



The Lubbock SERRAN

Volume 8 Issue 2

September 2004

President's Message

I want to begin by thanking Brian Beauchamp, past president, and his officers for doing an outstanding job of leading our club last year. The club's efforts were rewarded this summer at the Serra International Convention in Pittsburgh and at the Region 10 Convention in Ft. Worth. Our newsletter was recognized as the "Best" at both conventions. We also picked up a Membership Award Banner for having a membership increase of greater than 10%.

The transition of leadership has been extremely smooth and we are off to a great start. Our new officers are excited about leading the club and have brought a lot of energy to the task of fulfilling Serra's mission of promoting religious vocations.

Here is a brief look at what each of our VPs and their committees are doing.

MEMBERSHIP - Louise Sundell

They have set a goal of doubling our membership. In doing so, they would like for us to increase the number of members from parishes that have little or no representation in the club. They also set a goal of gaining members that reflect the many races and cultures that make up the Church in Lubbock.

A special guest night is planned for Friday, Sept. 24. Members have nominated over 50 potential members to attend that meeting with their spouses. Along with a special catered meal, Deacon Leroy Behnke will talk about the need for religious vocations and the role Serra clubs play in fulfilling that need.

PROGRAM - Art Chavez

The program committee has worked closely with the membership committee to plan the Sept. 24 special guest night meeting. In addition they have met several times to develop
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Region 10 Serra Convention Ft. Worth, Aug. 27-29



Harriet and Floyd Boone, and John Gaschen (club clown).



Bob Goyette and Gary McDonald proudly show off the Best Newsletter Award.

Special Guest Night Planned

By Carl Sundell

In response to a suggestion by Bishop Placido Rodriguez that the Serra Club of Lubbock might want to double the number of its members, the Membership Committee has proposed a special dinner/program event for Friday evening, Sept. 24, at the Catholic Renewal Center. Each current member has been asked to nominate at least one viable candidate for membership in Serra. Those invited will enjoy a specially prepared dinner and program to highlight the purpose and goals of the Serra Club. All club members are urged to attend along with their spouses. Dress for the evening is "business casual".

President Gary McDonald will offer a few words of welcome to the invited guests and sum up the goals and philosophy of Serra. There will also be an induction ceremony for five new members. Those being inducted are Polly Ahrens, Harriet Boone, Leland Brockman, Dr. Benny Phillips and Pete Paniagua.

At this special banquet, Deacon Leroy Behnke will talk on the theme of Serrans as

active stewards promoting vocations to the religious life. Deacon Behnke will examine several issues, including how to make Serra more visible in the Catholic community, the need to increase the number of active members by recruiting throughout the diocese, and the quest for more diversity of membership, including more women and younger people. Deacon Behnke will also talk about how we can "light the fire" in us to actively promote vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, and the religious life.

Recruitment literature (including a membership application form) will be presented to guests at the close of the evening and they will be invited to return for other programs, among which will be the annual Sisters Appreciation Night on Oct. 15. The following are just some of the proposed programs that may be offered through next year: the Priest as Role Model; Late Vocations; Deacon Candidates and their Wives; Seminary Life; a Catholic View of Islam; Eastern Orthodox Priesthood; Conversion Stories; G.K. Chesterton.

Priesthood Sunday - 2004

By Mike Custy

What is "Priesthood Sunday?" - Priesthood Sunday, October 31, 2004, is a special day set to honor Priesthood in the United States. It is a call for parishioners to honor Christ as Priest and the men who are called to be his priests on earth. It is also a day to honor all religious and to focus on the importance of vocations.

The reasons for this celebration should be obvious. The number of priests per Catholic has declined over the past 40 years. This makes it more difficult for individual parishioners to establish a close relationship with any one particular priest. Priests are no longer the only ones who offer pastoral care to our people. Yet without a priest, no parish

is able to be a Eucharistic community. It is important to reaffirm the importance of the priesthood of Jesus Christ and its central place in the life of our Church.

On Oct. 31, we Serrans should make it known that we do appreciate all that our priests do for us. A simple note, a smile or a phone call to assure our priests of our loving care and gratitude for their presence in the life of our local churches will go a long way toward expressing our appreciation. Most of all let us remember them in our prayers.

