

REPORT

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Adult Spiritual Development Committee

July, 9th, 2008

TO: St. Thomas Aquinas PSC Members, Staff and Interested Parishioners

SUMMARY OF PAST, CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:

General

(a) Mission statement for ASDC:

“Plan, organize and implement opportunities for the St. Thomas Aquinas community to deepen and grow their awareness, experience and gratitude toward God while complementing our existing spiritual formation activities.”

(b) The Faith Connection: Weekly insert in parish bulletin – current quantities 800/week
[Quantities and distribution been evaluated]

(c) Stewardship: “New Beginnings” kit {A new way of Living as Catholics} DVD on Stewardship development program still under reviewed by committee or can be handed over to others to evaluate and possibly implement for parish.

On-Going Activities

(a) Baptism Catechesis: Every 4th Saturday of the month

STA Pastoral Center – 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

(b) Centering Prayer: Group Meditation sessions at STA Pastoral Center

Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month

[none in August will resume in Sept.]

(c) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Wednesday after 12:15 PM mass at STA Church
[cancelled due to lack of participants]

(e) Chinese Faith Sharing: Every Wednesday – 7:30 – 9:30 PM at Dermody Center

Activities in English

(f) Renew Group: 1st & 3rd Wednesday of month at Irmey Buchholtz house

(g) Burning Bush: - Generally fourth Sunday of the Month - Fr. George, and others. Hopefully will re-commence in the Fall

Past Events

(a) Robert McClory (staff writer for NCR) - *The Coming Democratization of the Catholic Church*. OLR Hall. 7:30 – 9:30 PM Thursday 13th March, 2008

Future Events

(a) Parish Mission: Mike McDevitt “Whole Community” Parish Retreat – Sat. 15th Nov 2008

(b) Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop – Tentative Advent 2008 – details later

(c) Co-coordinating activities with TMC, other adjacent parishes and groups (Vallombrosa etc.)

Administration

(a) Monthly Meeting Day & Time: Currently 2nd Tuesday of month at SAG Hospitality Center

(b) Membership: Now down to 3 members

(c) Recruitment of new members: Top priority and actively seeking volunteers

Miscellaneous

(a) Catholic Interfaith Network Group (CING)

(i) **Islam 101 Presentation** -- Last one was at St. Lawrence, Santa Clara, 5 May.

(ii) **Catholic-Muslim 101** - In Valley Catholic "Prophets as messengers" is planned for August.

(b) Centering Prayer Events

(i) A Taste of Silence Weekend Retreat led by Eileen Halliburton, Co-Coordinator of the East Bay Chapter of Contemplative Outreach--Aug 28-31, 2008. To register for this beautifully constructed contemplative weekend retreat, visit www.mercy-center.org.

(ii) Living Flame, Part 2 begins---Saturday Centering Prayer Contemplative Education Series, sponsored by Mercy Center—Oct 4 and Nov 15. (continues into 2009) For more information, visit www.mercy-center.org.

(iii) October 18 and 19---for two talks by Fr. William Meninger OCSO, Trappist monk and retreat master residing at Snowmass Monastery in Colorado. He is one of the foremost scholars and writers in the world on The Cloud of Unknowing. That influence on Fr. William helped him formulate the initial retreats on Centering Prayer with Thomas Keating and Basil Pennington--which ultimately emerged as the Centering Prayer movement about 25 years ago.

(iv) The California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) will bring Thomas Keating to their school on December 12, 13 and 14.

Stewardship Prayer

Yahweh,

Creator of all life, goodness and blessings, Divine Architect,
Giver of our days;

Risen Jesus,

Model of generosity,
Shepherd of our lives;

Spirit of Wisdom,

Source of our gifts and talents,
Our Inspiration and Guide;

You call us to be loving disciples,

faithful stewards,
sharing all you give to us with gratitude and joy.

Bless us with

generous hearts,
open minds,
greater commitment,
renewed vision,
so that we may
grow in Christ and
accept the challenges of loving service.

May we be a community of faith where
all are welcomed, nourished, and empowered
to be Christ for others.

Amen.