



The Lubbock SERRAN

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

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President's Message

This year is already in full swing and seems like Christmas just barely passed. I would like to thank all of the membership once again for your generous contributions to the Bishop's Seminarian Burse. We had the largest contribution that I remember and it is all due to your generosity.



Brian Beachamp

We need to give Jim Cristy a big ATTABOY for heading up our tamale sales this year. We were able to sell 439 dozen thanks to your efforts. We also had plenty of help to pack, bag and distribute the product. Great example of many hands making light work. Thanks to all for your support.

The program committee met last week and looks like we are going to have some interesting programs coming this year. Cecelia Mendoza is chairman of the committee and she is doing a fine job. Any suggestions for a program are always welcome. Please pass your ideas along to Cecelia.

We have three new members who were inducted at our last meeting. Please take a moment to think of someone that you



Bishop Placido Rodriguez accepts a check from President Brian Beachamp at the Serra Club Christmas party for \$2,310 toward the cost of educating the seminarians of our diocese.

would like to see in the club. We all just need to follow up on the thought and invite them to our next meeting.

Remember your day for the 31 Club. Please continue to pray for vocations daily.



Filipino singers entertain by singing many favorite Christmas carols and songs.



Bishop Rodriguez shows off a Lubbock Serra Club rosary given to him at the Christmas party.

Prayers

David Buescher
Tony Buxkemper
Francis Silva
Clarisse McDonald

Father Jorge Rativa, O.P.

Interview by Carl Sundell

The new campus ministry chaplain for Texas Tech is Father Jorge Rativa, O.P. of St. Elizabeth's University Parish. Bishop Thomas Flanagan, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of San Antonio, ordained him a priest July 10, 2010. Father Jorge was born in 1970 in Tunja, Columbia. His father, who died thirteen years ago, was an auto mechanic whom he vividly remembers as very reverent in church. He would often be found kneeling and praying in silence. Father Jorge remembers well the advice his father liked to give him. "If you have friends, you will never be in need."

"When I was a little boy my mother, who is still living, taught me the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary, and prayed with me every day. From her I learned that whenever I had to make a decision, I should always listen to my heart. I have one sister and eight brothers. I was the youngest and the only one to choose the religious life. My mother thought that, being the youngest, I would be the one to stay closest to her in her later years. As it turned out, I was the first to leave her home town and to leave Columbia."

As a young student Jorge dreamed of being a teacher and having a family. "But after high school I became deeply involved in Bible studies, from which I got profound satisfaction and joy. After a while I began to go to different parishes in search of priests who gave good homilies rather than talks on current events. I found such a priest at one parish, the Dominican Father Luis Carlos Perea. One day, over coffee, Father Perea out of the blue invited me to become a Dominican. At that very moment for me the world I had lived in stopped, and a new world began."

In 1993 the young Jorge joined the Dominican Order of Preachers as a Brother and first served as a catechist minister in Tunja. He acquired a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and taught philosophy, geography, and history at a high school in Bogota between 1998-2000. In 2001 he received an invitation from the Dominican Province of St. Martin de Porres in the United States to continue his years of formation for the priesthood. Father Jorge acquired Master of Arts and Master of Divinity degrees from the Oblate School of



Fr. Jorge Rativa

Theology in San Antonio.

The title of his Master's thesis is "Pauline Pastoral Theology Applied to Contemporary United States Culturally Diverse Parishes."

In this paper Father Jorge analyzes the influence of the cultural background of the members of the community in their perception of wisdom and power (1 Cor 1:18-31), sexual abstinence (1 Cor 7:1-16, 25-40), and the custom of eating idol food (1 Cor 8:1-13). He also explores applications of Paul's theological principles to contemporary parishes that are experiencing conflict due to cultural diversity.

Father Jorge served as a Duke University campus ministry volunteer between December 2009 and May 2010. The regular attendance of Catholics at Sunday Mass at Duke was about 700. At Tech, he noted, the regular attendance is about 1,500. "My main responsibility is to attend to the pastoral, sacramental, and spiritual needs of the students. The greatest challenge is reaching out to Catholic students who are not fully engaged in being Catholic for various reasons, including peer pressure. Yet there have already been some shining

moments with several students, male and female, expressing interest in a vocation to the priesthood and the religious life. It would be very helpful if more Catholic members of the Tech faculty could be identified and enlisted in the cause of campus ministry."

Father Jorge would like to see more students involved in different ministries and participating in spiritual retreats. He is also hoping for a director of development who might be useful in managing fund-raising events and projects.

Asked which of the New Testament figures he would like to spend an hour with if he could, he chose Saint Paul. "Paul, as evidenced in the epistles, gave himself up completely to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He had a special difficulty that he grappled with, and that was the discord among the different churches in Corinth, some teaching one doctrine, others teaching contrary ones. In other words ... same problem, different people ... in today's Christian churches. I would like to know more about how Paul labored to unite the churches at Corinth."

Asked what books on spirituality Father Jorge favored, at the top of his list was *The Dialogue* by the Dominican tertiary St. Catherine of Sienna. *The Dialogue* denounced what was going on in the Church during the Avignon papacy and called for widespread reform of the Church. St. John of the Cross also came highly recommended. "Though he is not an easy read for many, his reflections on the 'dark night of the soul' are especially insightful." Father Jorge endorsed the writings of Henri Nouwen and praised them for "their spiritual enrichment that is the fruit of ministry."

