

Steeple Talk

Volume 2, No. 8

September 21, 2008

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Regular attendee Arlen Hagen recently had heart bypass surgery and is home recovering.

7:30: The early Sunday morning crowd numbers approximately 150 persons.

8:45: Mary Rita McKay has been added to the altar flower team.

10:30: Music minister Paul Prochaska invites any interested musicians who have an interest in participating as singers or instrumentalists to come forward and speak to him at Mass.

12:00: A convivial gathering is held in the basement hall of the Thomas House with brunch and fellowship following this Mass each week. Music ministry is fulfilled by the St. Ann Choir, which sings the Mass in Gregorian chant each.

12:15 Daily Mass: A good place to spend the lunch hour.

Time and Talent October 12:

The parish Time and Talent outreach will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas Church on October 12. The other two worship sites will have Time & Talent on subsequent October Sundays.

Jean Ramos, parish coordinator of the Time and Talent event, will be at the next Site Committee meeting to explain the goals and procedures of this annual project.

This is the perfect opportunity for all who attend Mass at STA to come together and recruit new lectors, eucharistic ministers, etc.... whatever is needed. All interested parties are

invited to the next Site Committee meeting where we will be developing the detailed plans for T&T Sunday.

We will also be recruiting for parish wide ministries, which offer wonderful opportunities for community building and stewardship. It will be a chance for people to learn about the organization of the parish, and what it takes to keep things running smoothly. There's a place for every talent: finance, building and maintenance, social concerns, liturgy, catechetical work with school-age children, and more. No hiding talent under bushels is allowed!

On Time & Talent Sunday



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

at STA, we plan to have people present who can answer any questions that people have. Each of STA's four Sunday Mass communities will have a special hospitality function planned for the T&T Sunday.

Please share your talents on October 12!

STA Site Committee plans:

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

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, September 24
7:30—9:00 pm

Tentative agenda:
1. Time & Talent prep
2. Lippert response
3. Garden Committee

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

Parish picnic today—September 21:

The parish picnic today is at St. Albert the Great (Seton School), 1095 Channing Ave. Hours are 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (food beginning at 11:30 am.).

It wouldn't be a church picnic without Food Assignments!: For the potluck, if your last name begins with A-M, please bring a salad or side dish; if N-Z, please bring a dessert.

Lots of activities are planned: the

Palo Alto Fire Department will bring one of their engines around, along with colorful Chinese dancing, pinatas, facepainting and the Knights of Columbus will be donating and cooking this year's hotdogs, hamburgers and veggie offerings.

Refreshments are provided. There will be games and crafts for the children throughout the day. Please see the poster in the vestibule for more details.

**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	Phil Coates
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.

Rev. Richard McBrien to speak October 11 in Palo Alto:

The Thomas Merton Center is sponsoring a talk on religion and politics by Rev. Richard McBrien, theologian, author, and professor, on **Saturday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m., at Mitchell Park Community Center, 3800 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.**

A prominent scholar, theologian and writer, Father McBrien is a long-time observer of the Catholic scene both in the United States and worldwide. His writings, commentary and observations are far reaching, including the relationship between religion and politics, the interaction of religion and culture, and the role of immigrants in the church. He has examined the many facets of Catholic tradition, including the theological, doctrinal and spiritual dimensions.

Father McBrien is the Crowley-O'Brien Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. He writes a weekly, syndicated column on Catholicism and theology. He has been president of the Catholic Theological Society of America. He is a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut.

Pastoral Stewardship Council (PSC) Sept. report:

►The STA Site Committee representative, Lorraine Dabney, presented a quarterly report from the STA Site Committee. Highlights included the decision by the Finance Committee not to end the lease of the current tenants of the Thomas House until February 2009; support of the Thomas House Project Team and the appointment of Site reps Bob March and Tom McKay to that team; the creation of the STA Interior Task Force; the continuing effort to build a Garden Committee, particularly to plant a garden of cutting flowers on the Homer Street side of the church so altar flowers can be provided.

►The Finance Committee representative, Rick Barry, announced that the architect chosen to direct the rehabilitation of the Thomas House is Lippert and Lippert of Palo Alto. Two

other architectural firms also submitted proposals for the Thomas House job. Mr. Lippert has responded in depth to questions posed by the Thomas House Project Team regarding specific aspects of his proposal and his price quotation. The next step in the relationship between the parish and the architect is to finalize the contract between the two entities, which should occur by the end of the month.

►Father George announced that he is anticipating help from two priests (one from St. Patrick's Seminary and the other a retired Maryknoll missionary priest), once they have received faculties from the Diocese of San Jose, to celebrate Mass when our parish priests are away.

Project Team meets architect:

The Thomas House Project Team ... met September 18 to review the proposal submitted by architect Lee Lippert.... The Project Team carefully discussed the questions Tom McKay and I submitted concerning the proposal, and the written answers supplied by the architect. In some cases, we considered the questions completely answered, and in others, we noted the additional information and clarification we wanted to get.

Mr. Lippert had been asked to arrive after this initial private hour-long discussion, and he was right on time. He was very forthcoming with further clarification on every open question, and talked to us about many of the less obvious facets of the project. He had brought with him a draft contract, whose provisions he walked us through, fielding the comments and requests as we went. I think I can safely say

that everyone in the room came away from the meeting with a better idea of the work that lies ahead. Although a contract was not signed at the conclusion of the meeting -- this was never planned -- a great deal of progress was made toward completing this phase of the project, and I anticipate that the forwarding of a proposed contract to the diocesan offices, will occur soon.

That's great news for all of us at St. Thomas Aquinas. Please be thinking and praying about how we can use this space, when it's finished, to do the work of God in this neighborhood. And be sure to tell either me or Tom of any conclusions you come to about how this space should be configured to accommodate those activities. Now is the time to be doing that, while we're still early in the process.

—Bob March, robtmarch@earthlink.net