

St. Thomas More Society

of San Francisco

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February 26, 2004

Dear Colleagues:

This year is shaping up to be a particularly busy one for the Society. In addition to the usual luncheons and Red Mass preparation and related activities, we are pursuing ways to effectively publicize the Society, not simply for the sake of enlarging the membership, but because we believe we have much to offer to the Catholic legal community. Further, as you know we are trying to accommodate the electronic age, both by increased use of email (more on that below) and possibly by developing a website (also more below). Finally, we are going to continue to offer social events that we instituted last year, such as the happy hour for law students and young lawyers and group attendance at a Giants game.

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

If you were unable to attend the February lunch, you missed the talk by Sister Carol Anne O'Marie, who discussed her mystery novels and how they tied in with her work as a co-founder of A Friendly Place, a day center for homeless women in Oakland. She has a wonderfully humorous way of effectively describing her novel-writing and her ministry.

If you're getting this newsletter in hard copy, you haven't signed up to receive the newsletter by email. Only 25 percent of last year's membership have agreed to this form of communication, which is most helpful, but we encourage the rest of you to participate. I emphasize that your privacy will be protected; those receiving an email will do so by blind copy, so no one can obtain another member's email address. Please send an email to me at sgwalker@bechtel.com indicating your consent.

The thought occurred to me the other day: Why don't we have a website? I checked online and there are numerous STM societies with websites, including Boston, Philadelphia, Wisconsin and the Boston College Law School. The Orange County STM Society also has a website, so I contacted its webmaster. We will continue to investigate what is likely a very desirable option for the Society.

Our luncheon on March 18th at the Banker's Club on the 52nd floor of the Bank of America Building, 555 California Street, will feature Professor Gina Hens-Piazza of the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley as our speaker, whose topic will be "Many Voices, One Text: A New Avenue in Biblical Interpretation". I have heard her speak and she is excellent. If you think biblical interpretation is the same as legal interpretation, come and find out. Please fill out and return the bottom of this letter to Hugh Donohoe by March 16, 2004. If you have questions, Hugh can be reached at (415) 274-6320 or hdonohoe@ropers.com.

We remind you that your 2004 dues are overdue. Please use the dues envelope provided in the January newsletter or contact Hugh as noted above. If you use the former, please correct Hugh's zip code to read 94105.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 15 – Our luncheon will feature Professor Jerome Baggett of the Jesuit School of Theology, speaking on “I’m Not Religious, I’m More Spiritual: Morality, Modernity, and the Transformation of American Catholicism.”

May 20 – Richard Spohn, former president of the Society, will speak on his work in Latin America.

June 17 – Father Brian Joyce, pastor of Christ the King Parish in the East Bay, a very dynamic speaker with a national reputation, on (as of press time) “*The Da Vinci Code* and Scripture”.

September 16 – Bishop Allen Vigneron, formerly of Detroit, on his new ministry as Bishop of Oakland

Sincerely,



Stephen G. Walker
President

Hugh A. Donohoe
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Please reserve _____ places at \$30 per person (\$15 for law students) for the Society luncheon on March 18, 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 March 16, 2004