

Steeple Talk

Volume 2, No. 5

June 22, 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. Fr. Tim Meier will celebrate Mass on June 26.

7:30: Check out an archive of parishioner Nancy McGarahan's PA Weekly articles at www.chezmcg.com.

8:45: Fr. Tim Meier's last Mass before he leaves for chaplaincy duties in Iraq is June 29 at 8:45 a.m..

10:30: Stalwart 10:30 attendees Phil and Ann Coates are moving to Arizona.

12:00: Gregorian High Mass in Latin for the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul Sunday, June 29 at 12:00 noon. The St. Ann Gregorian Choir will sing the proper Gregorian chants for the day, while the congregation will sing the Gregorian Ordinary. The choir will sing Renaissance motets by Jean Richafort and William Byrd.

STA Site Committee plans:

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

NEXT MEETING:
Wed., June 25, 7:30—9:00 pm
Agenda (tentative & partial):
Update on Finance & Building & Maintenance Committees input on Thomas House

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

Church occupants:



The statuary in St. Thomas Aquinas church is part of the lovely space that draws us into worship and praise. Take a minute to look around the sanctuary.

You probably recognize the statues of Mary and Joseph each hanging on a side altar wall. Are you as familiar with the other saints depicted?



Do you know this saint?*

There is an Infant of Prague statue, St. Therese, the Little Flower, and Our



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Lady of Guadalupe. The stained glass windows depict Sts. Peter, Paul, Patrick, Anthony, Ignatius Loyola, and Francis of Assisi. And, of course, we all know St. Thomas Aquinas in the rose window above the altar.

*St. Jude

Un-sung hero: Bill Mahrt

Bill Mahrt has conducted Gregorian chant for more than 40 years without a break. He is the director of Stanford's Early Music Singers and of the St. Ann Choir, a Gregorian schola at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Palo Alto. He instructs singers in the mysteries of "the chant," as well as the glorious polyphonic music that came after it. In fact, it's possible that there is more chant sung in Palo Alto than anywhere else in the coun-

try, with the possible exception of monastic communities. Mahrt has inspired and guided generations of scholars and singers.

Bill is also on the STA Site Committee, where he contributes his open and forthright opinions on such topics as the way to achieve the best acoustics in St. Thomas Aquinas church (remove the carpet),



the restoration of a "real" (not battery-operated) sanctuary light, and moving the organ to make room for the choir in the loft.

The Gregorian choir uses the Thomas House basement hall on Sunday morning to practice before the noon Mass.

**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 Mass news: Sunday, June 8, the Gregorian Mass had a concelebrant, Fr. Patrick Driscoll. Fr. Driscoll was just ordained for the Archdiocese of St. Louis and celebrated his first Mass on Corpus Christi. He had been to the Gregorian Mass often when it was at St. Ann Chapel and had assisted as acolyte for the Latin Masses that were celebrated at the Stanford Memorial Church. Many who knew him then were here to congratulate him and wish him every success in his new assignment in St. Louis.

Garden opportunity: Under consideration is the installation of a cutting garden on the Homer Ave. side of the church. Interested gardeners, please take note of this opportunity to get your hands in the dirt, play with water, and grow flowers that can be used to grace our church's altar. Contact Helen Baumann (see above for info).

Ideas and suggestions for STA and Steeple Talk? Bring your ideas forth to the Site Committee. Meeting Wed., June 25, 7:30 pm, Thomas House basement hall. All are welcome!

Pastoral Stewardship Council (PSC) June report:

[Bob March represented the STA Site Committee at the June PSC meeting. This is his report.]

When I offered to stand in for our current representative on the Parish Stewardship Committee, Lorraine Dabney, at the PSC's June 11 meeting, I've got to admit my expectations were not high. Like most people, I've attended my share of meetings in various work and volunteer settings purely for reasons of duty, and I thought the PSC gathering would just be another one in that long line: useful as an act of penance, but not for much else.

But by the time the meeting ended, I was pleasantly surprised at how much I had learned, about goings-on in the diocese and particularly about the people and ministries that really make the parish tick. For example, if I hadn't gone, I probably would never have known that the diocese would be gradually installing solar panels on all its buildings; that the diocese was being reorganized; or that our Fr. George was the only priest of the diocese to attend a local seminar on the upcoming Year of St. Paul. I wouldn't have heard discussion

about how we could all stay more informed about the PSC's activities, and about how its agenda should be assembled; I wouldn't have heard about what RCIA and the Human Concerns ministries are doing. I wouldn't have known that Fr. Brendan McGuire from the diocese had recently met with the entire parish staff. And that's just a few of the items they covered.

Anyone can sit in on these Parish Stewardship Committee meetings, though you should be aware that spectators are invited to listen, but not to participate in the discussions. Even so, I'd especially encourage everyone in all the Mass communities here at St. Thomas to consider attending the next one, at 7:00 PM on July 9 at Our Lady of the Rosary -- because the future of our own Thomas House will be the big item on the agenda, and the discussion that occurs there will affect when our communities will have a suitable space in which to teach, meet, and grow [i.e., a renovated Thomas House].

Nativity Church a model for STA re-do:

On Sunday, June 4, the STA Site Committee had a tour of the newly renovated Nativity Church in Menlo Park by Mike Kastrop who was the architect involved with the project. Mike is also a parishioner of Nativity. Thank you to all who came and for those that couldn't make it, I highly recommend going for a visit. It was interesting to be talked through the process and see the results. Mike has given us an outline of how they proceeded at Nativity. We believe if we approach this systematically we will end up with a beautiful church that answers the needs of all. If you are interested in serving on the Task Force for the interior renovations of STA, please contact Judy Foley, at judybertchfoley@yahoo.com, or 650-483-8988.