

# Steeple Talk

Volume 2, No. 1

February 24, 2008

## News from the Mass communities:

- **7:15 daily Mass:** On the 1st Monday of the month, Msgr. Boyle offers the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. All are welcome.
- **7:30 Sunday Mass:** Regular celebrant Fr. John Hester has an important day job: coordinating the volunteer program of the Spiritual Care Service at Stanford Hospital and Clinics. Lay volunteers for this ministry are being sought.
- **8:45 Sunday Mass:** On Sunday, March 2, the Thomas Merton Center, sponsor of this Mass, is presenting the Walter Gill Lecture *God's Mechanics: How Scientists and Engineers Make Sense of Religion*. See article on this page.
- **10:30 Sunday Mass:** Congratulations to Mark and Maricar Antonio on the birth of their daughter, Mia Ella. They are regulars at this Mass, and Mark is the Editor of the Parish Bulletin.
- **12:00 Sunday Mass:** The Gregorian choir is preparing Tenbrae Services as well as services for Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday.
- **12:15 Daily Mass:** Stations of the Cross follow this Mass on all the Fridays of Lent.

## STA Site Committee plans:

### Monthly Meeting:

4th (or 5th) Wednesday in Thomas House basement

### NEXT MEETING:

Wed Feb. 27 7:30-9:00 p. m.

Agenda (tentative):

Interior of church  
Report from Thomas House Task Force

### Monthly newsletter:

Sunday before 4th Wednesday

**Editors:** Kay Williams, 650-328-2781, [kaywill@pacbell.net](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net)  
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## TASK FORCE FORMING ON INTERIOR RENOVATIONS OF STA CHURCH:

**Judy Foley** invites you to join a Task Force to plan for interior renovations for St. Thomas Aquinas Church. The interior is scheduled for painting this year. Judy hopes volunteers from all masses will meet together to share ideas. Along with the interior painting, we will create a wish list for future improvements to the interior of our Church. Please contact her at **(650) 322-8650** or **[judyfoley@gmail.com](mailto:judyfoley@gmail.com)**.

To start us thinking creatively, Judy invited Michael Kastrop, principal architect of the Kastrop Group, Inc., to describe the renovation and restoration work his firm has directed over recent

years at Nativity Church in Menlo Park. The two churches are both examples of Gothic Revival architecture. Among his thoughtful suggestions are:

- If we re-carpet, we should be careful not to choose too dark a color.
- He emphasized the importance of having professional assistance when considering colors.
- ADA regulations for access to the altar area should be looked into.
- We should be sure the structure is bolted to the foundation, and the choir loft and bell tower stable. He gave us the name of a group who consulted on the Nativity steeple.
- Our can lights (not the chandeliers) are a bit dated, and could be re-



placed with more energy-efficient units which would be less obtrusive.

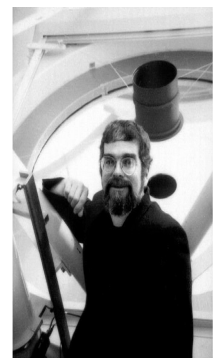
- The side tables just inside the inner front doors look out of place and should be replaced with furniture in keeping with our gothic revival interior.

Please come with your suggestions and help work through all similar issues and decisions.

## Talk by Vatican astronomer, Brother Guy Consolmagno, S.J.

**Announcing the Walter Gill Lecture on Science and Religion., Sunday, March 2 at 4:00 p. m. at The Women's Club of Palo Alto, 475 Homer Avenue—just a two block walk from St. Thomas Aquinas Church.** We have an exciting opportunity to hear Brother Guy Consolmagno, S. J. discuss the issues, tensions and relationships surrounding scientists and religion. He is an astronomer, lecturer and curator of one of the world's largest meteorite collections. A highly regarded planetary scientist, his studies also include asteroids and dwarf planets. Author of several books, including *Brother Astronomer: Adventures of a Vatican Scientist*,

and a popular telescope guide, *Turn Left at Orion.*, he is likely the only Jesuit brother with an asteroid named in his honor (4597 Consolmagno), affectionately known as "Little Guy." A scientist and a person of faith, Brother Guy is a natural choice for this year's Gill Lecture. *Presented by the Thomas Merton Center, open to the public. Free will donations gratefully accepted.*



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

751 Waverley Street  
Palo Alto, CA 9430

### St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:

|                |                        |                 |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Jane Bahr      | Helen Baumann          | Lorraine Dabney |
| Judy Foley     | Bill Mahrt             | Bob March       |
| Kieran McCarty | Mike McMahon           | Mario Veloro    |
| Kay Williams   | and occasional others. |                 |

The Site Committee for St. Thomas Aquinas Church is charged with the responsibility to represent the needs of this site to the Pastoral Stewardship Council of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. These responsibilities generally include issues of building and grounds maintenance, use of the buildings and grounds, and site specific liturgies and celebrations. Site committee meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of the month in the basement hall of the Thomas House.

