

St. Thomas More

Roman Catholic Church – Parish Newsletter

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THE TOWER

The Inside Track

— by Douglas Lynn

*Today we come before you
to dedicate to your lasting service
this house of prayer
this temple of worship
this home in which we are nourished
by your word and sacraments...*

—from the Prayer of Dedication
from the *Rite of Dedication of a Church and an Altar*

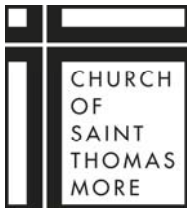
The first words of a bishop’s Prayer of Dedication for a new church are profound, powerful words that resonate with purpose for those who are present as a new chapter begins in the life of that Parish. They speak of timelessness and the principal reasons we gather as a faith community—prayer, worship, nourishment—everything we need before we “go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

This is the prayer Bishop Brom will use to dedicate, to consecrate our permanent church. This is the prayer which has begun every meeting of the Interior Design Team since its inception five years ago.

The Interior Design Team, co-chaired by Pat and Phil Goscienski, has been tasked with creating the proper and appropriate liturgical environment for our new worship space, a space worthy of the celebration of the Eucharist and all the Sacraments. It was charged with interviewing and selecting a

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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.

The Inside Track – continued

(Continued from page 1)

liturgical consultant—Robert Habiger of Dekker/Perich/Sabatini—who assists the team as it crafts the spaces in which we will celebrate our liturgies.

In consultation with Robert Habiger, the Interior Design Team was also tasked with creating a Liturgical Program to provide a firm foundation for design excellence and to provide the architectural design team with needed information regarding critical design requirements for the new church building. Some questions we have explored include:

- What are the meanings to be conveyed when entering the church building?
- What are the functional relationships among liturgical spaces?
- How do the various liturgical elements interrelate?
- What are the designated design capacities for specific spaces?
- What are the acoustical requirements for the different sources of liturgical sound?
- What are the diocesan requirements and guidelines which must be incorporated in the design?

After an exhaustive study of all the necessary Church documents and a round of visits to

Lord, send your Spirit from heaven to make this church an ever-holy place...

Here may the waters of baptism overwhelm the shame of sin...

Here may your children gathered around your altar... be fed at the table of Christ's word and Christ's body...

Here may prayer... resound through heaven and earth...

Here may the poor find justice...

From here may the whole world... enter with gladness your city of peace...

—from the Prayer of Dedication from the *Rite of Dedication of a Church and an Altar*

almost twenty churches in a fifty-mile radius that have been built or significantly renovated in the past ten years, we found that the devil is in the details, and that there are a lot of details.

In November 2009, after many drafts and hundreds of hours of discussion, the Interior Design Team completed the preliminary Liturgical Program, a fifty-page document that attempts to define the details, the needs and wants (requirements and considerations) of our new space. It will be a guide for the





architect, the liturgical consultant, and the team as we create, revise, and approve the design schematics for our liturgical spaces.

This January, as the Parish launches Phase II of our Capital Campaign, we have been treated to new architectural renderings of the exterior of our permanent church. These stunning pictures are the fruit of the ongoing work of the New Construction Committee, chaired by Brian Leahey.

Over the next months, detailed design of the interior will begin based upon the Liturgical Program just completed. Additional decisions will be made within the context of ongoing exploration and refinement, and the vision outlined in the Liturgical Program will be fleshed out, expanded, and modified as a result of the synergy among the architect, the liturgical consultant, the New Construction Committee, and the Interior Design Team.

In a few years, the most important part, the Body of Christ, the people of the Church of St. Thomas More will enter into the building designed by the New Construction Committee and architect, and flow through the space crafted by the Interior Design Team and the liturgical consultant. At that

time, all of this work will be brought to completion. But that end will be a new beginning. At that time, this faith community will continue its mission and ministry, gathering to worship in its new space before being sent once more to “go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

Over the next two years, as our Parish works to complete Phase II of the Capital Campaign, members of the Interior Design Team will be working to complete the design and specifications of our permanent church.

As we continue on our journey, the team continues to keep itself open to the Holy Spirit that we might discern God’s will for this space, and that our permanent church might be worthy of its purpose. As always, we ask for your prayers along the way. ♦

The Interior Design Team

Rev. Mike Ratajczak
Pastor

Pat Goscienski
Phil Goscienski, M.D.
Co-chairs

Robert Habiger
Liturgical Consultant

Lorraine Doering
Douglas Lynn
Chris Smith
Pastoral Staff

Charlene Buhlert
Mary Castle
Diana Diaz
Mario Diaz
Ann Eriksson
Sondra Parks
Kathy Quinn

Our Journey Into The Future...Together
Phase II – January 2010 to December 2011

- 2010 Goal: \$2 million in 2 years — \$725,000 already pledged
- 2012 Break Ground (when the \$2 million is in the bank)
- 2013 Dedicate Permanent Church

For questions, to pledge, or to donate,
contact Chris Smith at 760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org.

