

# Steeple Talk

Volume 3, No. 3

April 19, 2009

## News from the STA Mass communities:

**7:15 Daily Mass:** Fr. Gene Konkell from St. Patrick's Seminary and Msgr. Gene Boyle share presider duties on alternate weekdays.

**7:30:** Bill Peterson rang the church bell on Easter Sunday morning at 7:20 a.m., heralding the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

**8:45:** The bell was rung again on Easter at 8:40 a.m. by Jim Davis, reminding the neighborhood that a worshipping community was gathering.

**10:30:** Mario Veloro received instruction in bell-ringing from Jim Davis on Easter morning, and again the church bell rang out over streets and rooftops.

**12:00:** The St. Ann Choir concluded the bell-ringing for Easter Sunday. Triduum services were conducted on Thursday, Friday and Saturday by the Gregorian community at STA.

**12:15 Daily Mass:** This daily Mass serves downtown workers and nearby residents.

## Historic Thomas House

The effort to restore Thomas House to parish use moved ahead one more step at 8:00 a.m. on April 15, when the Palo Alto Historical Resources Board was formally presented with our request to have Thomas House placed on the city's registry of historical buildings. The chairman of the parish's Finance Committee, Jim McLaughlin, introduced the presentation, after which the architects engaged on the project, Lee and Carol Lipert, detailed the background and reasons for the request. Site Committee members Helen Baumann and Bob March were also present to speak in favor of the application as interested Palo Alto residents, but that proved unnecessary. HRB members asked a few ques-

tions, expressed their pleasure that we want to preserve this fine old building as part of the community's architectural heritage, then voted unanimously to approve the application and pass it on to the City Council.

If final approval is obtained, as expected, it will mean that some parts of the renovation project can be done more easily and substantially less expensively. For example, we plan to renew all Thomas House's electrical wiring, and the standard building code requires that such new wiring be attached to the vertical studs in the walls. Usually, this would mean opening up the walls for several feet at each outlet, creating a big job of patching afterwards -- costly, and hard to do so it doesn't show. In contrast, the relaxed building code that can be used in historically-registered build-



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

ings allows a rewiring technique that involves only one or two small openings for each outlet -- much less labor-intensive, and less likely to leave a permanent trace on the walls.

We'll keep you posted on further progress along the road to having this beautiful old space available for us to use in Christ's service.

—Bob March

## STA Site Committee plans:

**Monthly Meeting:**  
4th Wednesday : Thomas House basement hall, 745 Waverley St.

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

**Tentative agenda:**  
1. Thomas House update  
2. Church interior update  
3. Garden & bike racks

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

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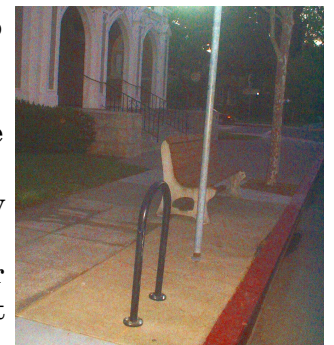
## One bike rack up, more to come

The City of Palo Alto was contacted by Site Committee chairperson Helen Baumann and asked if a bike rack could be installed next to the bus stop in front of St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

The City personnel consented, and within a week of the request, a single loop bike rack was installed, neatly bolted to the sidewalk next to the bus bench. While this rack holds only two bikes, it is a step in the right direction.

The parish also intends to install a multiple loop rack in the back of the church, thereby providing secure storage for several bikes at a time.

It will be up to us who attend Mass and events at STA to be sure the racks are well used.



**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, hbaumann@aol.com.

## From the church steps:

### *Sign up for the parish e-bulletin:*

Every Friday morning, Chris Lundin of the parish Communications Committee sends out the STA Parish E-bulletin by e-mail. Are you among the recipients? This bulletin captures late-breaking news of both parish and regional events that didn't make it into the paper bulletin. It contains pictures, too. This week's e-bulletin features pictures of the new immersion font at St. Albert the Great—initiated by those being baptized during the Easter Vigil last weekend.

As of April 17, our parish eBulletin is sent to 220 parish families! If you are interested in receiving the eBulletin on a weekly basis, send an email request to [ebulletin@paloaltocatholic.org](mailto:ebulletin@paloaltocatholic.org). You will be added to "[PaloAltoCatholic-EBulletin@googlegroups.com](mailto:PaloAltoCatholic-EBulletin@googlegroups.com)" which is used to send out the eBulletin each Friday morning.

## Pastoral Stewardship Council April 15 meeting highlights:

**Thomas House information exchange:** the Thomas House Project Team will report every three months to the parish as a whole on the renovations by means of an article in the parish bulletin.

**Youth Ministry:** the Youth Ministry Board (parents and parish clergy and staff) is setting its vision for our youth in preparation for hiring a new youth minister. Fifty young people are receiving confirmation on May 9th.

**Annual Diocesan Appeal:** we achieved our set goal plus a bit more, which means the parish will receive back some funds from the Diocese.

**Bylaws were amended** to allow for the seating of new council members in April,

instead of May. New PSC representatives seated included Walk Lundin on Human Concerns (replacing Ruth Chippendale) and Jim McLaughlin on Facilities (replacing Bud McKenna).

**PSC Retreat:** Facilitator of the STA PSC/Staff retreat on May 16 will be Linda Bearie, Chancellor of the Diocese of San Jose, who will focus on leadership development. All ministry representatives are encouraged to attend and may bring other ministry members to the retreat. RSVP to Jerry Lucha, [gerald.lucha@sri.com](mailto:gerald.lucha@sri.com), (650) 424-9660.

**Ministry Reports** were presented by the Communications Committee, St. Albert Site Committee, and the Finance Committee.

## STA Interior Task Force update:

Research on proposed improvements to the STA church building continue. The task force is in the phase of developing a master plan for the church interior, based on the perspective of those people who routinely perform liturgies there. Once the plan has been finalized, it will be disseminated to all interested parties.

Highlights of the April 15 meeting included several reports:

**Electrical:** John Arnold met with John Philpott of Foley Electric and discussed many issues.

**Pew refinishing:** Bill Voorhees is consulting with Ray Mensing, to determine how much time could be involved and whether refinishing could be done with the pews in place.

**Confessional kneeler:** Jan Dedek has looked at St. Albert's and will make a kneeler for STA's confessional.

**Sound system:** Judy Foley has been in touch with Art Yeap (he did the work on Nativity) of Novo Group. He will meet with those that are interested in the sound system.

### **Fund raising:**

**Oberammergau trip raffle:** Bob and Judy Foley interviewed Fr. George who agreed that a raffle of two tickets for his 2010 trip to Oberammergau would be of interest to the whole parish.

**Church note cards:** artist Shannon Griscom is working on paintings of each church for printing as note cards that would be sold parish-wide.

**Discussion topics** included modifying the altar and steps for safety, looking at altar furniture, and involving the parish Building and Maintenance Committee in issues that are basic maintenance.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m., SAG Hospitality Center. All welcome!