

St. Thomas More Society
of San Francisco
www.stthomasmore-sf.org

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Regis Servus Dei Prius

November 9, 2016

Dear Members and Friends of the Society:

As we move towards Advent, Christmas, and the New Year, the St. Thomas More Society has two November events scheduled that we hope you can attend.

First, our monthly lunch on November 17 will feature Msgr. Michael Padazinski, an Air Force chaplain, now pastor of St. Patrick's church in Larkspur. Given the proximity of Veterans Day, we thought it would be proper and timely to hear from a chaplain about his service, and also about the issues and challenges facing our U.S. military chaplains and Catholics who serve. As an aside, the Archdiocese for the military Service, USA currently has 250 chaplains serving 1.8 million Catholics (220 installations in 29 countries and 152 VA medical centers). That's one priest for every 7,200 Catholics. Currently, Catholics comprise over 25% of those in military service, but Catholic chaplains constitute less than 10% of the Chaplain Corps.

November Lunch

Date: Thursday, November 17, 2016; 12:00 noon

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

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

Speaker: Msgr. Michael Padazinski, Air Force Chaplain

Reserve your spot by responding via Evite using the attached reservation form, or simply emailing our Treasurer, Andres Orphanopoulos at orphanopoulos@gmail.com.

Our second November event is a Theology on Tap night, November 29. We are very excited that Fr. Gary Thomas, exorcist for the Diocese of San Jose, has agreed to speak at our informal gathering. Fr. Thomas' training and experiences in the Catholic rite were the basis of the book and movie, "The Rite." Numerous interviews with Fr. Thomas can be found on line.

November Theology On Tap

- Date:** Thursday, November 29, 2016; 5:30 p.m.
- Place:** Seyfarth Shaw, 560 Mission Street, 31st Floor, San Francisco
- Cost:** Free. Light refreshments will be served.
- Speaker:** Fr. Gary Thomas, Exorcist For Diocese of San Jose.

We'll be sending out an Evite for this event, or just email Andres if you would like to attend. Please make plans to join us at these two events.

Thanks to all who assisted, and those who attended last month's Red Mass and banquet. (Check out photos on website: www.stthomasmore-sf.org.) Special thanks to Archbishop Cordileone for presiding at Mass and presenting Steve Lanctot with the 2016 St. Thomas More award. Mass homilist, Bishop Thomas Poprocki (Springfield, Illinois) delivered a beautiful reminder of our daily calling to sanctify our work by striving for excellence: "The way of sanctity is the path to heaven. By recognizing what God has accomplished for us in our everyday work, we grow in grace and reap the fruits of the salvation that Christ has won for us."

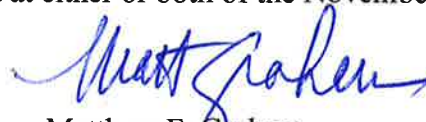
St. Henry Walpole – This Month's Lawyer/Saint

When I started writing about Catholic lawyer-saints in January I learned that contrary to popular opinion and jokes, that there were far more than I ever imagined. With Veteran's Day approaching, I thought, it would be fitting to write about a saint who was both a lawyer and military chaplain, if there was one. Lo and behold, a Google search identified this month's lawyer-saint, Saint Henry Walpole: lawyer, priest and military chaplain (and Jesuit!). Born in 1586 at Docking, Norfolk, while a law student at the Inns of Court and lukewarm Catholic, Henry attended the execution of Jesuit Martyr and saint, Edmund Campion. When splattered with Campion's blood during the execution, a conversion occurred within Henry, and he vowed to eventually become a priest serving his native England. He completed his law studies and practiced civil law for a time while he formulated his plan. He traveled to France, and then Rome, where he entered the Society of Jesus. Ordained in 1588 in France, he served as a Jesuit in Brussels, always pleading with his superiors to be allowed to serve as a missionary in England. He became a military chaplain to the English and Irish Catholics serving in the Spanish forces, using that position to obtain King Phillip II of Spain's permission to attempt to found the

Catholic College of St. Owens in England (now Stonyhurst College). Shortly after arriving in England, he was arrested in 1593 by the notorious priest hunter, Richard Topcliffe and brought to the Tower of London where he was tortured and languished in the prison for two years. In 1595, he was finally tried, and convicted of being a Catholic priest. On April 7 of that year he was hung, drawn and quartered. He was canonized in 1970 as one of the forty martyrs of England and Wales.

