



The Lubbock SERRAN

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President's Message

2012 seems to be moving right along. I guess the big news with Serra is the ongoing conflict between Serra International and Serra USA.

It appears that the Board of Directors for



Brian Beachamp

Serra International is seriously considering dropping the lawsuit against Serra USA but they are not quit there yet. They passed a motion to enter into a meaningful dialog with Serra USA and hopefully this will lead to a final resolution. The thought of precious resources being wasted on a lawsuit instead of promoting vocations is incomprehensible to me. We pray for a quick resolution. Your officers voted last meeting to withhold International dues until the lawsuit is dropped.

Our program committee has done a nice job of scheduling speakers for the balance of the year. We have some great programs coming. I'd sure like to thank Cecilia and Al for the efforts here.

We will be doing the College Connection program again this year for graduating high school seniors. This is the program that will give the students information on the Catholic campus ministry for the college they will be attending.

Gary Simmons, our vocation program chairman is leading this effort. We are trying to reach the high school seniors in four Lubbock parishes so he can use your help.

Thanks for all your support of vocations here in West Texas.

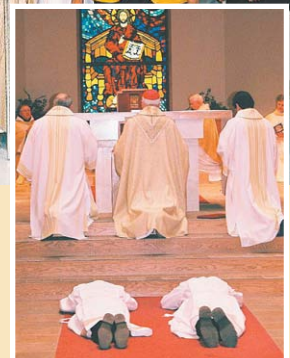
Seminarians Ordained to the Deaconate



Brian Wood, Bishop Placido Rodriguez and Joseph Palacios



Pictured above are some of the Serrans in attendance along with the Bishop, seminarians Brian Wood and Joseph Palacios, and Brian's parents, Carolyn and Richard Wood.



Father Rudolf Crasta - 'Love Sometimes Hurts'

On August 23, 1964 Rudolf Crasta was the fourth of eight children born to Thomas and Cecilia Crasta of Kalasa, a small town in the western high ranges of the State of Karnataka in India. Thomas Crasta, a "self-made man," was a public school principal who was strict with others, but no more so than he was with himself. In his youth Thomas was subject to a strong Franciscan influence and had considered becoming a priest. He did not follow through, but later in his own way "pastored" local Catholics by providing the large upstairs room in his home to serve as the town's Catholic Church. He was particularly devoted to Mary, Joseph, and St. Francis of Assisi. Thomas' ancestors had been Catholics for five centuries, so he was glad to encourage his six sons to become a priest, though only one did. Father Rudy today recognizes that he is most indebted to his father for the shaping of his own personality and for encouraging him to become a priest. "Look at me," he says, "and you see my father."

Young Rudy's mother was a strong willed personality. She knew how to deal with a strong willed husband. Rudy favored his mother over his father because she was easier to take. Sewing, church, and family were her whole life. "A member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, she would describe herself as a 'beggar for the poor.' She gave her all to the lowest class of society. She constantly spoke words of kindness to all the poor, but she spoke to no one a whole year before she died."

The Indian tradition is that you have to choose the course of your life by the time you have finished the 10th grade. At the age of fifteen Rudy chose to become a diocesan priest. He first had two years of orientation at St. Theresa's Minor Seminary in Ajmer, Rajasthan, a northwestern state bordering Pakistan; then followed two years of philosophy at St. Charles Seminary in Nagpur, Maharashtra India. He spent four years of theology at St. Charles Seminary at Nagpur where he enjoyed studying Scripture and Canon Law, more so because of the great professors than the subject matter. One of Rudy's best friends in the seminary was Thomas Mcwan, who later became a bishop.

During Father Rudy's seminary years the full impact of Vatican II had been keenly felt throughout the Catholic world. Many seminarians and their professors were confused as a result of regular trial-and-error changes in the Church resulting from the



Father Rudy and friends after Mass at South Plains College

influence of super-liberal theologians. "I learned a lot more traditional theology as a priest than as a seminarian. But as a priest I was assigned so many diverse duties that I hungered for more direct development of my own spirituality and the spirituality of my parishioners."

Archbishop Leobard of Nagpur ordained Father Rudy a deacon in 1987. On April 23, 1989 Bishop Ignatius Menezes ordained him a priest at Holy Family Church in Dharwad, Karnataka. From 1989 to 1991 Father Rudy was given four different assignments. Again, from 1991 to 1994 he was given three more assignments. From 1994 to 1998 he was given five more assignments, for a total of twelve assignments in less than ten years.

In 1993 he visited his brother, then a student at Texas Tech, and was greeted warmly by Father Michael O'Dwyer and Monsignor Curtis Halfmann. During a later visit to Lubbock, asked if he would like to stay, Father Rudy accepted his assignment to St. John Neumann parish and worked on the papers required to join the Diocese. Msgr. Antonio Gonzalez was very helpful in getting all the legal formalities to help him to work in this Diocese.

