

# Steeple Talk

Volume 4, No. 7

August 22, 2010

## News from the STA Mass communities:

**7:15 Daily Mass:** Look for Fr. Jerry Brown., former rector of St. Patrick's Seminary, to be presiding now and then.

**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:** Msgr. Eugene Boyle's birthday was celebrated at the August 1 Mass, even though he was absent due to illness. Pictures of the gathering were sent over an iPhone to Msgr. Boyle as it occurred.

**10:30 Sunday Mass:** Music minister Paul Prochaska welcomes interested musicians who might want to join him at this Mass each week.

**12:00 Sunday Mass:** Gregorian chant by the St. Ann Choir draws worshipers from all over the Bay Area to this Mass.

**12:15 Daily Mass:** Fr. Franklin Epie, a visiting priest from Cameroon, will preside at this Mass through the summer.

## STA Site Committee plans:

**Monthly Meeting:**  
4th Wednesday in Thomas House, 745 Waverley Street (adjacent to Memorial Garden)

**NEXT MEETING:**  
Wednesday, August 25, 2010  
7:30—9:00 p.m.

**Tentative agenda:**

- Thomas House status
- Church grounds
- Time & Talent planning

**Monthly newsletter:**  
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

## Garden Party today welcomes Fr. Matt and Deacon Daniel:

Come to the Memorial Garden this afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for a gala welcoming Garden Party!

Our new pastor, Fr. Matt Stanley, and new deacon Daniel Hernandez, will greet you, try to remember your name, share their early impressions of this Palo Alto assign-

ment, and listen to your thoughts and questions.

Enjoy strawberries and champagne and the company of fellow parishioners in the lovely circle of the Memorial Garden, directly adjacent to the church at 751 Waverley Street. All are invited to attend.



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

## Garden views: which one needs you?



Apple tree behind Memorial Garden

The apple tree is bearing fruit right now. Bring a picker and gather some STA apples for your table.

The parish facilities staff, Godofredo Alfaro and Santiago Aguilar, keep the Memorial Garden in tip-top shape.



Homer Street side of the church

We have a landscape plan for this plot of bare ground, thanks to parishioner/landscape designer Deke Rowell. Now we need a team to organize the planting. Budget is approved. Please step forth and help make this happen!



Memorial Garden remembrance plaques and bench

In the peaceful, welcoming circle of the Memorial Garden stand three pillars with plaques naming those who are remembered by their loving families.

If you would like to have a plaque for a deceased relative or friend, please contact the Parish Office at (650) 494-2496. The plaques are ordered infrequently, so anticipate your needs and put your desired name(s) on the list for the next batch.

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

751 Waverley Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

**St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:**

Ted Baer	Helen Baumann	Anna Jaklitsch
Lorraine Dabney	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 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](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net).

**Parish-wide news:**

**September 11-12: Handcrafted Religious Gifts for sale:**

On the weekend of September 11 & 12, representatives from The Good Shepherd will bring displays of handcrafted olivewood religious gifts for your purchase at all of our parish Masses.

Many Holy Land Christians in the Bethlehem area rely upon income generated from this art form carved by local craftsmen. Thank you for taking time after Mass to support and protect this very important culture and industry.

**Period of Inquiry for Adults Interested in Becoming Catholic:**

The Rite of Christian Initiation ministers invite any adult interested in the Catholic Church or seeking Catholic Baptism or Reception into the Church to join the on-going Inquiry sessions. Informal and small, the meetings are unstructured and held at the pastoral center or in

homes of parishioners.

Members of the RCIA catechetical team are prepared to answer any questions about Catholicism, Jesus, faith, the RCIA process or whatever is on the person's mind. No commitment is required, just sincerity. Prayer and scripture readings are part of every meeting. Contact Jean at 650-494-2496 X34 if you or anyone you know would like to attend these pre-catechumenate gatherings.

**Parish Picnic October 3 at St. Albert the Great to be completely green:**

All parishioners are invited to and welcomed at the annual STA Parish Picnic on October 3 from 11:00 am till 3:00 p.m. This is the year the Green Team anticipates the creation of zero waste at the picnic—with all residue from the party directed to the correct recycling stream.

**From the church steps:**

**Church seeking piano:**

The piano at St. Thomas Aquinas Church is in need of replacement. The instrument is no longer suitable for the many funerals and weddings celebrated at that church. Its tone and tuneability are no longer sufficient for liturgical celebrations (but it might do quite well in the renovated Thomas House!).

We would like to obtain a new piano for the church.

Anyone interested in donating monies towards the purchase of a new piano should contact Nora Lundin (parish Liturgy, Wedding and Funeral Coordinator) at [liturgy@paloaltocatholic.org](mailto:liturgy@paloaltocatholic.org) or Chuck Tully in the Pastoral Center ([business@paloaltocatholic.org](mailto:business@paloaltocatholic.org)).

**Thomas House update:**

Revised plans for remodeling of the Thomas House were submitted to the City of Palo Alto Planning Department on July 29. The contractor, SC Construction, is preparing a revised bid, based on the revised construction plans.

**STA interior comment:**



Notice the "caution" tape outlining the bottom step on the altar. Redesigning the configuration of the steps is an important part of the

plan to renovate the church interior, expanding the area of the altar to make it more user-friendly for the ministers who take an active role in the liturgy.

**Update on Msgr. Eugene Boyle:**

Msgr. Boyle's health is such that he has decided to move from his apartment to an assisted living facility in Menlo Park, the Glenwood Inn. He anticipates that the move will be completed by the end of August.

The folks at the Glenwood Inn are reportedly quite excited at the prospect of having a Catholic priest move in, as many of the current residents are Catholics. Msgr. Boyle is feeling better and stronger each day, so it is hoped that he will be able to say Mass right there at the Inn.