

# Steeple Talk

Volume 2, No. 9

October 19, 2008

## News from the STA Mass communities:

**7:15 Daily Mass:** Fr. Gene Konkel from St. Patrick's Seminary is again saying this Mass a couple of times a week.

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

**8:45:** The Liturgy Committee is planning the November Day of the Dead altar.

**10:30:** Music minister Paul Prochaska invites any 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 week.

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

## STA interior research:

Former STA pastor Rev. Al Larkin (1987-1992) was interviewed by Bob Foley as part of the research being conducted by the STA Interior Remodel Task Force. While Fr. Larkin was pastor he oversaw many renovations that we enjoy today and points us to what still needs doing:

- Seismic retrofit
- Front and rear shear walls
- Central braces
- Foundation straps
- Support for choir loft
- Exterior Painting
- Removal of redwood trees
- Replacement of sign
- Installation of Restroom
- Interior painting
- New floor
- Replacement of pews
- Extension of sanctuary steps
- New carpeting
- Cleaning and re-leading of stained glass windows

- Repair of Sacred Heart stained glass window
- Replacing of wall sconces, crucifix, tabernacle, Paschal candle stand
- New floor candelabra & matching sanctuary lamp
- Re-sizing of side altars (cut depth)
- New statues of Infant of Prague, Mary, Joseph
- Removal of aisle pole lamps
- Installation of side aisle lights and of sanctuary spot lights
- Installation of smoke alarm system
- Pipe organ from St. Aloysius was moved to St. Thomas Aquinas.
- Replacement of stations of cross (the originals have been returned to church).
- Statue of St. Theresa has been returned to church.

The project total was \$450,000 of which \$200,000 came from former pastor Fr. Daniel Shea's estate, \$100,000 from an anonymous donor and the rest from a fundraiser. Fr. Larkin



St. Thomas Aquinas Church applauded our 10-year plan to look at what needs to be done and to prioritize the projects.

**Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 5, 2008, 7:30 p.m.** at Judy Foley's, 1927 Emerson St., Palo Alto. If you have an interest in this project, please come to the meeting: judy-berthchfoley@yahoo.com or call 322-8650 with questions.

## STA Site Committee plans:

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

**NEXT MEETING:**  
Wednesday, October 22, 2008  
7:30—9:00 pm

**Tentative agenda:**  
1. Time & Talent review  
2. Thomas House update  
3. Committee reports

**Monthly newsletter:**  
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

## Time and Talent October 12 aroused volunteers:

It was a beautiful fall day for parishioners to enjoy coffee cake and fruit after Mass. It was a chance for the various ministries to answer questions and provide a glimpse of their work in the parish. Members of the parish staff as well as representatives of the various ministries came to share their commitment to the programs in the parish. New ideas, new energy, new volunteers are always needed in the parish community. All month we will be encouraging parishioners to turn in their Time and Talent volunteer applications. So far the St. Thomas Aquinas site has had 20 forms returned.

—Jeanne Ramos  
Community Life



Barbara Kent, Terry Atkinson, Jane Bahr, Ruth Chippendale, Valerie Kockelman, Sue Clingsmith at the Time & Talent display on October 12.

Photo: Roland Quintero

**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, hbbaumann@aol.com.

## Pastoral Stewardship Council (PSC) October report:

► **Highlights** from the quarterly reports presented by four parish ministries included the following:

♦ **Finance:** at the close of the 08 fiscal year (June 30), the net income of the parish was \$4,113 (excluding depreciation). Income was \$1,294,485, and expenses were \$1,290,372.

♦ **St. Thomas Aquinas Youth (STAY):** 22 youth attended the diocesan Tahoe Youth Retreat in June (up from 15 in 2007). A Middle School Coordinator has been hired (Kristy Rozsnyoi).

♦ **Catechetical Board:** 235 children attended Religious Education classes in 2007-08. A donor at OLR has offered to purchase faith-based books for use by young children during Mass (plus a small bookcase). [There is no

children's religious education offered at STA, but the books and bookshelf idea could be implemented here.]

♦ **Our Lady of the Rosary Site:** The OLR Site Committee hosted an exhibit in April for the Burning Bush presentation on angels.

► **The Blessing of the Animals** was held at OLR on Sunday, October 5, at 3:00 p.m. Fr. George Aranha offered the blessings to the pets of 55 people who attended with their cats, dogs, birds, turtles, rats, etc.

► It was decided to proceed with plans for the **all-parish retreat** on Saturday, November 15, at St. Elizabeth Seton School, 9:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. The theme will be "The Spirituality of St. Paul," and active participation in small faith-sharing groups will predominate.

## From the church steps:

♦ **Fr. Daniel Kiriti will celebrate the 8:45 a.m. Mass here at STA next Sunday, October 26.** Fr. Kiriti is visiting from Naivasha, Kenya, this month. A coffee at which he will discuss projects in his parish in Kenya, including the construction of the girls' high school which many STA parishioners have supported and a series of seminars for youth funded by the Thomas Merton Center, will be held today, Sunday, October 19, at 3:00 p.m., at the home of Margo McAuliffe, 179 East Creek Drive in Menlo Park, 650-322-0821. All are welcome.

♦ **Bike racks coming to STA:** Research on bike racks is being done by the Site Committee. More people are biking to church and need safe harbor for bikes during Mass. The Site Committee is interested in accommodations that would encourage more people to ride. If you have a favorite style bike rack that you could point the Committee toward, please contact Jim Thalmann at

jimt@myway.com, or come to the Site Committee meeting on October 22, 7:30 p.m., in the Thomas House basement hall.



"Wave" style rack

## Thomas House Project Team studies architect's contract:

STA Site Committee member Tom McKay, who sits on the Thomas House Project Team, reported on the process of reviewing the contract with the architectural firm chosen by the parish Finance Committee to lead the Thomas House renovations, Lippert and Lippert Design of Palo Alto.

Basically the American Institute of Architects (AIA) boilerplate contract that was presented to the Finance Committee was incomplete, and it is not realistic to critique it until all the required items are completed and the various questions posed to Lippert by the committee have been satisfactorily addressed. Once the questions posed by the Com-

mittee have been answered and clarified, the contract will be forwarded to the diocese for review, probably by the end of October.

However, Tom was very satisfied with the presentation and comments made by Lee and Carol Lippert at the meeting with the Project Team and feels comfortable that we have a competent and cooperative consultant working on the project for us.

Please direct suggestions for features in the Thomas House remodel that you think should be included to: Tom McKay, tmckay1@sbcglobal.net., or to Bob March, robtmarch@earthlink.net.