



# The Lubbock SERRAN

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## President's Message

by Judy Simmons

The Serra Club of Lubbock once again had the honor of celebrating Sisters Appreciation with a dinner attended by 23 Sisters from the Diocese. The special event, held in the Arnett Room at Covenant Lakeside Hospital, was beautifully orchestrated down to the last detail by Chairman David Buescher who was assisted by committee members Juan and Julia Ramonez, Brad and Tracy Worthington, and Gary Simmons. Al Arreola and his Telephone Calling Committee were also instrumental in garnering a large turnout of members and guests.

Sister Celine Thames was selected as the 12<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Sister Marzen Award, most often referred to as the "Sister of the Year" Award. As the current Director of Spirituality for the St. Francis Mission Sisters, Sister Celine provides outstanding spiritual education and guidance to members of the Diocese and parishes. Congratulations, Sister Celine, on your recognition!

The Sisters Appreciation Dinner was also attended by our newly appointed chaplain, Father Heriberto Mercado, who was greeted by our members and guests with an enthusiastic round of applause. Father Mercado succeeds Father Bill Anton, both as Serra Chaplain and as pastor for St Ann's Church in Morton and St. Phillip Neri in Pep.

Prior to his current assignments, Father Mercado served for two years as associate pastor at St. Joseph parish on Ave P in Lubbock with Father Martin Pina. As a childhood cancer survivor, he says he owes his smile and sense of humor to his father, his faith in God and love for the Church, and his mother's influence. He entered a



*Twenty-three Sisters along with Bishop Placido Rodriguez and Judy Simmons pose for a group photo at the recent Sisters Appreciation Dinner.*

seminary in Guadalajara, Mexico when he was 15 years old, studying for six years, with a concentration in philosophy. At the age of 18 years, he became a member of the Lubbock Diocese upon the invitation of Father Relnaldo Reyes.

The second half of his preparation for the priesthood was six years of study spent at the Assumption Seminary and Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. On December 17, 2005, he was ordained a temporary deacon, and on June 3, 2006, he was ordained a priest at Christ the King Cathedral. We are thrilled and blessed to have Father Mercado as our chaplain, and there is no doubt that everyone will enjoy getting to know him this year!

Our Serra Club is also very fortunate to have the strong commitment and support of Bishop Placido Rodriguez. Bishop Rodriguez will be the distinguished guest and speaker at the upcoming Membership Drive scheduled for Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, at St. Elizabeth's Hanley Hall. Membership Vice President Louise Sundell and her committee are planning a wonderful evening of heavy hors d'oeuvres, dessert, and wine to accompany an informative program geared to describing the Serra Club's mission to prospective new members. Women members

are asked to bring a dessert, and men, a bottle of wine. Thanks to the efforts of Jim Christy, our Serra Club recently acquired a new member, Reed Hitch, from Holy Spirit—it looks like we're off to a good start!

Bishop Rodriguez will host our annual Christmas Party at his residence on Thursday, December 18th. The evening will begin with Holy Mass at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Social at 6:30 p.m., and dinner at 7:00 p.m. (Please see the Calendar of Events in this issue for further details.)

(see **Message**, Page Two)



*Sister Celine Thames accepts the Sister Marzen Award from Bishop Rodriguez and Elroy Simmacher.*



*Pope Benedict XVI looks at the Johann Gutenberg Bible.*

## FAMOUS CATHOLICS *Johann Gutenberg 1400-1467*

*By Carl Sundell*

Protestants in the Deep South for a long time have questioned whether the Catholic Church is truly biblical. After all, hadn't priests chained the Bible to the pulpit in the Middle Ages so that no one but they could open it and read? And wasn't the Catholic Bible written in Latin, a language very few people in those days could understand? But sometimes the facts of history are buried by those who choose not to shine a light on them. Namely, that Bibles were rare, costly, and time consuming to produce; a monk might spend his whole lifetime making a few copies.

Moreover, the difficulty of transcribing bibles by hand made them desirable treasures needing to be locked away from predatory hands. And in those days hardly anyone could read but those who were wealthy enough to be educated. If they could read, they most likely could read the universal language of Latin, which for centuries had united the many clashing and multi-lingual cultures of Europe.

