

St. Thomas More

Roman Catholic Church Newsletter

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THE TOWER

Patron Saint Thomas More

He was, of course, a man for all seasons...a classical scholar, a humanist, a statesman, a politician, a man of prayer, the author of the famed *Utopia*, a theologian, and a lawyer by profession. Yet, St. Thomas More is also a man for our times – a model for us today as we strive to serve God in our social, religious, and familial relationships.

(Continued on page 2)



The Tower of London

Welcome Father Mike!



On September 28, 1948, in Detroit, Michigan, Fr. Mike was born as the youngest child in a family of six.

Fr. Mike, from his earliest years, knew he had a calling to the Priesthood.

In fourth grade, he confidently raised his hand in response to the teacher's question, "Who wants to be a priest?" His parents, Herman and Helen, guided Fr. Mike through a Catholic Education of grade school, high school, college, and seminary, culminating in an M. Div. from St. John Provincial Seminary and an M.A. in theology from the University of Detroit. Ordained for the Archdiocese of Detroit in 1975, Fr. Mike went on to serve as an Associate Pastor, Administrator, and Pastor within four Detroit Parishes.

Eleven years later, in 1986, Fr. Mike, following the path of his four older brothers who settled in Southern California, sought permission to become a priest in the Diocese of San Diego. For the last 17 years he has continued his ministry as Associate Pastor at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Encinitas, and San Rafael in Rancho Bernardo, and as Pastor at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in San Diego, and Santa Sophia Parish in Spring Valley.

After eight years as Pastor of Santa Sophia Parish in Spring Valley, Fr. Mike

arrived at St. Thomas More in Oceanside on July 1, 2003. Fr. Mike greatly enjoys parish ministry, because it is, he feels, where most people have the opportunity to deepen their relationship with Jesus and become more active in their faith as Catholics.

Regarding his goals for the Church of St. Thomas More Parish, he would ultimately like to complete the build-out during his time here. As far as the spiritual mission of the community, Fr. Mike will seek to continue to deepen the already evident spirit of hospitality and sense of community present in the Parish, and continue to encourage the involvement of the parishioners in the day-to-day life of the community.

On the personal side, Fr. Mike takes pleasure in reading, watching movies, walking, and cooking. Fr. Mike has already come to feel at home at St. Thomas More. "I have always enjoyed and have been enthusiastic about the challenges in all the Parishes in which I have served," explains Fr. Mike. "I am feeling very comfortable in being the Pastor of this wonderful Faith Community that already has a strong and positive reputation in the Diocese."

The Church of St. Thomas More welcomes Fr. Mike with open arms and looks forward to his ongoing pastoral presence among us!

Continued... St Thomas More

His contemporaries knew him to possess a keen wit, a merry sense of humor, and a great common sense. He was a warm and friendly man who always seemed more concerned about the needs of his friends than his own needs. His friendship extended to looking after the poor in his village and to singing in his church choir. Inclined in his early years to the priesthood – he spent four years living the austere life of the Carthusian Order – Thomas eventually opted for married life.

After the death of his first wife, who bore him four children, he married again—a widow, whose daughter he adopted. The family prayed together daily, and St. Thomas More himself set aside all Fridays for his own spiritual exercises.

Another example of his being a man for all seasons and for our time, St. Thomas More believed in the education of women – a truly radical notion for his time. His daughters were better educated than most men of this era.

Thomas More was a brilliant lawyer and, later, a very fine judge. Because of this distinguished service, he was appointed Lord Chancellor of England. Henry VIII, his court, and most of the English clergymen tried to persuade Thomas More to approve the king's divorce from Catherine of Aragon and to take the Oath of Supremacy – which acknowledged that Henry VIII was the head of the Church of England instead of the Pope.

More held firm to the teachings of the Catholic Church, despite knowing well that to remain steadfast meant certain execution. He was imprisoned and beheaded in London in 1535.

Four hundred years later (in 1935) he was canonized as a saint and martyr. His feast day is celebrated on June 22nd.



Patron Saint Thomas More

The Success of a Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich

When you ask children about Lent, they know that it's about...giving something up. And when asked to do so, it's usually giving up candy or soda. This year at St. Thomas More we challenged the children for the Lenten season. We reminded them that Lent is a good time for almsgiving; not just giving something up, but doing good works for those in need, thus becoming more like Jesus.

The challenge for the religious education students of St. Thomas More, and all who wished to participate, was to give up their favorite snack for the 40 days of Lent, and use the money that they would have spent on snacks to buy peanut butter and jelly.



