

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish
The Catholic Community of Palo Alto, California
<http://paloaltocatholic.org>

St. Thomas Aquinas parish is a Roman Catholic community of disciples working together for the glory of God and our spiritual growth in Jesus, the Christ. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we live and share the Gospel through worship, education and service.

Parish eBulletin - Volume 3, No. 26 - July 3, 2009

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NOTE: This weekend's Bulletin is available online at
<http://paloaltocatholic.org/weeklyBulletin.asp>
See that for even more information.

1. Pastoral Center Closed Today

The Pastoral Center at 3290 Middlefield is closed today because of the July 4 holiday.

2. Welcome, Fr. Thierry!

This will be Fr. Thierry Geris' first official weekend in our parish as our Parochial Vicar, although he concelebrated the 9:00 a.m. mass at St. Albert with Fr. George last weekend. And he presided at the monthly Palo Alto Nursing Home mass in June, so he's hit the ground running. He's been signed up to receive the weekly eBulletin, so he's totally official now!

Fr. Thierry will be presiding at the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. masses this weekend at Our Lady of the Rosary, and next weekend will be at St. Albert the Great and St. Thomas Aquinas.

3. Parish Position Opening: Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Our parish is currently seeking a Coordinator of Youth Ministry to oversee the middle and high school youth ministry and Confirmation programs. This position is part time (30 hours a week) and includes benefits.

Interested applicants should be able to develop and lead catechetical and developmentally appropriate sessions for the youth. Applicants must have proven experience in working with youth and have an understanding of and the ability to work with the demands placed on the region's middle school and high school students. Bachelor's degree or equivalent, and experience and training in Youth Ministry required. To see a more detailed job description and learn how to apply, visit the Diocese of San Jose website at <http://www.dsj.org/about-us/career-opportunities>, for About Us, Career Opportunities, Parish Openings.

Interested applicants, please send your resume no later than July 31, 2009 to:

Chuck Tully, Parish Administrator
3290 Middlefield Road
Palo Alto, CA 94306
E-mail: Chuck.Tully@sbcglobal.net

If you have specific questions about the program you may contact Kristy Rozsnyoi at kristyrozsnyoi@hotmail.com or Mary Clifford at maryclif@sgi.com.

4. Plea for St. Vincent de Paul Helpers

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and visit you? Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:37-41.

During these very difficult economic times, St. Thomas Aquinas St. Vincent de Paul is in great need of more helpers. For anyone interested, our existing volunteers would provide you a complete orientation and allow you to sit in on a number of interactions, to actually experience how we work with our clients. If you can give four hours of your time per week to help those among us who are less fortunate, please call or e-mail Roberta Uebbing uebbing665@sbcglobal.net or 494-2450.

5. You Have To Be Rich To Be Poor

(From the Washington Post May 18, provided by Catholic Media Report)

"You have to be rich to be poor. That's what some people who have never lived below the poverty line don't understand. The poorer you are, the more things cost. More in money, time, hassle, exhaustion, menace. This is a fact of life that reality television and magazines don't often explain. So consider this a primer on the economics of poverty. 'The poor pay more for a gallon of milk, they pay more on a capital basis for inferior housing,' says Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore. 'The poor and 100 million who are struggling for the middle class actually end up paying more for transportation, for housing, for health care, for mortgages. They get steered to subprime lending. The poor pay more for things middle-class America takes for granted.'"

Human Concerns Committee

6. New Encyclical Out July 7: "Caritas in Veritate" to Cover Social Themes

VATICAN CITY, JULY 1, 2009 (Zenit.org).- Benedict XVI's new encyclical, titled "Caritas in Veritate," will be released Tuesday, the Vatican announced.

The Vatican press office confirmed today that the Pope's first social encyclical, which is expected to offer an analysis of the current economic crisis, will be presented at a press conference in the late morning July 7. The text will then be released to the public at midday, local time.

Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino and Bishop Giampaolo Crepaldi, respectively president and secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, will present the encyclical at the press conference. The Vatican also noted that Cardinal Paul Josef Cordes, president of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, will speak, as will Stefano Zamagni, professor of political economy at the University of Bologna, Italy and consultant of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

The encyclical's release is one day before the Group of Eight will begin an international summit in L'Aquila, Italy. The Holy Father signed the encyclical Monday, the solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul.

That same day, before praying the Angelus with those gathered in St. Peter's Square, Benedict XVI explained that the encyclical is a reflection on the conditions necessary for "integral development." He added that it returns to social themes found in "Populorum Progressio," written by Pope Paul VI in 1967.

