

# St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco

www.stthomasmore-sf.org

## Executive Committee

Robert L. Zaletel, President  
Thomas K. Hockel 1st Vice President  
Honorable Martin J. Jenkins, 2nd Vice President  
Honorable Robert L. Dondero, 3rd Vice President  
Isabelle L. Ord, Secretary  
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Timothy P. Crudo, Treasurer  
Matthew F. Graham, Assistant Treasurer  
Iain A. MacDonald  
Thomas P. Mazucco  
Adrian G. Driscoll  
Immediate Past President  
John B. Sullivan  
Chinhayi C. Cadet

## Address Correspondence To:

Robert L. Zaletel  
Littler Mendelson  
650 California Street  
20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
Telephone: (415) 433-1940  
Facsimile: (415) 399-8490  
[rzaletel@littler.com](mailto:rzaletel@littler.com)

Chaplain Msgr. Labib Kobti

October 21, 2012

Dear Members and Friends of the Society:

Several members of the Board recently met with Tara Clemens, a young lawyer who has discerned a religious vocation with the cloistered Dominican nuns of Corpus Christi Monastery in Menlo Park, California. Like almost half of the 10,000 men and women currently discerning religious vocations in the US, she must retire her student debt before she is permitted to join the order. Tara is soliciting contributions to the Laboure Society, a nonprofit organization that fosters vocations to the priesthood and religious life by resolving education loans. Since its founding in 2003, the Society has helped over 230 aspirants resolve their student loans and enter formation. Tara's goal is to raise \$45,000 for the Laboure Society. The STMS Board has authorized a \$250.00 contribution by the STMS in Tara's name. An anonymous donor will match donations of STMS members up to a maximum of \$500.00. We encourage those who can to donate to this worthy cause. A brochure from Tara and information on the Laboure Society is enclosed. The tax deductible contributions should be made to the Laboure Society at the address in Eagan Minnesota shown on the attached brochure. Be sure to mention Tara Clemens with your donation. In order to take advantage of the matching gift offer, please let me know if you do make a donation.

## **Thursday, November 15, 2012 Pastor's Lunch – Bishop Ignatius Wang New Location – Palio d' Asti Restaurant, 640 Sacramento Street**

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, at our Pastor's luncheon, San Francisco Bishop Ignatius Wang will speak to us about the status of the Church in mainland China. Be sure to invite your pastors. The luncheon will be held at the Palio d' Asti Restaurant, 640 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, in the financial district. (No luncheon in October). Parking is

conveniently located nearby at St. Mary's Garage on California Street between Kearny and Grant.

A **Luncheon Reservation Form** is attached to this letter to make your reservation with our Treasurer. We ask that reservations be made in advance with payment, if possible, as this greatly assists your Executive Committee and Palio staff to better serve you. *You do not have to be a member of the Society to attend our events.* If you do RSVP but cannot attend, please let us know in advance, as we are charged by Palio based on our number of RSVPs, and we will have to charge you for the lunch.

### **ANNUAL DUES**

Some of you still have not paid your dues. The **2012 Membership Form** (also attached to this letter) may be used to pay your 2012 Dues and to update your membership records. Be sure to let us know if your e-mail address changes. If you are not sure if you paid your dues, please contact Tim Crudo.

The 2012 Membership Form may also be used by new members to join the Society – feel free to copy it, email it, and pass it around! We are actively looking for new members.

### **Two University of San Francisco Law School Scholarships Awarded**

At our September 27 luncheon the Society awarded two \$1000 scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year to two well deserving USF Law School students. The scholarships are intended to recognize scholarship, community service, and service to God, as exemplified by our Patron, St. Thomas More. The scholarship winners were Vivian Denise Valencia of the U.S.F. Law School Class of 2013, and Alen Mirza, also of the Class of 2013. Congratulations to these two worthy candidates.