Fanning the Spark of Faith — by Natasha Bukovchik-Jaksch

It's Sunday night at St. Thomas More Church. A group of seventh and eighth graders and their leader gather in a circle, each taking a turn at grinding wheat into flour with a stone mortar and pestle. They draw the parallel to how Christ's body was broken down, and just as flour and yeast become bread, Jesus becomes the bread of life for us at Communion. By learning and talking about the Eucharist in this unique and tangible way, they gain new meaning to the Sacrament and act of Communion. This is a scene from one of Rory Griffin's middle school religious education classes. "I love teaching the sacraments because it brings them to life as sacraments as opposed to a ritual that we do," says Rory.

The Parish's Religious Education for Adults and Children (RE.A.CH) middle school program currently has 34 participants. Three sections taught by Rory Griffin, Sandi Thompson, and Jerry and Theresa Allison meet two Sundays each month, September through May. A special education course is taught by Marilyn Lilly.



is based on the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, three of which are being taught this year: Morality, Jesus in the New Testament, and the Church and Sacraments (one per class). During the course of their seventh and eighth grade years, students will cover two of the four pillars.

Religious education for middle school youth is not just about what is found in books. Teaching this age group is about both creating a balance between making Jesus real to them so that they want to have a personal relationship with him and studying the life of Jesus. "To have a

vocabulary to express it. It's the intellectual and the spiritual growing together. We want our folks to be the ones who are not afraid to say, 'I'm a Catholic' at a cocktail party instead of keeping quiet to avoid getting into it," she claims. "We [as Catholics] are often reluctant to speak about our faith because we don't have a good foundation in it," she says.

Middle school poses a unique challenge to the catechists because it "can be a really difficult time to keep the youth connected to the faith. It is a difficult age level to have young people get enthused about their religion," says Kathleen.



Throughout the year, Director of Faith Formation Kathleen Bell and her dedicated group of volunteers work on forming the basics of faith through a program series called Faith First. The middle school curriculum

relationship you need to know something about the person," Kathleen explains. One goal of the children and adult faith formation programs is "to create and nurture an intelligent Catholic population who know the Lord and have enough faith

Rory Griffin, a four-year middle school veteran catechist, agrees. "Things start to change when they get to middle school; the peer pressure sets in and they start to question a lot of things like who they are and where God and faith fit in," he explains. Depending on the situation at home and their parents' attitude surrounding religious education, children can be open or closed to the idea of another year of RE.A.CH. Keeping the faith alive through the adolescent years can be a challenge for parents, catechists, and the youth themselves.

Offering fresh and interesting lessons that get children excited about their faith takes dedicated catechists. Rory, for example, regularly incorporates contemporary music, role playing, drawing, games, Internet, and hands-on lessons into the curriculum. He uses broadcast media to make lessons practical and interesting. This was particularly useful in placing St. Paul in an historical context in a lesson on how St. Paul spread the Gospel to the known world.



High school Confirmation candidates also help keep it fun by assisting the catechists as part of their sacramental preparation. All our candidates must serve in some St. Thomas More ministry for a year.

Being a great catechist is not only about teaching, it's also about "building a trust level within the group to create an environment where discussion is okay," Kathleen says. "This year we're really blessed with the catechists we have. There are really wonderful things going on

because of their skills and abilities." A key point she tries to make with catechists is that they are "not coming to teach a class, but to share faith."

Rory, along with the other catechists, do just this when they share personal experiences with their classes. For instance, each year Rory tells the miracle story of when he and his wife Stacey became pregnant with their daughter, Sarah. (It was a miracle because Stacey was told she could not have children.)

The internet is an integral part of the Faith First program since the children do an online review of the previous chapter in the off-week, take a test, and email the results to their catechist. "We're trying to get them to use the media for faith-based activities as well," states Kathleen. The website is a wonderful resource for all children, kindergarten through grade eight. Everyone is invited to use it, including those not in RE.A.CH, like children attending Catholic school. It offers fun activities and games for kids and families as well as valuable resources for parents and catechists alike.