Subsequently he was made Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Grace church in Lubbock for two years. From 2001 to 2002 he was pastor at three churches in Paducah, Floydada, and Matador. From 2002 to 2009 he was pastor at St. Margaret Mary and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Lamesa. During that period he was also the Catholic chaplain for the prisoners at the Preston Smith State Prison. Since 2009 he has been pastor at St. Michael's in Levelland and

San Isidor in Sundown. He also serves as Catholic chaplain at South Plains College in Levelland.

Asked what has been the most rewarding part of his ministry, Father Rudy says, "There is nothing so gratifying as touching the lives of people with God's grace. I have grown a lot with the help of my parishioners. They have taught me how to love, and even how it sometimes hurts to love. I have been amazed too at how prisoners have found their way to God, being transformed from prison gangs into Christian disciples. Some of them got really well versed in scripture, and a few became so liturgically conservative they even insisted on being given the Mass in Latin. I could not oblige because that would have divided the many who wanted the English Mass against the few who wanted the Tridentine Mass."

One of the spiritual writers Father Rudy most admires is Cardinal John Henry Newman, especially his sermons and autobiography, *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*. "He had great clarity of thought and eloquence of style." Here are some typical quotes from Newman. "We can believe what we choose. We are answerable for what we choose to believe." "Virtue is its own reward, and brings with it the truest and highest pleasure; but if we cultivate it only for pleasure's sake, we are selfish, not religious, and will never gain the pleasure, because we can never have the virtue." "If we are intended for great ends, we are called to great hazards." The Cardinal's discourse on Mary, Our Mother and the Hour of Adoration have deeply touched Father Rudy's life.

(see **Father Rudy**, Page 3)

Serra's College Connection Program Is Truly Important

A Catholic for Applied Research Association (CARA) Study in 2005, showed that young Catholics that practiced their faith in college...

- Attended Mass more often
- Became leaders in their parishes
- Were more likely to consider a religious vocation

Other studies show:

- College freshman are likely to make their "best" friends during their first few weeks on campus.

- During the first 1-5 weeks, most students will join the organizations they belong to for their college years.

The obvious conclusion: Increasing the number of students participating in campus ministry should greatly benefit the Church in many ways. We believe if students get an invitation to a Catholic event early, they are more likely to attend. If young people have a friend to go to Mass and Catholic events with, they are more likely to go. Therefore,

we want one of the first organizations they join to be Catholic and some of their "best" friends to be Catholic.

Because increasing the number of incoming freshmen participating in Campus Ministry or the nearest parish as soon as possible is important, the College Connection for Catholics (CCC) was developed. It is a simple concept. We want to connect each incoming student with the college campus ministry programs (Newman Club, St. Paul's Outreach, FOCUS) on his/her campus and connect the college campus ministers with the incoming freshmen.

A simple procedure:

- Solicit high school graduate's name, address and college selection & location
- Enter this data into the collegeconnectionforcatholics.org website or contact Administrator for assistance
- Print from website and deliver campus ministry packet to student.
- Database automatically forwards

information to campus ministers.

We know: Catholic young people are losing their faith in college. We have a chance to make a difference. We want YOU to be part of the solution to WHY SERRA'S COLLEGE CONNECTION FOR CATHOLICS IS SO IMPORTANT.

Prayer for Vocations

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and divine love, impart Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel to youth, that they may know the vocation wherein they can best serve God. Give them courage and strength to follow God's holy will. Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen their resolutions, shield their chastity, fashion their minds, conquer their hearts, and lead them to the vineyards where they will labor in God's holy service. Amen.

Farther Rudy Crasta

(from Page 2)

Reflecting on the state of the Catholic Church in India, Father Rudy notes, "It is fairly easy to be a Catholic there. Only 2% (twenty million) of the population identify as Christian, but most are Catholic. The tendency for persecution, wherever it exists, is from the Hindus toward Christians and Muslims. Christian missionary work seems to be at a standstill since Vatican II, though it had been fairly dynamic before then. Somehow the new trends in theology, the message given that other religions also have in them some of the merits of the gospel, seemed to take the wind out of missionary work. It may take martyrs and great sacrifice to make progress once again."

As to his view on the greatest crisis facing modern Christianity: "I think we need to focus more on the message Jesus has given us to proclaim. The world is distracting us from our mission as Christians, so we priests are only with great difficulty able to bring our people to the main attraction, which should be Jesus. There is too much involvement of priests in non-religious matters. Priests need to focus on Christ as an alternative to the big social issues that

distract people from attending to their own salvation."

