



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 23, 2016



Pastor's Column

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STM Is Awarded the 2016 Grand Orchid for Architecture!

On October 13, at the Spreckels Theater in San Diego, the San Diego Architecture Foundation presented St. Thomas More Catholic Church with the 2016 Grand Orchid for Architecture.

We were a unanimous choice by the judges for excellence in architecture!

This recognition is for all of us, for the entire Parish, and it is a reminder that all of our time, talent, and treasure, was and is, a labor of love.

This labor of love has created a place and an environment that lifts the spirit above the everyday routine to a higher place, where we are reminded that we are only pilgrims on a journey and our citizenship is in heaven.

These are my remarks as I accepted the Grand Orchid Award on behalf of our entire Parish:



“On stage with me is Bishop Robert McElroy, the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of San Diego; Alex Garcia and Rob Rombold representing Renzo Zecchetto Architects; John Sandoval representing T. B. Penick & Sons Contractors; Brian Leahey, the St. Thomas More Parish Construction Site Manager; Greg Ratajczak and Bob Ratajczak of Rozak Construction, representing all of our subcontractors; and Phil and Pat Goscienski, the Chair-Couple of the St. Thomas More Interior Design Team.

It takes many people working together to make good things happen, to create spaces and places that have the ability to raise the human spirit to new and better heights,

to bring strength, patience, and perseverance for the journey of life.

There are three main elements in our Church: wood, creating a warmth for when we are spiritually cold; glass, bringing in the light of the day, a transparency to take away the temptation for people and institutions of being dishonest and hiding the truth when caught in weakness and sin; and thirdly, unfinished concrete, a reminder that all of us human beings are works in progress, and our life's journey is about growing in holiness, and presenting, one day, to our God, a being who struggled to be the best that she or he could become.

Before the two large bronze doors of the Church, which are our main doors, there is a large mat that reads: ‘Our Church is a House of Prayer for all People.’

St. Thomas More Church is our Parish Home, but its doors are open wide for everyone, because all of our Parishioners and all of our Staff believe that a ‘Guest in the House is God in the House.’”

Thank you for the Grand Orchid. We are humbled by this recognition!

F. n. Mike

[Watch a video about the church.](#)

[Read the Union Tribune article](#)

[See photos from the awards event and ceremony.](#)