

# Steeple Talk

Volume 11, No. 6

September 3, 2017

## *News from the STA Mass communities:*

**7:15 Daily Mass:** New copies of the Stewardship Prayer are now available for the assembly to use to recite the prayer after Mass each morning.

**7:30 Sunday Mass:** Early-morning folks like this convenient Mass time.

**8:45 Sunday Mass:** Music leader Taber Dullea continues to introduce the congregation to new hymns from the Breaking Bread hymnal.

**10:30 Sunday Mass:** Music leader Paul Prochaska has composed some new music that is being sung at this Mass.

**12:00 Sunday Mass:** The St. Ann Choir is seeking new singers for the Fall, including paid section leaders. Contact Prof. Mahrt for audition at mahrt@stanford.edu.

**12:15 Daily Mass:** Confessions are heard at 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays before this Mass begins.

## **STA Site Committee plans:**

**Monthly Meeting:**  
1st Wednesday of the month

**Next regular Site meeting:**  
Wednesday, September 6, 2017,  
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

### **Agenda (tentative):**

- ◆ Fall and winter projects
- ◆ Spring garage sale
- ◆ Furnishings
- ◆ Garden grooming

**Monthly newsletter:**  
Sunday before first Wednesday

**Editor:** Kay Williams, 650-270-4188, kaywill@pacbell.net

## **No Sept. Fish Fest—picnic instead:**

The STA Site Committee will forego the September 15 Friday Fish Fest because the **STA Parish Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 17**, at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 11:15 till 2:00 PM.

The Knights of Columbus will again provide tasty cooked food, and individuals are invited to bring salads and desserts to share. Last names starting A-O bring salads/side dish and P-Z bring desserts. Entertainment by Palo Alto Dancercise, Drum and Tai Chi (PADDT) and Sounds of Praise.

This annual picnic is a rousing, jolly affair, offering games for the children, and a relaxed noontime lunch for adults. So save the date and time and join your pew mates for a lovely community event.

Look for more Fish Fests in the future!

## **Caution tape around palm trees:**

Dried fronds from the two very tall palm trees in front of the Thomas House and the church building were dropping to the ground suddenly over the past couple of weeks.

These fronds are large and heavy and thereby hazardous. An arborist was consulted. While arrangements are being made for a tree service to remove the dried fronds, it was recommended that we warn people to stay away from the ground beneath the palm trees. So the caution tape was put up by the parish's very capable maintenance supervisor, Godofredo Alfaro.

Please observe the message of the caution tape!

At least we don't have as many palms as Stanford does. There are 166 palms that line Palm Drive, plus more than 400 oth-



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

er specimens of different varieties of palms throughout the campus. Palm trees are economical in the sense that they generally require less maintenance than other trees, and also consume less water. The only maintenance palms really require is frond-pruning once per year, occasional fertilizer and irrigation.

So soon our two STA palms will be pruned and safe again.

## **STA site activities:**

### **Newcomers:**

On the first Sunday of the month, a parish volunteer stands by a table on the curb outside of church, welcoming newcomers at each Mass and inviting them to sign up as a parishioner. On August 6, the following persons signed up (agreeing to public acknowledgement):

### **10:30 am Mass:**

Benson Zhang  
Juliette Ngo Eone

### **August Fish Fest report:**

On Friday, August 18, more than 40 parishioners enjoyed again the Fish Fest menu—lightly breaded fried fish filet, tangy Asian cole slaw, beer and wine—and desserts contributed by several attendees (mostly cookies and brownies this month). The relaxed setting in the Thomas House living and dining rooms, easy access to the kitchen, and comfortable chairs makes the

evening gathering convivial.

Thanks to the planners—Helen Baumann at the forefront, helped by Chuck and Teddie Guenzer, Mario Veloro, Terry Atkinson, Anna and Rudy Jaklitsch, Kay Williams, Lorraine Dabney. And many thanks to the attendees who helped put away the tables and chairs as the evening wound down. It takes many hands to make it work!

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

751 Waverley Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

**St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:**

Ted Baer	Bob Barron	Helen Baumann
Jan Dedek	Judy Foley	Anna Jaklitsch
Nora Lundin	Bill Mahrt	Bob March
Vicki Sullivan	Kay Williams	and occasional others

**Mission Statement:** The Site Committee for St. Thomas Aquinas Church works to build community across the site's six Mass communities and within the larger parish: 1) by facilitating communication among Mass communities, the Thomas House tenants and other users, and the larger parish; 2) by sponsoring and organizing site-specific community building activities; and 3) by exercising responsible stewardship of our historic downtown facilities.