### **RED MASS OCTOBER 18, 2012 – Dennis McQuaid to be Honored. With a Tribute also to Former President Don Casper**

Please join us on October 18, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. for the Red Mass to be held at St. Peter and Paul Church with dinner to follow at 7:00 p.m. at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club on Washington Square. The St. Thomas More Award will be given to our Past President, Dennis McQuaid. There will also be a special tribute to deceased Past President Don Casper.

If you plan to attend the dinner, please RSVP by October 11, 2012 (RSVP form attached).

**SAVE THE DATE**

**TENTATIVE NOVEMBER 7  
ROUND TABLE – COMPARATIVE RELIGION 101**

We are tentatively organizing a roundtable discussion called “Comparative Religion 101” after work at 5:30 p.m. on November 7, at Littler Mendelson, 650 California Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor. Our plans are to have a Catholic Priest, Jewish Rabbi and Islam Imam, and possibly other clergy, speak about their religion and answer questions from the audience. Stay tuned for further details, and mark your calendars.

**DECEMBER IS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT THE FAMILY CLUB**

On December 13, 2012, we will have our annual Christmas luncheon at the **Family Club**, 545 Powell Street, San Francisco (corner of Bush and Powell). Our essay contest winner will speak.

Please join us for this annual event.

For the Executive Committee:

Sincerely yours,



Robert L. Zaletel  
President

Enclosures:

2012 Membership Form  
November 15 Luncheon Reservation Form  
2012 Red Mass and Dinner Invitation  
Tara Clemens and Laboure Society Brochure

**St. Thomas More Society**  
*of San Francisco*

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Chaplain Msgr. Labib Kobti

***YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED***  
***TO***  
**THE ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO RED MASS**

Saints Peter and Paul Church  
666 Filbert Street  
San Francisco  
Thursday, October 18, 2012  
5:30 p.m.

**Sponsored By**  
**THE ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

**Honoring The 2012 St. Thomas More Award Recipient**

**J. DENNIS MCQUAID**  
**PARTNER, HANSON BRIDGETT LLP**  
*(With a special tribute to Don Casper, former President of the STMS)*

**The Annual Banquet will follow the Red Mass**

**At**  
**The San Francisco Italian Athletic Club**  
1630 Stockton Street  
San Francisco  
7:00 p.m.

**Banquet Reservation Form Enclosed**

Dinner \$90  
Clergy and Students \$45

*Please feel free to share this invitation with colleagues, family, and friends*

**RESERVATION FORM  
THE ANNUAL RED MASS BANQUET  
HONORING J. DENNIS MCQUAID  
RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 ST. THOMAS MORE AWARD**

**Thursday, October 18, 2012  
The San Francisco Italian Athletic Club  
1630 Stockton Street, San Francisco**

Please reserve \_\_\_ Banquet places at \$90 per person

Please reserve \_\_\_ Banquet places at \$45 per person (Clergy and Students)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_  
Eggplant Parmesan \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of others in your party for whom payment is submitted (use additional sheets if necessary):

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_  
Eggplant \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_  
Eggplant \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_  
Eggplant \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_  
Eggplant \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to sponsor one or more Members of the Clergy and/or Students at \$45 per person and include \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in my check for that purpose.

The total amount of my enclosed check is \$ \_\_\_\_\_. (Please make checks payable to the "St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco").

**Please RSVP by October 11 and send checks to:**

Timothy Crudo  
Latham & Watkins  
505 Montgomery Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Tel: (415) 395-8084  
Fax: (415) 395-8095  
Email: Timothy.crudo@lw.com

Firmwide:114773624.1 800000.1000

**ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY NOVEMBER 15, 2012 PASTORS LUNCHEON**  
**RESERVATION**

**NEW LOCATION – PALIO D’ASTI RESTAURANT**  
**640 SACRAMENTO STREET, SAN FRANCISCO**

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to attend the St. Thomas More Society Luncheon at **12:00 noon** on  
**Thursday, November 15**, at Palio d’Asti Restaurant, 640 Sacramento Street, S.F.