From the District Governor

I, along with 12 of your members and spouses are just back from the regional convention held in Ft. Worth. The theme of this year's convention was "Late Vocations A New Beginning". The speakers were outstanding; from our first Rev. Thomas Knoebel, who is Academic Dean of Sacred Heart School of Theology, one of three seminaries for those entering formation in later life, to Sister Antonia Brenner our banquet speaker, who after raising a family of seven children has for the past 26 years served the prisoners of La Mesa Penitentiary in Tijuana, while choosing to live in the prison.

While at the convention, we learned that the average ordination age for a priest today is 38 years. Also, there was a recent survey of newly ordained priests who were asked what had influenced them the most in deciding on the priesthood. The number one response with 43% was the discernment weekend experience.

A regional convention like this one and the one the Lubbock Club hosted two years ago is a great way to meet old friends and make new ones as well as learn more about Serra. Our next convention will be held in Galveston Oct. 27th thru the 29th, 2006.

Sincerely in Christ,
Jake Richards

What Do Lubbock Serrans Do?

Have you ever been asked this question? You probably are asked this when approaching a potential new member.

If you're not quite sure how to answer, here is a quick list to start with:

- Sisters Appreciation Dinner**
- Birthday Card & Gift to Priests**
- Financial Support for Seminarians**
- Monthly Rosary & Mass for Vocations**
- Monthly Holy Hour for Vocations**
- 31 Club - Daily Prayers for Vocations**
- Monthly Lunch and Dinner Meetings with Programs**

Sisters Appreciation

Dinner

Friday, Oct. 15

(no lunch meeting on Oct. 14)

Covenant Lakeside

Arnette Room - 6 p.m.

Member's spouse and guests are invited
\$20 per non-member

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program ideas and secure speakers for the rest of the year.

A golf outing is planned for Tuesday, Oct. 12. Participants will include priests, sisters and club members. Details are still being finalized, so look for more information in the next few days about this fun event.

COMMUNICATIONS - Mike Custy

Committee members are working to increase our visibility in the different media outlets available to us. Those outlets include the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, South Plains Catholic, Catholic Radio 1420 AM and weekly parish bulletins.

Photos and articles have already appeared in the A-J and South Plains Catholic. With the mailing of this newsletter, priests are being sent articles and ads about religious vocations that they can easily include in their weekly parish bulletins.

VOCATIONS - Mary Lou Trelford

This committee is working to continue our

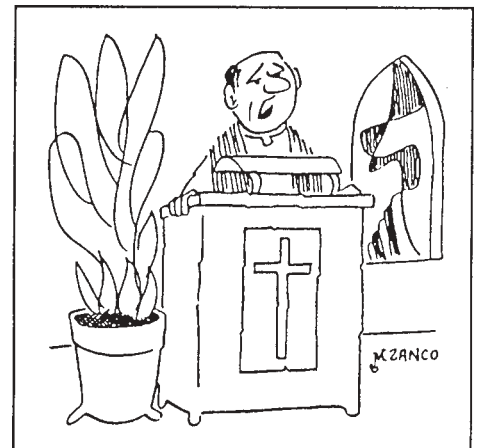
participation in the 31 Club and Holy Hour for Vocations. A dramatic increase in attendance by Serrans at Holy Hour is very encouraging. The committee is working closely with the Diocese Committee for Vocations to find ways we can maximize our efforts. This summer we paid traveling expenses for three young men to visit the seminary in Dallas.

Finally, the committee is exploring having vests made for the purpose of increasing our visibility. Look for some samples to be modeled at a meeting in the near future.

As you can see we have already done many things and much more is planned. Let me or any of our officers know if you have ideas on how we can carry out the mission of Serra more effectively. This is your club and your input is always encouraged and welcomed.

God Bless,

Gary McDonald



"I would like to begin the budget report by saying that the fellow who wrote the song, 'Pennies from Heaven,' created a mental misconception of monstrous proportions."

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 - Fr. Bill Anton

By Larry Craig

Father Bill Anton grew up in Fairfax, Virginia, a suburb of Washington DC, with his mother Josephine, his father Leonard, and his sister Susan. His father was a Navy F-4 pilot for many years before he left the service for a civilian job in Washington. His mother was a homemaker and Avon Lady. Fr. Bill's Dad still lives in that same house in Fairfax, but his mother passed away in 1985 from cancer. His sister Susan still lives in Fairfax and is raising two sons, one daughter and one step-daughter.