Other than the virtue of love, Father Rudy regards humility as the most important of virtues. "Humility was the virtue of Jesus and Mary. As John the Baptist said, 'He must increase, but I must decrease.' It is by humility that the power of love is magnified. I am mesmerized by the humility of Christ on the cross. Humility is needed for us all, clergy, religious, and laity. Lord knows, I need more of it. The priest is allowed to disagree with his bishop, but when he has met with the bishop and explained his case, and the bishop has answered, the priest must submit with a simple 'Yes.' Dialogue should exist on both sides, but obedience is required on one side.

"We Americans have so much in abundance we have forgotten how to be humble. We cannot blame the general decline of humility on Vatican II, but we can see that the role of the priest has been diminished since then, and the role of the laity has been empowered by taking on some of the duties once relegated only to the priesthood ... leaving the priest stranded

between two great power points ... bishop and laity. This may partly account for the diminished number of vocations to the priesthood. The revered role of the priest does not stand out like it used to, so that fewer men are drawn toward it. Much of this is due to the spread of liberalism throughout the Church. Catholics tend now to put their humility aside and become their own theologians. Some even choose to reject the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist."

Asked which of the New Testament figures he would like to spend an hour with if he could, Father Rudy said, "My favorite is Paul, but I'd like to spend an hour with Peter. I'd like to know the man who knew Jesus best, and on whom Jesus showered so much of his attention in the Gospels. I'd like to know the man who walked on water at the command of Jesus, whose feet Jesus washed, and on whom, with all his human frailties and failings, Jesus lavished his forgiveness and his love."

The Serrans of Lubbock thank you, Father Rudy, for sharing the story of your life, and for your reflections on being a priest.

Serra's Founders

In 1923, P. Daniel Rooney was a member of the Knights of Columbus and Frank Barrett was a Grand Knight in Seattle. Together they attended a public speaking class in 1933, and in 1934 they likewise served in a luncheon club called the Aquinas Club, and were involved in the support of the building of Seattle's St Edward's Seminary. From this beginning, four close friends began meeting for lunch in 1934 and would become the founders of the Serra Club — Harold E. Haberlie, P. Daniel Rooney, Leo F. Sharkey and Richard B Ward.

Although the four founders met a number of times during the fall, the first recorded meeting took place on Dec. 5, 1934. The original four members were all executives of high standing of both church laity and business who were allowed to take one and a half hours for lunch. They planned a luncheon club of quality Catholic professional and businessmen.

The four founders and their wives met at Leo Sharkey's home on Dec. 27, 1934 to formulate the constitution and bylaws for the first Serra Club in Seattle. Harold E. Haberle was appointed to serve as the initial President of the group. Richard Ward, a 25-year-old attorney, was responsible for drafting the constitution and bylaws of Serra, and completed the writing on Vashon Island, his weekend retreat.

After this evening meeting in late December, it was decided that each member would invite another Catholic professional friend to lunch in January, essentially starting the "Each One Bring One" program, and thus constituting a group of eight members present at the first official lunch meeting of the newly formed club in Seattle, Washington.

Article taken with permission from "A History of Serra International" by Albert G. Giordano, PhD, KHS. ISBN: 97806155401. A copy of this book may be purchased for \$29.95. Make checks payable to Serra History, P.O. Box 3673, Carmel, CA 93921

Prayers

+Rev. Johnrose Hayden
Alice Craig
Steve Rampey

| Date / Facility | Speaker / Topic |
|--|---|
| February 9, Luncheon Merket Alumni Center - TTU | Patty Douglass <i>Becoming a Catholic</i> |
| February 24, Dinner Hanly Hall, St. Elizabeth's | Lawrence D'Sousa <i>The Nurturing Center</i> |
| March 8, Luncheon Merket Alumni Center - TTU | Marty Martin <i>Diocese Chancellor</i> |
| March 30, Dinner Hanly Hall, St. Elizabeth's | TBA |
| April 12, Luncheon Merket Alumni Center - TTU | Richard and Elaine Ybarra <i>Directors of Marriage & Family Life</i> |
| April 27, Dinner Hanly Hall, St. Elizabeth's | Deacon Leroy Behnke TBA |
| May 10, Luncheon Merket Alumni Center - TTU | TBA |
| May 25, Dinner Hanly Hall, St. Elizabeth's | Officer Installation |
| Serra Programs: Feb. ~ May 2012 (Gathering time for the luncheons is 11:30 A.M. and for the dinners is 6:30 P.M.) | |

Serra Christmas Party



Philippino singers entertain with Christmas carols at party.



Bishop receives check for seminarian burse.



Fr. Heriberto accepting gift from club.