Now there is a curious fact that is often forgotten, and in some ways is still practically, if not deliberately, hidden from public awareness: Johann Gutenberg, the inventor of typography, was a Catholic! And he made his first book publication the Bible because, as he said, "Religious truth is captive in a small number of little manuscripts which guard the common treasures, instead of expanding them. Let us break the seal which binds these holy things; let us give wings to truth that it may fly with the Word, no longer prepared at vast expense, but multitudes everlastingly by a machine which never wearies to every soul

who enters life."

A Catholic enabled the rapid printing of countless copies of the Catholic Bible (the Protestant Bible did not yet exist because Martin Luther had not yet arrived). Millions of Protestants for centuries to come would get easy access to the Scriptures thanks to a German Catholic. Alas, there was the dark side: that Protestantism immediately began to fragment itself into a thousand pieces because so many who could now afford to own and read the Bible disagreed with so many others who could own and read one.

By the end of Gutenberg's century there were more than one thousand printing presses in Europe, mostly in Germany, Italy, France, and Spain, all Catholic countries. The sudden burst of new developments in science over the next hundred years is chiefly due to the fact that Gutenberg's invention carried new scientific ideas inexpensively and swiftly from one culture to another, thereby allowing the immediate and systematic piling up of one scientific discovery after another. Likewise, the availability to the masses of cheaply produced literature was a spur not only to universal literacy, but also to the spread of democratic propaganda throughout Europe and the New World.

If there was a single inventor from 1400 to the present who had more impact on the world than any other, it was surely Johann Gutenberg. It is no small coincidence that Gutenberg, who gifted us with so many words fleshed in paper and ink, was called Johann, like his namesake John the Evangelist, who proclaimed that other Word who was made Flesh and gifted us with everlasting life.

## *Sisters Corner*

*By Sister Charlotte Lujan*

### **Holy Cross Retreat**

Have you ever been at Holy Cross Retreat Center in Mesilla Park, NM? It is a lovely place! The St. Francis Mission Sisters made their yearly retreat there in July. We were expecting very warm weather, but the Lord blessed us with rain and very pleasant days. One of the Sisters commented on how it reminded her of some beautiful Retreat Centers in Southern California.

One of the many blessings we have in our religious lives is our yearly six day retreat. We get together to pray, to celebrate the Eucharist, reflect on our lives as Religious and make resolutions for the coming year. It is a silent retreat, except for recreation at the evening meal. Retreat for us is a time of silence, of spending the day with the Lord, and listening to Him speak in our hearts.

Fr. Miguel Briseno, OFM Conventual, directed our retreat. The theme of the retreat was Francis, Clare and Scripture. As Franciscans we follow the Rule and Life of St. Francis which is Gospel Living. Fr. Miguel encouraged us to faithfulness in meditating on the Word of God. He said, "Meditate on the Word of God. Sit with the Word. It will shape your Lives." He spoke of Francis and Clare, our patron saints, and how they gave their lives totally to God and how we too must do the same.

We ended our retreat refreshed and ready for another year in the Lord's vineyard. We give thanks to God for His goodness to us and for the grace to follow in the footsteps of Jesus His Son, as Francis and Clare did many years ago.

## **Message** *(from Page One)*

The last bit of news I have to share is from Rome, Italy. Father Bill Anton will begin the Canon Law curriculum at the Gregorian University upon completion of his five-week Italian class. Please drop him a note and wish him well in his on-going studies. He can be reached by e-mail address at [wjanton@gmail.com](mailto:wjanton@gmail.com). If we are lucky, he might find time in the future to compose something for our newsletter.

Until January, wishing you a beautiful holiday season and a blessed Merry Christmas!

## Sr. Eden Marquez, MSLT

*CCE Director,  
Holy Spirit Parish*



Sister Eden is the fifth child in a family of six, with an additional six half brothers and sisters from the first wife of her father. She was born in the Philippine Islands in the mountainous region of Antique, which is surrounded by rivers and springs. Happy childhood memories include picking wild fruits and playing slide on palm branches down a hill with siblings and friends. She washed clothes at the river and enjoyed swimming with water buffalos during the summer. Her father died when she was five years old, and her mother raised the six children with many hardships and feelings of hopelessness, but they were thankful for their survival.

It was Sr. Eden's mother who made her aware of her vocation. "I was graduating from high school and not so sure what to take for college. 'Maybe you would like to be a nun,' mother said, while combing my hair. After five years I did make the decision to enter the convent because the Sisters wouldn't take me fresh from high school."