Fr. Bill Anton

Father Bill attended Catholic schools for nine of his twelve years, then went to study engineering and computers at nearby George

Mason University, where he graduated in 1987 with a BS in Computer Science. His first job after college was with Boeing Computer Services contracting for the NASA space station project. It was that job that brought him to Houston, Texas in 1991 where he began working at the Johnson Space Center, and attending Mass at St. Bernadette Parish in Clear Lake City. Fr. Bill began to involve himself more and more in the life of the parish, joining the choir and a Sunday night prayer group. Then in May of 1993, he went to a "Christ Renews His Parish" retreat at St. Bernadette; it was an experience that would change him forever. He began to think seriously about entering the seminary, but the Lord asked him to wait a little while longer.

Through his Sunday night prayer group, Fr. Bill met some people from Lubbock who invited everyone to visit Lubbock for a special celebration on August 15, 1993. Fr. Bill made his first visit (a pilgrimage, really) to Lubbock on that weekend. He made several more trips to Lubbock, and then in February 1994 he made a retreat at the Mercy Center in Slaton.

It was there at that retreat that he felt God was calling him to quit his career and move to the Lubbock area. He moved to Shallowater in June 1994 where he began working as an unpaid lay minister, helping to put on Catholic charismatic retreats. It was there in Shallowater where God's call finally became clear.

In Jan. 1995, Fr. Bill approached the vocation director (Fr. Martin Pia) and by August of that same year he began his philosophical studies at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving. In 1997, he began his theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. Fr. Bill did his year of pastoral internship (2000-01) at St. Michael's in Levelland. He was ordained to the diaconate Dec. 15, 2001, and to the priesthood May 25, 2002. For his first two years Fr. Bill served at St. John Neumann in Lubbock, first as parochial vicar under Fr. Vic Wanjura, then as parish administrator for five months after Fr. Vic's departure. On July 1, 2004 Fr. Bill was made pastor of St. Ann's in Morton and St. Philip Neri in Pep. Fr. Bill is also chaplain for the Serra Club of Lubbock.

Member Profile - Leland Brockman

By Elmus Beale

Born Oct. 8, 1974, Leland Brockman may be the youngest member of the Serra Club of Lubbock. Leland was raised on a farm 12 miles North of Muleshoe, Texas. It was in that area of West Texas that Leland developed his family loyalty, work ethic, love of sports, sense of integrity, and devotion to God.



Leland Brockman

Leland is the "baby" in a close-knit family of three kids. His sister, Launa, is 8 years older. She lives and sells insurance in Plano. His brother, Guy, is 6 years older and manages the family farm with Leland's mom, Judy. Leland's dad, Phil, was killed in a motorcycle accident three years ago - on Mother's Day, May 13, 2001.

Before his death, Phil had a big influence on Leland. It was Phil who got Leland on track in college by suggesting a career track and major that carried through his first five years

after graduation from Texas Tech. It was also Phil who, by opening a self-directed Roth IRA for 18-year-old Leland, taught him about the time-value of money (leading to his current profession as a financial advisor).

The work ethic came from the family farm. It is a large farm. They grow cotton, corn and feed (like winter wheat) for up to 3,000-4,000 cattle per year. They can also handle 750 head in metal pins in a 'growing yard'. It takes a family effort to handle an operation of that size and Leland did his share while growing up.

Leland went to school in Lazbuddie where he graduated from high school in 1993 (second in his class of 20). He nurtured his love of sports in school where he played 6-man football (receiver and safety), basketball (point guard), track (300 yard hurdles and two relays), and golf. It is especially noteworthy that Lazbuddie made it to the state semifinals (1 game away from the state championship) in 6-man football in Monahans during Leland's senior year. Leland was also honored by being selected to play in the 6-man All-Star game in Wichita Falls in 1993.

Leland's love of sports continues. He plays city league flag football here in Lubbock. He works out daily at *Body Works* and plays golf when he can.

Leland graduated from Texas Tech in 1997 with a BS degree in agronomy. As a result of paid summer internships (for which he also received college credit—what a deal) after his sophomore and junior years, Leland went to work for Novartis as a sales representative. However, the business left a sour taste since many sales reps used less than honorable tactics by 'buying' business. Leland received an excellent offer from Edward Jones where he now works here in Lubbock. He speaks of Edward Jones with the highest possible praise in terms of their integrity and service attitude.

After work, Leland is working to 'be there' for an 11 yr old named Stephen in *Big Brothers, Big Sister of Lubbock*. He has been sponsoring Stephen for one year. Leland and Stephen have thoroughly enjoy their time together—going to concerts, playing video games, frequent visits to the park, movies, all sorts of games, firecrackers, and sleep-overs. "He has been a blessing to me", says Leland.

