

THE
St. Thomas More Society
OF SAN FRANCISCO

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BY-LAWS

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December 8, 1997

St. Thomas More Society

Introduction

The St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco was formed in 1937 by a group of Catholic lawyers, with the blessing of the Archbishop of San Francisco. The fundamental purpose of the Society is to pursue justice within Christian principles. In this pursuit, the Society sponsors a variety of activities of interest to members of the Bench and Bar. These include monthly luncheon meetings, a Retreat, sponsorship of an essay competition for 8th grade students in the Catholic schools located in the Archdiocese of San Francisco and sponsorship of the Red Mass. Additionally, the Society strives to provide a forum for the discussion of moral-legal issues and for continuing education in law and religion.

At the Red Mass, the members of the legal profession unite in petitioning the Holy Spirit for aid in their daily labors at the opening of each new Court year. In England, the custom dates back to the time of King Edward I (1272-1307), and in Paris, jurists have gathered since 1248 in La Sainte Chapelle to attend Mass at the commencement of the new Court Calendar. In the City of San Francisco, "The Red Mass" now has become an honored tradition. A Dinner follows this Mass. The St. Thomas More Award is bestowed upon a deserving recipient on the occasion of the Red Mass.

BY-LAWS
ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY
OF SAN FRANCISCO

ARTICLE I.

Name

This organization shall be known as the "St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco."

ARTICLE II.

Objects

The objects of the Society shall be:

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1. To promote the study by Catholic lawyers of the application of Christian principles to modern problems, especially insofar as they are connected with the law.
 2. To promote the social, intellectual, and spiritual welfare of its members by offering continuing education in the law and in the Catholic faith.
 3. To help the Church of San Francisco and persons responsible for its institutions.
 4. To sponsor annually a Mass, traditionally known as the Red Mass, at which Divine guidance is asked for those charged with the responsibility of formulating and administering the law.
 5. To encourage all Catholic members of the bar to know and live their faith fully, both in public and in private.

ARTICLE III.

Membership

SECTION 1. Members shall be those Catholic members of the legal profession in the State of California whose application for such membership has been approved by the Executive Committee of the Society. Such members shall pay dues at times and in amounts fixed by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. Every member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote in person at all meetings of the Society and shall be eligible for election to office.

SECTION 3. The Executive Committee may terminate the membership of any member for sufficient cause as determined at a regular or special meeting of the Executive Committee. Any person may resign by filing a written resignation with the Secretary of the Society.

ARTICLE IV.

Meeting of Membership

SECTION 4. The regular and annual meeting of the members of the Society shall be held each year during the month of December at a time and place within the City and County of San Francisco selected by the President. At least five days' notice of the time and place of the regular annual meeting shall be given to the members at the addresses appearing on the records of the Society. The Presiding Officer and ten members shall constitute a quorum for transaction of the business of the Society.

SECTION 5. Meetings of the members shall generally be held once each calendar month, except during the months of July and August, and at any other time by order of the Executive Committee, or by order of the President, or upon the written request of at least ten members of the Society. At least five days notice of the time and place of a special meeting shall be given to the members.

ARTICLE V.

Membership List and Political Endorsements

A current list of members in good standing of the Society shall be provided annually to each member, but it shall not be used by any member for any purpose other than personal consultation, without approval of the Executive Committee. The Society as a body shall not endorse any candidate for political office.

ARTICLE VI.

Officers

SECTION 6. The officers of the Society shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer and a Secretary. Each officer shall be a member of the Society and shall be elected annually by the members at the regular annual meeting of the members. Each officer shall be elected for a term of one year and shall serve until his or her successor is elected. A vacancy in any office may be filled by the Executive Committee for the unexpired portion of the term.

SECTION 7. The Executive Committee may elect or appoint such other officers as it shall deem desirable to have the authority and perform the duties prescribed from time to time by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 8. The duties of the President shall be to preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and all meetings of the members of the Society; to call special meetings of the Executive Committee or of the members at such times as he or she thinks proper; to sign all documents required to be signed on behalf of the Society; to appoint such committees as he or she considers necessary to carry on the business of the Society, to send all notices of meetings of the members or of the Executive Committee, and to perform such other duties as may be required by the usage and custom of the office or as the Executive Committee shall determine. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

SECTION 9. The duties of the Vice-President shall be to exercise all of the powers and duties of the President in the event of the absence, inability or refusal to act of the President. The Vice-President shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be delegated by the President or the Executive Committee.

SECTION 10. The duties of the Secretary shall be to keep a record of all proceedings of the Society and the Executive Committee, which record shall be open to the inspection of any member of the Society at all reasonable times; to keep a complete list of the names and addresses of the members; and to perform such other duties as are delegated by the President or the Executive Committee.

SECTION 11. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to have charge of all funds of the Society; to keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended by the Society; to submit a financial report to the membership at the regular annual meeting of the Society; and to perform such other duties as are delegated by the President or the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall deposit the funds of the Society in the name of the Society in a bank approved by the Executive Committee and shall have authority to withdraw funds for the purpose of paying all of the expenses properly incurred by the Society.

SECTION 12. The Society shall have a Chaplain who shall be appointed by the Archbishop of San Francisco and who shall be an ex-officio member of the Society. The Chaplain so appointed shall represent the Society in its dealings with ecclesiastic authorities and shall have the duty of advising the Executive Committee and members in spiritual and other matters.

ARTICLE VII.

Executive Committee

SECTION 13. The powers, business and property of the Society shall be vested in and exercised by the Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the incumbent officers of the Society, the most recent past President of the Society and five members who shall be elected annually for a one-year term, but who may be re-elected. The President of the Society shall be the chairman of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 14. The Executive Committee shall have the power and duty to conduct the business of the Society; to prescribe the duties of the officers of the Society not inconsistent with these by-laws; to fill all vacancies occurring in the membership of the Executive Committee or in any office of the Society for the unexpired term of the Executive Committee member or officer; to expend the funds of the Society for the purpose of the Society; to formulate and implement the policy of the Society; and generally to do any and all things necessary and convenient to carry out the purposes of the Society. Four members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 15. The Executive Committee shall meet at any time upon the call of the President or any three members of the Executive committee, provided at least two days' written notice shall be given to each member of the Executive Committee at his address as shown by the records of the Society. The attendance of a member of the Executive Committee at any meeting

shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting.

ARTICLE VIII.

Election of Officers

SECTION 16. The President shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of at least three members of the Society, which nominating committee shall prepare a panel of nominees for membership in the Executive Committee and for service as officers in the offices of the Society and present it to the Secretary at least ten days before the regular annual meeting of the Society. Any other name may be placed in nomination by presenting to the Secretary, at least seven days before the regular annual meeting of the Society, a written nomination signed by at least ten members of the Society.

SECTION 17. At each regular annual meeting of the Society, the members shall elect members of the Executive Committee and the officers of the Society to serve for the following year and until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE IX.

Amendments to By-Laws

These by-laws may be altered, amended or repealed and new by-laws may be adopted by a resolution of the Executive Committee concurred in by a majority of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the members. A current copy of these by-laws should be delivered to each new member of the Society.

The foregoing by-laws were duly adopted by vote of the members at a regular meeting on June 8th, 1950, as amended November 29, 1962 and December 8, 1997.

Lawrence Jannuzzi

Secretary,

St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco