

Steeple Talk

Volume 7, No. 4

June 9, 2013

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Mary Louise Hanley is one of the faithful sacristan for this daily Mass.

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: Presiders Fr. Jose Rubio, Jerry Brown, and Mike Miller are leaving St. Patrick's Seminary and the area, so they won't be celebrating Mass at STA come July.

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

12:00 Sunday Mass: The St. Ann Choir has added 5 new young singers, whose voices substantially augment the choir's sound.

12:15 Daily Mass: Residents of Channing House are frequently in attendance at this Mass.

Movie night June 23—"The Way":

The next Thomas House Theatre showing will be Sunday, June 23, with two showings of "The Way," 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., with a pot-luck repast from 5:30 till 7:00 p.m. Each showing will be followed by a brief discussion of the film. We hope to hear from some folks who have made the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage themselves.

"The Way" is a powerful and inspirational story about family, friends and the challenges we face while navigating this ever-changing and complicated world. Martin Sheen plays Tom, an irascible American doctor who comes to France to deal with the tragic loss of his son (played by Emilio Estevez). Rather than return home, Tom decides to embark on the historical pilgrimage "The Way of St. James" to honor his son's desire to finish the journey. What Tom doesn't plan on

is the profound impact this trip will have on him. Through unexpected and oftentimes amusing experiences along "The Way," Tom discovers the difference between "the life we live and the life we choose."

Inexperienced as a trekker, Tom soon discovers that he will not be alone on this journey. On "The Way," Tom meets other pilgrims from around the world, each with their own issues and looking for greater meaning in their lives: a Dutchman (Yorick van Wageningen), a Canadian (Deborah Kara Unger) and an Irish writer (James Nesbitt), who is suffering from a bout of writer's block.

From the unexpected and, oftentimes, amusing experiences along "The Way," this unlikely quartet of misfits creates an everlasting bond and Tom be-



St. Thomas Aquinas Church goes to learn what it means to be a citizen of the world again. Through Tom's unresolved relationship with his son, he discovers the difference between "the life we live and the life we choose."

"The Way," written and directed by Emilio Estevez, was filmed entirely in Spain and France along the actual Camino de Santiago.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
2nd Thursday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Thursday, June 13, 2013
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- Italian dinner July 27
- Movie nights
- Kitchen remodeling
- Garage sale wrap-up

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 2nd Thursday

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

Thomas House happenings:

Italian Dinner date has changed to July 27: Please mark your calendars anew so you don't miss the 3rd Annual STA Italian Dinner. The date has been re-set for Saturday, July 27, 5:00—7:30 p.m. in the Thomas House basement hall. The dinner ticket price will remain at \$15, and seating for those who don't want to take the stairs down to the basement will be provided on the Thomas House main floor. You don't want to miss the gourmet spa-

ghetti sauce prepared by Ted Baer, which transforms "church spaghetti dinner" into a celestial feast. Italian antipasti and salad, tangy garlic bread, and spumoni ice cream surround the main course like courtiers around the throne. An event like the Italian Dinner is even more fun if you are part of the planning and preparation. Many small tasks are available for the willing. Contact Ted Baer (321-6179) or Kay Williams (328-2781).

Computer installed in Thomas House office: Thanks to the expertise of Dean Judd, a desktop computer donated by Helen Baumann has been refurbished and installed in the Thomas House office. Bob March helped with clarifying the internet connection. Now the library volunteers have a place to store the records of books and periodicals donated to the library.

**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:

Early Reader Book Drive:

STA's Human Concerns Committee is hosting an "Early Reader Book Drive" to gather new books to be given to 2nd graders at St. Elizabeth Seton School. The group is anxious to encourage summer-time reading by these "just learning" readers, and giving them a book or two of their own for the summer. The kids have told us they like books with chapters and "about real things" (non-fiction). We need them at the 2nd grade reading level. Donation boxes will be in our vestibules through Sunday, June 17. Feel free to bring some early-reading books to church with you which will be put to excellent use! Monetary donations will also be accepted and will allow the HCC to purchase some appropriate books on your behalf.

"New" parochial vicar:

Effective July 1, 2013, Bishop McGrath has appointed Rev. Mr. Dat Luong as Parochial Vicar of

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. Fr. Dat was ordained to the Priesthood on Saturday, June 1, and he celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Albert the Great on Sunday, June 2. Fr. Dat spent this past year as a deacon in our parish.

Spiritual Education survey:

The STA Spiritual Education Ministry is currently conducting a survey to identify likely topics for the upcoming 2013-2014 year of weekly education talks.. Your input is solicited on topics about Catholic faith in particular and other religious and spiritual topics in general that would interest you. Please use the link below in order to send your thoughts. You can also go to the NEWS section of our parish website for a quick "click" to the survey. Or contact Beverly Wade, 650-856-9339, ndwade@pacbell.net. Thank you for your participation!
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BSYBHZ5>

From the church steps:

Sound system in the church is working: Preachers and lectors are getting used to the new sound system installed in the church. The ambo microphone has been adjusted so that "p" words don't pop too much. The 4 new speakers are nearly invisible to the eye and seem to be doing the job. And if you wear a T-cell hearing aid and turn the dial on your aid to "T", you are hearing the spoken word much more clearly.

Parish eBulletin a valuable tool: Be informed about STA parish events and changes by subscribing to the parish eBulletin. Published each Friday morning, the eBulletin lists up-to-the-minute news of funerals, meetings, requests, changes to scheduled events, plus providing a listing of web resources (such as Mass times around the country, Vatican news, prayer resources, etc.).

Contact eBulletin@paloaltocatholic.org and asked to be added to the recipient list.

Garage Sale wrap-up: On Saturday, June 8, the STA Site Committee joined the City-Wide Garage Sale bandwagon and staged a garage sale in the STA Memorial Garden. Many items were donated by parishioners—enough to fill up the old shingled garage building behind the Homer House. At this writing, anticipation is high that many dollars will be raised by the sale. The fundraising is pointed toward installing a chair lift for the stairs down to the Thomas House basement hall, making events in that space more accessible to all who wish to attend them. Of particular interest were the 104 metal folding chairs which had been stored in the garage for several months. While not the most comfortable seating, such extra chairs can come in handy for overflow crowds during holiday gatherings. If they aren't all

snapped up during the sale, you might still be able to snag a few for your own garages. Contact Kay Williams or Helen Baumann if you are interested.

The Site Committee wishes to thank all who donated sale items, as well as those who helped with the frenzy of preparation for the sale and the actual sale day duties. Many hands really do make work light and lots of fun!

Homeless update: We have heard that Dean, one of the unhoused men who spent time on STA's front porch over the winter, is heading into his 3rd week of sobriety. Matthew, another of the campers on the porch, has not been seen lately, but we know he is wheelchair bound until he gets a new prosthetic leg. The social worker at Stanford Hospital is hoping to hear from him to help him get that leg. Contact Kay Williams if you see him.