

St. Thomas More

Roman Catholic Church – Parish Newsletter

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THE TOWER

"Good Things Take Time"

— by Rev. Michael Ratajczak

"Good things take time" is one of my favorite phrases or mantras. I am not sure when and where I first heard it, but I have said it and prayed it many times in my ministry and it has helped me considerably over these almost thirty-eight years of my priesthood.

It reminds me to have patience and perseverance, and to keep my eyes focused on the goal in spite of whatever obstacles may cross my path.

This phrase has especially helped me in the last nine years as Pastor here at St. Thomas More Parish as we have been planning, saving, and working to build our Permanent Church and Parish Offices.

We have done remarkably well for a Parish of our size (presently a little over 1,000 households). Since we started the Capital Campaign just over seven years ago, we have raised close to \$1 million a year for our Parish build-out. This is in addition to an ever-growing Operations Budget which we have balanced almost every year with one slight exception several years ago.

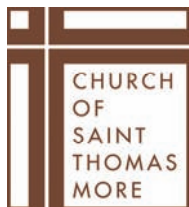
"Good things take time." Our Permanent Church and Parish Offices are good things, and we have seen that despite our success, it has still taken time, great energy, and a good amount of money.

A Parishioner recently said to me, "Father Mike, I was in my forties when our Parish was founded. I have been here from the beginning. And I will be in my late seventies, maybe early eighties, when our Church is complete and we will be worshipping in it!" Yes, my friend, *"good things take time."*

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Interior rendering from the center aisle of the Church



THE TOWER

In naming our Parish newsletter, we remember the Tower of London where St. Thomas More spent his last days and suffered a martyr's death.



The Tower is published semi-annually by the **Church of St. Thomas More**
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Parish Mission Statement

To worship God, teach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and serve God's people in word and deed.

"Good Things Take Time"

(Continued from page 1)

But finally, now, that time is here. Thanks to you, the faithful Parishioners and Stewards of St. Thomas More Parish, we are on the edge of a most exciting time. The construction fence has been erected, and soon, and very soon, actual construction will begin.

In a year and half to two years, we will be worshipping our God in a magnificent sanctuary that will give God glory and will be an inspiration to us to live faithful lives as the Disciples of Jesus.

The Diocesan loan has been secured, a little over four million dollars is on deposit with the Diocese, our architect, our construction company, and our Parish Construction Site Overseer are all in place, and all of the artists are busy with creating the interior elements of the Church. Now is the time!

This issue of the Tower Newsletter highlights many of the interior elements of the Church that are still available to secure as Memorials, as special commitments, that people can make to this "once in a lifetime" opportunity to help create Sacred Space in which God can be glorified and praised!

I invite you to take time to review the listing of available Memorials, and encourage you to consider making that "special gift" to our Faith Community.

Know that I am grateful for all that you have done, and all that you continue to do for St. Thomas More Parish. My nine years here as your Pastor have been the most precious years



Installation of perimeter fencing. November 2012

of my ministry. Despite the "extra burden" of building a Church, these years have been, because of you, a time of great joy and peace.

For all this and more, I am grateful! And always remember that whatever it is you are building, be it a marriage, a family, a career, physical structures, or a lifestyle that is healthy and wholesome, it takes time!

"Good things take time!"



Brian Leahey, Construction Site Overseer, reviews plans



View from the top of the Parish Center over build-out area

Memorial Donations



Our new Crucifix

Memorials are a way of honoring those whom we love, whether they are living or deceased. Often, memorials are made for a special intention or in thanksgiving for a variety of blessings received from God.

Our Parish Campus will be a living memorial. All who help in building it will leave something to the community itself that will be used by generations to come. The good they do is not interred with them, but will remain to share in the divine activity of God here on earth.

All contributions will be recognized in a special memorial to be displayed in our Parish Memorial Garden.

The dollar amount of your memorial may or may not reflect the actual cost of the item. We're in the stages of ascertaining the actual current costs. Your donation will guarantee your memorial.

