

Steeple Talk

Volume 6, No. 6

August 5, 2012

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Fr. Franklin Epie, visiting priest from Cameroon, has been saying this Mass while the parish priests are on vacation.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Nancy McGaraghan offers a reflection on the Sunday readings about once a month.

8:45 Sunday Mass: The baptism of 6-month old Adelene Sevelo, niece of John & Lani Eke, leaders of the Eke Family Choir, is being held today..

10:30 Sunday Mass: Monique Castell and Charlotte Gross are coordinating the hospitality gathering after this Mass each week. Offer them your help!

12:00 Sunday Mass: Mass is sung in Gregorian chant by the congregation and the St. Ann Choir, with Renaissance polyphony..

12:15 Daily Mass: Downtown workers are frequently in attendance at this Mass..

Italian Dinner a success:

At this writing, plans for the 2nd Annual Italian Dinner at the Thomas House on August 4 are coming to fruition. Purchases are being made for the gourmet menu of antipasti, spaghetti with homemade Italian sausage Bolognese sauce or zesty vegetarian marinara, and a polenta (gluten-free) option, accompanied by freshly tossed salad, bread and dessert of spumoni and biscotti.

Reservations for tables on the main floor of the Thomas House for those who need to avoid the stairs into the basement hall have reached capacity. (about 36 guests). The main venue for the dinner is the Basement Hall, where a full capacity crowd of 80 is expected.

The planning committee, headed by Ted Baer and supported by Helen Baumann, Anna Jaklitsch, Christina Anaya, Bob Barron and Kay Williams, spent the week of July 30 figuring out how to place the tables upstairs, where to have the cash bar, where to buy the various foods that will make the "Italian" part of the meal authentic, how to decorate to the theme, etc.

Bob Barron, STA Site Committee rep to the Pastoral Stewardship Council and tenant in one of the upstairs apartments, will help Ted purchase the liquor—and Bob has drafted several of his relatives from Fresno to come to town to meet us all and to help with the dinner! His daughter Gabrielle, two of her



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cousins and Bob's aunt will be on hand, helping tend bar and wait on tables for the guests on the main floor.

The STA Site Committee is grateful for the support of parishioners who attend the dinner, relish the food, and contribute to the community enjoyment of this event.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
2nd Thursday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Thursday, August 9, 2012
7:30 p.m., Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):
• Italian Dinner re-cap
• Kitchen improvements

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 2nd Thursday

Editor: Kay Williams, 650-328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net

Thomas House update:

Upkeep is constant:

A leaking toilet in an upstairs bathroom created a problem in the Thomas House kitchen ceiling last month. Parish maintenance supervisor Godofredo Alfaro was called in for a quick repair; he had to cut a hole in the kitchen ceiling to get to the light fixture through which the water was trickling. In the course of his repair work, he installed some fluorescent lights in the kitchen, substituting for the less luminous, more decorative fixtures that were

installed during the house renovations. He still has to patch the ceiling where the third light will go and intends to put in a panel that is easily removable, so access to the wiring in the ceiling will be eased, in case of future leaks, etc. The ultimate result for kitchen users is much more light on the kitchen counters—a welcome improvement for many of us who spend time in that kitchen!

STA Library:

Ted Baer and his team of librarians continue to work enthusiastically and diligently, cataloguing the hundreds of books donated to the Thomas House library.

Groups that meet in the Thomas House library are often distracted by the varied selection of books right at hand. Stop by after Mass and take a look!

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. THOMAS
AQUINAS CHURCH SITE COMMITTEE**

751 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:

Ted Baer	Bob Barron	Helen Baumann
Philip Boudart	Lorraine Dabney	Judy Foley
Anna Jaklitsch	Bill Mahrt	Bob March
Mike McMahon	Bea Peterson	Patti Robison
Mario Veloro	Kay Williams	and occasional others

Mission Statement: The Site Committee for St. Thomas Aquinas Church works to encourage community-building within our six individual Mass communities, among our Mass communities, and within the larger parish community. We do this by enhancing our liturgies, exercising responsible stewardship of our facilities, and working to improve communications at all levels of our parish community.

Site committee meetings are (usually) held the 2nd Thursday of the month in the Library of the Thomas House. All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, 328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net.

Parish pathways:

Pastoral Stewardship Council takes a break in August:

There will be no August meeting of the Pastoral Stewardship Council in August, allowing for vacationing members to recreate without guilt, not the least of whom is Fr. Matt, who will be on Maui next week.

PSC meeting of July 11:

There was continued discussion of our parish response to the proposal from the International School of the Peninsula to construct a middle-school building and other improvements at the OLR site. Also, the PSC reps, on behalf of the PSC, but not yet the entire parish, voted to endorse the SAFE campaign to end the death penalty in CA and to replace it with a sentence of life imprisonment without possibility of parole. There is continuing interest on the part of the Human Concerns Ministry to engage the whole parish in the dialogue necessary for us to speak on this issue as a parish.

Save your old shoes:

In September, the Human Concerns Committee will collect used and new adult and children's shoes for Soles4Souls which distributes shoes world-wide to people in need of crisis relief as well as to support micro-business efforts in impoverished areas.

Parish staff anniversaries:

This year several of our parish staff celebrate special anniversaries of serving the parish community of St. Thomas Aquinas: Nora Lundin (Director of Liturgy & Music) 5 years; Irene Holowchak (Asst. to the Business Manager) 10 years; Godofredo Alfaro (Maintenance Supervisor) 20 years; Dr. Bill Mahrt (Choir Director) 25 years. Many more happy years!

Monday, August 20:

The Pastoral Center will be Closed for a special Summer Holiday on Monday, August 20. The Mass schedule remains unchanged.

From the church steps:

Reminder on available parking:

There are 15 off-street parking spaces in a gravel lot behind the Homer House. Access is provided by a driveway from Homer Street directly behind the church. The concrete driveway has 4 handi-capped parking spaces on the left and the gravel parking lot is down a slight slope past the carport on the right.

Also, on Sunday, we may park in the Waverley Surgery Center parking lot just a few yards up Waverley St. towards downtown, on the same side of the street as the church. Turn into the lot and go down the slope to the lower level parking area.

Bicycle parking: The weather is perfect—it's time to bike to church!. There is a bike parking rack behind the church alongside the driveway off Homer Street.

St. Thomas Interior Committee:

Ranger Construction has been selected to do the renovation work in the church, which mostly entails changes to the altar platform. The construction is now planned to be done from mid-November to mid-December.

The committee has also been working with a lighting designer who has given them plans to switch out almost all of the lights to LED. They will be soft and dimmable—not the glaring blue white that most think of when you say LED.

The committee continues to work with the Liturgical Interior Designer and Sound experts. Once the committee has something to share with the community, they will have a "show and tell" in the Thomas House.

—Judy Foley

St. Ann Choir at STA on August 15:

August 15, Wednesday evening, 8:00 p.m. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, sung Latin Mass, William Byrd, *Mass for Three Voices*, with Gregorian chants for the solemnity.

Mass schedule for Assumption of Mary, holy day of obligation:

Tuesday, August 14: Vigil Mass for the Assumption, STA, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, August 15:

7:15 am at St. Thomas Aquinas

8:30 am at Our Lady of the Rosary

12:15 pm at St. Thomas Aquinas

7:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary (Spanish)

7:00 pm at St. Albert the Great

8:00 pm at St. Thomas Aquinas

(Gregorian)