

Steeple Talk

Volume 6, No. 12

February 10, 2013

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: This daily Mass has regular attendance of 25-30 persons.

7:30 Sunday Mass: This early Mass is popular with folks who like to get an early start on their Sunday activities.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Celebration honoring those who spear-headed the renovation of the Thomas House will be held on Feb. 24 at Mass, followed by cake and coffee, sponsored by the Merton Center Board.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Bass singers are needed for the community choir. See choir director Paul Prochaska after Mass.

12:00 Sunday Mass: Please see page 2 for roster of St. Ann Choir events in January and February.

12:15 Daily Mass: Downtown workers are frequently in attendance at this Mass.

Lent is upon us:

Ash Wednesday:

Ash Wednesday is February 13. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses here at STA:

7:15 a.m.

12:15 p.m.

6:00 p.m.—sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center.

8:00 p.m.—Mass in Latin sung in Gregorian chant with Renaissance motets by the St. Ann Choir and the congregation.

Taizé prayer at STA during Lent:

Engage in this meditative prayer at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, Thursday evenings during Lent: February 21, February 28, March 7, and March 14.

Taizé is a prayerful opportunity to take a few moments for yourself and for your soul.

What is Taizé worship? A key ingredient lies in the fact that at

the heart of the prayer there is a monastic community. Taizé is a little village in the south of Burgundy, France. In this village, over 60 years ago, Brother Rober founded a community devoted to prayer and living a parable of reconciliation within the world church and the human family.

What is unique to the prayer of Taizé is the adaptation of the repetitive form to simple musical lines and core biblical texts that can be sung by a whole assembly. Silence is perhaps the second most important aspect of this particular prayer practice. In the middle of the prayer is a long period of silence. Maintaining silence is simply holding oneself in a presence and letting Christ, through the Holy Spirit, pray in us.

Taizé Prayer is then a time for connecting in joy and grati-



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

tude, nurturing the PRESENCE within. Echoes of shared prayer — “your prayer is my prayer too” — sustains and supports you. Candles shine in remembrance of Your LIGHT and the LIGHT in the world. Melodic chants and inspirational readings call you deeper to the SPIRIT within and the beauty of GOD’S presence.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
2nd Thursday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Thursday, February 14, 2013
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- **Library Report**
- **Homeless policies**
- **Kitchen issues**

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 2nd Thursday

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

Thomas House activities and needs:

Thomas House follies:

The Thomas House Library open house was held January 27 from 2:00-4:00. Sweets and refreshments were provided by the library staff, one of whom made cookies and brownies. However, being unable to get to the open house until 3:00, she left them with someone attending the 8:45 Mass for later serving. Coffee was provided by another library worker, who brewed the coffee at 1:00 at home, brought it to the Thomas House at 1:45, and placed it in one of our coffee pots. Alas, the cookies and

brownies were consumed by the Gregorian Mass group, who thought the sweets were theirs, and the coffee was discarded by a well-intentioned Gregorian Mass clean up person, who believed the coffee to have been left over from the Gregorian mass hospitality.

Just one more example of occasional congestion in the Thomas House – a dream of years ago come true! By the way, the library open house was well attended and appreciated by all the visitors.

Could you help us find...

- 1) a computer and printer for the Thomas House office and library?
- 2) filing cabinets for storage of music books and programs?
- 3) an electrician who could consult on the A/V equipment installation in the basement hall and on the kitchen electrical needs? Please contact Helen Baumann, 650-327-9236, hbbaumann@aol.com.

NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH SITE COMMITTEE

751 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:

Ted Baer	Bob Barron	Helen Baumann
Philip Boudart	Lorraine Dabney	Judy Foley
Anna Jaklitsch	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:

Lectures:

Spirituality Tuesday Assemblies every Tuesday night at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Room, 7—8:30 p.m.:

Feb. 12: “*The Quest for Happiness*,” with Fr. Peter Seimas

Feb. 19: “*Why some Gospels are not included in the Bible*,” with Dan Baer

Feb. 26 “*Forgiveness: The Healing Act*,” with Susan Cabrera.

Mar. 5: “*Key Moments in Church History*,” with Fr. Matt

Travel to Ireland with Fr. Matt:

Fr. Matt Stanley will be leading a pilgrimage to the Emerald Isle where the group will spend some time in the Waterford area, Killarney, Galway, Connemara, Knock, Sligo and Dublin. This is a beautiful country and the pilgrimage will

surely be a grand old time! The group will depart the U.S. on August 19, 2013 and return on August 29 unless you opt for the extended trip to London for four days. If you do, you will return on September 1.

If you are interested in joining the travelers, please contact Fr. Matt at 650-494-2496 ext. 12 or mstanley@dsj.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Auto Donations:

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is very interested in receiving a donation of your auto if you're purchasing a new one. Our parish St. Vincent de Paul group receives a portion of the proceeds when you donate in our parish name. Last year, our parish was the top contributor of donated cars (and recipient of funds) in the diocese. Auto Donation Phone number: 1-800-322-8284.

From the church steps:

Shepherds to unhoused among us:

The STA Site Committee has been trying to balance the needs of the unhoused persons who have taken shelter on this site with the activities of worshippers and others who meet in the Thomas House.

A workshop with Heiri Shuppiser, local social worker and outreach coordinator to the unhoused in Santa Clara County, is being scheduled soon—a follow-up to an initial meeting with Mr. Shuppiser held last fall. Mr. Shuppiser stressed that his work to help persuade chronically unhoused persons to move into transitional housing is based on establishing trust with unhoused persons over time—sometimes over a very long time.

In that spirit, members of our congregations at STA have engaged with the gentlemen who have been sleeping on the

front porch of the church by assuring them that their belongings will be safe in the carport, that they are welcome to use the porch as long as they are respectful and not disruptive, and by encouraging them to join us in the church during Mass—in general, by regarding them positively and warmly.

Please join us in the workshop when the date is set, so that you can help maintain this welcoming, trusting atmosphere for those who need it.

Church interior work pending:

Judy Foley, chair of the STA Interior Committee, reports that we are waiting to get bids back from the Sound Contractors. Once one is selected, we will be able to start that part of the project. The sound contractors have said that the work will

take about a week. After that it will be the lighting. So while we are appreciating the reconfigured altar and its new (but temporary) carpeting, rest assured that more is still to be done.

New parishioners registered:

The first Sunday of the month finds Helen Baumann at a table in front of church, registering newcomers to the parish. She reports that two such new persons took advantage of her presence in December and February to sign up as St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners.

In between those monthly Sundays, newcomers can register at the Parish Office by calling 650-494-2496 and speaking to Sandra Pedersen, the warm and welcoming presence at the other end of the phone.