It was the goal of religious education to collect 365 jars of peanut butter and jelly, enough to make sandwiches every day of the year.



"The outpouring of generosity from the children was incredible," stated Kathleen Bell, DCM. "We collected

249 jars of peanut butter and jelly. This was such a successful project, not only in terms of our collection, but also teaching the children the true meaning of almsgiving."

The items collected were then donated to Catholic Charities in Vista, enabling them to make sandwiches for the poor; sandwiches for every day of the year.

"I gave up eating chocolate for Lent," said Amanda Longo, age 7. "I feel good that I was able to help the people who are poor." Many thanks to the children and all who participated in this worthwhile event. Your almsgiving and great faith will make a difference to many lives in our community this year!



The Holy Spirit is Alive in Eucharistic Ministry

Eucharistic Ministers serve much more than the needs of the parish each weekend at Mass. A small group of dedicated individuals extend the Eucharistic ministry to those unable to receive communion due to physical limitation or are home bound.

The group visits on a weekly basis Tri-City hospital, nursing homes, retirement centers and assisted care homes. Formed in February 2003, Stella Leué and Thelma Rizza had read in *The Southern Cross* about a new hospital chaplain assigned at Tri-City by Bishop Brom. Stella, having had previous training and volunteer work in the hospital, approached



Fr. Peter McGuine about developing this worthwhile ministry.

After attending an organizational meeting Stella and Thelma were off recruiting other Eucharistic Ministers to help in sharing the body of Christ with home-bound Catholics. Today the group serves more than forty Catholic residents on a weekly basis. In addition to sharing our precious Lord, the group studies the weekly scriptures and attempts to bring the essence of the Mass to those they visit.

Contact Thelma at (760) 757-7141 if you are interested in learning more about this rewarding ministry.

Newsletter Premier Issue:

The STM newsletter, *The Tower* was named by parishioner Ed Mohrman in a "Name the Newsletter" contest. It is befitting that the publication honors St. Thomas More who was imprisoned in The Tower of London before his martyrdom in 1535 AD.

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Teenagers at Heart.... Spirited Seniors of STM

This highly spirited group of older teenagers has just embarked on their second year of fun, fellowship and adventure.

The first meeting took place in September 2001 and 50 interested and curious seniors attended. Today the group has grown to 90 members and is guided by an advisory group comprised of eleven creative and hard working individuals.

The monthly meetings are stimulating, educational and there is something for everyone. Just take a look of some of their recent activities:

- Understanding non-operative spinal care and strengthening exercises
- Day of Recollection
- Carlsbad Choraleers
- Pala Indian Reservation Bus Trip
- Family Practice Law discussion
- The Shroud of Turin
- Understanding Islam

- The sights and sounds of Israel travelogue

On June 5, 2003 a spirited group of 36 took a bus trip to San Diego Harbor. The group boarded the Hornblower cruise ship for a two hour harbor excursion.

Sights included Naval operations in Pt. Loma, North Island and 32nd Street Naval Station, NASSCO Shipbuilding, and the San Diego/ Coronado Bay Bridge. A trip highlight was seeing the Aircraft Carrier "Constellation" which recently returned from the Persian Gulf.

The group dined after the cruise at Anthony's on Harbor Island and enjoyed fellowship and meeting new people.

Keep your eyes peeled for this active group. They are bound to be on the move in the months to come. Look for announcements in the church bulletin or

"The goals of the Spirited Seniors are to enhance spiritual, social, friendship and educational needs of its members."



Hornblower Bay Cruise, June 2003

contact Stella Leué at (760) 726-3869 or dleue2@cox.net or Dottie Petruzzo at (760) 727-2196.

Small Church Communities Honor Early Christian Gatherings

In the early days of our church, believers met in private homes where they read from the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of St. Paul. They learned of Peter, Paul and Barnabas and other apostles as they visited and taught early Christians.

Today we honor this custom in our Small Church Community groups which meet throughout the country and in seven

communities here at STM. The bible is their companion as they share their lives and learn from the examples of one another.

The group reads and discusses the scriptures following Sunday Mass in the format in the "Quest" books. They pray together and by better understanding the weekly scriptures they experience Mass with a deeper sense of faith which becomes more personal.

Some of the groups meet during the daytime hours while the young adults have an evening group. The groups share thoughts and opinions along with potluck lunches and breakfast outings.

Deepen your faith and make the scriptures more relevant in your daily walk with Christ. Contact Kathy Quinn at (760) 722-7525 or kathyquinn@aol.com.