Leland had never heard of Serra before being recruited by Elroy Simnacher. Leland joined Serra for three reasons: 1) to strengthen his faith; 2) for the purpose of good stewardship; and 3) because Elroy was very persistent.

We are blessed to count him among our members.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 24** Dinner Meeting
Catholic Renewal Center
6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 1** First Friday Rosary
and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M.
Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Oct. 5** Board Meeting, TBA
7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 12** Golf Outing
- Oct. 14** NO LUNCH MEETING
- Oct. 14** Holy Hour for Vocations
Christ the King Cathedral
7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 15** Sisters Appreciation Dinner
Arnett Room
Covenant Lakeside
6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 29** Dinner Meeting
Catholic Renewal Center
6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 5** First Friday Rosary
and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M.
Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Nov. 9** Board Meeting
Don Wanjura's home
7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 11** Lunch Meeting
McInturff Center, UMC
12 Noon
- Nov. 11** Holy Hour for Vocations
Christ the King Cathedral
7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 26** NO DINNER MEETING
Happy Thanksgiving
- Dec. 3** First Friday Rosary
and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M.
Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Dec. 7** Board Meeting, TBA
7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 9** Annual Christmas Party
6:00 p.m. Mass
Christian Renewal Center

Program Calendar		
Meeting	Speaker	Topic
Sept. 9 Luncheon McInturff Center, UMC	Carl Sundell and Gary McDonald	Region 10 Convention Report
Sept. 24 Dinner Catholic Renewal Center	Deacon Leroy Behnke	The Importance of Serra - Membership Drive, Induction of New Members
Oct. 14 Luncheon NO MEETING		
Oct. 15 Dinner Covenant Lakeside		Sister Appreciation Dinner
Oct. 29 Dinner Catholic Renewal Center	Jake Richards	District Governor's Report
Nov.11 Luncheon McInturff Center, UMC	Ann Krier	Conversion

A Letter from Fr. Tim Judd

Eternal Word Television Network had a very interesting priest on at 5 a.m. the other day. Padre Santiago, a native of Spain, spoke in Spanish. He has his own position on the lack of vocations. His main point was that we as individuals in our Catholic faith do not show enough appreciation to God for



Fr. Tim Judd

all of our graces, blessings, and gifts. Padre Santiago did express the important social issues we all face. Nevertheless his idea was around the fact that we do not thank God enough in our lives and this results in the lack of vocations. He gave the reason for his thoughts in the fact that we neglect our children. The children do not think often enough about why they should be thankful to God. Because of this lack of genuine gratitude to God, we have this need to have young men and woman enter the seminary or religious life.

Help is on the way! The Church again is telling us about the importance of the Blessed Sacrament! Now, we are going to have an International Eucharistic Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico beginning this Oct. 10-17th. The Congress will end in Oct. in Rome 2005. What a marvelous gift of God – Himself in the Blessed Sacrament! We truly need to see the value of this gift of Himself to us and react accordingly.

Perhaps you may recall that Bishop Placido Rodriguez ordained Fr. Raymundo Manriquez in the Cathedral in Guadalajara. Fr. Reymundo is now pastor of St Peter's Church in Olton and Saint Theresa's in

Hale Center. Fr. Reymundo will be going to this Eucharistic Congress. We will be indeed happy when he returns to tell us about this most marvelous event. It is interesting that there are three large seminaries in the Archdiocese of Guadalajara, Mexico. Super!

Fr. Reymundo told me about how Cardinal Posada was killed on May 24, 1994, at the airport in Guadalajara. The Cardinal was there to pick up the Apostolic Nuncio when a gang war was in progress.

October is the month of the most Holy Rosary! Pray for peace!

Each day you are in my prayers at Holy Mass.

In our Blessed Mother Mary,

Fr. Timothy Judd
Assist. Chaplain, Serra Club of Lubbock

Prayer List

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| John Connors | Millie Callow |
| Paul Meyer, Jr. | Barbara Buescher |
| John Gaschen | The family of |
| Bob Paikowski | Joe Botik |
| Dan Prewitt | Vocations |

Visit Often

www.serralubbock.org

CORRECTION: The last newsletter incorrectly reported that Polly Ahrens was sponsored by Floyd Boone. Mary Lou Trelford sponsored Polly. Our apologies. *editor*