

# Steeple Talk

Volume 5, No. 10

November 27, 2011

## *News from the STA Mass communities:*

**7:15 Daily Mass:** Volunteer sacristans are needed to help with the tasks of opening and shutting the church and getting the altar ready for Mass. Contact Arlen Hagen, (650) 493-8139.

**7:30 Sunday Mass:** Bea and Bill Peterson are regular sacristans. Are you interested in helping? Ask Bea, (650) 843-0866.

**8:45 Sunday Mass:** Meeting of lectors on Dec. 4 after Mass about 10:30 in the Thomas House..

**10:30 Sunday Mass:** After 7 years of dissertation work, lector Joe Kott has just been awarded a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Transport Planning from Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia. He did his research here in the US, but has gone to Perth each year for short residential stays since 2004. His research "home" in Australia is the Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute.

**12:00 Sunday Mass:** The St. Ann Choir sings Mass in Latin on Dec. 8 (Immaculate Conception) at 8:00 p.m., *Missa Ave Maris Stella* by Tomás Luis de Victoria.

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

## St. Thomas Aquinas then and now:



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS IN 1911



Thomas House & STA church in 2011

Have you read this description of St. Thomas Aquinas church on the parish website ([www.paloaltocatholic.org](http://www.paloaltocatholic.org))?

"Started in 1901 and completed in 1902, St. Thomas Aquinas Church is the oldest church in Palo Alto and is a registered historic landmark. Its distinctive carpenter gothic style makes it a signature building for the downtown area. The church is located just three blocks south of University Avenue. At the corner of Waverley Street and Homer Avenue, it's at the northern edge of the historic "Professorville" area of the city."



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

The photo from 1911 shows the church structure unimpeded by trees or power lines. The 2011 view, taken Nov. 23 from approximately the same angle, is obscured by palm trees and other vegetation. And the rectory building of 1911 was replaced in 1928 by the building we know as the Thomas House.

## *STA Site Committee plans:*

### **Monthly Meeting:**

1st Thursday of the month (This is a change from 4th Wednesday.)

### **Next regular Site meeting:**

Thursday, December 1, 7:30 p.m.,  
Thomas House living room

### **Agenda:**

- **Thomas House furniture**
- **Storage space for groups**
- **Usage guidelines**

### **Monthly newsletter:**

Sunday before 1st Thursday

**Editor:** Kay Williams, 650-328-2781, [kaywill@pacbell.net](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net)

## Thomas House update:

**New black folding chairs** have been received and set up in the Thomas House and are much appreciated. The chairs are made in Utah by the Mity-Lite Corporation. Incorporating a patented design, Mity-Lite produces portable seating with an incredibly durable, lightweight, and comfortable mesh chair. Durably constructed in the USA from 16-gauge, cold-rolled steel, high-impact structural nylon, and commercial-grade "RipStop" mesh, the

Mesh-One model weighs 20% less than upholstered folding chairs, is easy to handle and nests securely when stored. The comfortable mesh material conforms to each individual's unique shape, minimizes pressure points, and truly becomes the one chair that fits every body.

### **Handicapped entrance:**

Installation of the new, wider back door at the top of the handicapped ramp leading

into the Bride's Room will be complete by December 1. With that door installed, the Thomas House renovation project will be finished.

**Furniture pieces** still needed include a solid dining table in a mission style, a parsons style table or sofa table for the main foyer, and small side tables for the living room. Contact Ted Baer at (650) 321-6179, [tabaer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tabaer@sbcglobal.net) for review and pick up.

## 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	Judy Foley	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 1st Thursday of the month in the dining room of the Thomas House. All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, 328-2781, [kaywill@pacbell.net](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net).

## Parish pathways:

Spirituality Tuesday Assemblies continue in December—at SAG Hospitality Center at 7 p.m.

### November 29: Holy Virgin: Mother of God, with Father Anthony Hernandez.

The Eastern Church has a strong devotion to the Mother of God, but in many ways it is different from popular devotion to her in the Western Church. Father Anthony, pastor of Saint Basil Byzantine Rite Catholic Church, will explore these differences with us.

### December 6: Key Moments in the History of the Catholic Church, with Father Matt Stanley.

Continuing with the next video in this EPIC series, *Councils, Decay and Mission*, we will learn that the 4th century brought rapid expansion of Christianity in the Roman Empire. Everyone must be a Christian but what should they believe? Without guidance, controversies emerge. Official councils of bish-

ops were called to answer challenges to what would become the orthodox beliefs of the Church. As Rome falls, the Church continues; developing a “theory of mission” in response to the invading forces. How did the turbulent times change the Church? Join Father Matt and fellow parishioners as this fascinating saga continues.

### Taizé Prayer at SAG Dec. 1 & 15:

Taizé is an opportunity to take a few moments for yourself and for your soul. Taizé uses the psalms, scripture, songs and silence with simple to learn and sing music, song and chants.. This form of prayer service originated in the small town of Taizé, France in 1940 and is ecumenical in origin. Learn more at the introductory pre-session at SAG Hospitality Room; 7 pm Thursday, December 1st; Taizé service to follow in Saint Albert the Great Church. A second evening on Dec. 15 starts in the church.

## From the church steps:

### Friday gardening at STA:

The STA Garden Committee is continuing with its planned gardening sessions—working in the gardens around the church building for one hour after the first Friday morning Mass each month.

Thank you to Vicki Sullivan, Helen Baumann, Patti Robison, and Mary Gallagher. They are working with the parish maintenance staff to keep the weeds down, plant, and prune as needed. Helpers are welcome to join them at any time—call Helen, (650) 327-9236, or Vicki, (650) 327-5339.

### California Ballot Initiative

On December 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> volunteers from California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty will be seeking signatures in support of the initiative to replace the death penalty with Life Imprisonment without Possibility of Pa-

role. They will be on the sidewalk outside St. Thomas Aquinas Church. If sufficient signatures are gathered (over 500,000) the initiative would be on the ballot for the November 2012 General Election.

If the Initiative is successful a fund would be created which would set aside \$30 million per year for 3 years to solve unsolved murders and unsolved rapes in California, of which there are unsolved each year 46% and 56% respectively.

By ending the death penalty it is estimated that the state would save \$1 billion in 5 years without releasing a single prisoner. For more information please contact: Terry 650-324-7517, [terrymc@igc.org](mailto:terrymc@igc.org)

### St. Thomas Aquinas Interior Committee:

Judy Foley, chairperson of the STA Interior Committee reports: “There are so many steps and approvals to go through with this project that I am not sure when the [construction] start date will be. Right now we are having ideas drawn up for enhancing the side altars with some decorative elements surrounding the statues of Mary and Joseph. The construction plans are being completed for the altar revision and will be ready for us to get bids for the work. We will be bringing in a Liturgical Designer to help us put together the entire project.” The Interior Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Thomas House. Contact Judy Foley for more information: (650) 322-8650, or [judyberthfoley@yahoo.com](mailto:judyberthfoley@yahoo.com).