Site committee meetings are (usually) held the 1st Wednesday of the month in the Library of the Thomas House. All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, (650) 270-4188, [kaywill@pacbell.net](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net).

## Parish pathways:

**R.C.I.A for Adults Sept. 11:** Thinking about becoming Catholic or receiving the Sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation? Do you have an interest in becoming Catholic? Were you baptized as a child, but have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation? Our adult inquiry sessions are now beginning. Please join us for our opening session on Monday, Sept. 11, at 7 pm at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center. For more information about the R.C.I.A. process, please contact Deacon Daniel Hernandez at [dhernandez@dsj.org](mailto:dhernandez@dsj.org) or Susan Olsen at [suolsen@dsj.org](mailto:suolsen@dsj.org)

**Special Collection for the people of Texas & Louisiana:**

Bishop McGrath has asked all parishes to take up a special collection to support and assist those who suffer from the catastrophic disaster of Hurricane Harvey. Special Disaster Relief envelopes can be found in the pews. Please be generous as the need is great.

You may place your donation in the collection at any Mass during the month of September. Proceeds will be forwarded to Catholic Charities USA.

**S.O.U.P. Begins again:**

On Wednesday night, September 13, at 5:30 p.m. in the Our Lady of the Rosary Hall, there will be a S.O.U.P. gathering (Sharing Ourselves with Undernourished People). Please come and enjoy fellowship and soup. Over the years this group has donated almost \$100,000 to local charities and to Father Jack Donald, a Palo Alto native who has transformed lives in Central America. He is part of the International Ministries of the Society of Jesus. The basic plan for SOUP is simple. Three families bring soup to the meeting and a few bring wine and juice. Each person brings a bowl and crackers or bread. We have about an hour of good conversation and a simple dinner. At the end of the meal, each person donates what they would have spent at the market or dining out.

## From the church steps:.

**Catholic churches in the movies:**

In an Aug. 21st article in the *National Catholic Register* (A Service of EWTN), our own STA was featured. California is home to Hollywood and the movie industry, and for the past century or more filmmakers have been using iconic Catholic churches in the state as backdrops for their movies.

Here are seven you might have seen:

- Mission San Juan Batista: *Vertigo* (1958)
- St. Paul Church, San Francisco: *Sister Act* (1992)
- St. Teresa of Avila in Bodega: *The Birds* (1963)
- St. Brendan's, Los Angeles: *War of the Worlds* (1953)
- St. Thomas Aquinas, Palo Alto: *Harold and Maude* (1971)
- Sts. Peter and Paul, San Francisco: *Dirty Harry* (1971) and *The Dead Pool* (1988)
- St. Vincent de Paul, Los Angeles: *End of Days* (1999)

**Spirituality Tuesday Assemblies begin again:**

The schedule for the fall adult education lecture series has been published. There are some excellent programs coming up in September and early October:

**September 19:** Blessed John Henry Newman the Convert: a video presentation with Fr. Matt.

**September 28:** Christianity and Psychotherapy: Critical Questions, Crucial Answers, with Dr. John McNeel, Ph.D.

**October 3:** Immigration Issues: the Impact of a Changing Political Climate, with Fr. Jon Pedigo.

October talks will be featured in the October *Steeple Talk*.

All talks are held in the Hospitality Center at St. Albert the Great Church, 1095 Channing Ave., Palo Alto, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Refreshments served.

**Monday, September 11: Peaceful Presence: Multifaith Prayers for Peace:**

Monday, September 11, 7:00-8:00 pm  
King Plaza (at Hamilton & Ramona) in Palo Alto.

Join to celebrate our common humanity and shared commitment to a world of peace, justice and inclusion. Prayers, reflections, music and rituals from diverse religious traditions will call us to unity and compassion as we make a public affirmation for peace. Those of all faiths and of no formal faith are more than welcome.

At 5:30-7:00 pm there will be a Multifaith Peace Picnic, also on King Plaza, sponsored by American Muslim Voice along with over two dozen Peace Partners, including STA Human Concerns Committee. Come for that and have more opportunity to cultivate community and friendship. Our Peaceful Presence Gathering will immediately follow the picnic.