

Steeple Talk

Volume 6, No. 1

March 4, 2012

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: March 6 is frequent celebrant Fr. Gene Konkel's birthday, and a little post-Mass party will be held at the home of Pat Keicher.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Sacristans Bill and Bea Peterson welcome volunteers in the sacristy. Don't be shy—identify yourself to them at Mass.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Music minister John Eke, leader of the Eke Family Choir, celebrated 25 years in music ministry on February 26 with cake and coffee after Mass in the Thomas House.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Music minister Paul Prochaska and his singers participated in the concert in STA on February 12—a benefit for Philippine relief after hurricane and floods.

12:00 Sunday Mass: The St. Ann Choir is available to sing for weddings, Gregorian requiem masses, and other liturgical events by special arrangement.

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

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
2nd Thursday of the month (This is a change from 4th Wednesday.)

Next regular Site meeting:
Thursday, March 8, 2012
7:30 p.m.
Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- **Cabinetry: kitchen & hall**
- **PSC Site rep replacement**

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 2nd Thursday

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

STA Site happenings:

Sunday, March 18: Mass in French at STA: Father Thierry Geris has kindly offered to celebrate another Mass in French again. All parishioners are welcome to attend!

Tous sont les bienvenus!
Saint Thomas Aquinas Church
Sun March 18 at 5:00 p.m.
(or *La messe en français aura lieu le dimanche 18 Mars 2012*)

Monthly welcome table at STA needs you: On the first Sunday of every month, a Welcome table is set up outside the church entrance with a volunteer welcoming persons new to the parish and registering them as parishioners. This ministry has been coordinated for (40+?) years by Marguerite Purcell, who is now retiring from this duty. Stalwart volunteers Ruth Chippendale and Lorraine

Dabney have stood outside at that table for nearly as long as Marguerite has directed this ministry. It's time for relief! Could you step up and offer to help in this important ministry? First, we need a coordinator who can communicate the names of new parishioners to the parish office each month. Second, staffing the Welcome table a couple of times a year would give Ruth and Lorraine a breather. Now that you've decided to help, please contact Helen Baumann, STA Site Volunteer Coordinator, at 650-327-9236, hbaumann@aol.com.

New chairs for STA: The overflow Easter crowds at STA will be sitting pretty this year. More of the black mesh folding chairs, that have been



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

so warmly received by denizens of the Thomas House meetings and hospitality gatherings, are being delivered this week—to be available for Christmas and Easter crowds. Sitting on these chairs is such a comfortable experience that a tentative Catholic might be encouraged to return to church on a regular Sunday!

Thomas House update:

Thomas House Library:
Thank you for donations of books on Christianity, religions of all kinds, Church history, saints, etc., which are flowing in to the Thomas House reading room. The intention is to have this library open to the public—like a Christian Science Reading Room—and staffed ultimately by volunteers. The organization of the library—a big job—will begin later this month. If you would like to

help, please contact Ted Baer tabaer@sbcglobal.net, (650) 321-6179,

Other needs and doings:
A computer and printer for the Thomas House office would be a welcome addition.

The need for **more cabinets in the kitchen** has become obvious, now that there are three tenants living upstairs, each of whom needs to keep food and some utensils in

cabinets. This is in addition to the hospitality committees' needs for supplies for Sunday Mass coffee and doughnuts, etc. The Site Committee, in concert with the parish Facilities Committee, is working with Susan and Mario Vello, longtime STA parishioners, to address this need. Susan is an Interior Designer and Mario an Architect. Both are graduates of the University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

**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 2nd Thursday of the month in the Library of the Thomas House. All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, 328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net.

Parish pathways:

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

March 17:



Join the parish faithful to share in our Irish traditions on Saturday, March 17th! You will marvel at the evening of hospitality and fun, featuring live Irish music, dancing, and song and also enjoy the kitchen bounty of the best corned beef and authentic soda bread on the Peninsula. Hospitality starts at 6:00 at St. Elizabeth Seton School auditorium.

This event always draws a sell-out attendance, oriented to seniors and families with young children—a safe and welcoming respite to remember for years, priced to encourage participation: \$15 - adults, \$5 - children under 12. Tickets on sale after all Masses this weekend and during the week at the Pastoral Center. Contact Joe Kinsella, 650-364-3705, to volunteer in any way.

Taizé prayer during Lent:

The three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Time given

to prayer during Lent will draw us closer to the Lord.

Taizé Prayer is a time for connecting in joy and gratitude, nurturing the Presence within. Melodic chants and inspirational readings call you deeper to the Spirit within and the beauty of God's presence.



Every Thursday evening during Lent. Remaining dates: March 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 7:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 3233 Cowper St., Palo Alto.

Msgr. Lenane's funeral:

Msgr. William Lenane's funeral is Wed., March 7th at St. Albert the Great Church at 10:00 a.m., with a reception following in the Seton auditorium. Msgr. Lenane is a former pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish (before merger) from 1984-1987 and then parochial vicar there until retirement. See the calendar at www.paloaltocatholic.org for more information and his obituary.

From the church steps:

STA Interior Committee:

The business of the STA Church Interior Committee has been consumed with the plans for renovating the church interior. I think all the committee members would say that the attention to details in their deliberations and investigations has been staggering. They are, after 3 years of meetings, getting quite close to signing off on final plans. If you are interested in this work, please feel free to attend the committee meetings. The STA Interior Committee meets the 3rd Wed. of the month at 7:30 pm. in the Thomas House. Contact Judy Foley : (650) 322-8650, judybertchfoley@yahoo.com.

Lenten retreat March 24:

The Merton Center Spiritual Education Committee invites you to attend a Lenten retreat, Saturday, March 24, 9 am—12:00 noon, in the Thomas House.

The retreat leader is Clare Ronzani, and the theme is: *Meditations with Thomas*

Merton: A Time of Lenten Renewal.

Clare writes:

“Thomas Merton reminds us that Lent is a time to enter into the Church's ‘holy spring.’ In this morning of Lenten reflection, we will draw from the springs of Merton's wisdom to deepen our experience of this season. Through meditation, presence to Merton's words and images, and time for personal prayer and group reflection, we will seek to enter more fully into this time of Lenten renewal and ‘holy spring.’”

Clare Ronzani has been an explorer of Thomas Merton's spirituality for over 25 years, with a particular interest in the contemplative and prophetic dimensions of his vision. Clare is the Director of Spiritual Formation at the Franciscan School of Theology and teaches at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa



Clare Ronzani

Clara University. She also offers retreats, workshops, and spiritual direction. Space in the Thomas House is limited, so if you even think you might attend, please R.S.V.P. to Pat McCarthy at (650) 858-0597, pmmccar1@comcast.net. Donations gratefully accepted.

Bicycle smash-up recently:

Anne Akey recently encountered a unique problem for an ecologically-minded bicyclist. She came out from the 8:45 a.m. Sunday Mass a few Sundays ago to find that her bike, locked to the U-frame bike rack in front of the church, had been double locked to a bike that had come along after she did. She waited till nearly noon, hoping the owner of the second bike would emerge after the 10:30 Mass. Finally, she gave up, got a ride home from church, and came back later in the afternoon to retrieve her by-then unfettered bike!

[Please be considerate of your fellow cyclists when using the U-frame bike rack in front of the church.]