

# REPORT

## St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Adult Spiritual Development Committee

January, 14th, 2009

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

(c) Stewardship: “New Beginnings” kit {A new way of Living as Catholics} DVD on Stewardship development program still available for others to evaluate and possibly implement for parish.

#### **On-Going Activities**

(a) Baptism Catechesis: Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month

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

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

Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month [resumed in January]

(c) Chinese Faith Sharing: Every Wednesday – 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM at Dermody Center  
Activities in English

(d) Renew Group: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month at Arny Buchholtz house

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

#### **Past Events**

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

(b) "Silent Friday Evening Mini-Retreat" December 19, 2008 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.(STA)

(c) The California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) brought Thomas Keating to their school on December 12, 13 and 14., 2008,

#### **Future Events**

(a) Town Hall Meeting on Environmental Stewardship: The Catholic Green Initiative of Santa Clara County Saturday, February 7, 2009, 8:30 am until 12:30pm The Santa Clara University "Green House" ([Kennedy Commons](#)) Space is limited, invitation only

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

#### **Administration**

(a) Monthly Meeting Day & Time: Currently 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of month at SAG Hospitality Center

(b) Membership: Top priority and actively seeking new volunteers {notice to go into Parish bulletin in next couple of weeks} No response from the Time and Talent events.

## Miscellaneous

### (a) Catholic Interfaith Network Group (CING)

(i) **Inside Islam at MCA:** "[Abrahamic Faiths & 'Big History'](#)", Saturday, Jan 17, 2-4 pm, Banquet Hall. Muslim Community Association, 3003 Scott Blvd, Santa Clara, CA 94054. By Zagloul Kadah, author of "*Our God & Your God is One*". -- Dian Alyan, 727-7277, x402

### (b) Centering Prayer Events

(i) Centering Prayer Introductory Series: Feb 1, Feb 8 and Feb 15, 2009  
This three-part introduction to Centering Prayer includes both instruction and practice in a method that fosters contemplative prayer. For more information, visit [www.mercy-center.org](http://www.mercy-center.org).

(ii) Finding God in the Silence: A Mini Retreat with Centering Prayer

February 28th, 2009 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Menlo Park

(iii) Awakening the Heart: Cynthia Bourgeault: March 6-8, 2009

Join noted author and Episcopalian priest Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault for a Centering Prayer weekend intensive retreat. For more information, visit [www.mercy-center.org](http://www.mercy-center.org).

(iii) Centering Prayer at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto, CA 650-493-9275 {Mondays 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM} {Wednesdays 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM} {Fridays 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM}

## 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.