

Steeple Talk

Volume 4, No. 10

November 21, 2010

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Msgr. Boyle is presiding at this Mass once a week. He is in residence now at the Glenwood Inn in Menlo Park, where he celebrates Sunday Mass.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Regular presider Fr. John Hester serves fulltime in the chaplaincy ministry at Stanford Hospital.

8:45 Sunday Mass: A team of 15 or so boys from Boston College Prep, in town for the Stanford Model U. N. Conference, attended this Mass on Nov. 14.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Music minister Paul Prochaska has gathered singers from the community to enhance the liturgical ambience.

12:00 Sunday Mass: The St. Ann Choir has found a practice room at the P.A. Women's Club from 11-12 on Sunday morning—good until the Thomas House is done.

12:15 Daily Mass: Stop in for Mass on your lunch hour and stay on for the Rosary.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
4th Tuesday (this month only—usually 4th Wednesday),
151 Coleridge Ave., Palo Alto
(Baumann home, 327-9236)

NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, November 23, 2010
7:30—9:00 p.m.

Tentative agenda:

- Thomas House funding
- Hospitality

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

Thomas House fundraising is launched:

Construction on the Thomas House is proceeding. The next phase for the parish is to raise funds to supplement the construction budget.

Project objectives include:

- Improving the infrastructure of the 82-year old rectory at 745 Waverley Street by assuring safety & reliability, increasing energy efficiency and modernizing interior hardware.
- Refurbishing the first floor kitchen for parish and tenant use.
- Adding a handicapped bathroom and ramp to the first floor.
- Preparing the three large upstairs apartments to be rental units.
- Furnishing the first floor for parish use.
- Retaining the basement for parish use.

Benefits to the site include:

- a handicapped accessible gathering place for Sunday hospitality;

- a complete, usable kitchen for parish events;
- an outstanding wedding, education, and funeral reception facility;
- welcoming parish meeting spaces on the first floor;
- and the space to establish a daytime library/reading room to enhance the Catholic presence in downtown Palo Alto. [This will require volunteer staffing.]

Project Funding

\$500,000 parish funds
\$100,000 fundraising goal
\$ 50,000 bequest
\$650,000 TOTAL

Donations

To reach our fundraising goal will require many contributions, each of which will be sincerely appreciated.

Every window in St. Thomas Aquinas church acknowledges a parishioner's generosity of, now, a century ago. In this spirit, substantial donations to this project will be



St. Thomas Aquinas Church acknowledged as follows: A plaque in the entry hall of the Thomas House will list the names of all donors contributing \$1,000 or more. The two highest donations exceeding \$10,000 will be accorded naming rights for a public room in the house. (Rooms need names for meeting reservation purposes.)

For more information:
Kay Williams, STA Site Committee chairperson, (650) 328-2781, or kaywill@pacbell.net.

Thomas House in hands of SC Builders:



SC Builders of Sunnyvale, CA, has planted its sign on the front lawn of the Thomas House. This construction company has worked on large and small projects throughout the area, including remodels

of Nativity Church's altar and school multipurpose room, Holy Trinity's Angus Hall, and a Seventh Day Adventist narthex. Our Thomas House is in good hands!

**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	Philip Boudart
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 (usually) held the 4th Wednesday of the month in the basement hall of the Thomas House (see changes below). All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, 328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net.

Parish-wide news:

Directory picture-taking:

There is still time to sign up for a portrait sitting so your picture can be in the 2011 Parish Directory. Additional appointments are available from December 6-9 at SAG.

ONLINE SIGNUPS! One can sign up any time at: <http://www.signup.olanmills.com/>. The password to use is: (650) 494-2496. On the Olan Mills EZSignup page, click on the "New Appointment" box, and fill in the boxes with your information. The parish office phone number has to be entered in the "Church phone number" area on the left side of the registration page as verification. Continue filling in the Church Membership List Information section, too. If you have trouble signing up online, please contact the parish office for assistance (494-2496).

Our parish community is strengthened by a useful directory—so please join in with your picture.

Advent retreat December 4:

A morning of recollection, "Embracing the Greatest Commandment," will be presented by psychologist and spiritual lecturer Susan Cabrera on Saturday, December 4, from 9:00 am till 12:00 noon in the chapel at Vallombrosa Center, 250 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park. The retreat is sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center of Palo Alto.

Through lecture, exercises and meditation, retreatants will be led to love God more deeply spiritually, intellectually and emotionally. Susan Cabrera has her master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Stanford University with an emphasis on behavior modification. In her work, Susan's goal is to help people realize their full potential and become closer to God. Pre-registration for the morning of recollection is requested by November 30. Suggested donation at the door is \$15.00. Respond to Kay Williams, (650) 328-2781, or kaywill@pacbell.net.

From the church steps:

Vespers, Adoration, Benediction on Thursday evenings:

Come to Vespers, the traditional evening prayer of the Church, with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction every Thursday, 5:15 till 6:15 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas church. Fr. Thierry or Deacon Daniel will guide this spiritual practice.

St. Ann Choir events:

The Feast of St. Cecilia, Patroness of Music, Monday, November 22, 8:00 p.m., at Nativity Church, 210 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park: *Missa O quam gloriosum*, by Tomás Luis de Victoria.

Immaculate Conception, Wednesday, December 8, 8:00 p.m., at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Sung Mass in Latin, *Missa Caça*, by Cristóbal de Morales.

STA Site Committee meets Tuesday, November 23, 7:30 p.m.:

With the closure of the Thomas House to parish use for the next few months, the Site Committee is without its regular meeting place in the Thomas House. The November meeting will again be held at the home of Helen Baumann, 151 Coleridge Ave., Palo Alto (Helen—327-9236) All are welcome to attend.

Close dem doors!

During these winter months we can reduce our heating costs and CO2 emissions by keeping the heat in and the cold out in our churches if we keep the doors closed. We'd appreciate your cooperation. We have a goal to reduce our energy use by 5% next year. This will help. Thank you! [Parish Finance, Building & Maintenance and Green Committees]

Contribute a crèche:

Participate in the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Second Annual Crèche Exhibit. Last year over 100 nativity scenes were displayed. We look forward to sharing in each other's nativity scene collections. Saturday, December 4, 4:30 - 7 p.m. Sunday, December 5, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. St. Elizabeth Seton School Gymnasium 1095 Channing Ave, Palo Alto.

Bring your nativity set(s) to Seton School on Sat., Dec. 4, between 1 PM and 3 PM. You will set up your own scene(s) at that time on tables that will be prepared with white cloths. Please bring any fabrics you use to create your own special ambience. Crèches should be picked up between 1 PM and 3 PM on Sunday, Dec. 5.

Questions? Helen Baumann, hbaumann@aol.com (650) 327-9236