

Steeple Talk

Volume 3, No. 12

January 24, 2010

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Following this daily Mass, the church sanctuary is left open for private meditation until after the 12:15 Mass.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Fr. John Hester is the regular celebrant and also serves as a chaplain at Stanford Hospital. He often includes examples from his hospital ministry in his homilies.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Come down to the Thomas House basement hall after Mass for coffee, juice, donuts and fellowship.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Dismissal of the Catechumens takes place every Sunday.

12:00 Sunday Mass: The Thomas House basement hall is the site of a delicious potluck of light lunch goodies after this Mass each week.

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

Drawings, permits, etc.:

We are now into the preliminary action phase of the Thomas House renovation project.

On January 7, the Thomas House Project Team met with Lee and Carol Lippert, the project architects. The working drawings of the planned renovations were reviewed. A revised schedule for the activities of the next 60 days was presented. The text of the Request for Proposal (RFP) was reviewed, as well as the Bid Form for contractors.

Now that the drawings are in hand, forward steps are being taken. Parish business manager Chuck Tully took the drawings to the City of Palo Alto to apply for per-

mits. While Chuck was in the planning office, a contractor overheard him and expressed interest in bidding on the project. The fact that the economy has been depressed could have a positive effect for us—contractors are looking for work!

During the rest of January, contractors will be identified and given the opportunity to present proposals. References of contractors will be checked. Early in February, Chuck will conduct a walk-through of the Thomas House with bidding contractors and their subcontractors. Asbestos abatement will start in mid-February. Bids and construction schedules are due to the Director of Facilities at the Diocese of San Jose on or about February 18.



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Within a few days of the 18th, the Project Team will review the bids and select a contractor.

Given this timeline, it is not likely that actual construction will begin much before March. Planning by the Site Committee for alternate arrangements for hospitality af-

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STA Site Committee plans:

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

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, January 27,
7:30—9:00 pm

Tentative agenda:

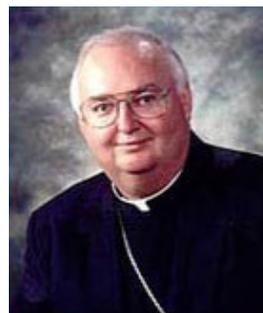
- Parish business manager
- Thomas House planning
- Interior Committee report

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

Bishop McGrath at 8:45 Sunday Mass on February 7:

Bishop Patrick J. McGrath of the Diocese of San Jose will celebrate the 8:45 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church on Sunday, February 7. Invited by former co-presidents of the Thomas Merton Center Anna Jaklitsch and Kay Williams to preside at this TMC-sponsored Mass, Bishop McGrath will concelebrate with Fr. George Aranha and Msgr. Eugene Boyle. He



Bishop McGrath

will be available for the hospitality hour following Mass, which will be held next door

in the basement hall of the Thomas House, as usual. The planners of the Feb. 7 Mass hospitality had thought to have the hospitality hour on the main floor of the Thomas House. However, it was determined that the expected crowd would strain the capacity of the living room upstairs. So it was decided to welcome the bishop in our regular hospitality headquarters—in the basement.

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

751 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:

Helen Baumann	Phil Coates	Anna Jaklitsch
Lorraine Dabney	Bill Mahrt	Bob March
Kieran McCarty	Mike McMahon	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 (continued):

ter Masses will be a topic for discussion and planning. Decisions during the actual construction will come up regarding all sorts of things, anticipated and certainly unanticipated. As an example, Chuck Tully reported that Carol Lippert offered us a large industrial-style Wolf gas range that was coming out of another project. It was free, so Chuck took it, anticipating that it will be useful in the Thomas House kitchen. It is being stored in the garage behind the church for the time being. Other such fortuitous occurrences are in the offing as well, we can be sure.

Many committees of dedicated parishioners have spent hours working on bringing the Thomas House dream to this point. The Site Committee is particularly appreciative of the cooperation and support of the parish business manager, and Building & Maintenance and Finance Committees as the project nears its final months. —Kay Williams

STA Interior update:

It is likely that the refurbishment of the church interior will begin with the reframing of the altar steps. Carpeting and painting will be scheduled at the same time, thereby minimizing the disruption to the Masses.

These changes are still distant, however. In the near term, the STA Interior Committee will meet separately with the parish Building and Maintenance Committee and with the diocesan Art and Environment Committee—both on January 28. Discussion with the parish B & M group will determine which of the proposed changes fall into the category of maintenance, and which are aesthetic. These decisions have financial implications, and probably some project-specific fundraising will be done to complete the design. For information: Judy Foley, 322-8650 judybertchfoley@yahoo.com.

From the church steps:

Upcoming liturgical events at STA:

Candlemas

Monday evening, February 1, 8:00 p.m.
Candlelight procession and Sung Mass in Latin, details to be announced.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday evening, February 17, 6:00 p.m.
Mass with distribution of ashes, sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center for all.

Wednesday evening, February 17, 8:00 p.m.
Latin Mass in Gregorian chant with distribution of ashes.

Leaking roof repaired:

On the Homer St. side of the church, a leak from the flat portion of the roof above the confessionals was noticed on December 7. The water was dripping from the light fixture on the ceiling and was found to be coming from some side horizontal boards on a built-up section of the flat roof. Caulking was applied to the joints between the wood sidings to fix the problem.

Parish-wide perambulations:

Human Concerns:

The report from the HCC at the Pastoral Stewardship Council meeting in January was impressive. The list of activities over the past 6 months included (but were not limited to): Supporting St. Vincent de Paul food and holiday gift drives; working on abolition of the death penalty; adopting the diocesan environmental campaign—establishing a Green Committee for the parish which distributed cloth shopping bags and promoted indoor recycling bins; co-sponsored a conference on torture; promoted JustFaith and a talk by its founder Jack Jezreel; collected books for Elmwood Jail.

HCC representative Walt Lundin wryly suggested a new group be established: ACRONYM—

Associates Concerned with Reason, Order and Neatness in Your Mid-peninsula!

Monthly Communal Sacrament of Reconciliation:

On Jan 23rd, we had the first monthly Communal Sacrament of Reconciliation celebration, which will take place every fourth Saturday of the month, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm at St. Albert the Great Church. Both Fr. Thierry and Fr. George will be there to hear individual confessions offering both methods: face to face as well as the confessional box. For this reason, **on the fourth Saturday of every month there will be no confessions at 11:30 am at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.** The whole parish is invited next on February 27 to join in this Sacrament of healing and forgiveness. —Fr. George Aranha