

# St. Thomas More Society

## of San Francisco

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REV. JOSE CHAVARIN, J.C.L., *Chaplain*

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the post-Christmas winter doldrums (such as they are in Northern California)! Nonetheless, our first lunch of the year was well-attended and Leo McCarthy, a former St. Thomas More Red Mass honoree, gave an inspiring talk about the good work of the institution he founded, the Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good at USF, and its training of students for government service and how to deal ethically with the myriad of issues that arise. Leo explained that, contrary to traditional political science courses, the center teaches how government is formed and how power is exercised. The center instills in its graduates the desire to give to others, not simply to advance one's political ambitions.

We also rolled out the 2004 program to encourage as many members as possible to consent to communication of the monthly newsletter by email, a practice routinely used by other organizations to which the members belong. We spend about \$700 in postage and just under \$1000 annually for letterhead for the monthly newsletter alone. While there will always be some cost to send confirmations and follow-up honoraria to our speakers and to submit the 80-odd copies of notices to the Superintendent of Schools for the archdiocese for the essay contest (and, I might add, the hours needed to print, fold and stuff the newsletter and address and stamp the envelopes for those without staff support), we can substantially reduce the annual cost by implementing electronic communications. Indeed, your executive committee has communicated this way almost exclusively for the past few years.

If you will consent to my transmission of the email to you by email, please send an email to me at [sgwalker@bechtel.com](mailto:sgwalker@bechtel.com) indicating your consent. You will begin receiving the monthly newsletter as a pdf attachment which, if printed, will look exactly like what you are reading now. (After all, we are a first class organization.) The email list, like our membership list, will remain confidential and will be used for no other purpose. While in a few cases we understand that communication in this mode may be problematic, we encourage as many members as possible to begin using this procedure.

Our February speaker is Sister Carol Ann O'Marie, a mystery novelist and co-founder of A Friendly Place, a day center for homeless women in Berkeley. As a novelist she combines her writing with the themes of Father Andrew Greeley, who authors mysteries with Church-based backgrounds and protagonists, and John Lescroat, who uses San Francisco venues as the backdrop for his mysteries. I am a fan of all three. To make your reservation for the lunch, please fill out and return the bottom of this letter to Hugh Donohoe by February 16, 2004. If you have questions, Hugh can be reached at (415) 543-4800 or [hdonohoe@ropers.com](mailto:hdonohoe@ropers.com).

We remind you that your 2004 dues are now payable. Please use the dues envelope provided in the January newsletter or contact Hugh as noted above.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**February 19, 2004** – The St. Thomas More Society chapter at USF Law School is hosting a forum on the School of the Americas (now called the Western Hemisphere Institute on Security and Cooperation). Among its speakers are USF President Fr. Steven Privett and Kenneth LaPlante, presenting balanced views on whether SOA should be closed. USF Law School Dean Jeffrey Brand will moderate the discussion. Starting time is 5:00 p.m. in the Maraschi Room on the USF campus.

**March 5-7, 2004** – Final announcement of the Legal Profession Retreat at El Retiro. The retreat director is Msgr. Terry Richey of the L.A. Archdiocese. Over the last 20 years, Msgr. Richey has been in charge of a group that offers intervention and support to clergy and religious who suffer from substance abuse. He has conducted many retreats at El Retiro and is greatly admired as a retreat director. For more information please call (650) 948-4491 or visit [www.elretiro.org](http://www.elretiro.org)

Sincerely,



Stephen G. Walker  
President

Hugh A. Donohoe  
Ropers, Majeski, Kohn & Bentley  
333 Market Street, Suite 3150  
San Francisco 94105

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$30 per person (\$15 for law students) for the Society luncheon on February 19, 2004. My check, payable to The St. Thomas More Society, for \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Member name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*I'd like to sponsor a law student, today's speaker, or our Chaplain.  
Enclosed is an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

**Please reserve by February 16, 2004**