As the catechists are working hard to help make our children better Christians, God is also working on them. As a result of his stewardship, Rory has found that his own spiritual life has blossomed. "I spend much more time in prayer. I pray in the car

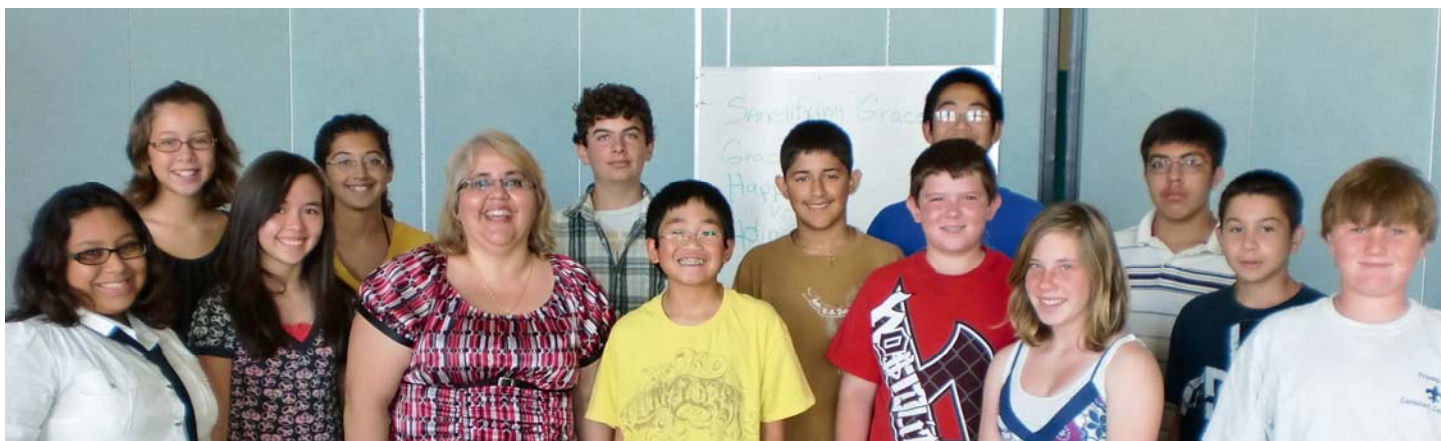


when I'm going to work. I listen to prayerful Christian music during my commute. I pray the rosary not just at funerals. I would never have done that before," he says. Since serving as a catechist Rory has also become a Eucharistic minister, taught a few high school classes at the youth group, and accompanied Parish's youth to the Steubenville conference in the summer.

Although teaching middle school RE.A.CH is a challenging job, our committed catechists continue to give of their time and from their heart to help keep the spark of faith alive. Thank you so much catechists!

Check our wealth of information at: www.faithfirst.com for young people and families to find movie reviews, games, stories, mealtime prayers, current events, and more! ♦

Pictured clockwise from top of page 4: Proverbs, Ruth, Song of Songs, and Job middle school RE.A.CH classes



Blessed by the Sacrament of Matrimony



Larry Kennedy and Darian Gotti
Duane Roman and Jennifer Rich
Jamie Hay and Lisette Wuebben
Andrew Frost and Jennifer Gieda
Enrique Robles and Donna Snyder

one LORD,
one Faith,
one Baptism....

Made one through Baptism with the risen Lord

Therese Francesca Schanzenbach
Thomas Alexander Wilson
Daniel Isaac Torres
Rocco Alexander Beauchamp
Lindsay Anne Embrey
Logan Peter Embrey
Gianna Rose Hartdegen
Liam Matthew Johnson
Tyler Riley Logan
Katherine Ava Zeisse
Briana Marie Hamilton
Billy Dale Turley
Loren Ishmail Guerra
Cash Michael Hutchins
Savannah Roberts Thielemann
Madison Louise Proctor
Madison Nicole Cappuccio
Giselle Amora Martinez
Harold Trieu Dominico Nguyen Parsons
Jenna Kashinani Andrade
Malia Elizabeth Evans
Diego Antonio Seda
Jenna Rose Furgal
Oliver Phillip Williams
Lee Anne Marie Higuera
Lydia Lynn Wojcik
Colton Robert Osborne
Kael McMahan Osborne
Kylie Emma Osborne
Zoë Shona Zych

