

Steeple Talk

Volume 2, No. 6

July 20, 2008

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Fr. Gene Konkel celebrates this Mass on Tues/Thurs; Msgr. Gene Boyle celebrates Mon/Wed/Fri. The congregation of 30-40 attendees is growing.

7:30: Fr. John Hester recently had eye surgery. He is supported by a faithful congregation of early-a.m. Mass goers.

8:45: The Tongan choir, led by John Eke and composed of his family and friends, provides vigorous and engaging music twice a month.

10:30: [Editors are looking for a "stringer" to bring news from this Mass community.]

12:00: Stay on after Mass and enjoy a hospitable repast while becoming acquainted with the Gregorian choir.

12:15 Daily Mass: The Wednesday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after this Mass lasts about an hour, with communal and silent prayer.

STA Site Committee meets:

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

NEXT MEETING:
Wed., July 23, 7:30—9:00 pm
Agenda (tentative & partial):
Report on Thomas House renovation task force.
Report on STA church interior renovation.

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

Editors: Kay Williams, 650-328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net, and Jane Bahr, 650-967-8246, bahrjunior@comcast.net

Renovation task force formed:

Several years' worth of thinking, discussing, asking, planning, meeting and presenting by the STA Site Committee has resulted in the formation of a formal task force to carry out the renovation of the Thomas House. Placed under the direction of the Building and Maintenance Committee, one of the ministries of the parish represented on the Pastoral Stewardship Council (PSC), the **Thomas House Project Team** members were selected from the parish Building & Maintenance, Finance, and STA Site committees, as follows:

Chuck Tully-Parish Business Manager
Jim McLaughlin-B&M
Ray Mensing-B & M

Jim Abler-B & M
Jerry Lucha-B & M
Rick Barry-Finance
Bob March-Site Committee

A tentative time line [see page 2] for implementation of the renovation has been suggested by a consulting architect (Lee Lippert). It takes into account the lead time necessary to get the various permits required. Serious consideration has already been given to the advantages possible if the Project Team applies to the City of Palo Alto for historic status for the house. Selection of the project architect is another step, and one that could involve the Diocese of San



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Jose, which has a list of approved architects for parish building projects.

The schedule calls for the termination of the lease of the current tenants in February 2009 and occupancy of the renovated site by STA congregations in September 2009.

Un-sung heroes: Phil and Anne Coates

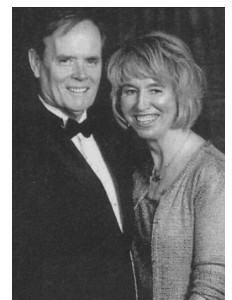
Our local British heroes, Anne and Phil Coates, will soon be moving to Arizona to enjoy retirement. They will be sorely missed in our parish and here at STA site. Phil's professional life (thirty plus years at Sperry, Tandem and Summa Four before helping with a few start-ups) took them and their 3 children around the world — Vancouver, Canada in 1969 then mostly through company moves to San Francisco and stops around the country and around the

world before returning to the Bay Area. Anne taught high school at Menlo Atherton, Woodside, Sunset (Hayward) and Torrance (German, French, ESL) and in Canada and England.

They worshipped at St. Ann's when in town since 1977. Phil started the Communications ministry at STA parish and served as chair until 2006. He then served on the PSC from 2003 to

2005 and was chair in his final year. He chaired the Stewardship committee and attended the STA Site Committee. Both are Eucharistic ministers at St Thomas 10:30 a.m. Mass and have provided STA 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass hospitality.

Phil's skillful leadership has been a boon to every committee on which he has served. Farewell with great appreciation to the Coates duo!



**NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. THOMAS
AQUINAS CHURCH SITE COMMITTEE**

751 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:

Jane Bahr	Helen Baumann	Judy Foley
Lorraine Dabney	Bill Mahrt	Bob March
Kieran McCarty	Mike McMahon	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. Contact: Helen Baumann, 327-9236, hbaumann@aol.com.

From the church steps:

Gregorian Choir to celebrate feast of St. Ann:

The Gregorian choir will celebrate its patronal feast (July 26, the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne) on **Friday evening with a Latin Mass, July 25, at 8:00 p.m.**, at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. They will sing the *Missa Ave Maris Stella* by Josquin Des Prez, as well as the Gregorian chants for the feast day. The celebrant will be Fr. Kevin Joyce. This is a new Mass for the choir, and this will be its first performance of it.

STA Site e-mail list: You don't have time for another night meeting. But you care and want to know what's going on here at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Get on the STA Site Committee e-mail list so you know what is going on. There are interesting projects and concerns cropping up monthly. And with the renovations of the Thomas House and redecorating of the church interior coming up, communication with interested parishioners is vital. Email Kay Williams at kaywill@pacbell.net to be included on the STA Site email distribution list.

Ideas and suggestions for STA and Steeple Talk? Bring your ideas forth to the Site Committee. Meeting Wed., July 23, 7:30 pm, Thomas House basement hall. All are welcome!

Timeline for Thomas House renovation project:

[Lorraine Dabney is the Site Committee rep to the PSC. She attended the July meeting, as did Kay Williams, representing the Liturgy Committee.]

A timeline for the Thomas House (TH) renovation project, as proposed to the PSC in July by the Thomas House Project Team, looks like this:

June 08: Establish TH Project Team, reporting to Building & Maintenance Committee.

July 08: Project Team issues DRFP for Project Architect.

August 08: Hire project architect, who hires historical architect. Project Team prepares preliminary list of renovation items.

September 08: Project architect does preliminary work and presents historic report.

October 08: Project Team decides whether or not to apply for historic status and finalizes project renovation list. HRB application/public noticing.

November 08: HRB review-Director's approval/ appeal period.

December 08: City Council approval (historic designation); Renovations: ARB/HRB application/Planning Staff review/public noticing.

January 09: Survey, lot line adjustment; construction drawing completion if Historical Designation received.

February 09: Construction drawings-Public Works review.

March 09: Site vacated by tenants; RFP to contractors; contractor bidding (award of contract by March 31).

April 09: Building permit application review.

May 09: Construction begins.

June-August 09: Timeline by general contractor.

September 09: Occupancy by September 30.

Curious about the acronyms? Email our Site rep Bob March for clarification: robtmarch@earthlink.net.

Church interior task force meets:

The STA interior task force met on July 8 to lay the groundwork for the church interior project. Some basic tasks were divided among those present. **John Arnold** will work with the liturgy committees from the 8:45 and 10:30 Masses to interview them as to what changes they would like to see happen. **Kieran McCarty** will make a list of areas in the church to be looked at. **Bob Foley** is going to interview some of the past Pastors to see if they can recall what took place in the church when they were there. He is also setting up a questionnaire that can be used when interviewing the priests who use our church on a regular basis. **Judy Foley** will be in touch with the Building and Maintenance Committee to see what records they have of the work that was done to STA in the past. It is the task force's goal to have documentation of work that was done to STA so an assessment of what inspections need to happen can be made.

Interested persons are welcome to attend the August meeting, date TBD. Contact Judy Foley, 650-322-8650, judybertchfoley@yahoo.