

# St. Thomas More Society

## *of San Francisco*

www.stthomasmore-sf.org

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Dear Members and Friends,

The Saint Thomas More Society of San Francisco wishes each of you a blessed and Happy New Year filled with joy and hope. This year our Society, the first professional organization of Catholic lawyers in the West, in the spirit of Saint Thomas More, humbly commemorates the 70th anniversary of its founding. Saint Thomas More confirmed his unflinching faith and professional duty in the words: "The King's good servant - but God's first". Our association's fundamental calling as stated in our bylaws is: "to pursue justice within Christian principles".

Pope Benedict challenges Christians in 2007 to "be tireless workers for peace and defenders of the dignity of the human person and its inalienable rights." Congress beckons for withdrawal of our troops from Iraq, a safer nation, a fairer economy, more affordable health care and college, and a dignified retirement for all Americans. California seeks expansion of stem cell research, immigrant rights, and universal health care. City and county leaders are addressing issues of poverty, housing, employment, and violence. The judiciary will deliberate the fundamental structures of life and family, and the scope and boundaries of individual privacy and religious liberty.

Saint Thomas More Society members are professionals who are engaged at every level and stage of these pursuits for justice. As Christians we share a common belief that if we hope for the best, and work for it, we will nourish peace in our communities, our state, our nation and our world. This year our speakers program, events and essay contest will provide forums that will consider many of the vital and challenging ethical and moral issues of our time.

**Brian Cahill, Executive Director of Catholic Charities and CYO for the Archdiocese of San Francisco will be our speaker on Thursday, January 18, 2007 at the Carnelian Room, 555 California Street, 52<sup>nd</sup> Floor.** Catholic Charities CYO has supported Bay Area families, aging and disabled adults for one hundred years. Brian will address the providing of fundamental services to children and families in conformity with Catholic social justice principles and moral teaching in a pluralistic society.

We joyfully encourage you to become engaged with us by renewing and inviting attorney colleagues and parishioners to expand our membership, attending monthly luncheons, special events, and the Red Mass, participating in our essay and pastor programs , and to support the work of the Society. We extend our invitation to all jurists, legislators and executive officers, clergy, legal professionals and friends to calendar October 25, 2007 and plan to join with us in communion at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary Saint Thomas More Red Mass liturgy and award dinner. Plan to attend on January, 18!!!

We thank Stacy Stecher, for her generous and tireless leadership throughout 2006 and continued service, and bid a fond adieu to Past President E. Gerard Mannion. We welcome Dennis McQuaid, who has graciously agreed to return to serve as a member of our board and our new officers for this year. We congratulate our 2006 essay 8<sup>th</sup> grade contest winner Konstantin Rehbein from St. Stephen's. An excerpt from our finalist's email to the Holy Father is attached. A few days after the December luncheon presentation, Papal Secretary of State Tarcisio Bertone announced that the Vatican is indeed considering mustering a soccer team to play with the world's best, drawing from the many Brazilian students at pontifical universities!!!

Please visit our website at <http://www.stthomasmore-sf.org> for current Society newsletters, announcements, schedules of events and information.

Pray for Peace.



Hugh A. Donohoe

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Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$38 per person (\$15 for law students) for the Society luncheon on January 18, 2007. My check payable to St. Thomas More Society, for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail to:

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I would like to sponsor or a law student, luncheon speaker or chaplain. Enclosed is an additional \$\_\_\_\_\_.

## E-mail to Pope Benedict XVI

With the popularity of the World Cup still in everyone's mind, the Church could also generate some interest from youth who might otherwise not be paying attention to its message. Since the Vatican City is its own nation, why not create its own soccer team? The team could be called the Vatican Virtues. Missionaries could be recruited from countries all over the world, but especially from Brazil or Africa, where players are known to be great. They could compete to qualify for the World Cup. They would capture the world's attention and inspire fans on and off the field by their good sportsmanship, generosity to their communities, and good works.

In conclusion, I do not think that the church has to change. It has been the same rock of faith for many centuries. The values of faith and service to others remain solid. The important thing is to bring this message to youth. After all, we are the future.

Yours faithfully,

Konstantin Rehbein  
St. Stephen