Please reserve \_\_\_ places at \$49 per person (over 10 years in practice).

Please reserve \_\_\_ places at \$42 per person (10 years or less in practice).

Please reserve \_\_\_ places at \$24 per person (law students and clergy).

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

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

Names of other attendees for whom payment is submitted:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am bringing the following potential member as a Guest of the Society

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to sponsor one or more law students or members of the clergy at \$24 per person and include \$\_\_\_\_\_ in my check for such purpose.

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.*

**Please RSVP and send checks to Treasurer:**

Timothy Crudo  
Latham & Watkins  
505 Montgomery Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Tel: (415) 395-8084  
Fax: (415) 395-8095  
[Timothy.crudo@lw.com](mailto:Timothy.crudo@lw.com)

**ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
2012 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.*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Street Address or P.O. Box:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

**Preferred Address for Society Mailings:**    **Business** \_\_\_\_\_                      **Home** \_\_\_\_\_

**Law Student?** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please accompany this application with current dues. Annual dues 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 \$25 for law students. Please make checks payable to **St. Thomas More Society**. Thank you!

*Return application and check to:*  
**Timothy P. Crudo**  
**Latham & Watkins**  
**505 Montgomery Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**San Francisco, CA 94111**  
**Tel: (415) 395-8084**  
**Fax: (415) 395-8095**  
**timothy.crudo@lw.com**



# My Vocation Story

## Tara Clemens

### *The Beginning*

Born in Alaska, I spent most of my childhood in Washington and Oregon. I grew up in a loving home with a younger sister and brother where my parents passed on to us the Christian faith and the value of family and sacrifice. I loved to study and spend time with those close to me and it was always understood that I would go to college and be the first to complete a Bachelor's degree.

After graduation, I moved out of my parents' home and worked before deciding to also pursue a law degree. Fortunately, the closest law school had a program that allowed me to keep my employment. Upon graduating, I faced a decision – accept a job offer where I was or accept my parents' invitation to return home and resolve my law school loans faster. Taking a leap of faith, I accepted my parents' invitation and returned to Alaska. I have loved being here close to family and friends, working, and volunteering at our parish.

### *My Faith*

My first memory of my faith was praying with my mom and giving my heart to Jesus when I was about three years old. I was raised as an Evangelical Protestant, but growing up, I tended to do "just enough". Possessing a stubborn, selfish streak, my faith was often neglected. Then, in high school, I had an "Aha!" moment – I found myself alone. Starting my senior year, I was at a new school and no longer the top of my class and my best friend had moved to a new town. Crumbling, I poured my heart out to God and rededicated my life to Him. Eventually, I was baptized and became very involved in our church.

When I started law school I moved and left my church home. Realizing I was far from Jesus, I began to pray He would show me His church – where He wanted me. Over the next few months, through the invitation of a friend, I attended Mass and spent many hours in personal study and prayer. God answered my prayer by leading me to the Catholic faith. That was five years ago and I haven't looked back, though there are stumbles along the way. I have experienced life apart from God and it is a mere shadow of my worst day with Him.

### *The Call*

When I moved to Alaska, I felt God had something wonderful in store for me; I intended to find a good man, get married and raise a family. But that summer, I was asked whether I'd thought about becoming a nun. I was shocked – the thought hadn't crossed my mind, but neither could I say I would never consider it. Something, or Someone, prompted me to look a little deeper. I took my time – my vocation discernment was like a slow-blooming flower. Over the

next year, as I prayed, "Lord, your will be done" and I researched communities and talked to wise priests, the petals began to unfurl. Finally, I went on my first discernment retreat and visited the Dominican nuns at Corpus Christi Monastery in Menlo Park, California. From the moment I walked in the door, my soul felt at deep peace, as if I were home. Each subsequent visit only confirmed that initial sense.



