

# Steeple Talk

Volume 5, No. 8

September 25, 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 Eke Family Choir leads the communal singing at least twice a month, alternating the duties with the community singers under Larry Schemel's direction.

**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 (Gregorian chant) creates the classical climate which characterizes this Mass.

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

## Ideas for church interior enhancements:

The Interior Committee met late last month with Dan White, an architect who specializes in working on churches. His Bay Area projects have included Villa Siena and the Dominican convent chapel in Fremont. His office is in Covina and his church is in Hacienda Heights.

He is normally involved with the light and sound people. The sound system needs to be able to adapt to many different types of music groups. Churches are a challenge for acoustics. For good balance pews should be padded. (People are sound absorbing; not enough people and there is reverberation.) The committee discussed LED lighting. Evidently the bulbs could last the promised 50,000 hours but usually the electronics that power them aren't up to it and only last one year. We need specific new ones. Our present lights are

quite yellow. We should look at peach and lavender ones. He mentioned lights that shine up at the ceiling and wash out the amber of the down lights. We need to have the option of having just down lights, like for the Easter Vigil. LEDs are dimmable and we need a dimming system. The ambo needs a reading light. All lighting should be under the control of a liturgy or choir person.

Paint: he suggests more color for the window frames. We need to have an agreement between paint and lights since the lights will change the colors. The pillars could be darker with the capitals medium and the columns lighter. A darker floor would look better. Look at the colors in the large Jesus Sacred Heart window for possible colors.

Carpet: He suggested using



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multiple colors with some sort of pattern. Look at the window colors again.

The back part of the (back) altar is called the *reredos*. He suggested very small, variegated gold tiles for behind the angels.

Side altars could replicate the nearby door shapes for framing the "floating" statues. (Cont. on page 2...)

## STA Site Committee plans:

**Monthly Meeting:**  
4th Wednesday of the month.

**Next regular Site meeting:**  
Wednesday, September 28,  
7:30 p.m., Thomas House  
**Agenda:**

- **Thomas House update**
- **Usage guidelines/kitchen organization**
- **Furniture donations**

**Monthly newsletter:**  
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

## Thomas House update:

The Thomas House is once again the site of meetings and hospitality gatherings, now that the floors have been hard-sealed and the furniture moved back in. The Pastoral Stewardship Council will hold its regular monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Thomas House basement hall. Various committees from the Thomas Mer-ton Center community have scheduled monthly meetings in

either the living room, dining room or library. A Latin class offered by Kevin Ros-siter of the noon Mass on Sundays has begun its twice monthly meetings in the basement hall. And a young adult group of 100+, calling themselves the Goretta Group, is meeting once a month on Friday evening, going to Confession, attending Mass and then socializing in the basement hall.

A few final items on the construction punch list remain to be completed: installing a wider handicapped-accessible door at the top of the ramp into the bride's room; install cabinets above the stove to hide the flue and gain more cabinet space; and install two 20-amp circuits in the basement.

All are welcome to take a look inside the house on a Sunday morning.

**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:

### *SAG's 50th Anniversary events continue Oct. 1 and 2:*

The celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of St. Albert the Great Church continues October 1 and 2 with an art and craft show of the work of present or past parishioners to be displayed at SAG. Art forms including, but not limited to, paintings, photographs, graphic arts, sculpture and crafts, representing 25 artists (many of whom are juried), will be on display. Hours of exhibition are Sat., Oct. 1, 4-7 p.m. with a wine and cheese reception, and Sunday, Oct. 2, 10 am till 3 p.m. There will be no art for sale, but many of the artists will be present.

### *Adult Spiritual Development year begins September 27:*

On Tuesday, September 27, at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM, the first Spirituality Tuesday Assembly

(STA) is scheduled:

"Become One Body - One Spirit - In Christ" will be an evening (through the medium of an interactive DVD) to explore the depth, richness, and layers of meaning of the new liturgical texts of the Roman Missal that the Church in the U.S. will begin using on the 1st Sunday of Advent.

### *Volunteers invited and celebrated:*

On October 9, new volunteer sign-up sheets will be in the parish bulletins and a fervent invitation will be issued to parishioners to "step up and step in" the door of service to our parish. On October 16, Volunteer Awards will be given at each church to a person or persons who has made a contribution of note during the past year. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our parish; everyone has a talent to share. Step up and step in to a rewarding world of service.

## From the church steps:

### *(Interior Committee cont...)*

Altar furniture: Keep in mind future furniture as we determine the lighting and electrical plans.

We should also talk to the priests about the confessionals. Should one be wheelchair accessible? There are some modern ideas about how a confessional should be configured. He suggested shortening the front pews so that there is more room for wheelchairs and funerals. (Maybe 3 feet on each side so that the center aisle is wider there.)

All these topics and more are being considered by the Interior Committee. If you would like to contribute to the conversation, please contact chairperson Judy Foley, judybertchfoley@yahoo.com.

### *Hospital Chaplaincy needs volunteers:*

The Spiritual Care Service at Stanford Hospital and Clinics seeks volunteers to

visit with patients and families. These volunteers will be given eight training sessions - five classroom sessions and three mentoring sessions - each lasting two hours. Once the training is complete, the volunteers should be willing and able to commit two hours a week for at least a year. The next training starts October 24. Please call 650-723-5101 for more information, an application packet, and to schedule an interview.

Sincerely,

The Rev. John B. Hester  
Associate Director, Spiritual Care

### *Brush up your Latin:*

A chance to learn some Latin (or refresh your Latin skills) and read through the texts of our liturgy in Latin will be available, beginning in September, through a series of evening lessons to be held twice a month in the Thomas House. Some members of the choir from the 12:00

liturgy have been meeting to do this for several years, but would like to invite all interested members of the community to join our Latin circle. Beginners are welcome. Since the revised English translations of the liturgy will be introduced during the coming Advent season, the lessons will also provide an opportunity to look at the new translation and its reflection of the Latin text. This is, above all, a chance to renew and enhance our understanding of the liturgy. Please contact Kevin Rossiter at loquiamur@yahoo.com if you would like to participate.

### *Site Committee welcomes all:*

Please stick your head into the next meeting of the Site Committee—next Wednesday, Sept. 28, 7:30 pm, in the Thomas House dining room. Your input is welcome.