

Steeple Talk

Volume 5, No. 1

February 20, 2011

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Fr. Randy Valenton, the new parochial vicar, celebrated this Mass for the first time this week.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Bea and Bill Peterson are regular sacristans. Are you interested in helping? Ask Bea!

8:45 Sunday Mass: Anna Jaklitsch schedules a cadre of volunteers who greet and pass out bulletins each week.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Music minister Paul Prochaska welcomes musicians and singers interested in participating in liturgical music.

12:00 Sunday Mass: Prof. William Mahrt, who directs the St. Ann Choir (Gregorian), was interviewed by the Church Music Association of America: <http://musicoftheliturgy.org/cmaa>. Learn more about the place of Gregorian chant in Catholic liturgy.

12:15 Daily Mass: Stop in for Mass on your lunch hour and stay on for the Rosary.

Thomas House a-buildin':

Construction work inside the Thomas House is proceeding apace, with a completion date of the end of March in view. Various parish community groups are getting ready to host meetings, study groups, hospitality hours, and parties in this former rectory, eager to use the building to its fullest

capacity. Bridal parties, too, will find lovely spaces in which to prepare for the wedding ceremony.



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

[Photos by Chuck Tully, parish business manager]

In the meantime, hospitality hours and Gregorian choir practice are taking place in the Homer House downstairs apartment—welcome shelter during the winter months.



STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
4th Wednesday of the month..

Next meeting:
Wednesday, February 23, at the home of Helen Baumann, 151 Coleridge St., Palo Alto

Agenda:
-Thomas House opening and furnishings
-Fund-raising projects

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th/5th Wednesday

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

New parochial vicar Fr. Randy Valenton:

Fr. Randy Suarez Valenton was born in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija in the Philippines. He is the youngest of six children. He finished his B.S. in Psychology at St. Joseph's College in Quezon City, Philippines and his B.A. in Philosophy at Pontificia Universitas Urbaniana in Rome. In the Philippines, he worked as a field researcher for the NSO (National Statistics Office) and as a Customer Care

Specialist for MERALCO (Manila Electric Company). In 2000, Fr. Randy came to the U.S. and joined the Diocese of San Jose. While at St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park, he earned a B.A. in Sacred Theology, and M.A. in Theology, then a Master of Divinity and Clinical Pastoral Education in St. Mary's Hospital in Reno, Nevada, and finally his M.A. in Pastoral Ministries/ Spirituality at Santa Clara University. In June 2006, Fr. Randy was or-

dained to the priesthood by Bishop Patrick McGrath. Prior to his diaconate ordination, he served for a year at St. Julie Billiard Parish and was in charge of the hospital ministry at Santa Teresa Kaiser. After ordination in 2006, Fr. Randy became parochial vicar of St. Maria Goretti Parish for three years, working in youth ministry, pastoral care, outreach program, liturgy and faith formation. In July 2009, Fr. Randy moved to St. Simon Parish until January 2011.

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

751 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:

Ted Baer	Helen Baumann	Philip Boudart
Anna Jaklitsch	Lorraine Dabney	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 4th Wednesday of the month in the basement hall of the Thomas House (suspended during construction). All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, 328-2781, kay-will@pacbell.net.

Parish pathways:

Adult Spiritual Education, Tuesdays, 7 pm, SAG Center:
Tuesday February 22: Emotions and Spirituality with psychologist, and fellow Catholic, Veronica Schneider. Can our faith be impacted by our emotions? What can we do with strong feelings of guilt, sadness and fear? How do we offer God-pleasing support to loved ones going through difficult times?

Tuesday, March 1: The Byzantine Rite with Father Anthony Hernandez. Father Anthony and the parishioners of Saint Basil the Great Byzantine Catholic Church share the worship space at Saint Albert the Great with our community. Come and learn about this form of Catholic worship. How is it the same; how is it different? Do they follow the Pope? What are their roots? What about Eastern Orthodox forms? What and

who is a Patriarch? Why are we separate? Please join us for a very informative evening.

Wednesday, February 23: Parish Lector Training: We will be hosting another Lector Training and Refresher at Our Lady of the Rosary Church at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 23. Anyone who missed the last training is encouraged to attend, but all lectors (and future lectors) are welcome.

SAG cell phone tower: The cell phone tower proposed by AT&T between the church and the rectory has not yet been approved by the City (as of 2/16/11).

Dermody Center at OLR: A committee is being formed to advise the PSC on a proposal from the International School of the Peninsula to do lease improvements on the Dermody Center for an expanded middle school.

From the church steps:

Relic of St. Mary Magdalene at STA February 22: For two weeks in February a relic of St. Mary Magdalene (a major piece of her tibia enclosed in a glass tube) will visit churches in Northern California. Father Thomas Michelet, a French Dominican priest, will escort the relic from Oakland to Southern California, coming to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Palo Alto on Tuesday, February 22nd for Veneration beginning at 12:00 noon with the regular weekday Mass at 12:15 pm and a Special Mass at 6:00 pm. Hours of Veneration will end at 8 pm. The purpose of the tour, which continues through March 15th, is to share the holiness of the relic and to tell the story of the saint who is recorded as the first witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. She is often referred to as Apostle to the Apostles. Tradition has it that

Mary's final years were spent in solitude in southern France; her physical remains were hidden at the time of the Saracen invasions, rediscovered in 1279 and venerated ever since.

Monthly Book Club in the Spirit of Vatican II:

In the spirit of Vatican II and Thomas Merton, we are looking for people interested in participating in a book club —focused on commentary from Vatican II and many of its contemporary writers like Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, and John XXIII. The time, frequency, and location have yet to be set but some ideas are: begin during Lent, meet monthly, and with the Thomas House comple-



tion that may be a possible location. If interested in the Club, please call Bob Foley 650-322-8650 or email bob.foley@gmail.com.

Ash Wednesday Masses at STA:

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 9. There will be four Masses at STA on Ash Wednesday, with distribution of ashes at each one: 7:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. (the latter sung in Gregorian chant with Renaissance motets).

STA Interior Committee update:

Judy Foley and John Arnold of the STA Interior Committee met recently with Mike Kastrop, the architect who has been retained by the parish to provide the Phase One drawings of the altar redesign for the City of Palo Alto.