

Steeple Talk

Volume 11, No. 4

July 2, 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: Fr. Hester is back regularly celebrating this Mass each Sunday.

8:45 Sunday Mass: On Father's Day, June 18, all men in the congregation came to the altar and received a blessing from Msgr. Sanderself and the women in the pews.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Charlotte Gross, sacristan, is sincerely inviting potential lectors or sacristans to step forward to help at this Mass. Don't be shy! Look for Charlotte after Mass—she is usually cleaning up the altar.

12:00 Sunday Mass: The St. Ann Choir will celebrate their patronal feast, St Ann's Day, Wednesday, July 26 with a Mass at 8:00 in the evening. They will sing the *Missa Sesquialtera* by Orlando di Lasso together with the Gregorian chants for the day.

12:15 Daily Mass: The church is open all morning before this noon Mass, except on Saturdays.

Garden was groomed:

If you have walked through the side garden at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the last three weeks, did the day lilies wink at you? They are so delighted to be rid of any dead leaves and old flowers around them. Fifteen members of the 8:45 Mass community pulled weeds, dead headed and fluffed up the lilies, and spread compost throughout the garden areas during our Garden Grooming Party on the second Saturday morning in June. Thank you so very much to Helen Baumann, Anna and Rudy Jaklitsch, Jan Fisher, Bill Voorhees, Rosana Madrigal, Mike McMahon, Jaynie Schemel, Judi Swope, and Larry Sullivan. Our next Garden Grooming Party will probably happen in early October. Hope you can join us next time.

—Vicki Sullivan
Head Garden Groomer

Friday Fish Fest rocked!

The first Friday Fish Fest on June 16 was a jolly, companionable event with good food, friendly diners, and good spirit from those who helped in the kitchen.

The Site Committee was surprised and pleased to welcome about 60 parishioners and friends who wanted to eat out on a summer Friday evening. Attendees ranged from 8 years old to 80 (at least), and no one eschewed the fried fish and chips and savory Asian coleslaw. Beer and wine was available alongside sparkling water. There were cookies for dessert, as well as some lovely little fruity puffy cookies made by Maureen Kennedy, who attends the 8:45 Mass on Sunday.

Cooking so much fish was helped along by the rental of an



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

outdoor convection oven, which was stationed outside of the back door.

People who regularly attend Mass at OLR and St. Albert's came for dinner that night. So old friends reconnected and new friends were made. We all wrote our names on nametags, which helped a lot in the connection vein.

See notice on page 2 about the July 14 Fish Fest!

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, July 5, 2017,
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- ◆ Friday Fish Fest planning
- ◆ Death Penalty forum
- ◆ Church stairs repair
- ◆ 2017 Living Crèche

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before first Wednesday

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

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 June 4, two persons signed up:

10:30 Mass

Camelia Holland, Palo Alto
Cody Carefoot, Palo Alto

 * To each and everyone of you
 * who sweltered to put on the
 * first Fish n' Chips social on
 * Friday, June 16, a heartfelt
 * appreciation and thanks for
 * a wonderful and happy even-
 * ing. You afforded so many of
 * us the gift to simply sit, relax
 * and socialize after our hot
 * busy days.
 * A delightful success. Hope
 * this won't be too labor inten-
 * sive.
 * —Thanks, Edna Jamati

Projects in the works:

Outdoor Christmas crèche scenes:

Committee members are investigating a wooden silhouette crèche ensemble that could be placed on one of the lawns adjacent to the church during the Christmas season. Another lively option could be a night or two of a "Living Crèche" scene with real people, and, perhaps, real animals. That would be something to look at, wouldn't it?

**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.

Parish pathways:

Volunteer Opportunity: Flower Help Needed

The flower arrangers at St. Thomas Aquinas Church are looking for a few folks to help out once per month to provide flower arrangements for the church. Please call Nora at 650-494-2496, ext. 14 if you can take a turn to help them.

Vatican seeking answers from youth around the world:

For any of us who have 16- to 29-year-olds in our lives, this is a welcome and important opportunity. Pass it on to those young people and encourage them to fill out the questionnaire—even if they are not Catholics or practicing members of any faith group:

To involve young people in preparations for the Synod of Bishops on youth in 2018, the Vatican has released an online questionnaire to better understand the lives, attitudes and concerns of 16- to 29-year-olds around the world.

The questionnaire — available in English, Spanish, French and Italian — can be found on the synod's official site: youth.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/it.html and is open to any young person, regardless of faith or religious belief.

The general secretariat of the synod launched the website June 14 to share information about the October 2018 synod on "Young people, faith and vocational discernment" and to link to an online, anonymous survey asking young people about their lives and expectations.

The answers to the questionnaire, along with contributions from bishops, bishops' conferences and other church bodies, "will provide the basis for the drafting of the 'instrumentum laboris,'" or working document for the assembly, synod officials said in January.

Read more at: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/vatican/vatican-releases-online-questionnaire-youth>.

From the church steps:



STA Friday Fish Fest July 14:

All are welcome to the STA Friday Fish Fest on **Friday, July 14, at 6:00 pm at the Thomas House** (adjacent to St. Thomas Aquinas Church) at 745 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Come prepared to enjoy fish and chips, tasty Asian coleslaw, beer and wine in an informal setting, getting to know STA Mass attendees and others from Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Albert's (nametags make it easy to strike up a conversation). Sponsored by the STA Site Committee, a \$5 donation would be appreciated but not required. You are welcome to bring a dish or dessert to share. **RSVP to Helen Baumann, 650-327-9236, hbbumann@aol.com.** (We want to have enough food for all!)

Call to civility:

It seems timely to look back at a message from Bishop P. J. McGrath, sent to Santa Clara County Catholics last October:

"As hard-fought as many of our elections have been, our nation has always succeeded historically in coming together in a mature and civil manner, for the benefit of all, for the good of all of the people. No matter the outcome, we have united — in word and in deed — as one nation.... This year's contentious and unsettling presidential race threatens our ability to come together as one people. The claim by some of our fellow citizens that they will not accept the final outcome of the election borders on the seditious, portending a future that would be neither civil, nor true to our common roots as Americans. We cannot do this. It is not who we are, not who are called to be.... May God bless you all and may

all...come together as "one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all...."

Emergency Preparedness at STA:

Ted Baer reports that he has trained three more people who attend Mass regularly at STA in the emergency preparedness procedures developed for our church. Instructions on what to do if an earthquake or fire occurs while people are in the church are posted in both sacristies (rooms behind the altar: priest vesting on the left; sink, closets, garbage cans, sound system on the right).

Try this test of your powers of attention and observation: where are the fire extinguishers in the church?