Tara Clemens

*"I have experienced life apart from God and it is a mere shadow of my worst day with Him."*

*- Tara*

# Called to Serve



When I started discerning my vocation, I quickly became drawn to the Order of Preachers, otherwise called “Dominicans.” The four pillars of Dominican life are prayer, study, community, and preaching. While my introvert nature shied away from “preaching” per se, it was drawn to its purpose – the salvation of souls. I was drawn too by the fact St. Dominic started his order with women who had converted to the Catholic faith! The Dominican nuns were established by St. Dominic about 11 years prior to the founding of his preaching friars.

I spent one month inside the cloister. During that time, I experienced a small taste of life as a Dominican nun. Living a contemplative life of prayer and penance, a woman enters the heart of the Church. Her prayers and sacrifices support the work of the friars and other active members of the Order in a particular way. At the same time, you cannot help but come face to

face with your own sins and faults in the silence.

Some may say cloistered life is a waste, that a life separated from the world is ridiculous and useless. But as one nun expressed, “we have not closed off or run away from the world, but rather, we gladly give our lives to the God of Love and to all our brothers and sisters without exception.”

## *Prayer*

Please pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. And in a particular way, please pray for me, that I would persevere in God’s will for my life.

## Why I’m Writing

I am not only an Aspirant to religious life, but I am also a fundraiser for these vocations. A recent study confirmed that nearly 1 out of 2 Aspirants have student loans and thus most communities and dioceses cannot accept them. It is the only thing that prevents many -including me- from entering formation to become a priest, brother, or sister.

I am seeking to raise the average student loan amount of \$45,000 before December 31, 2012 for a non-profit that helps Aspirants like me -The Labouré Society. It will be difficult, but if 450 individuals donate \$100 or 45 donate \$1,000, I will meet my goal. I am blessed to have this opportunity to share my love for God, my vocation story, and to ask hundreds of individuals to support vocations like mine by making a donation and remembering us in prayer.

*“This is the life I greatly desire  
-to continue, by God’s grace, to be  
made holy and to give my life as  
a Dominican nun for the love of  
God and the salvation of souls.”*

*-Tara*

At the end of my class, The Labouré Society will issue grants based on individual effort and the funds available to The Society at large. They will administer the grant while I am in formation and make a final payoff at vows (You can learn more about the program on the back of this letter). If I leave formation for any reason, I will resume my own payments. Every Aspirant in The Society, like me, has been accepted by their diocese or community and is required to work full-time and liquidate their assets to make their own maximum payments.

At the beginning of our class, I met and participated in a weekend training with my classmates on the ethics and biblical basis of fundraising. We are learning practical skills that will help us now and in our future vocations. We’ve also developed as a team to learn from and support each other. You can see our picture above.

Being part of a team is a great blessing!

***Will you join our vocation journeys? Partner with us and be part of my vocation team so we can answer God’s call!***

# *The Winter Class of 2013*



*We Believe in the Value of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life! Will You Join Us?*

# The Aspirant

A Publication of The Labouré Society

Fostering Priestly and Religious Vocations Through Student Loan Resolution

Spring 2012, Volume 7, Iss

## In This Issue

21 Why a Society?  
22 & 30 Aspirant Life  
24 Friend Viewpoints  
Why Join The Society?  
What Does it Mean to  
Be a Friend?



*Our Aspirants to priesthood and religious life are bringing all of themselves to the service of God's Church and his people.*

## Why a Society?

*From the Founder*

When I began thinking about our organization almost a decade ago, I realized that there was a variety of names we could choose. We reflected on what we were and who we would be: a foundation, a fund, a collective, a party? It became clear to me that what we wanted to be was something more –the word 'society' seemed to fit just right.

The greatest asset in any society is found in its people: their faith, ingenuity, generosity, care, commitment, ethics, and work. Our 'Aspirants' and our 'Friends' share these values along with their own particular areas of interest, experience, and expertise (see inside).

