

Steeple Talk

Volume 6, No. 2

April 8, 2012

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: The regular community is grateful for the good presiders who get up early: Msgr. Gene Boyle, Fr. Gene Konkel, Fr. Jerry Brown., and our 3 parish priests—Fr. Matt, Fr. Randy, and Fr. Peter.

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: The big palm fronds for Palm Sunday were supplied by the Stanford Park Hotel and put in place by parish staffers, Godofredo Alfaro and Santiago Aguilar. The smaller fan palms were liberated from the Stanford campus by Liturgy Team members.

10:30 Sunday Mass: See the story on Page 2 about music minister Paul Prochaska.

12:00 Sunday Mass: A collection of essays on music and liturgy by Professor Mahrt, *The Musical Shape of the Liturgy*, has just been published by the Church Music Association of America. It can be obtained through Amazon.com.

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

Next regular Site meeting:
Thursday, April 12, 2012
7:30 p.m.
Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- Kitchen improvements
- Library organization
- Community storage

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 2nd Thursday

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

STA Site happenings:

“Then Sings My Soul” at STA April 29:

Jazz vocalist Joyce Randolph, accompanied by pianist “Professor” Bill Bell, will bring her voice, heart and soul to our own STA church on Sunday, April 29, at 4:00 p.m., in a concert benefiting St. Elizabeth Seton School and sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center of Palo Alto.

Don't miss this one of a kind celebration, featuring two extraordinary performers in a joy-filled, uplifting afternoon of gospel, sacred, spiritual, traditional hymns. [This will be a “live” recording that will be released as a CD.]

“Joyce Randolph is an undeniably gifted jazz artist. In her

voice clearly dwells the collective spirit of such classic vocalists as Bessie Smith, Ella Fitzgerald, and Sarah

Vaughan. Joyce does not simply sing a song; she transforms each song into a poignant musical



Joyce Randolph

drama. See, hear, and be moved by the vocal genius of Joyce Randolph...”

-- Afrikahn J. Dayvs,
KKUP FM Radio

The best way to buy a ticket is online at:
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/233953>. Or call 1 (800) 838-3006. Tickets are \$40. (Remember, this is a



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

benefit concert, and Joyce Randolph is a renowned artist: www.joycerandolph.com.) Merton Center members can receive a discount. Space is limited to 250 and we expect to sell out, as Joyce is well known to the jazz community. Information: Jim Davis, jim_davis@pacbell.net, 650-328-2584.

Thomas House update:

Thomas House library inching forward:

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. Master builder Jan Dedek is working on additional shelving for the library to house the books that make the cut from among those donated. The organization of the donated books—a big job—is still in process. If

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

Kitchen cabinets:

A design for additional cabinets in the Thomas House kitchen has been submitted to the parish Facilities Committee by parishioner/architect Mario Veloro, who is working with his wife Susan, an Interior Designer, on this project.

Easy chairs in the Bride's room:

Thanks to Eleanor Webb for the discovery of the four upholstered conference room chairs that now sit in the Thomas House Bride's Room. Eleanor was at a garage sale at the Covenant Presbyterian Church on Middlefield and East Meadow Drive in February and saw the chairs for an unbelievably low price. Bridal parties will sit comfortably from now on!

**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:

Barron is new STA Site rep to Pastoral Stewardship Council :

For four years, long-time STA parishioner Lorraine Dabney has represented the STA Site Committee to the Pastoral Stewardship Council (PSC). Her term is up this spring, and the Site Committee is happy to report that her replacement has been appointed: Bob Barron. It happens that Bob is also a tenant in the Thomas House. His interest in participating in the life of the parish was evident as soon as he moved into the Thomas House at the beginning of the year after taking a new position as the Financial Services Manager of the City of Millbrae. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Bob is originally from Texas and more recently from Fresno. The Site Committee is grateful to Lorraine for serving so faithfully as our rep, and we welcome Bob with his fresh perspective on STA.

Liturgy rep to Pastoral Stewardship Council Paul Prochaska:

Paul is the chief music minister (guitarist and cantor) at the STA 10:30 Mass, and he has agreed to co-represent the parish Liturgy Board on the PSC, along with Deacon Daniel Hernandez. Paul has a Holy Week saga to top them all. On Palm Sunday, Paul visited the Kaiser RC emergency room after Mass due to breathing difficulties. The nurses and docs couldn't immediately pinpoint the problem and wanted to keep Paul for 3-4 hours of tests. But he had tickets to the Keith Jarrett concert at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley that night and talked the medical folks into postponing the tests until Monday morning. He reported that the concert "was world-class wonderful, and the encores went a full 45 minutes! I will reflect on the evening for many years." His breathing hadn't improved in spite of the Keith Jarrett high, so he stopped at Kaiser ER on the way home, and was tested and admitted on Sunday night/Monday very early morning. The labs pointed towards a bacteriological pneumonia, and antibiotics were administered intravenously. The subsequent days (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday) were spent sleeping, sitting up in bed, receiving dialysis treatment, getting tested and more medicines. Wednesday morning the fever appeared to be finally under control, and he reports that his breathing is better than it has been for a long time. He insisted on being out by Wednesday so he could be ready for the musical demands of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter. He says: "I got to hear Keith Jarrett and will be ready to do my ministry at Triduum and Easter. And if I collapse and die on Easter Sunday afternoon, I will die contented."

—Ed. comment: Blessings, Paul!

From the church steps:

Genesis Creation Stories—April 15:

Come to the Thomas House on Sunday, April 15, at 4:00 pm, to hear Peter Reynolds, Ph.D. talk about "Genealogy and Seasonal Time: An Anthropologist Looks at the Creation Stories of Genesis." The talk is sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center of Palo Alto. Peter's remarks will be followed at 4:45 by Q&A and wine and cheese.

Peter will suggest that "the creationist view of the book of Genesis is not just bad science but bad religion. The seven days of creation in Genesis are not a sequence but a tree—the tree of kinship. Because kinship has largely atrophied in modern society, as has the ability to think metaphorically, modern readers are at a disadvantage in understanding the thought process of a pre-modern society. Yet if we reinstate these premises, we can read the creation stories with new eyes."

Coffee and pastries after the 7:30 and 10:30 Masses?

The Site Committee is determined to foster hospitality for the communities that worship at the 7:30 and 10:30 Masses. With the Thomas House available, supplies provided (freetrade coffee, compostable utensils, plates, and cups) by the parish, and expertise to share in the brewing of good coffee from several willing teachers, there is no excuse for avoiding this happy task. Watch for invitations to stop by the Thomas House on your way out of the church. Volunteer to help set up/clean up/pick up donuts—or volunteer to come over and just be hospitable. This is part of the ministry of community, and each of us has a role in that ministry. Please contact Helen Baumann if you could do some small thing to grow this ministry: 650-327-9236, hbbaumann@aol.com.