He explained that it "aims to go deeper in certain aspects of the integral development of our age, in the light of charity in truth."

"I entrust to your prayer this new contribution that the Church offers to humanity in its commitment to sustainable progress, in full respect of human dignity and the real needs everyone has," Benedict XVI said.

"Caritas in Veritate" is the first social encyclical to be written in almost two decades. Pope John Paul II penned "Centesimus Annus" in 1991, a century after Pope Leo XIII's "Rerum Novarum."

The encyclical will be released in English, Italian, Spanish, French, German and Portuguese.

7. Thursday, July 16: Reducing the Danger of Nuclear Weapons

On Thursday, July 16, 7:30pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, Dr. William J. Perry will discuss "Reducing the Danger of Nuclear Weapons".

Bill Perry was President Clinton's Secretary of Defense, and is a former member of Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto.

The church is located at 505 E. Charleston Rd (near Middlefield), Palo Alto and admission is free.

On April 8, 2009, Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard, Bishop of Albany, Chairman, Committee on International Justice and Peace of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, sent the following letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton:

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I welcome the Administration's recent commitments to seek reductions in the number of nuclear weapons and to advance nuclear non-proliferation with an ultimate goal of seeking a nuclear-free world. Our Conference supports President Barack Obama's announcements to secure loose nuclear material, strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, push for ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and negotiate a follow-up to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

Consistent with Catholic teaching, the bishops have long supported securing nuclear materials from terrorists and reducing the number of nuclear armaments. For decades we have promoted the policy goals of preventing proliferation of these horrific weapons and ultimately eliminating them. Nuclear war is rejected in Church teaching because the use of nuclear weapons cannot insure noncombatant immunity and their destructive potential and lingering radiation cannot be proportionate in a meaningful sense. Pope Benedict XVI said in a January 2006 statement, "In a nuclear war there would be no victors, only victims."

We welcome the Administration's leadership in taking steps toward a nuclear-free world. It is our hope that by adopting deep cuts in the U.S. nuclear arsenal, our nation can move toward meeting its obligations under the Nonproliferation Treaty and encourage other nations to do the same while strengthening our nation's credibility on the issue of nonproliferation.

We look forward to working with the Administration and the Congress in supporting legislation to advance the goal of ridding our world of nuclear weapons.

Sincerely yours,
Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard

8. Saturday, July 18: Heath Care and Family Unity

Bring your body to Redwood City on next Saturday, July 18. Raise your voice to support Peninsula Interfaith Action's public meeting with our legislators to ask for affordable health care and comprehensive immigration policies that keep families intact. You don't know all the people you will be helping - and isn't that nice?

Parishioners at Masses last Sunday at St. Thomas Aquinas received the flyer and others will get them as they leave St. Albert the Great and Our Lady of the Rosary this weekend.

Where: First United Methodist Church, 2915 Broadway, Redwood City

<http://maps.yahoo.com/maps#mvt=m&lat=37.485974&lon=-122.23753&zoom=16&q1=%25202915%2520Broadway%252C%2520Redwood%2520City%252C%2520ca&gid1=21324213>

Time: 3pm-4:30pm. Carpool if at all possible. Questions: Walt 650 493 3578.

Our parish has been a member of Peninsula Interfaith Action since 2002. PIA creates justice in communities by addressing local problems, putting faith into action, building hope and finding solutions. PIA helps ordinary people achieve extraordinary results for their communities. Using the values of democracy and diverse religious traditions, PIA helps people create more housing that is affordable, better neighborhood schools, adequate access to health care in local counties, improved economic opportunities, safer communities with more support for youth and improve local quality of life in other ways. Peninsula Interfaith Action is affiliated with the PICO National Network. PICO equips faith-based organizations with community organizing skills and links members for common purposes.

Any parishioners interested in learning more about PIA can contact Rebecca Perez, rebeccapia@sbcglobal.net, our PIA Community Organizer, or Walt Lundin, wclundin@ix.netcom.com.

9. Thursday, August 6: JustFaith Ministries Introduction with Jack Jezreel

Thursday, August 6, noon & evening presentations

11:45am-1:30pm, Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos (suggested donation \$10 to cover lunch expenses)

7-9pm, Santa Clara University Recital Hall (corner of Lafayette & Franklin, Santa Clara) (suggested donation \$5; no one turned away)

Jack Jezreel spent six years in a Catholic Worker community, providing basic and emergency services to the homeless in Colorado, before directing his attention to transformative education, to encourage people of faith to be engaged in outreach and social change. Come learn about JustFaith!

