

Steeple Talk

Volume 4, No. 3

April 25, 2010

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Msgr. Boyle has recovered from his pace-maker surgery and is presiding at this Mass again regularly.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Fr. John Hester presides every Sunday. He is Associate Director of Stanford Hospital's Spiritual Care Service.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Fr. Jose Rubio successfully completed the stair climb up the Bank of America building on March 27 to raise money for the American Lung Association.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Dorene French was initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil and baby Austin French was baptized on Easter Sunday, to the delight of husband and father Mark French.

12:00 Sunday Mass: A hearty roast lamb meal was enjoyed after the Easter Sunday Mass in the Thomas House hall.

12:15 Daily Mass: A good way to spend the lunch hour.

Priests at St. Thomas (cont.):

Remember these statistics from last month? There are a minimum of 24 Masses per week celebrated in the parish of St. Thomas Aquinas. Fifteen of those Masses occur at our STA site: two daily—at 7:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., one on Saturday at 12:15 p.m., and four on Sunday. These frequent Masses require priests to preside over them, and the parish of St. Thomas Aquinas has but two priests assigned here by the bishop of San Jose: Pastor Fr. George Aranha and Parochial Vicar Fr. Thierry Geris.

Here at the STA site, we are fortunate to have several non-parish priests who celebrate Mass regularly at one

or another of the fifteen weekly Masses. One especially well-known and beloved priest is **Rev. John P. Hester**, who presides at the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

Fr. Hester has been an associate director of the Stanford Hospital Spiritual Care Service, having served at the hospital for 35 years. According to the Rev. C. George Fitzgerald, S.T.D., Director of Spiritual Care Service, Fr. Hester has undoubtedly provided more sacraments for physicians, nurses, and staff than any other priest in the history of the medical center. He currently serves on the hospital's ethics committee and has become a mainstay of the Intensive Care Unit. He also administers one of the most active and comprehensive volunteer pro-



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

grams of any medical center. Dr. Jeffrey Norton described the death of one of his patients, with whom he had worked for several years to treat her cancer:

“When I came for rounds that morning, I saw her face and knew it was time to quit. I spoke with her husband and we called Fr. John Hester,

(Priests, continued on page 2.)

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
4th Wednesday in Thomas House basement hall.

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, April 28, 2010
7:30—9:00 p.m.

Tentative agenda:

- Progress report-TH
- Interior planning
- Committee assignments

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

Does the Eucharist inspire you?

If you can't answer “yes” to that headline, then come to hear a woman who will change your mind. Diana Macalintal, director of worship for the Diocese of San Jose, will speak on “**Eucharist Matters: Communications, Communion, and Commitment**,” on Saturday, May 1, 9—11 a.m. at St. Albert the Great Church.

Diana is a compelling and engaging speaker and has given leadership training in our parish in the past. Diana holds an M.A. in Theology

with honors from St. John's University, Collegeville, MN. She has served as a liturgist and music director in campus, parish, and diocesan ministries for over 20 years and has authored articles on liturgy and music in *Ministry & Liturgy*, Pastoral Music, Eucharistic Ministries, AIM, and *Today's Parish Minister*. In 2003, she received the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions' Tabat Scholarship. She is a team member of the North American Forum on the Catechu-

menate, a keynote speaker, workshop presenter, and liturgy director for national conferences, and a cantor and liturgical composer. In 2006, she joined the faculty of the Institute in Pastoral Ministries at St. Mary's University in Winaona, MN. She maintains a blog for the Diocese of San José called Work of the People - the Blog found at dsjliturgy.blogspot.com.

Besides all the above, Diana is a real person who will reach your heart with her insights and honesty.

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. THOMAS
AQUINAS CHURCH SITE COMMITTEE**

751 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:

Helen Baumann	Anna Jaklitsch	Lorraine Dabney
Bill Mahrt	Bob March	Kieran McCarty
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 held the 4th Wednesday of the month in the basement hall of the Thomas House. All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, 328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net.

Thomas House update:

The refurbishment of the Thomas House is in a new phase—one of getting to essential needs and living by financial realities. This has meant that the architect and Thomas House Project Team, in concert with the Building and Maintenance and Finance Committees, are looking at how to accomplish the basic goal of bringing basic systems (electrical, plumbing, heating) up to code, providing handicapped access to the main floor of the house, and accommodating renters in the three suites on the second floor—without breaking the parish bank!

To that end, architect Lee Lippert is tasked with re-doing his design; a new permit from the City will be sought; and the contractor who offered the most competitive bid on the first round will review the revised plans and weigh in with real costs.

Come hear more at the April 28 Site Committee meeting in the Thomas House at 7:30 p.m.

—Kay Williams, STA Site Chair

STA Interior update:

The next meeting of the STA Interior Committee is May 19 at 7:30 PM at St. Albert's Hospitality Center. All are welcome.

A generous local architect, Jon Stoumen, has volunteered to consult on the redesign of the altar. He is working closely with Bill Voorhees, Jan Dedek and John Arnold, who are benefiting from his professional expertise. Other committee members are continuing to review carpet samples from different vendors. It is likely that the new carpet will not be red, but there are many alternatives!

A member of the diocesan Arts & Environment Committee will visit the church and consult on color choices for painting the interior. Share your ideas for the church interior with committee chair Judy Foley, 322-8650, judybertchfoley@yahoo.com—or come to the May meeting.

From the church steps:

Jean Ramacciotti, the moderator of her Speaker Series "Spirit Talk with Jean", and our parish Director of RCIA, will interview Roberta Uebbing, President of the St. Thomas Aquinas St. Vincent de Paul Society, on the community channel, Channel 30, web site <http://www.communitymediacenter.net/>. The channel is available on Comcast.

The program is scheduled for the following days and times and will run for three weeks:

Sun. April 18, 25, and May 2- 10:00 P.M.
Mon. April 19, 26 and May 3- 2:00 P.M.
Tues. April 20, 27 and May 4- 6:00 P.M.
Wed. April 21, 28 and May 5- 10:00 A.M.
Thurs. April 22, 29 & May 6- 8:00 or 8:30 P.M.
Fri. April 23, 30 and May 7- 2:00 A.M. & noon.

Roberta will be speaking about the work of the Vincentians, the history of the Society, and the important people involved in founding the Society.

—STA eBulletin, April 23, 2010

To subscribe: eBulletin@paloaltocatholic.org

(Priests, from page 1):

who performed the Catholic sacrament of Last Rites. I am a Catholic and though both my parents have died, I do not remember ever being present for the Last Rites. The administering of the sacrament was a transformative experience. **Father Hester was able to provide dignity for this patient and her husband.**

In the midst of activities and the whirl of ICU machines, he was able to provide peace and tranquility. He focused on the patient and her husband, remembering how much she had done and the way she had lived her life. He asked her husband and me to bless the patient with holy oil.

Father Hester stood by as her husband renewed his marriage vows and promised to be loyal to her in sickness and in health. I couldn't help but think of how much I love my wife and how difficult it would

be to say good-bye to her. But then I realized, that this was not good-bye. It is not death. It is not the end of life. Rather, it is the beginning of a new life, a life that we don't totally understand, but one that we know through our faith. Sharing ... Holy Communion, it helped me feel better about the outcome of my patient and her husband.

I thought that perhaps I hadn't failed...She died with dignity in an attempt to prolong the life on Earth that she had. She really did not die—she simply began her new life. **In the end, Father Hester had the right medicine for her: he knew what she needed.** It was also obvious to the nurses, other doctors, and her husband, and finally it became obvious to me." [Excerpted from SUH *Spiritual Care Notes*, Winter 2009]