

Steeple Talk

Volume 6, No. 3

May 6, 2012

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: It takes at least one strong man to help lower the Paschal candle for lighting each morning—Arlen Hagen and Tom Williams often have this duty.

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: Presiders always welcome visitors and newcomers at the beginning of Mass, so the community learns the name and home town of the various guests.

10:30 Sunday Mass: The 10:30 Mass community will be the "guests" of the Site Committee for hospitality after the 10:30 Mass in the Thomas House for the month of May. We need volunteers from the 10:30 community to help coordinate and set up for future hospitality gatherings. Please let Charlotte know if you are interested in helping. (650) 321- 3129. Thanks!

12:00 Sunday Mass: The Gregorian Choir is planning the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of its founding in 2013; the year will be initiated with a special celebration of Corpus Christi on June 10, 2012; there will be a workshop on the *Missa Pange Lingua* by Josquin Des Pres on June 9, and then the Mass will be sung as part of the Feast-Day liturgy.

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

STA library and locking up:

Library seeks volunteers:

The Thomas House library is slowly coming together. When completed, the library will be open to the public for a few hours each week. **On Tuesday, May 22, at 1:30, there will be an organizational meeting in the Thomas House** for anyone who would like to help with the library or occasionally be a librarian/ attendant when the library is open -- no experience required! There is a separate office associated with the library so that the attendant may enjoy his or her time in relative privacy.

There are two areas where additional book contributions would be appreciated: books of special interest to

women and any books related to the stewardship of our planet. If you have some books to contribute, simply leave them on the table in the library. Thanks.

—*Ted Baer, (650) 321-6179. tabaer@sbcglobal.net.*

Please lock up after your activity in the Thomas House:

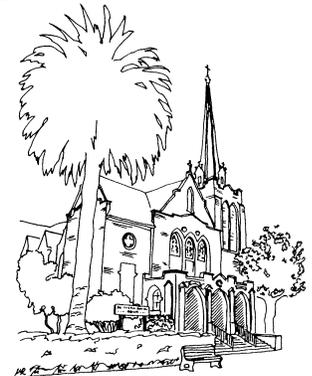
Bob Barron is a tenant in the



Bob Barron

Thomas House and the representative from the STA Site Committee to the Pastoral Stewardship Council. Bob wrote the following to

the *Steeple Talk* editor:



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

“Just a quick reminder that when parishioners use the house on the weekends and use the Bride’s room door [in the back where the handicapped ramp allows entry] to make sure to lock it. Two weeks ago on a Monday night I just happened to check if it was locked and it wasn't. Thank you!”

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
2nd Thursday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Thursday, May 10, 2012
7:30 p.m.

Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- Library organization
- Community storage
- Italian Dinner Aug. 4
- Mass hospitality

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 2nd Thursday

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

Thomas House update:

Safety gates:

Mary Carlstead was the perfect model for the new safety gates which now grace the landing platform at the top of the ramp behind the Thomas House. Stroll over after Mass to see the gates— and grab a cup of coffee inside.



Mary Carlstead with walker on ramp.

Thomas House rental unit coming open:

The Thomas House has a 1-bedroom 1-bath apartment for \$1,600/month (including utilities) available in August for rent. The apartment is approx. 400 sq. ft. The kitchen is shared with two other tenants in the house. For more information please call STA Parish Business Manager Chuck Tully, at (650) 494-2496.

Storage in Thos. House:

Two 5-drawer file cabinets, one 4-drawer file cabinet, and one 2-drawer lateral file cabinet have been donated and/or purchased this past month. The cabinets are in the basement and are available for storage of materials for musicians in ministry at STA, as well as for associated groups who speak up for space. Contact Kay Williams (see side bar this page).

**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:

Layette drive during May:

The St. Thomas Aquinas Confirmation class (and St. Vincent de Paul Society) is conducting a Layette Drive for the Parish's Layette Ministry. The ministry reaches out to new mothers in need of assistance by giving them a gift package containing essentials for their newborn babies. Look for the basket at St. Thomas Aquinas. Then choose one of the 2 options:

- 1) Pick a pink or blue Layette Package list. If the tag is pink purchase the items for a girl. If the tag is blue purchase the items for a boy. Place purchased items inside the basket.
- 2) Don't want to shop? We welcome monetary donations. Please make checks out to St. Thomas Aquinas and write "Layette Ministry" in the memo. Place your donations in the container/envelope in the basket marked "Donations."

Lay leadership program:

The Institute for Leadership in Ministry (ILM) is a 3-year course of study for lay persons. The ILM provides training and faith formation for lay leaders in the Church. The theological base for this program is found in the documents of the Second Vatican Council. Responding to their baptismal call, graduates return to their parishes to serve in various leadership roles in Liturgy, Catechetics, Social Justice, Pastoral Care, etc.

STA Parish plans to continue sending lay persons to the Institute for Leadership in Ministry. If you feel called to explore this possibility, the Parish is looking for a few qualified candidates for the new ILM academic year which begins in the fall.

Please contact Fr. Matt (mstanley@dsj.org) for more information.

From the church steps:

Coffee and eats after the 7:30 and 10:30 Masses during May:

The Site Committee will host hospitality for the communities that worship at the 7:30 and 10:30 Masses on Sundays in May.

Stop by the Thomas House today and every Sunday in May on your way out of the church. Get to know your pew mates, share coffee and fruit and goodies, and see the improvements in the Thomas House.

Each of us has a role in the ministry of building community. You are welcome to help in whatever way works for you.

Please contact Helen Baumann if you could do some small thing to grow this ministry: 650-327-9236, hbbaumann@aol.com.

STA Interior Renovation report:

The STA Interior Committee had a fruitful meeting with Dan White (liturgical interior designer). The committee is in the process of finding carpet--this will be the starting point for the paint colors that will be used.

Regarding the paint, Dan is suggesting some slight variations using the color of white that we have now. The suggestion is to paint the window trim and wainscoting with a slight change of colors. The altar at one time did have different colors and the thought is to bring that back. Dan has also designed the side altar enhancements so the Mary and Joseph statues do not look like they are floating in the air.



"Immaculate Heart of Mary" window in STA church

It is possible to change out the pew ends so that they are more appropriate for our style of church. Committee members and Dan agree that the seats themselves are comfortable but the ends are contemporary. There is a company in Idaho that specializes in this work--we will meet with their rep to see what the possibilities are. We have set aside the last two weeks in November and the first two in December for phase one of the project--which is the altar steps remodeled, new carpet installed and electrical work completed. We are having a contractors' walk-thru on May 8th. After all the bids are in we will be able to select our contractor.

—Judy Foley, Chair, STA Interior