

Steeple Talk

Volume 3, No. 8

September 20, 2009

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Fr. Vincent Bui, S.S., has returned to teach at St. Patrick's Seminary; he will preside occasionally.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Guitar-Ben, an 11-yr. old boy, played his guitar and spoke on August 30 about raising money to buy wheelchairs for children in Iraq: iplayforpeace.net.

8:45 Sunday Mass: The Eke Family Choir has been contributing to the music twice a month, bringing contagious energy and fine voices.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Mark French & Dorene Kawasaki are planning a November wedding. Frank Rozsnyoi and wife Kristy (Youth Ministry) are expecting their first baby in January.

12:00 Sunday Mass: Choir director Bill Mahrt reports that Fr. Francisco Nahoe, who regularly celebrates this Mass, will be leaving the Bay Area at the end of the fall.

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

STA Parish going green:

The Human Concerns Committee of STA Parish presented ten suggestions of green initiatives at the Pastoral Stewardship Council meeting on Sept. 9, a response to the Catholic Green Initiative of the Diocese of San Jose.

- 1) October 4: take the St. Francis Pledge;
- 2) October 24: sound the



Human Concerns Committee rep Walt Lundin extolls the merits of green shopping bags at STA on Sept. 13.

alarm bell with 10 other area churches by ringing our church bell 35 times, symbolizing the 350 ppm that is the maximum concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere compatible with life on earth;

- 3) September 13: distribution of green shopping bags from the Diocese;
- 4) Bike/Walk/Skate to Mass Day, to be planned by each parish worship site committee;
- 5) Burning Bush session TBD: showing of DVD "The Story of Stuff"—a look at western production and consumption patterns;
- 6) Fair Trade gift sales at Christmas and Easter—mostly consumables (coffees, teas, chocolates);
- 7) Avoidance of styrofoam and plastic products for all parish social functions;



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

- 8) Installation of indoor recycling bins inside OLR hall and SAG Center;
- 9) Communication of "green ideas" in bulletins & flyers;
- 10) Request that energy audits be performed on all STA facilities.

The STA Site Committee will be jumping in to the Green Team activities—watch for our own Bike/Walk/Skate to Mass Day!

STA Site Committee plans:

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

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, September 20,
2009, 7:30—9:00 pm

Tentative agenda:
Time & Talent, October 11
Thomas House update
Bike/Walk/Skate to Mass Day
Homer Street sidewalk strip

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

Editor: Kay Williams, 650-328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net;

Thomas House rehab presents puzzles:

The progress of a house remodel is often beset with blocks and delays that are unanticipated but unavoidable. Among the wrinkles these past five months in the development of the architectural drawings for the renovation of the Thomas House have been a few such blocks.

It was necessary to survey for an accurate determination of the lot line between the Thomas House and the church building because the existing construction for what was

once the Rectory was too close to the line. Therefore, as the building sat, it was in violation of the codes. The architects had to be clear about the lot line so that their plans did not exacerbate the code violation by encroaching on the lot line.

Then there was the issue of the deed to the property. The deed was needed because legally we had to determine who in fact owned the buildings. At one time the buildings were owned by the San Francisco Archdiocese. When the Diocese of San

Jose was formed, the deed was to have been transferred to that new jurisdiction. It took quite a bit of searching at the Diocese of San Jose to find the actual deed, which turned out to be a handwritten affidavit. Once that was settled and the lots clearly identified, then and only then could it be determined what had to be done to make what we wanted to do legal.

It is hoped there will be no more such puzzles cropping up!

**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
Anna Jaklitsch	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, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, 328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net.

Spirituality Tuesday Assembly ("STA") begins October 6:

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish is dedicating Tuesday evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each week for spirituality and adult enrichment of parishioners and their neighbors and friends. The goal is to provide more opportunities for spiritual growth than just the Sunday gathering for Eucharist. Parishioners and families are invited to come every Tuesday, if they wish, or to choose those evenings that are relevant and important to their spiritual lives. Location is St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center. The "STA" starts in October:

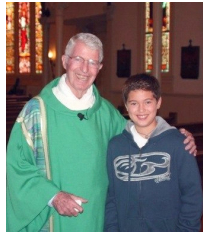
October 6: an evening of Information, Formation and Transformation: A Catholic Response to Teen Suicide (the panel will consist of youth and professional adults).

October 13: an evening of Taize Prayer, led by Fr. Thierry Geris.

October 20: an evening of Scripture study and faith sharing led by Fr George.

October 27: an evening of reflection on the prayers and Mass changes that will be introduced into our worship next year, led by Diana Macalintal, Liturgy Associate, of the Diocese of San Jose.

Guitar Ben impresses:



Fr. Hester & Guitar Ben

Fr. John Hester invited "Guitar Ben" to share his music and mission on August 30 at the 7:30 a.m. Mass. This 11-year-old Jewish boy has been playing his

guitar for peace in Iraq, attempting to raise \$1,000,000 to purchase wheelchairs for disabled Iraqi children.

October 11: STA Garden Party + Time & Talent Faire

Plan your Sunday schedule so you don't miss the October 11 STA Garden Party in conjunction with the parish Time & Talent Faire. Whichever Mass you attend that morning, you will be able to enjoy fresh Peet's coffee, coffee cake and fruit in the garden, while you visit with friends, make new friends, and investigate volunteer opportunities here at STA.

STA Interior update:

The STA Interior Task Force has determined a tentative series of steps for accomplishing the renovation of the church interior. The most significant change will be to the altar platforms to enhance safe stepping for presiders and Eucharistic ministers. The next priority would be given to upgrading the electric panel and the sound system. Next in line is the plumbing, with the thought that the radiators on the altar may be reworked. Then lighting should be addressed, followed by painting and carpeting (where to lay it and what to leave bare wood). Among the secondary considerations are the altar furniture, refinishing of the pews, embellishment of the side altars, and a bathroom in the sacristy.

The task force will meet Sept. 23 at St Albert the Great community room at 7:30 p.m. We invite all who are interested to join us. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Foley at judybertchfoley@yahoo.com, or call 650-322-8650.

News from Jane Bahr:

[Ed.: Jane Bahr co-edited *Steeple Talk* during the past 3 years. In the spring she was diagnosed with a brain tumor.]

I neither sow nor reap but get to enjoy pancakes with Wisconsin Maple syrup for breakfast, and beef ragout with polenta for dinner....I have time for the things that I love to do—visit with friends, read (though very selectively) and listen to CD's. ... [O]ne of the things I am reading very closely is Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*—1048 lines. One of those lines reads *Dying is different than anyone thinks, and luckier*. Striking, but I can certainly relate to it. Of course, a big part of this experience is that I have 82 good years under my belt and so far no real pain.

I am being treated with steroids for control of the swelling in my brain (the original site was a brain tumor in a very narrow part of the brain-stem), and with a new catalyst, Leukine, which jiggers my immune system to send lots of white cells to

the spots in my body where there are tumors. It does seem to be working, because I am feeling very strong this week. ...In addition, through Pathways... I have a visit from the Visiting Nurse once a week, a visit from the Occupational therapist twice a week, and now a speech therapist once a week. My main problem is still the facial paralysis, (I look snarlier than Dick Cheney!) which may make it hard for me to communicate eventually. This is the first scary thing that I have heard, so please pray with me that I can stay in touch with those around me—and convey to them how much I care about them. We've been advised to work out strategies between me, Jean [daughter], and Rudy to cope with this. The speech therapist will be helping in this. Meantime we continue to bask in wonderful weather, beautiful flowers. And good friends....