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# THE TOWER

## St. Thomas More Parish – Now on Facebook and Twitter!

— by Rev. Michael Ratajczak

In our continuing effort to find ever better ways of communicating with our Parishioners and STM friends, and keeping as many people as possible informed about the many activities of our faith-filled community, we are now on Facebook and Twitter.



If you are on Facebook and/or Twitter, look us up and connect!

<http://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreRCC>

<http://www.twitter.com/@StThomasMoreRCC>

Our purpose in doing this can be found in our Mission Statement for this project:

*Welcome to the St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church Facebook page. This space is provided as a resource to keep you up to date on our Parish Life, upcoming Parish events, and to invite you to be a part of our activities, sharing our Catholic Faith through interactive online discussions.*

*Please feel free to post your comments about our Parish, post pictures from Parish events, ask questions about the Catholic Faith, and join in on the conversation with our Parishioners and with all who are interested.*

Our Facebook and Twitter sites are overseen by John Fredette, our Deacon-in-formation, Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician, and me.

It is very important that we present an organized and unified presence on Facebook, Twitter, and any other social media in the name of our Parish. It is crucial to communicate factually and correctly. So, there needs to be an “editorial board” through which information is reviewed and posted. The responsibility for setting up any Parish social media sites will belong solely to this committee that I have established.

Take time to find us on Facebook and Twitter and deepen your commitment to our Parish and to the Catholic Faith!



follow us on  
twitter

*F. n. Mike*



## 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** 1450 S. Melrose Drive Oceanside, CA 92056 (760) 758-4100 (760) 758-4165 fax www.stmoside.org parishoffice@stmoside.org



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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.

## In The Beginning . . . ! — by Lois Garth

Gladness and sincerity sent the apostles on their mission and those same qualities created our St. Thomas More Parish.

Today, when our early church members gather, there is a lot of "I'll never forget the time" talk.

In 1986, I attended a weekday Mass at the Flanagan home with about 12 people. We stood around the dining table for the Sacrament and people were warmly praying for each other's needs. It was a true communion. After Mass we shared fresh cinnamon buns, then helped carry the Mass vestments and vessels to Marion Piepmeyer's car where they stayed until the next Mass.

Paul Santy was part of a small ensemble of musicians who ministered at our Saturday Masses at Calavera Hills Community Center. It wasn't until after St. Thomas More held a music workshop to recruit new musicians that we had music at the Sunday Masses held at Eternal Hills Mortuary Chapel. Lisa Custor cantored a cappella until she was joined by keyboard player, Kathy Santy, and singer/guitarist, Lisa Henson, who drove from Oxnard every weekend for the next four years! The choir began to expand as Charlene Buhlert, Wally Palmer, and others stepped forward to offer their musical talents. Kathy benefited twofold from this ministry. She and Paul met at the music workshop and they were married three years later!



Thanks to our dedicated Pioneer Musicians



Timeless ~ Fun and Food at Picnics!



Annual picnics were held at Stagecoach Park, and they always started with an outdoor Mass. Games followed, including the most notable "raw egg toss and catch" which never failed to put folks in party mode! Hazel and George Bronzan grilled the meat and the popular potluck from attendees always meant an abundance of food for all. Many of us will never forget the year that the sprinklers came on in full force just as we had spread our clothes on the grass!

On a Good Friday, a solemn and memorable Way of the Cross wound through a residential area where a purple drape on a garage indicated one of the stations. Starting out after dark, we chanted and sang the 14 stations, accompanied by curious neighborhood kids and a few dogs! Fr. Bob White reminded us that Christ's journey also attracted curious followers.

Finding locations away from the chapel was a challenge. Masses were held in public schools, community centers, clubs, and halls. At an Easter Vigil Mass at Pilgrim United Church, our incense set off the smoke alarms. The shutoff was in the locked minister's office. Fire engine sirens blaring made for laughing and memories.

A particular dinner party at the Carlsbad Women's Club had unusual plans. Our Parishioners reserved a table for ten, brought table linens, silver, china, and centerpieces from

(Continued on page 3)



Good Friday Stations of the Cross Procession to the home of Marky and Norm Shultz



Phil Goscienski hosted parties and carried out a variety of tasks with ease. Pat and Phil went on to become our Interior Design Team Co-Chair-persons for our new Church, and “Dr. Phil” works hard promoting our CPR Program at St. Thomas More, which now boasts over 400 people certified.

Where would any Parish be without those loyal “behind the scenes” folks who give so much, so selflessly making it seem like weekend Masses “just happen.”

