

St. Thomas More Society

of San Francisco

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December 31, 2003

Dear Colleagues:

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

Happy New Year! And may it be a blessed one for you in every respect! We have already begun planning for the year and have most of our speakers. In fairly short order your newly elected executive committee will be considering potential candidates for the St. Thomas More award, as far off as October might seem right now. And we'll be thinking about topics for our annual Fall essay contest. (The 2003 topic will be hard to beat, given the students' response.) If you have any thoughts about either of these topics, please let me know at sgwalker@bechtel.com.

We lead off this month with our first lunch speaker, Leo McCarthy, whom many of you know. Leo is the founder of the Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good at USF, which is dedicated to inspiring and preparing students at USF to pursue lives and careers of ethical public service and the common good. Frankly, I can't think of a topic more relevant today. Leo will talk about the work of the center, its interaction with the USF community, and programs for 2004, all with the goal, in the words of St. Ignatius Loyola, to "pour into society graduates in numbers large enough to leaven it for good."

To make your reservation for the lunch, please fill out and return the reverse of this letter to Hugh Donohoe by January 12, 2004. If you have questions, Hugh can be reached at (415) 543-4800 or hdonohoe@ropers.com.

Apropos to the completion of our speaker schedule and the work of the McCarthy Center, I had hoped to attract Father Bill O'Donnell to speak at one of our lunches. Father O'Donnell was pastor of St. Joseph the Worker parish in Berkeley and a regular participant in the protests at the School of the Americas in Georgia and not long ago served prison time as a consequence. Regardless of your views of civil disobedience, whether involving the clergy or not, Father O'Donnell was an inspiration to many because of the strength of his convictions and his belief that he was truly answering Christ's call to seek peace. However, Father O'Donnell died a few weeks ago and, at his request, was buried in a pauper's grave. He would have been an inspirational speaker. Please pray for him.

Your 2004 dues are payable this month, and a dues envelope is enclosed. You will note that, as Linda described in her December newsletter, the envelope contains a line to reflect an additional contribution to subsidize part of the cost of law students and young attorneys (members of the bar for less than three years), as well as those fully comped (lunch speakers, our chaplain, numerous guests at the Red Mass, and pastors for the November lunch).

UPCOMING EVENTS - Please mark your calendar and plan on attending these Society events.

March 5-7, 2004 - 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

Sincerely,



Stephen G. Walker
President

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Please reserve _____ places at \$30 per person (\$15 for law students) for the Society luncheon on January 15, 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 January 12, 2004