

St. Thomas More

Roman Catholic Church – Parish Newsletter

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THE TOWER

San Diego Architectural Foundation Awards 2016 Grand Orchid for Architecture to STM!

— by Rev. Michael Ratajczak

On Thursday, October 13, the San Diego Architectural Foundation awarded St. Thomas More Catholic Church the 2016 Grand Orchid award for Architecture at its annual Orchids and Onions award ceremony. Fr. Mike accepted the award on behalf of the Parish and gave the following remarks.



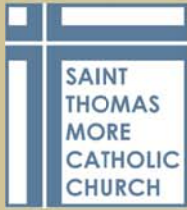
On stage with me is Bishop Robert McElroy, the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of San Diego, Alex Garcia and Rob Rombold representing Renzo Zecchetto Architects, John Sandoval representing T.B. Penick & Sons Contractors, Brian Leahey, the St. Thomas More Parish Construction Site Manager, Greg Ratajczak and Bob Ratajczak of Rozak Construction representing all of our Subs, 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.

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St. Thomas More Catholic Church — A Pilgrim Church for the Jubilee Year of Mercy



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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 main doors of the Church, two large bronze doors, there is a large mat that reads: "Our Church is a House of Prayer for all People."



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.



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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.



Our Church is a House of Prayer for all People



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

"The church was a labor of love and the result is spectacular," the nine-member SDAF jury said.

—San Diego Union-Tribune, Oct 13, 2016

Watch the SDAF two minute video of St. Thomas More Catholic Church

<https://vimeo.com/187127676>



New Member Lunch

New Members, Welcome Ministers, Parish Leadership and Staff, and family meet and greet during the September 25, 2016, lunch provided by the Membership Committee.





From left, clockwise, Parish teens at July Steubenville San Diego conference, Sanctuary Choir members visit the Christmas Angel table, Knights of Columbus and Faith Formation teams offer Christmas items and program information, and socializing on the Plaza after Mass.



“Jesus on the Road to Emmaus” Has Arrived!

“And they came to know him in the Breaking of the Bread!” (Lk 24:13-35)

Sculptor Lynn Kircher, who created our Crucifix for the Church, was commissioned to create a “Resurrected Christ” for our Daily Mass Chapel.

After discussion, the Interior Design Team chose the image of “Jesus on the Road to Emmaus” in which Jesus extends his hands offering Bread to his Disciples.

Please take time to stop in to the Daily Mass Chapel and get a close look of this new art work for our Church.

Completion Update

Our Marian shrine is due to be installed in a few months.

Our Stations of the Cross soon will be installed in the North Prayer Garden.

And, as the final funds are raised, the outside mosaic will be installed in our Memorial Garden.



Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre Visits St. Thomas More

— by Jane Gladden

On Saturday, October 29, 2016, the San Diego members of the Western USA Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem visited St. Thomas More Parish for a morning of prayer and reflection to celebrate Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Mercy.



Originating in the 12th century, this is the oldest Order of Knights and Ladies in the world whose primary mission is to preserve the Christian presence in the Holy Land where currently only 4% of the population is Christian.

Because of the philanthropic work and efforts of this 23,000-member, worldwide organization, Christian schools, orphanages, hospitals, and other social services are able to continue their ministries in the Holy Land.

At the October 29 event, a Mass in honor of Our Lady of Palestine, was celebrated by Bishop Emeritus Robert Brom and Rev. Michael Ratajczak, our pastor. Also concelebrating were Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis and Rev. John Proctor.

In his homily, Bishop Brom emphasized Pope Francis' call for mercy, noting that Jesus is Mercy made Flesh and Mary is the Mother of Mercy. "We will mercifully be fed," Bishop Brom added, "with the Eucharist at this Mass so that we



become food for the poor—to have hearts for those who are hurting."

Following the Mass and the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, a breakfast was held in the Parish Center where members gathered to renew acquaintances and enjoy community.

Members Martha and Dick Lyles shared that it was an honor to be asked to join the Order and then to live out their life-long commitment to uphold the rights of the Church in the Holy Land.

Member Margo Kyd said that she was drawn to the beautiful work of this Order when she was made aware of the serious risk of losing a Christian presence entirely in the land where Jesus lived and died. She noted that members

often make pilgrimages to the Holy Land to better understand and support the Christian community there while also witnessing to Muslims in an effort to promote unity. Her calling, she said, was a surprise to her as most callings are, but she developed very strong feelings for her mission having learned that the Order provides 90% of the food supply in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (Israel, the Palestinian Territories, and Jordan). Margo concluded: "This is a humbling and beautiful mission."

Bishop Brom closed the gathering with a presentation again focused on Our Holy Father's continuing theme of embracing God's Mercy. "We are only as Christian as we are merciful. There is no mercy without compassion. Our Church is an Oasis of Mercy."

