

**St. Thomas More Society**  
**of San Francisco**  
[www.stthomasmore-sf.org](http://www.stthomasmore-sf.org)

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*Regis Servus Dei Prius*

June 7, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of the Society:

Summer, such as it is in San Francisco, has arrived! As has been our tradition, we will not hold monthly lunches in July and August. But we do have one more lunch this month – on June 15 – where we will hear from Dr. Kimberly Richman, a leader in the restorative justice movement and an expert on social justice issues relating to our criminal justice system.

We also plan to host one or more casual gatherings this summer to give us all a chance to get to know each other better. One of the items of feedback we received from the recent membership survey was that you were interested in varying the times and locations of our meetings, and in experimenting with different formats. To that end, we will be hosting a “Theology on Tap” evening event this summer – details forthcoming, and we have a few other ideas percolating. We are always open to your suggestions!

**June Luncheon with Dr. Kimberly Richman**

Please plan to join us for our lunch on *June 15 with Dr. Kimberly Richman*. As Catholics, we are called to remember those who are in prison, and as lawyers, it is important that we be advocates for justice. Our June speaker is an expert on the state of the criminal justice system today. Dr. Richman is a professor of criminology, sociology of law, and is an expert on inequalities and social justice, gender, sexuality and the law. She is the author of the award winning book *Courting Change* and numerous articles. In addition, she is a sponsor and President of the Board of Directors of the San Quentin Alliance for C.H.A.N.G.E., a non-profit and inmate-led rehabilitative and community service program at San Quentin State Prison. ***We are pleased to announce that MCLE Credit will be offered for this event!***

Please RSVP either by submitting the attached form, responding by Evite, or simply emailing our treasurer, Andres Orphanopoulos at [orphanopoulos@gmail.com](mailto:orphanopoulos@gmail.com). Please also reach out to friends and colleagues who you think might be interested in this topic. All are welcome.

**Date:** Thursday, June 15; 12:00 noon

**Place:** The Family, 545 Powell Street, San Francisco

**Cost:** \$52 (lawyers with 10 years or more in practice), \$42 (less than 10 years in practice), \$25 (law students and clergy) There is no cost for first time prospective members of the Society.

**Speaker:** Dr. Kimberly Richman

### Red Mass

Please reserve the date now for our annual Red Mass. *The Mass will be held on October 12, at Saints Peter & Paul Church in North Beach.* The Red Mass originated in Europe during the High Middle Ages, and is offered for judges, lawyers, law students and government officials to request guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice. Archbishop Codileone will be among the celebrants, and our homilist will be Fr. Pius Pietrzyk, O.P., who is the Chair of the Pastoral Studies Department at St. Patrick Seminary and University and is also a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School. This is the largest event we sponsor each year – bringing together the entire Catholic legal community. You do not want to miss it. It is followed by a celebratory dinner at the Italian Athletic Club in North Beach. More details will be forthcoming.

### Nominations for the St. Thomas More Award

In connection with the Red Mass, the Society selects an individual to receive the St. Thomas More Award. The Award recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the legal community, the Catholic community, or the Society and/or have dedicated themselves to public service or charitable works. Past winners have included United States Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, California Supreme Court Justices Carol Corrigan and Ming Chin, Ninth Circuit Judges Carlos Bea and John Noonan, former United States Attorneys Joseph Russoniello and Kevin Ryan, and Fr. Louie Vitale.

We are now accepting nominations for the 2017 award. We'd like to invite all our members to think carefully about women and men who exemplify the virtues of St. Thomas More. If you would like to nominate someone, please send an email to me at [kimmey@fbm.com](mailto:kimmey@fbm.com) by June 30, 2017. Please include a brief summary of the reasons why you believe the nominee should be recognized.