Father Jorge keeps a journal of his own thoughts. "I just would like to narrate that some years ago, while I was in prayer, this thought came to my mind: 'Do not look outside for what is inside.' This thought has helped me to know more about myself and to go deeper in my prayer life." Father Jorge expresses profound gratitude in being called to serve the students at Texas Tech. "The students are helping me to grow in my own ministry, and they are a great blessing to me." And Father Jorge will surely be a great blessing to Lubbock, Texas.

Meet Jake Powell-Seminarian

Lubbock born and raised



Jake Powell

By Larry Craig

Jake Powell one of the handful of men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lubbock, was home for the holidays which gave us the opportunity to hear about his life, his calling and how it's going.

Jake, the 4th and youngest child of David and Debbie Powell, started his education as a preschooler at Trinity Christian School and continued there through his sophomore year. Jake transferred to Lubbock Coronado High School in order to participate in football. He ended up completing graduation requirements in his junior year. He then entered Texas Tech for one year taking basic academic courses, then entered a Franciscan seminary in Chicago as a postulate and then on to their seminary in Mishawaka, Indiana (very close to Notre Dame U.) for the novitiate year. At that point he reached the conclusion that he was better suited to be a diocesan priest and return to Tech for a year taking philosophy courses.

He entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, PA and is in his second year studying toward a BA in Philosophy which will take 2 years. Once completed he will then enter the 4-year Theology school. Often candidates are ordained to the priesthood at that point however the Lubbock Diocese has their candidates spend a year in a parish prior to ordination.

Thus, Jake remarked, he has 7 ½ years to go, "if it be God's will that I be ordained".

Life in the Seminary

There are 160 students enrolled at St. Charles Borromeo, 60 in the undergraduate program. They live in dorms 1 to a room with private bath. They have Saturdays off after morning prayers and Mass but do have a curfew. Many in the group enjoy sports such as playing pick-up basketball games.

Nearly all of the religious courses are taught by priests while core academics such as math, history, etc. are taught by lay educators.

Seminarians leave for Christmas, Easter and the summer. Jake will return to Lubbock for the summer and will likely be assigned to work in a parish.

Where did the desire to become a priest come from?

Jake was raised in a family environment where the Catholic faith was in forefront of daily life. His parents, David and Debbie, were roll models for Jake but he was never pressured toward a vocation. The Catholic belief is that God calls those he wants to serve. In Jake's case that happened at a very young age. He has wanted to be a priest since he was in the 3rd grade.

As Jake Powell continues his studies, the Serrans pray for him and with him Godspeed.

Annual Tamale Sale Wrap-up

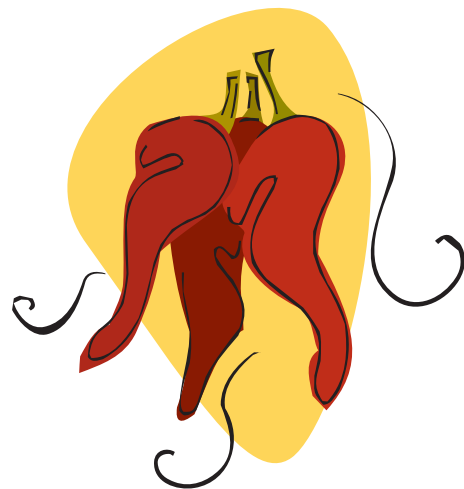
By Jim Christy

The Lubbock Serra Club's second annual Christmas tamale fundraiser was a resounding success thanks to the cooperative effort of all the membership. Starting in early October, plans were put on track for members to sell to friends, relatives and fellow parishioners. They responded by purchasing a total of 439 dozen, before and after assigned Sunday Masses at Holy Spirit Church, St. Elizabeth's, St. John Neumann and Christ the King Churches.

After all expenses, the Serra Club cleared over \$1,400 which will be used to help fund ongoing projects, such as the annual Sisters Appreciation Banquet, assisting other religious and Diocesan Seminarians, etc.

President Brian Beauchamp and I thank all the members who bought, sold, and assisted in the distribution which went quite smoothly with pick up at St. Elizabeth's Hanly Hall. The Serra Club thanks St. Elizabeth's parish for their continued help and support of our mission goals.

The Annual Tamale Sale is the only fundraiser sponsored by the Serra club of Lubbock. We welcome any suggestions for improvement and apologize to those who called after the deadline for prepaid orders. Thank you to all the folks that supported this project. With your continual support, the Serra Club looks forward to making this an event to last many years.



Christmas Party Photos



Date / Facility	Speaker / Topic
January 28, Dinner Hanly Hall, St. Elizabeth's	Jose Martinez <i>Be Holy For I Am Holy</i>
February 10, Luncheon Merket Alumni Center, TTU	Fr. Emiliano Zapata <i>Dominicans at St. Elizabeth's Parish</i>
February 25, Dinner Hanly Hall, St. Elizabeth's	John Rodgers <i>Important Truths for Life</i>
March 10, Luncheon Merket Alumni Center, TTU	To Be Announced
March 25, Dinner Hanly Hall, St. Elizabeth's	Deacons in Formation <i>Update on Class</i>

Serra Programs: Jan. ~ March 2011
(Gathering time for the luncheons is 11:30 A.M. and for the dinners is 6:30 P.M.)

New Members Inducted



Induction ceremony for new Serra members, from left to right holding candles: Rey Torres, Maria Vega, and Beverly Sowell. Presiding at the ceremony were Ed Sears, Pete Paniagua, and President-elect Al Arreloa.

