

Steeple Talk

Volume 4, No. 9

October 24, 2010

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Deacon Daniel Hernandez celebrated some Communion Services this month while Fr. Matt Stanley was on vacation.

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

8:45 Sunday Mass: Out-of-town visitors at this Mass are frequent—here to attend local weddings and other events, visiting children, bringing students to Stanford—and are introduced at the beginning of Mass.

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

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

Thomas House construction is underway!

After months of anticipation and planning, questions and revisions, the word came suddenly on October 7th from parish business manager Chuck Tully that the contract with the construction company, SC Builders, had been signed and the asbestos contractor was ready to start work in the Thomas House on October 14. The Thomas House had to be emptied of all stored items, kitchen equipment, furniture, hospitality supplies, committee paraphernalia, etc., by that date.

Although we had a short period of time to move the various groups' things out of the Thomas House, it was done

within the time frame, even with the STA Time and Talent on October 10 holding back the full effort. The 8:45 and 12:00 Mass communities sorted, tossed and moved their hospitality supplies on Sunday afternoon.

What could be moved by volunteers on October 10 was moved—into the small shingled garage behind the Homer House. Parish maintenance crew, Godofredo Alfaro and Santiago Aguilar, continued with the moving of tables, refrigerators and chairs on Monday and Tuesday. The Knights of Columbus emptied the closet in which their robes were stored



St. Thomas Aquinas Church on Thursday. The way was cleared for construction, and then the asbestos crew moved in. (See photos on page 2.)

Stay tuned for information about alternative hospitality arrangements for after-Mass gatherings during the months of construction.

STA Site Committee plans:

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

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 28, 2010 7:30—9:00 p.m.

Tentative agenda:

- Thomas House update
- Hospitality arrangements

Monthly newsletter: Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

Jim Thalmann receives 2010 STA Site Stewardship Award:

The STA Site Committee nominated Jim Thalmann as the recipient of the 2010 Stewardship Award. This award was presented to Jim at the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, October 10, by Site Committee chair Kay Williams.

The award certificate read: “In recognition of his consistent attention to the essential systems of sound amplification and heating in St. Thomas Aquinas church, the St. Thomas Aquinas Church Site

Committee gladly presents Jim Thalmann with this 2010 Stewardship Award.”

All STA Mass communities benefit from Jim’s expertise and faithful presence each week because he makes sure the heat or air conditioning in the church is functioning and that the sound system—speakers and microphones—are powered and wired and ready to go. So, we are all comfortable and able to hear



the readings and homily. Congratulations and thank you for your caring stewardship, Jim!

**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.

Parish-wide news:

Time and Talent Faire:

A festive atmosphere on October 10 encouraged STA churchgoers to look over the displays from 14 parish ministries—and a few persons signed up to participate but we welcome more.

Directory picture

appointments: Each Sunday during October after all Masses it was possible for church goers to sign up for an appointment to have a picture portrait taken of the family—thereby contributing to the 2011 STA Parish Directory. Call the parish office if you want to make an appointment: 650-494-2496.

Spirituality Tuesday

Assemblies: The Adult Spiritual Education ministry is presenting a talk on Tuesday, October 26, by Dr. Tom Plante on the sexual abuse crisis in the Church, 7 p.m., at Seton School Auditorium, 1095

Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Questions to be considered include: What should the laity know? Where is the Truth? Where do we go from here? Dr. Plante is professor of psychology and director of the Spirituality and Health Institute of Santa Clara University, and clinical professor of psychiatry at Stanford University.

Interest in receiving sacraments:

"The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" welcomes any adult, who is interested in Baptism, Confirmation, or being received into the Catholic church, to the on-going Inquiry group. Your questions about the Catholic tradition or about any of the Initiation Sacraments will be addressed.

Contact Jean at 650-494-2496 X34 for information about this RCIA process and for a schedule of meeting times of the informal Inquiry gatherings.

From the church steps:

Prayer service at STA:

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.

STA Site Committee to meet Thursday, October 28:

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

Views of the asbestos removal work at the Thomas House:



Carport roped off



Bathroom fixtures in carport



Thomas House back door



Workers Esteban & Eduardo pose proudly "for the paper."



Two trucks for asbestos work



Don't disturb the redwood!

The workers from Asbestos Removal Systems worked four days at the Thomas House the week of October 18. The basement, kitchen, and three apartments on the second floor were subjected to their professional attention. No walls will be removed in the front rooms of the main floor.

The big redwood tree adjacent to the Thomas House is protected by a chain link fence, as are the three redwoods behind the church alongside the driveway.