In honor and memory of those who have died

Gonzalo Carrillo
Luis Cadenas
Dorothy Comstock
Melanie Wolfe
Helen Eklem
Karen Fox
Francis Corcoran
John Rodriguez
Ginny Jaeger
Elizabeth Muffy Hayden
Lyman Bud Lundell
Marion Lindroth
Rosemarie Felton
Paula Gurrera
Jack Haeffelin
Mari-Jo Porter
Dolores Murchison
Darrel Welch
Robert David Rees
Don Wolfe
William Ipsen
Larry Fisk
Mary Simonson
Mary Hannan
Catherine Sterk Castagna

Jack Lincoln
Irene Caligiuri
Barbara Baker
William Baker
Eleanor Lape
Steve Brown
Leo Miller
Vickie Divisek
Catherine Miller
Rosemary Poehlman
William McCarty
Jack Thill
Luci Palmer
Agnes Cramner
Scott Noble
Francis Gojny
Robert Belter
Jean Crowell
Miriam Layden
Nona Miller
Hazelle Fox
Peter Gavin
Maria D'Acosta
Catherine Koonce
Raymond Staehr



We, as Living Stones — Chris Smith

Parish Mission Statement

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

The Church of St. Thomas More is blessed to be a faith community with many caring and sharing Christian stewards who joyfully serve the Lord.

We have a smorgasbord of ministries from which to choose—over 100 different ways to continue the mission and ministry of Jesus in this time and in this place.

Fr. Mike describes this Parish as one of “intentionality” due to the fact that Parishioners enjoy their involvement in various ministries and worship.

Since 2001, we have been worshipping in our 22,500 sq. ft. multi-purpose Parish Center, and it has served us well in the wide variety of ministerial work that takes place in this space, in our local community, and beyond, seven days a week.



The Knights of Columbus handled collection and delivery of items for St. Bonaventure Mission. Two trucks filled with blankets, warm clothing, and necessities were a welcome sight to our Navajo friends in New Mexico.



At the end of each liturgy, our Pastor, Fr. Mike, sends us to “Go in peace to love *and* serve the Lord.”

We are nourished by the Eucharist to carry on the work of Jesus. This page is a sampler of how one can serve. For more information please visit our website at:

www.stmoside.org/stewardship_and_development.htm
or call Chris Smith at 760-758-4100 x120.



Christmas Angel Ministry collects thousands of gifts for multiple charitable needs.



Middle School Youth supply backpacks and other items for Stand Up For Kids.

“You also, as living stones, are built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

—1 Peter 2:5



A very brief snapshot of the first two lines of our Mission Statement shows that it takes...

- † 440 Masses to fill our Parish's liturgical needs each year.
- † 5-6 People to set up the 652 chairs and arrange the Upper Level on Saturdays for Mass.
- † 75 Liturgical Ministers to cover three Masses on any given weekend, including Eucharistic Ministers, Hospitality Ministers, Greeters, Readers, Altar Servers, and Sacristans for each Mass.
- † 16 Eucharistic Ministers to bring communion to Tri-City Hospital, on a weekly basis, each month.
- † 12 Eucharistic Ministers weekly to administer Communion to our Parish's shut-in members and to the convalescent and retirement homes we serve.
- † 35 Catechists, assistants, and helpers, to share faith in our RE.A.CH program for our youth. 250 children are enrolled in this program which covers youth from three to eighteen years old.



Thanks to the more than 1,500 stewards who serve Jesus' mission and ministry at STM!

PARISH MISSION:

The Gospels
Are Speaking!
Are We Listening?



February 27-March 4

Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM Conv.

Sunday, February 28

Parish Masses

Interaction with youth during RE.A.CH

Monday-Wednesday, March 1-3

Morning and evening presentations

9:00am or 7:00pm

Thursday evening, March 4

Close of Retreat/Parish Reconciliation Service

7:00pm

*For more information, contact Kathleen Bell,
760-758-4100 x110 or kathleenb@stmoside.org*

Church of St. Thomas More presents

Spring Sing



"...so that
they may be
one..."

John 17:11

Sunday, April 18

4:00pm

Upper Level of the Parish Center

**Church Choirs from North County
Classic Brass
Congregational Hymn Sing**

Upcoming Events at St. Thomas More Parish

STM 11th Annual Golf Classic! Friday, April 30



- ◆ Golf at Fallbrook Golf Club
- ◆ Miniature Golf at Boomers!
- ◆ Evening Festivities at STM



**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT JIM & SUZY BAILEY
760-754-1635 OR JIMSUZYBAILEY@COX.NET**

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2010

ST. THOMAS MORE

CELEBRATES OUR

25TH ANNIVERSARY!

