parishioners at Christ the King. Finally, S. J. was a charter member and Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus 3008, and he was a charter member and Past President of the Serra Club of Lubbock. Judging from the quality of S. J. and Iris’s kids, their devotion to each other, and their devotion to God, one could hardly do better than have S. J. Neyland, Jr. as their mentor.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 4** First Friday Rosary and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M. Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Oct. 8** Board Meeting  
Brian Beauchamp's home  
7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 10** Lunch Meeting  
McInturff Center, 12 Noon
- Oct. 10** Holy Hour for Vocations  
CTK 7:00 P.M.
- Oct. 25** Dinner Meeting CRC  
6:30 P.M.
- Nov. 1** First Friday Rosary and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M. Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Nov. 5** Board Meeting, Place TBA  
7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 14** Lunch Meeting  
McInturff Center, 12 Noon
- Nov. 14** Holy Hour for Vocations  
CTK 7:00 P.M.
- Dec. 6** First Friday Rosary and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M. Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Dec. 10** Board Meeting, Place TBA  
7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 12** Christmas Dinner Meeting  
Bishop's House 6:30 P.M.
- Jan. 3** First Friday Rosary and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M. Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Jan. 7** Board Meeting, Place TBA  
7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 9** Lunch Meeting  
McInturff Center, 12 Noon
- Jan. 9** Holy Hour for Vocations  
CTK 7:00 P.M.
- Jan. 31** Dinner Meeting CRC  
6:30 P.M.

# Seminarians Studying for the Diocese of Lubbock

Currently Enrolled at  
St. Mary Seminary, Houston  
9845 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77024 -3487  
Phone: (713) 686-4345

**1. Omar Fredy Quezada**  
Assignment: 4<sup>th</sup> Theology

**2. Miguel Angel Padilla**  
Assignment: 1<sup>st</sup> Theology

Currently Enrolled at  
Assumption Seminary, San Antonio  
2600 Woodlawn Ave.  
San Antonio, TX 78284  
Phone: (214) 438-2212

**3. Ernesto Lopez**  
Assignment: 2<sup>nd</sup> Theology

**4. Heriberto Mercado**  
Assignment: 2<sup>nd</sup> Theology & English

**5. Rene Perez**  
Assignment: 4<sup>th</sup> Theology

**6. Francisco Jimenez**  
Assignment: 1<sup>st</sup> Theology

**7. Ismael Alejandro Gonzalez**  
Assignment: 3<sup>rd</sup> Philosophy & English

**8. Oscar Siordia**  
Assignment: 3<sup>rd</sup> Theology & English

Pastoral Year at  
St. John Neumann Church, Lubbock  
5802 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Lubbock, TX 79407-1721  
Phone: (806) 799-0037

**9. John Smith**  
Assignment: 4<sup>th</sup> Theology

**10. Onesimo Valenzuela**  
\*will study English @ Learning Center  
Address: Our Lady Of Grace Church  
3111 Erskine  
Lubbock, TX 79415

**11. Wilfrido Carrillo Madrigal**  
\*will study English @ Learning Center  
Address: Our Lady Of Grace Church  
3111 Erskine  
Lubbock, TX 79415

Seminarians Studying in Mexico

**12. Cuauhtemoc Chavez**  
Assignment: 2<sup>nd</sup> Philosophy  
Address: Seminario Mayor De Guadalajara  
Apartado Postal 5-788  
Santo Domingo 1120  
Guadalajara, Jal. México 45040

**13. Nahum Lopez Olvera**  
Assignment: 3<sup>rd</sup> Philosophy  
Address: Santa Maria de Guadalupe de  
Diocesis Necesitadas  
Calle Miguel Arriola # 240  
América Norte  
Morelia, Michoacan 58270



*Sister Lalemant Pelikan is congratulated by Ed Marcham and Bishop Placido Rodriguez after being named outstanding sister in the Lubbock Diocese. Sister Lale was recognized for her work in the Diocese office as the Diocesan Catechetical Coordinator. The presentation of the plaque took place at the Serra Sister Appreciation Dinner held on Sept. 27.*