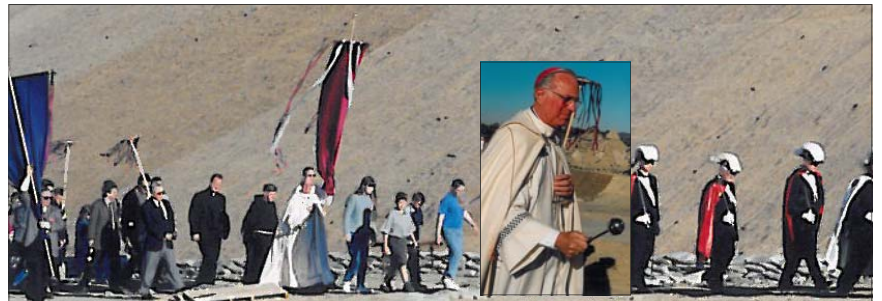
Marge and Jack Gillen have served our Parish steadily from the very beginning. It was Marge in charge (for 20 years) of our dedicated Altar Linen Ladies who pay meticulous attention to details most people never notice unless they are not done correctly. In addition to working cleanup detail for funerals and receptions, Jack has made sure our outdoor Stations of the Cross are set up every single Good Friday.

Marky and Norm Shultz always kept their door open and their table well spread.

home. My husband, Len, and I were on duty setting up, cooking, and cleaning up with two other couples, Jan and Steve Kremenik and Bev and Leo Miller. It was the beginning of beautiful friendships.

Another time, I suggested a dinner for all on Holy Thursday. Fr. Bob said, “Great idea! You are in charge. Find a place, cook the food, serve, and clean up. The Church will pay for it.” This was a big order, even in our embryonic stages as a Parish. With great help from Kathy Santy, Ann Castillo, and my husband, Len, we served a wonderful turkey breast dinner to 110 people at Rancho Carlsbad.

One of the greatest rewards we derived from the unique tasks and necessities of belonging to a Parish without a “home” was getting to know remarkable people. Pat and



Ground Blessing Ceremony, December 1999

We grew in numbers and finally a great day came!

Lorraine Doering’s favorite memory is the Ground Blessing Ceremony at our very own church site, with Bishop Brom blessing our ground, processing in jubilant march and song. It was not long before we had our own first building, our 22,500 sq. ft. two story multi-purpose Parish Center, which serves us incredibly well.

On our upper level plaza we mix and meet . . . Like the family whose three kids were eating donuts one Sunday when suddenly one of their girls hollered to her Dad, “How come he gets a chocolate donut when he’s the one who started the fight in the car?”

We are encouraged to reach out in our own way. I plan to leave my old cronies up front, and move back to sit with young people. I’ll tell them my name, and reward the one who remembers it with a chocolate donut! ♦



A Saturday night Mass at Calavera Hills Community Center

# Coming Soon! — by Reverend Michael Ratajczak

Ever so close!

Renzo Zecchetto, our Architect, Robert Habiger, our Liturgical Consultant, and T.B. Penick, our General Contractor retained for the Design Assist, are all feverishly working together to change our and their ideas into reality!

Several joint meetings of the STM Interior Design Team, the STM New Construction Committee, and the STM Staff have been held with Renzo Zecchetto and Robert Habiger to refine those ideas.

Soon all the designs will be in place, and we can move on to the Construction Documents.

2012 will be the “Year of the Build.”

We will dedicate our new Church on June 21, 2013, the Vigil of the Feast of St. Thomas More! Mark your calendars . . .

Keep the prayers coming. Keep the financial resources coming as well. Whatever you can now give to the Building Fund will be greatly appreciated. We need every penny as we work within our \$10 million budget for the Church and our Parish Offices.

Ever so close! Ever so close!



July 2011 ~ Plans are well underway  
Please continue to pray for our success!



December 1999  
Parish Center Groundbreaking Ceremony



Summer 2000  
Parish Center Work In Progress

**Treasures 2011  
Flea Market  
Saturday, October 8  
8:00am-12:00noon!**  
St. Thomas More  
1450 S. Melrose Dr.  
Oceanside, CA 92056  
**Contact Jerry or Judy  
Buoniconti  
760-758-5113**

**Women’s Retreat  
“Becoming . . . ”  
Featured Speaker:  
Tammy Evevard  
September 30, 7:00-9:00pm  
October 1, 8:30am-5:00pm**  
St. Thomas More  
1450 S. Melrose Dr.  
Oceanside, CA 92056  
**Contact Joleen Schanzenbach**

**Men’s Fellowship  
Annual Retreat  
Featured Speaker:  
Cyril Jones-Kellett, M.A.  
October 14, 15, and 16  
At Camp Cedar Glen  
743 Farmers Road  
Julian, CA  
[www.stmoside.org/men](http://www.stmoside.org/men)  
[mensfellowship@stmoside.org](mailto:mensfellowship@stmoside.org)**