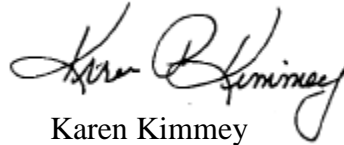
### **Membership**

If you have not yet done so, please submit your membership dues for 2017. You can do so at our website or by completing the attached membership form. We rely on dues for all our great programs. Please contact Andres Orphanopoulos if you are not sure whether or not you

have paid for 2017. We are dependent upon membership dues for all of the events we offer, as well as our law school scholarships.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions for the Society.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kimmey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Kimmey  
President

## Filling the Void

In each of us, a void exists. It is a kind of painful emptiness that we have the courage to acknowledge only in the glaring moments of stillness and silent reflection that most of us seek to avoid by filling our lives with every kind of distraction and diversion.

In the year 1670, the French mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer, and Catholic theologian, Blaise Pascal, published an apology of the Catholic faith during the high point of so-called “enlightened rationalism” in Continental Europe. In the book he writes about this internal void each of us experiences:

What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself (*Pensées* VII (425)).

In contemporary Christian circles, this concept has become known loosely as the “God-shaped hole” that each of us possesses, a hollowness deep within us that only God can fill completely and perfectly. Even Saint Paul speaks about the retiring God who created everything but wants humanity to search all around for him and find him. In his famous speech at the Areopagus in Athens, he said that God “made from one the whole human race to dwell on the entire surface of the earth, and he fixed the ordered

seasons and the boundaries of their regions, so that people might seek God, even perhaps grope for him and find him, though indeed he is not far from any one of us” (Acts 17:26-27).

For the seven weeks of the Easter season, we have celebrated the many appearances of Jesus to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. We have trusted in his promise not to leave us as orphans in the world. We have believed that he will come back again some day and take us to himself. We have followed him as our Good Shepherd, who gathers us together in his love. In my experience, however, we often are forced to wait for long periods of time for God to act in our lives. There sometimes is dryness in prayer, during which we may feel utterly alone.

I do not know the reason for this apparent divine sluggishness. Perhaps it simply is God's *modus operandi*, to have humanity long for him, seek him earnestly, find him in the stillness, and recognize him present in our lives only when we concede the God-shaped hole within us and admit that we cannot go it alone in life. What I do believe passionately, however, is that the waiting will be over when we finally choose to set aside the many distractions and false gods in our lives and allow the Spirit of Christ to enter into that internal void and dwell within us fully and completely.

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY JUNE 2017 LUNCHEON RESERVATION

THE FAMILY

545 Powell Street, San Francisco

*Please use this Form to reserve your spot at the luncheon and to make payment.*

I plan to attend the St. Thomas More Society Luncheon at 12:00 noon on June 15, 2017, at The Family, 545 Powell Street, San Francisco.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ place(s) \$52 per person.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ place(s) \$42 per person (fewer than 10 years in practice).

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ place(s) \$25 per person (law students and clergy).

There is no charge for first-time prospective members of the Society.

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

Member e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of other attendees for whom payment is submitted:

\_\_\_\_\_

I am bringing the following potential members as a Guest of the Society (no charge):

\_\_\_\_\_

The total amount of my enclosed check is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

*Please make checks payable to the "St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco." If you RSVP and cannot attend, please let us know in advance. Cancellations on less than 48 hours cannot be reimbursed.*

Please return this form and your check to our Treasurer:

Andres Orphanopoulos  
North Coast Land Holdings, LLC  
2350 Kerner Blvd, Suite 360  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
Telephone: (415) 461-2922  
Facsimile: (415) 461-5946  
[E-Mail: orphanopoulos@gmail.com](mailto:orphanopoulos@gmail.com)

**ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

*Use this form to pay your annual Dues and update your Membership Record.  
New members may use this form to join the Society.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Firm, Company or Court:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State and Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Law Student?** \_\_\_\_\_ **(No dues for law students in 2017)**

**Year Admitted to Bar:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Retired from Practice?** \_\_\_\_\_

Please accompany this application with your current dues payment. Annual dues for 2017 are: \$100 for attorneys over five (5) years in practice; \$50 for attorneys retired from practice and attorneys with five (5) years or less in practice; and \$0 for law students. Please make checks payable to **St. Thomas More Society**.

***Return this form and check to:***

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