JustFaith Classes Being Formed for Fall: JustFaith is a life-changing experience which examines the themes of common good; shared rights and responsibilities; value of human dignity, solidarity, respect for creation; grassroots wisdom and energy; and the call to stand with the poor. These principles invite us to some remarkable possibilities in the name of love and compassion. The vision of JustFaith speaks to life-giving choices on behalf of a world that struggles to survive

Ecumenical and Catholic JustFaith classes are being formed at churches in Palo Alto, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, San Jose, and Campbell. More information at: www.sanjosepby.org/JustFaithclassesFall09.htm

10. Vatican doing great cutting fossil fuel use, says U.S. energy expert

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service: <http://www.catholicnews.com/>

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Vatican engineers are doing an impressive job trying to cut Vatican City's

dependency on fossil fuels by tapping into renewable energy resources and finding ways to cut energy consumption, said a visiting U.S. expert on energy efficiency.

Mark Hopkins, director of the United Nations Foundation's energy policy program, said that prior to his June 12 visit to Vatican City he had no idea the tiny city-state was involved in so many "significant projects" aimed at reducing its own carbon footprint.

"It's impressive they're actually doing what some people only talk about and (they) are doing it in a significant way," Hopkins told Catholic News Service June 12.

He said "conceivably, Vatican City could become the first state to be powered by renewable" energy and become the first carbon-neutral nation in the world, partly as a result of its plans to build a large solar farm on property it owns on the outskirts of Rome.

Our own Pastoral Stewardship Council and Human Concerns Committee are discussing how our parish can sensitize all members on environmental issues at the personal and parish level, and some initiatives in that area are likely to be in our parish's strategic goals this year.

11. Age of Aquinas and Transitions Activities

Age of Aquinas is a Bay Area group for Christian singles 40+ and Transitions is for those experiencing the end of a relationship. Visit <http://paloaltocatholic.org/aofa.html> for complete information.

Saturday, July 4, 2009, and every Saturday @ 9 am: Shoreline Park Hike and Coffee. (YES! We're hiking on the Fourth of July!) Meet at Lakeside Café in Mountain View's Shoreline Park near the breezeway between the café and the Aquatic Center at 9 am. This is a hike on mostly level, mostly paved paths. Afterwards gather at the café around 10:00 for coffee or brunch. We always hike, rain or shine, holiday or no! Email: Randy, age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org, or call 408.739.2881. Shoreline hikes are every Saturday.

NO Edgewood hike this Saturday due to the holiday... But NEXT Saturday, July 11, meet in the INNER parking lot of Edgewood Park at 9 am. Look for the "Age of Aquinas *** Gather Here" sign. Time: 9:00 am, Saturday, July 11. Email: Randy, age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org, or call Josephine, 650.619.4024.

Edgewood hikes are normally on the 1st Saturday of the month.

12. Readings for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, and Presider Schedule

The Sunday's readings are here: <http://www.usccb.org/nab/readings/070509.shtml>

Presider Schedule this weekend:

5:00 p.m. Saturday, St. Albert: Fr. George

7:30 a.m. St. Thomas: Fr. John Hester

8:45 a.m. St. Thomas: Fr. Michael Marini

9:00 a.m. St. Albert: Fr. George

9:00 a.m. OLR: Fr. Thierry

10:30 a.m. St. Thomas: Fr. George

10:30 a.m. OLR: Fr. Thierry
Noon, St. Thomas: Fr. Fred Cwiekowski

The eBulletin is an initiative of our parish Communications Board, whose ministry it is to improve communications in our parish.

As of today, our parish eBulletin is sent to 239 parish families! Pass the word! Who will be Family No. 240? If you are interested in receiving the eBulletin on a weekly basis, send an email request to ebulletin@paloaltocatholic.org. You will be added to "[PaloAltoCatholic-EBulletin@googlegroups.com](https://groups.google.com/group/paloaltocatholic-ebulletin)" which is used to send out the eBulletin each Friday morning.

Always Useful Links:

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Online
Calendar*: <http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?ci=L6M7J4G1J4H2O9L6I3>
Archive of Past eBulletins: <http://groups.google.com/group/paloaltocatholic-ebulletin/about?hl=en>
Diocese of San Jose: <http://www.dsj.org/>
Vatican YouTube site: <http://www.youtube.com/vatican>
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: <http://www.usccb.org/>

* If you know of events or recurring meetings which should be added to the calendar, please send them to ebulletin@paloaltocatholic.org, and we will work to get the calendar updated.

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For more options, visit this group at <http://groups.google.com/group/paloaltocatholic-ebulletin?hl=en>  
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