Finally, I want to draw your attention to the Catholic Bar Association, a national association of Catholic lawyers which was just recently started. I attended the first convention last month in Kansas City and urge you to check out their website, cba16@wildapricot.org.

Thanks for reading, and I hope to see you at either or both of the November events.



Matthew F. Graham
President

Loyalty to the Commonwealth

Years ago a counselor told me, point blank, that I could either be right or I could have a relationship, but not both. What he meant was that, if I continued to insist on always being right about everything, I would lose friends and close relationships. I scoffed, of course, but eventually I realized the truth of his observation. In a world filled with often contradictory opinions, each individual adamantly insisting on the veracity of his or her views simply atomizes society and estranges people from one another.

I write this column on the eve of one of the most contentious, confusing, and discouraging elections that I can remember. At this point, it is unclear which candidate will be sworn in as POTUS and assume the Oval Office in January. As practicing Catholics, the fundamental problem for us is that “[n]o party and too few candidates fully share the Church’s comprehensive commitment to the life and dignity of every human being” (U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, n. 16). Because of our “dual heritage” as both faithful Catholics and patriotic citizens (*Id.*, Introductory note), we may feel disenfranchised and confused. Furthermore, depending on the outcome of the election, we may develop a sense of fear, disillusionment, and anxiety about the state of the union and our future as a nation.

Scripture, however, urges us to respect and obey legitimate authority. “Let every person be subordinate to the higher

authorities,” Saint Paul writes, “for there is no authority except from God Therefore, whoever resists authority opposes what God has appointed, and those who oppose it will bring judgment upon themselves” (Rom. 13:1-7). In his letter to Titus, St. Paul similarly urges submission to authorities, obedience, gentleness, good will to others, and general goodness. “Remind them to be under the control of magistrates and authorities, to be obedient, to be open to every good enterprise. They are to slander no one, to be peaceable, considerate, exercising all graciousness toward everyone” (Titus 3:1-2). Saint Peter agrees, when he writes: “Give honor to all, love the community, fear God, honor the king” (1 Peter 2:17).

However this election turns out, Christians are obliged to remain loyal to the duly elected officials of this nation, so long as their actions are not morally unconscionable compelling an act of civil disobedience. It is not a matter of admitting defeat, but rather a love of community, respect for our fellow countrymen, and a desire to maintain the bonds of civil society. As Catholics, this should come as second nature, as we understand the legitimate authority of the Church may at times demand a religious submission of our intellect and will to certain teachings we may have difficulty accepting (*Lumen Gentium*, n. 25). Moreover, our true citizenship is in heaven, not on earth (Phil. 3:20). As Christians who care about the world, we can often get too entangled in it, forgetting

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that Jesus prayed to the Father that his disciples, although *in* the world, would not be *of* it (John 17:14-15). Our time on earth is but a drop of water in the ocean of eternity, and we should always see heaven as our path and final destination.

However, as long as we exist on this planet, we are called to care for the earth and all the people in it as Christian stewards. We are to work for peace, justice, truth, and righteousness. But is that not best done by seeking harmony and concord with our brothers and sisters, who may disagree with us? As Christians in confusing and unsettling times, we should, above all, pray for our elected officials, for the well-being of our country, and for solidarity as a nation of people under God.

First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity (1 Tm. 2:1-2).

Father Roger Gustafson

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY NOVEMBER 2016 LUNCHEON RESERVATION

THE FAMILY CLUB

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
November 17, 2016, at The Family Club, 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:

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