

Steeple Talk

Volume 5, No. 5

June 19, 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: The congregation wore red on Pentecost Sunday in recognition of the liturgical color for this great Catholic feast day.

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

12:00 Sunday Mass: The St. Ann Choir has resumed pre-Mass practice in the basement hall of the Thomas House.

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

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
4th Wednesday of the month.

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, June 22, 7:30 p.m.,
at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center

Agenda:

- **Thomas House furnishings**
- **Usage coordination guidelines**

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

Thomas House furnishings:

The notice requesting furnishings for the Thomas House in the May *Steeple Talk* has resulted in the donation of three area Oriental carpets. Many thanks to Bill Mahrt, Jim McLaughlin, and Bev and Neale Wade for their lovely rugs. A donation for kitchen cookware by Pat Dietrich has also been received and is much appreciated.

With Site Committee member Ted Baer driving the engine for the acquisition of quality used furniture, the Site Committee is now still seeking the following:

- Dining room table or refectory table and chairs.
- Other chairs and credenzas.

- Cooking pots of all sizes and kitchen utensils (more are needed).
- Desks, bookcases and filing cabinet.
- Vacuum sweeper.

Ted Baer has a truck and can pick up donations. (What can't be used in the Thomas House will be donated/delivered to the St. Vincent de Paul resale shop.)

The Site Committee is being selective about donated furnishings, looking for quality used items that will blend with each other and enhance the period feel of the house. If you are downsizing and wish your treas-



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

ured pieces to have an ongoing useful life, contact Ted Baer, tabaer@sbcglobal.net, 321-6179.

All donations will be acknowledged for the purpose of tax deductions.

Thomas House delays continue:

As limited use of the Thomas House began in May, several issues became apparent. It was discovered that even the small amount of oil from a raw walnut left lying on the floor after a hospitality gathering could soak through the finish applied to the floors. There are several oil spots in the living room already.

The Site Committee recommended to the parish business manager that full access to the

building be delayed until the floors can be thoroughly sealed.

The advantage gained, however, by the few gatherings that did occur in May is that some work was identified that needs completion before final signoff of the project. Every homeowner can resonate with the sort of small details that need to be addressed, in addition to the floor finishes. (E.g., the ex-

haust hood over the gas stove is mounted on the exhaust soffit at ceiling height so that only a 6-ft tall person can turn on the lights and fan.)

Ted Baer, the Site Committee member who is also on the Finance committee and Building and Equipment Maintenance committee, communicated these issues and recommendations to the parish.

**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 4th Wednesday of the month in the basement hall of the Thomas House (see changes below). All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, 328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net.

Parish pathways:

St. Albert the Great 50th Anniversary: On Saturday afternoon, June 25, our parish clergy will transfer the Blessed Sacrament from the parish Mother Church, St. Thomas Aquinas, to St. Albert the Great Church to mark the 50th year that the St. Albert community has celebrated the feast of Corpus Christi (the Body and Blood of Christ.) All parishioners who worship at any of the churches in St. Thomas Aquinas parish are invited to join in welcoming the arrival of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Albert the Great and join in solemn Benediction. After the 5 PM Mass, the monstrance will be returned to the altar for exposition. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to sign up for an hour of adoration that will continue throughout the night and end with Benediction before the 9 AM Sunday Mass. (The Hispanic Youth Group has signed up for the 1:00 a.m. to 4:00

a.m. hours. You are welcome then, too!) Sign-ups for adoration hours will be offered after each Mass today, but sign-ups are not a prerequisite for prayer time.

Pastoral Stewardship Council (PSC) Executive Committee:

Elections at the June 9th meeting of the PSC confirmed the new officers: Chair Kay Williams, Vice-Chair Jim McLaughlin, and Secretary Jerry Lucha.

Parish Directory: The disks holding the data from our parish database have been mailed off to directory publisher Olan Mills. The directories should be available by August 15 or so.

Revised parish website: The parish Communications Committee is looking forward to unveiling the revised parish website on July 1. Thanks to Liturgy Coordinator Nora Lundin for leading this project.

From the church steps:

Thomas House ramp:

The handicapped ramp into the main floor of the Thomas House is well underway. Take a stroll down the path through the Memorial Garden on the north side of the church building and see the scope of the construction of the ramp. There is very little in the way of a natural disaster that would disturb this ramp! It is solidly built to last — and will provide a secure passage into the main floor of the Thomas House.



Ramp corridor #1



Ramp landing



View from driveway



Ramp corridors #2 & #3

The doorway into the house will be widened and the landing in front of the door will be gated on the church side for safety.

Friday gardening at STA:

The STA Garden Committee is kicking off its activities by committing to spend one hour after the first Friday morning Mass each month working in the gardens around the church. Thank you to Vicki Sullivan, Helen Baumann, and Patti Robison, who will work 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.

New piano for STA:

The church needs a new small grand piano of good quality. If you could help fund a purchase, please contact Nora Lundin at the parish office, (650) 494-2496.