

Steeple Talk

Volume 4, No. 4

May 23, 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: Rudy Bahr cycled from Mountain View to church (60+ minutes) on Bike-to-Mass Day, April 25!

10:30 Sunday Mass: See article on page 2 about sacristans.

12:00 Sunday Mass: Today the St. Ann Choir sings the *Messa da Cappella* by Claudio Monteverdi and the chants for the feast day. Celebrant is Fr. Augustine Thompson, O.P. of the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology, Berkeley.

12:15 Daily Mass: A good way to spend the lunch hour. The church is open between the 7:15 a.m. Mass and this noon Mass.

Memorial Garden at STA offers solace:

Between the Thomas House on the left and the STA church building on the right lies a haven of relaxed beauty and tranquility—the STA Memorial (or Remembrance) Garden. This diminutive garden was lovingly and professionally designed as an oasis in a downtown urban setting. The walkway, the center paved round, the benches and the meticulous plantings invite one to enter, linger and enjoy moments of reflection, remembrance and prayer. (This garden is maintained by the parish custodial help.)

Memorial plaques are affixed to posts alongside the church wall. Recently, the



post with the shorter list of names was removed and cleaned up due to damage sustained while the church exterior was painted. It has been returned to its place, and plaques in memory of the following parishioners have been installed or re-installed:

Dorothy A. Gibbons
The Marshall Family
Rita McCandless
Hortense & Richard Shirley
Elvira Bianchi
Diane Hansen
George & Leonor Revilla
Pat Gildea Vaden
Elaine Donald



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Isabel Mulcahy
Patrick Sinnott
Joseph Bianchi
Jane Watkins Bahr

Take a moment to look at the names on the posts and put yourself in communion with these deceased parishioners who have been remembered by their families.

To order a plaque, contact the Parish Office at (650) 494-2496.

STA Site Committee plans:

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

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, May 26, 2010
7:30—9:00 p.m.

Tentative agenda:

- Progress report-TH
- June fundraising dinner

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

June 19 dinner at St. Thomas rectory:

The STA site committee will host on June 19th an Italian dinner featuring your choice of spaghetti or polenta with marinara sauce, at the historic St. Thomas Rectory.

This parish-wide event is intended to introduce the facility to those unfamiliar with it and to tell people about the planned remodel. More information about the event and tickets for the dinner will be

available at the June 6 and 13 masses. Hold the date.

The dinner on June 19 is an opportunity for STA parishioners from the whole parish to “party” in the house, acquaint themselves with its gracious rooms, and imagine its many uses in the future.

Volunteers are needed to help. Contact Ted Baer at (650) 321-6179, tabaer@sbcglobal.net.



Rear entrances to STA rectory (aka Thomas House)

**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.

Parish news:

Sunday, May 23: Pastoral Home Ministry Meeting

There will be a Pastoral Home Ministry Meeting on Sunday, May 23rd at 2:00-4:00 pm at OLR Pastoral Center. This is the time for ministers to touch base with each other, meet new members and share their experiences. All ministers are asked to attend. We also welcome anyone who is interested in joining the ministry. There are informational cards at the vestibule of all the churches detailing what we do. For more information contact Pastoral Home Ministry: 494-2496 X22.

At the May 12 meeting of the Pastoral Stewardship Council, a new Executive Board was elected to serve for the following year:

Chair: Kay Williams (who represents the Liturgy Board); Vice Chair: Yvette Bovee (who represents the Catechetical Board); Secretary: Kathleen Hart (who represents the St. Albert the Great Site).

The PSC membership thanked outgoing Chair Jerry Lucha for his service to the group, as well as outgoing Vice-Chair Mary Clifford.

STA Interior update:

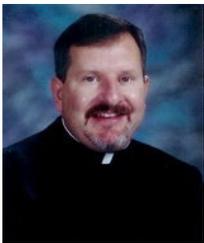
The next meeting of the STA Interior Committee is June 16 at 7:00 PM at St Thomas Aquinas Church. All are welcome.

We are looking into the possibility of using a structural engineer instead of an architect to do the calculations for the revision of the altar steps. We are waiting to hear from the parish office to see if that would be acceptable. One of the committee members of the Diocese Art and Environment committee met us at the church to give us some guidance on color, carpet and other thoughts we had.

We would like to find someone with Photoshop experience who would be willing to volunteer in assisting us in portraying possible color choices. If you have this ability or know someone who has please get in touch with Judy Foley-- judybertchfoley@yahoo.com or 650-322-8650.

From the church steps:

Change of pastor: Fr. George Aranha will be leaving our parish as pastor to take up the pastorate of St. Clare Parish in Santa Clara, effective July 1. The Rev. Matthew D. Stanley, currently pastor of Holy Family Parish in San Jose, will step into the pastor's role here.



Rev. Matthew Stanley

Fr Matt has been the pastor at Holy Family since July 1998; he is the fourth longest serving pastor in parish history. He is a very talented writer, homilist and actor. He is hardworking, dedicated and very attentive to his pastoral duties.

He also enjoys bowling and is a die hard Patriots & Red Sox fan. He is competitive and a stickler for details and order. He loves politics and the peace and quiet of Maui. He graduated from St. Joseph College & St. Patrick Seminary and was assigned to St. John Vianny, St. Mary, Gilroy, and St. Thomas Aquinas, before arriving at Holy Family. His great treasure is his cat, MacKenzie.

Sacristans at STA:

When you come to Mass at STA, do you ever wonder who unlocked the church door for you? That would be the sacristan (at the early a.m. Masses). The Catholic Encyclopedia defines a sacristan as an officer who is charged with the care of the sacristy, the church and its contents.



Charlotte Gross

Charlotte Gross has been a sacristan at St. Thomas Aquinas church for 7 years—first at the 10:30 Sunday Mass and now also at the 7:15 daily Mass.

Besides ordering all the necessary supplies, Charlotte sets up for each Mass the holy vessels, gifts of bread and wine, the presider's vestments, and arranges the small table on the altar. She places the sacramentary (priest's missal) as well as the lectionary with the day's readings in the right places

on the altar. She schedules the lectors and Communion ministers for the 2 Masses, recruits people at each Mass to bring up the gifts of bread and wine at the Offertory and sees that the collections are brought up to the altar and then safely deposited in the sealed transmittal bags after Mass. After Mass, Charlotte purifies the vessels and puts them away.

Other STA sacristans are:

12:15 weekdays: **Tina Reyes**
7:30 Sundays:

Bill & Bea Peterson

8:45 Sundays: **Marci Ariagno, Marlene Arnold, Denise Davenport, Maureen Locke, Fran McVittie, Judy Washburn**

12:00 Sundays: **George**

Brown, Richard Hernandez

Blessings and praise to our sacristans!