Contact: Helen Baumann, 327-9236  
hbbaumann@aol.com

## Brief notes from the PSC:



At the February meeting of the Pastoral Stewardship Council:

- Fr. George announced a fall trip, *In the Steps of St. Paul*, to Greece and Turkey. Contact the office for details.
- Mary Beth Lefebvre's survey of interest in a project to archive parish records yielded generally favorable results. The PSC authorized \$500 for the purchase of uniform storage boxes. Parishioners with archival materials are asked to bring them to the pastoral center, labeled, sorted, and boxed.
- The Thomas House project update has brought in a very preliminary cost estimate, prepared by consultant and contractor, Bill Lacs. The Building and Maintenance Committee and the Finance Committee will be reviewing the details and will report back to the PSC next month. There is a consensus among all members of the PSC, and Fr. George, that something will be done with the Thomas House. The job now is to determine what makes the most sense and how to go about it.

### STA Site Committee continues to seek suggestions, requests, and correspondence:

We are still hoping for a *baby-changing table* to be put in the bathroom at the rear of the church.

Helen Baumann (327-9236) hbbaumann@aol.com  
Kay Williams (328-2781) kaywill@pacbell.net

## Catherine Wanjohi from Kenya to speak on March 16:

The TMC Spiritual Education Committee invites you to hear Catherine Wanjohi, from Fr. Kiriti's parish in Kenya, on Sunday, March 16, 4–5:30 p.m. at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center. Catherine has extensive training in teaching and counseling, having earned a degree and teaching credential at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya and a master's degree in Counseling/Psychology at the University of Durham in the UK. After some years in teaching and as a school principal, she responded to the need she saw in Naivasha for counseling and support for abused women and for women in the commercial sex trade.

In 2003 she began a small center in Naivasha, mainly for counseling, but immediately applied her insight, her compassion and her energy to expanding this program. Soon there were courses for peer counselors, peer educators and peer home health care providers for women who had become HIV positive and could no longer care for themselves. The beauty of this is that she helped the women to help themselves and each other. Thus **Life Bloom Services International** was born in 2004—**Life Bloom** (LB) for short.

She purchased several foot treadle sewing machines. Women who had never seen a sewing machine were learning to make small items to deco-

rate homes, and by the summer of 2006 they began the manufacture of cloth shopping bags, to be sold in the markets in Naivasha and also in the US.

In addition women began learning cooking and baking skills to establish a catering service; other women were learning typing—using manual typewriters—and other office skills. Catherine will describe for us the goals and progress of this Blooming Business! In addition, time permitting, she will tell us something of the current political realities in Kenya since the December 27 elections.

Her talk will be followed by a Lasagne supper, giving participants an opportunity for more intimate interaction with Catherine and her husband Joseph.

Those wishing to stay for the supper are asked to RSVP to Kay Williams, [kaywill@pacbell.net](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net) or by phone at (650) 328-2781. Potluck appetizers to share are welcome, and a way to contribute to the supper. You may also attend the talk without staying for supper.



## From the church steps:

**STA site** needs to select a new representative to the Pastoral Stewardship Council at our April Site Committee meeting. Helen Baumann who has represented us so energetically will be termed-out. The job is to be an active participant in the ministry by attending Site Committee meetings, and then be the communication link between the Site Committee and the PSC—basically two meetings a month. The term is for 2 years. Helen says it is an excellent way to participate in the life of the parish. You are invited to talk with Helen to explore this opportunity.

**Parking alert**—on Sundays we are allowed to park at the Urgent Care parking lot on

Forest Street. There is also parking space behind the Homer House for about 15 cars.

**The Liturgy Ministry Team** is concerned about people who need a ride to church. They are seeking people willing to work on a committee to assist with this problem. There is a model called *Driven by Grace* at a Lutheran church in Los Altos. Contact Chris Lundin, 323-3376 or by e-mail at [CLundin@stanford.edu](mailto:CLundin@stanford.edu).

**Have you noticed** the healthy green grass growing under the Magnolia tree at the church corner on Homer and Waverley? Spring must be on the way! Again, thanks to Godofredo Alfaro and Santiago Aguilar.