Pipe Organ	\$850,000
Memorial Garden	\$500,000
Architectural Art Glass	\$300,000 *
Reflection Garden	\$250,000
Bell Tower	\$150,000 *
Church Doors (Bronze)	\$100,000
Baptismal Font	\$75,000 *
Crucifix	\$75,000
St. Thomas More Shrine (Tapestry)	\$75,000
Altar	\$50,000 *
Marian Shrine	\$50,000 *
Stations of the Cross	\$50,000 *
Tabernacle	\$50,000 *
Concert Grand Piano	\$30,000 *
Ambry	\$25,000 *
Easter Vigil Courtyard Fire Pit	\$25,000 *
Votive Candle Stands	\$25,000 *
Courtyard Fountain	\$20,000 *
Sanctuary Candlesticks (6) and Processional Candles (2)	\$16,000 *
Ambo	\$15,000 *
Paschal Candle Stand	\$15,000
Processional Cross	\$10,000
Votive Candle Stands	\$10,000 *
Pedestals for Flowers (8) ***3 pledged at \$1,000 each	\$1,000 /each
Daily Mass Chapel Altar	\$7,500
Sanctuary Lamp	\$7,500 *
Altar Linens	\$5,000 *
Cantor Stand	\$5,000 *
Credence Table	\$5,000 *
Deacon's Bench	\$5,000 *
Presider's Chair	\$5,000 *
Sets of Cups for Holy Communion (2)	\$5,000 *
Wedding Kneelers (5) ****4 pledged at \$1,000 each	\$1,000 /each
Daily Mass Chapel Ambo	\$4,500
Unity Candle Wedding Stand	\$3,500 *
Concelebrant Chairs (5) **2 pledged at \$3,000 each	\$3,000 /chair
Offertory Table	\$2,500
Thurible/Boat/Stand	\$2,500
Daily Mass Chapel Celebrant's Chair	\$1,500
Pew Seating for the Church (1,000 people)	\$300/person
Daily Mass Chapel and Choir Chairs (200)	\$300/each
*Already Reserved	

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760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org

Through the Eyes of a Newbie — by Jane Gladden

I moved to the Vista area in August 2011 and became the classic “new kid on the block.” I don’t think you’re truly home until you experience a sense of belonging, do you? I didn’t have it and I wanted it.

High on my list was finding my new church. I needed that haven that church has always been for me. Now, if I’m honest, I admit, the day I walked into St. Thomas More, my first thought wasn’t exactly “Oh, thank goodness, I’m home!” No, it was more like, “Oh boy, not another build to support! Where are the kneelers? And, how can I pray when everyone is talking!”



New Member Reception and Luncheon. September 30, 2012



I wish I could explain to you why I returned the next weekend, and the next, and the next. I only know the urgings of the Holy Spirit were persistent, encouraging me to stick around until I saw the real church, the one not made of bricks and stone but of its people, beginning with Fr. Mike, our deacons, and all of the faithful who enter these doors.

No walls can contain the love and joy, songs and worship that make up the Church of St. Thomas More.

I wasn’t committed yet to unpacking all my bags and staying but I did decide to ease into a couple of the many, many ministries listed in the Christian Stewardship pamphlet. I joined the prayer chain and volunteered to bring desserts to funeral receptions.

It didn’t seem like much but it brought the gift I had been seeking—the gift of being among others

who love God and who want to serve, too—that long-awaited “sense of belonging.”

Now I help with publicity and press releases for STM and am humbled and honored to be gifted

with this mission. I encourage you to think about what might be your calling. Give one of the many ministries a try and see if it fits. If not, no harm done. If it does, trust me, the rewards will be great.

As one of the “greeters” at weekend Masses, I see many of you and hope you’ll stop by to say hello. But, even more importantly, I hope you’re grabbing a bulletin and taking the time to read about all the upcoming activities—something for everyone.

If you’re short on time, at least read the Calendar Highlights on page three. On page ten, you’ll find a list of parish contacts. Everyone on that list has walked the path you’re walking now, wondering how to serve God within this parish community.

If you’re a little lost, call me or Chris Smith, our Director of Stewardship and Development. Give us a chance to help you in your search. The last pages of the bulletin are devoted to advertisements for all of the businesses that literally absorb the cost of our bulletins. Please give them your support.

We’re all looking forward to the build out of our new church. Meanwhile, please know the church is already here because it’s you and me and all who worship God at St. Thomas More. We are truly the Body of Christ. I’m grateful that I listened to the whispers of the Holy Spirit during my newbie days.

I wonder what God is whispering to you now. God bless you on your journey!



Jane Gladden, Publicity Chairperson



St. Thomas More Membership Committee