Sister Eden made her first vows on June 14, 1997, and her perpetual vows on April 26, 2005. She is part of the community of the Missionary Sisters of the Lord's Table (Mensa Domini Sisters), well known as the "yellow sisters" founded by a Dutch bishop of Antique, the late Bishop Cornelio de Wit.

She was assigned to different islands in the Philippines for nine years, with varied

apostolates in parishes and schools, "... until October 4, 2006, when the Holy Spirit brought me to the rolling plains of Lubbock, full of white cotton and black cows, and of course, wonderful and beautiful people. There's no place like home, but as a missionary, every place is my home."

Sister Eden likes to read about the lives of the saints. "Their lives inspire, confirm and challenge my own life as a Christian, as a religious... and most of all they give much hope to me in my daily struggle that I can be like them." Sister recommends, to any young person, the reading of the life of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. "She is the patron saint of missionaries even though she was a contemplative nun and had not been to any mission... Her answer to His call is always "yes" from the beginning to the end of her life."

Sister Eden began serving Holy Spirit Parish in December of 2006. She says "Every day is a day full of surprises and a call for thanksgiving." Asked what part of her work was the most inspiring, she comments: "I've been the CCE co-ordinator, and there's a special pleasure to see the children eager to learn about God and their faith. The cooperation of parents is awesome; so is the generosity of the catechists who share their time and talent. The support of the whole church family is truly heart-warming."



Fr. Bill Anton at Piazza San Pietro in Rome.

### Prayer for Serrans and Their Loved Ones

Robert Goyette  
John Gaschen  
Kristina Paniagua-Rios  
Connie Christy

*Dear Jesus, we know that  
good and holy priests,  
deacons and sisters  
are needed, and so we  
offer our cross united  
with yours for vocations.  
Merciful Lord, heal us  
and help us to love you  
and each other more  
and more, day by day.  
Amen*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Oct. 3** First Friday Rosary & Mass  
Christ the King Cathedral  
6:35 a.m.  
Holy Spirit Parish  
7:00 a.m.
- Oct. 8** Board Meeting  
Home of Judy Simmons  
7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 9** Lunch Meeting  
Lakeridge Country Club  
11:30 a.m.
- Oct. 9** Holy Hour for Vocations  
Christ the King Cathedral  
7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 31** Dinner Meeting  
Membership Drive  
Hanley Hall, St. Elizabeth's  
6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 7** First Friday Rosary & Mass  
Christ the King Cathedral  
6:35 a.m.  
Holy Spirit Parish  
7:00 a.m.
- Nov. 12** Board Meeting  
Christ the King Cathedral  
7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 13** Lunch Meeting  
Lakeridge Country Club  
11:30 a.m.
- Nov. 13** Holy Hour for Vocations  
Christ the King Cathedral  
7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 5** First Friday Rosary & Mass  
Christ the King Cathedral  
6:35 a.m.  
Holy Spirit Parish  
7:00 a.m.
- Dec. 10** Board Meeting  
Christ the King Cathedral  
7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 11** Holy Hour for Vocations  
Christ the King Cathedral  
7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 18** Mass & Dinner  
Christmas Meeting  
Bishop's Residence  
3507 37th St.  
5:30 p.m.

Date / Facility	Speaker / Topic
<b>October 31 Dinner</b> St. Elizabeth's Parish	<b>Bishop Placido Rodriguez, CMF</b> <i>Membership Drive</i>
<b>November 13 Luncheon</b> Lakeridge Country Club	<b>Fr. Gerry Leatham, St. Anthony's, Brownfield</b> <i>Vocations and the Missionary Apostolate</i>
<b>December 18, 5:30 p.m.</b> Bishop's Residence, 3507 37th St.	<b>Holy Mass in Bishop's Chapel</b> <i>Followed by Dinner</i>

# Junipero Serra

**Bronze statue by Ettore Cadorin.  
Given in 1931.  
Location: National Statuary Hall  
Washington, D.C.**

Each state is allowed two statues of important historic figures. Junipero Serra was chosen for California because he is regarded as the founder of the State.

By the end of his life he had established nine missions and laid the foundations for eleven more near which would grow the great cities of California: San Diego, Santa Clara, Santa Barbara, Carmel, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Serra also sent for grape vines from Spain and so began the industry which now produces the famous wines of California.



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## Serran Prayer for Vocations

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Blessed Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for Your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You In the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, Forever and ever, Amen.

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