

Steeple Talk

Volume 5, No. 9

October 23, 2011

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Msgr. Eugene Boyle is celebrating this Mass on Monday and Friday each week.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Marijane Chestnut has been playing the new piano and leading the congregation in song this past month.

8:45 Sunday Mass: A refresher meeting for continuing and new lectors will be held on Dec. 4 after Mass in the Thomas House. Contact John Arnold, jsaoso@comcast.net, if you'd like to volunteer as a lector.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Music minister Paul Prochaska is joined regularly by Jamie Cook, guitar and Mari Olsen, voice.

12:00 Sunday Mass: The St. Ann Choir is available to sing for weddings, Gregorian requiem masses, and other liturgical events by special arrangement. Contact Bill Mahrt, mahrt@stanford.edu,

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, October 26,
7:30 p.m., Thomas House
Agenda:

- Thomas House furniture
- Usage guidelines
- STA Interior timelines

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

Volunteers celebrated at STA Oct. 16:

Sacristans, ushers and hospitality ministers were the featured recipients of the 2011 Volunteer Awards at STA. The STA Site Committee was charged by the Pastoral Stewardship Council to elect/select/uncover at least one volunteer from each Mass who would be recognized on Volunteer Sunday, October 16. The volunteers who were publicly recognized with a certificate for "outstanding service" are largely unsung, behind-the-scenes heroes and heroines, making their contributions day in and day out without fanfare or much notice.

Read the citations for each volunteer:

7:30 Mass: Bea and Bill Peterson, sacristans: "In recognition of 35 years of dedicated,

patient and loving service as sacristans, lectors, and Communion ministers from the Sunday 7:30 a.m. Mass Community."

8:45 Mass: Jim Davis, hospitality: "In recognition of many years of cheerful service and loyalty to the Sunday 8:45 a.m. community in the ministry of hospitality: organizing the team that each week arrives early to see that all is right with the donuts and coffee, making sure that all is cleaned up and closed up, as well as managing the storage and organization of supplies."

10:30 Mass: Joe Kinsella, usher: "In recognition of his lengthy and cheerful service to the St. Thomas Aquinas Church 10:30 a.m. community as a steady and responsible usher and custodian of the collected monies, as well as his



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

frequent appearances as spokesperson for the Annual Diocesan Appeal."

12:00 Mass: Martha Girard and Lalu Kiesling, hospitality: "In recognition of [their] initiative and commitment to organizing and serving a nourishing brunch following the 12:00 Sunday Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church each week."

Thomas House is activity center:

As soon as the Thomas House had some furniture in it, the meetings started. The STA Site Committee has always envisioned this structure as the hub of spiritual activities of many kinds, a place in downtown Palo Alto that would be a center for Christian teaching and learning and praying. The vision is being realized in the wide variety of regular meetings that are starting up there.

The parish Pastoral Stewardship Council is meeting in the basement hall on the 2nd

Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The Thomas Merton Center holds its monthly Board meetings in the basement, too, on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The TMC Spiritual Education Committee meets in the dining room on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The STA Site Interior Committee meets in the dining room on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m, and the STA Site Committee meets on the 4th Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

A Latin class meets in the basement on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. A beginning Scripture study class is meeting every Wednesday from 2 to 3 pm in the dining room. And a small group interested in the Ignatian Exercises is meeting on Thursdays from 12:30—2:00 p.m.

Contact Kay Williams, kaywill@pacbell.net, or 650-270-4188 (cell) for info on any of these meetings.

**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:

[Check the parish website, www.paloaltocatholic.org, for current listings of all events.]

Adult Spiritual Development series continues: (All are held at St. Albert Hospitality Center from 7:00-8:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, October 25: A Journey of Faith: from diagnosis, through illness and beyond.

Speaker: Father Thierry Geris
A year has passed since our Parish friend, and former parochial vicar, Father Thierry, lost his voice while away at a retreat. As the weeks passed without improvement, more tests were done. The diagnosis of lung cancer was unexpected. Father Thierry will share his ongoing faith journey through diagnosis, illness, treatment, recovery and his trip to Lourdes with us all. Please join us for this very special evening

Tuesday, November 1: All Saints Day Mass at St. Albert the Great Church, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15: Persecutions End with the Winds of Change: Conversion

If you were asked about....the Crusades, the Inquisition, the "Dark Ages", the Galileo Affair, what would you say? Catholics are heirs to a remarkable heritage. The history of our Faith is a fascinating epic of adventure, rebellion, tragedy, and triumph. In tonight's video from the EPIC series, we will learn more about the Roman persecutions of Christians. Then the world changed dramatically. What happened? How did a small cult of religious outsiders become the primary spiritual focus of an empire? Join Father Matt as we move through the centuries. There will be a discussion period at the end.

From the church steps:

Thomas House Use Logbook:

The STA Site Committee asks all who hold meetings in the Thomas House to "log in" using the spiral-bound notebook on the entry hall table. This is the place to record notes about the house—things you notice as you meet. Examples might be: light bulb out in living room; food droppings all over the dining room rug; blind broken in library; need better lighting over front entry way; or whatever else comes to your attention or is of concern to you. We are all stewards of this house and many eyes and ears will cooperate to keep the house in top form.

Site Committee welcomes all:

Please stick your head into the next meeting of the Site Committee—this Wednesday, October 26, 7:30 pm, in the Thomas House dining room. Your input is welcome.

November Day of the Dead altar:

The 8:45 Sunday Mass liturgy committee will transform the Blessed Virgin's altar into the "Day of the Dead" altar on Saturday, October 29, at 9:00 a.m. Helpers are welcome to join in the fun. It should take no more than one hour.

As is the custom in this church, everyone is welcome to bring a picture of a beloved family member or friend who has died and place it on the altar on Sunday, October 30 and leave it there throughout the month of November. This altar of remembrance honors those who have gone before us, reminding us to pray for them and imploring them to pray for us.

[Please label your pictures on the back with your name and phone number, so they can be returned to you if you forget to pick them up at the end of the month.]

Goretti Group gathers on second Fridays:

A chapter of the San Diego-based non-profit Goretti Group is meeting and praying each second Friday at STA. The mission of the Goretti Group is stated in a brochure: "As members, we believe purity allows us the freedom to find true love! Our dream is that one day everyone will share in this truth and find happiness. It is this dream that drives us to give of our time, talent and treasure to help untwist the false images of love bombarding our culture at all cost." The next evening on November 11 begins at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by Adoration, Celebration of the Eucharist, Veneration of Relic and Praise & Worship, the Maria Goretti Prayer, a presentation, and then a social hour with refreshments in the Thomas House basement hall.