Development Council

The Development Council is about more than just developing the church properties. It involves the spiritual, financial and developmental well-being of the STM community.

The group formed in September 2003 is a pioneer in the implementation of a Development Council to work side by side with the Pastoral and Finance Councils of the parish.

The purpose of the Development Council is to boost awareness of the stewardship way of life, to promote the need of a permanent ongoing commitment of the time, talent and treasure from all parish families and coordinate methods and activities that energize people to get on board for a ride that will please God for a lifetime.

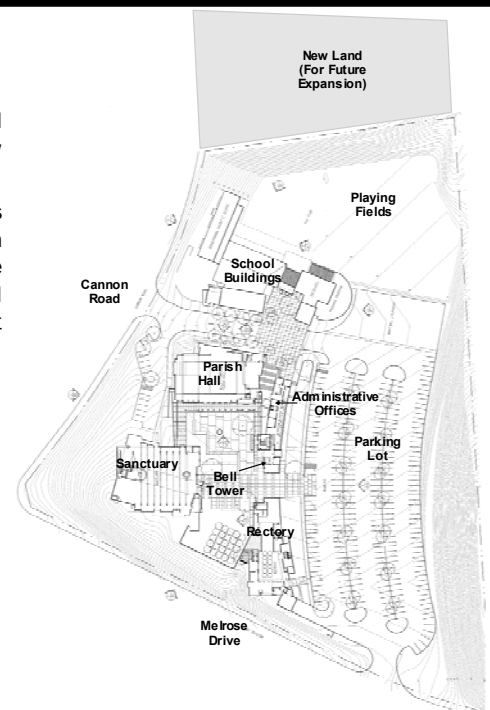
The council oversees committees active in the parish including Stewardship, Annual Catholic Appeal, Capital Campaigns, Parish

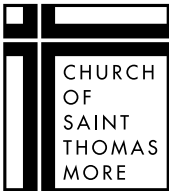
Membership, Sacrificial Giving, Planned Giving Publicity & Public Relations and New Construction.

The group meets quarterly and works directly with the Pastor. If interested in serving God and the Parish on the Development Council, please contact STM Stewardship Coordinator Chris Smith at chriss@stmoside.org

As the end of the year 2003 approaches, and as you review your financial situation in preparation for your IRS returns, there may be a need for greater charitable giving before the end of this year.

If so, please remember the Building Fund here at the Church of St. Thomas More. Your gifts are greatly needed and would be deeply appreciated. Thank you!





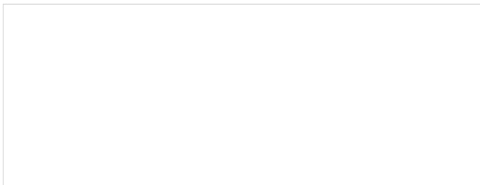
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Parish Mission Statement

“To worship God,
teach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and serve His people in word and deed.”



Father Peter Departs for Papal Assignment



An eight-year era came to an end as the parish of St. Thomas More said farewell to Fr. Peter M. McGuine on June 30, 2003. Fr. Peter said his first Mass on August 2, 1995 when our church was in a rented space in a shopping mall. God was aware that in a very short time Fr. Peter would have to use all of his talents as an administrator in the planning and building of a church complex on our newly

acquired 10 acre site at Cannon and Melrose.

The first structure, a 22,500 square foot multi-purpose building completed in March 2001, now serves as both a church and administrative offices. We will always be indebted to Fr. Peter for his leadership and incredible talents during the critical years of planning and development of our new parish site.

Fr. Peter’s new assignment for the next five years is in Rome, where he will serve as one of the two vice-rectors of the Pontifical North American College. He should feel at home at the college since he was a student there from 1986 to 1990.

His new assignment is to work directly with the students, while the other vice-rector works with administration.

Fr. Peter’s duties include admissions, formation, advising and occasional teaching as well as promoting the college with bishops and seminary rectors. At the present time about 170 students from the United States are enrolled in the college, which was founded in 1859 by the U.S. bishops. The college offers seminarians more exposure to the universal Church while they study theology.

We will miss Fr. Peter and be forever thankful of his diligent work in our parish, which has grown to nearly 1,100 families at the present time. Fr. Peter also misses us and says,

“San Diego is a beautiful place to minister, but so is Rome. I want to thank you for sharing your life and faith with me through the almost eight years we were together. You have made me a better priest and one who is now ready to help others for eventual service as priests in the United States. I pray that the years ahead with Fr. Mike will be filled with grace and that, together with him, you will continue to boldly and effectively witness the presence of Christ in our world today.”