

Steeple Talk

Volume 4, No. 2

March 21, 2010

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Fr. John Sandersfield has joined Fr. Gene Konkel as a presider while Fr. Boyle has been recovering from surgery.

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

8:45 Sunday Mass: Msgr. Eugene Boyle is recovering well from the pacemaker surgery he had on March 8.

10:30 Sunday Mass: The Rites of Scrutiny for those electing to be received into the Catholic Church occur on Sundays during Lent at this Mass.

12:00 Sunday Mass: The St. Ann Choir will sing the Tenebrae service on Wednesday of Holy Week.

12:15 Daily Mass: A good way to spend the lunch hour. The open church welcomes early birds.

Priests at St. Thomas...

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, as do our own Fr. Aranha and Fr. Geris. Among them are Fr. John Hester, Msgr. Eugene Boyle, Rev. Jose Antonio Rubio, Rev. Michael Marini, Rev. Gene Konkel, Rev. John Sandersfield, and occasional others who are drafted when they come to town or can break away from their own congregational duties.

In this Year of the Priest, the STA Parish Communications Committee has been featuring in the parish eBulletin (see article below) the many priests who help serve parish liturgical needs. Recently Fr. Jose Rubio was featured. Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at St. Patrick's Seminary and University, Fr. Rubio presides frequently at the 8:45 Mass. He



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

was born in San Francisco in 1949, lived in Garden Grove in Orange County until he finished high school. Both his parents are from Sonora, Mexico. He was ordained on April 12, 1980 in San Francisco. Fr. Rubio's academic resume is long and illustrious. Intertwined with the periods of

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STA Site Committee plans:

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

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, March 24, 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;

Parish eBulletin prints all the news that's fit:

If you are an e-mail user and have not subscribed to the STA Parish eBulletin, you are missing a great resource for last-minute bulletins about parish events, entertaining content on feast days, saints, and things Catholic, news of speakers and events in the immediate Palo Alto area, announcements of funerals, program updates for CCD and Youth Group activities, and more. The eBulletin is put together



Chris Lundin

by parishioner Chris Lundin, who serves on parish committees and as a music minister in the parish. Chris has an eye for quirky ironies—the March 12 edition reprised a news story about a new iTunes application that is being offered to give busy people a way of praying the Stations of the

Cross anytime, anywhere. Ave Maria Press announced the launch of this application, which is being offered as a free download for the iPhone and iPod touch. It was created “with busy people in mind and is the perfect pocket devotional,” the press release noted. And it's just in time for Holy Week!

Subscription requests for the eBulletin should be sent to ebulletin@paloaltocatholic.

**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 update:

Early in March, contractors submitted bids for the rehab work on the Thomas House. The four bids received were higher than had been projected by the architect, partly due to additional requirements from the City of Palo Alto for a mixed-use building. As Jim McLaughlin, parishioner and member of the Building and Maintenance Committee, said, "Reality has struck...we can't do all we want to do with the dollars we have."

So the Thomas House Project Team and Building and Maintenance and Finance Committees are hard at the meeting table again. Alternative options are being considered. The basic rehab of the building's main systems (electrical, plumbing and heating) will go forward. Adapting the other features of the renovation to bring them into line with the budget is the present hurdle. The goal of making an accessible meeting space for the STA site is paramount. Stay tuned...

STA Interior update:

The next meeting of the STA Interior Committee is March 24 at 7:30 PM at St. Albert's Hospitality Center. All are welcome. John Arnold, Jan Dedek and Bill Voorhees are fine tuning the altar platform project. Bishop McGrath will ultimately approve the plans.

Sally Benson, Katie Cho, Judy Foley and Nora Lundin have been working on carpet selections. They met at the carpet showroom that they were referred to by the Diocese of San Jose. The carpet representative brought samples to STA for them to see in the space. He also measured the area so it is now known how much carpet will be needed. There has been no decision regarding the carpet at this time.

Give suggestions to:
Contact Judy Foley, 322-8650, judybertchfoley@yahoo.com.

From the church steps:

Good Friday liturgy at STA:



Experience the somber mystery of the death of Jesus on Good Friday, April 2, from 12:00 noon till 3:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

The formal liturgy for the day is known as the *Celebration of the Lord's Passion*, and consists of the Liturgy of the Word (including a reading of the Passion of the Lord), Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. This 90-minute liturgy will be preceded and followed by quiet meditative music and singing, so that the traditional Good Friday Three Hours will be available. The formal liturgy begins at 12:30.

Holy Thursday's *Evening Mass of the Last Supper* will be celebrated at Our Lady of the Rosary Church at 7:30 p.m., and the *Easter Vigil* will be held at St. Albert the Great Church at 8:00 p.m.

(Priests, from page 1):

study that resulted in his Doctorate of Sacred Theology in 2006, he has served on the Diocese of San Jose Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy and well as an ecumenical officer for the Diocese of San Jose. He is a frequent speaker and writer on the subject of bilingual and multicultural liturgies. In his personal life, Fr. Rubio likes classical music and is a member of the Symphony Silicon Valley Advisory Board. In terms of exercise, until very recently he used to run and has run 10Ks and marathons, and then half marathons. Unfortunately, he now has severe arthritis in his left knee which prevents him from running. The surprise interest: he also likes to box. Fr. Jose also collects art by people he personally knows. He has paintings by three St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners: Kaleen Able, Osvaldo Ng and Carol Pulliam.

Help Fr. Rubio climb:



Fr. Jose Rubio

On Saturday, March 27, Fr. Jose Antonio Rubio will be climbing the stairs of the Bank of America

Building in San Francisco (1197 stairs) to raise money for the American Lung Association. He is looking for sponsors to contribute at least a penny a stair to help defeat lung cancer. (If anyone is interested in climbing with him, he would welcome a teammate.)

For more info on the race see: *San Francisco Fight For Air Climb 2010.org*. Donate in Fr. Rubio's name online at the website, or sign Fr. Rubio's pledge list at Mass this Sunday.