Together, as part of The Labouré Society, we create and maintain relationships across the nation with individuals, families, parishes, and partner organizations that share our value of the priesthood and religious vocations. In this newsletter, we desire for you to get to know our current Aspirants and help build the culture of vocations. I believe each of these vocations is a miracle and an answer to our prayer. From the variety of their responses to the serious and sometimes silly questions we've proposed, I hope you can see the true beauty of their gifts. God has chosen from among us, people just like us, people with their own experiences and eccentricities that are called to serve all in the body of Christ.

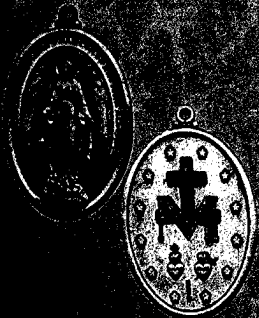
Our Aspirants to priesthood and religious life are bringing all of themselves to the service of God's Church and his people. So, go ahead, get to know them and strengthen The Society. May we all work to build a culture of vocations, live generously, and pray fervently.

Lastly, your insight as a part of The Labouré Society is a great gift to us. Please mail, email, or call with what you like, what we can do better, and what we could start to do. We are committed to growing our Society through quarterly newsletters, support opportunities, social media, personal calls and letters, and most foundationally dai prayer. We all know of someone who should know of The Labouré Society. Please share our newsletter with them



*Cy Laurent*

- Cy Laurent, Founder and Executive Director



# About The Labouré Society

## Why Are We needed?

- There are an estimated 10,000 individuals discerning a priestly or religious vocation in the US each year\*
- 42% are blocked from pursuing this call due to educational loans\*
- The average vocational 'Aspirant' in The Labouré Society owes \$40,000 in educational loans + interest
- Most religious communities cannot assume this debt
- Most dioceses will allow some debt but have a limited threshold for acceptance

\* (NRVC, Vision Study, 2010)

## What Have We Accomplished?

- Operating since 2003
- Over 220 assisted into formation
- Over \$2 million in grants disbursed, over 90% of funds received
- Network of thousands of praying singles, families, religious, priests, & bishops
- Efficient service: A modest staff of 3 employees in a donated office

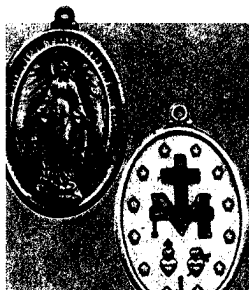
## How Do We Do It?

### Our Aspirants:

- Discern a vocation and are accepted into a diocese or approved religious community
- Are blocked from entering or continuing vocational formation due to student loans
- Apply to The Labouré Society and meet intake requirements
- Are trained in ethical fundraising - empowered with practical tools, personal mentoring, and accountability
- Share their vocation stories and participate in vocation culture building and evangelization
- Raise funds for The Labouré Society to benefit many vocations
- Are granted quarterly loan payments covering their educational loans until vows or ordination
- Receive final loan payoff and enter freely into a lifetime of priestly or religious service

### The Labouré Society:

- Works with each Aspirant to ensure all personal means are utilized to mitigate the loan amount (loan consolidation, asset review, financial counseling, full time employment etc.) prior to acceptance into the program
- Trains each Aspirant in Biblically based philanthropy
- Forms a semi-annual 'Class' of Aspirants
- Mentors each Aspirant building a unified team; each individual works toward the collective goal
- Provides ongoing accountability to ensure proper preparation and completion of personal fundraising plans
- Equips each Aspirant with an online fundraising platform for real time donation processing, reporting, assessment of goals and class interaction
- Facilitates ongoing communication and updates between Aspirants and donors after formation entrance
- Manages Aspirant quarterly loan payments while they are in formation
- Completes loan payoff at ordination or vows



The Labouré Society

651-452-1101 • 1365 Corporate Center Circle, Suite 104, Eagan, MN 55121 • [www.LaboureSociety.org](http://www.LaboureSociety.org)

*The Labouré Society is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit with all donations and contributions being tax-deductible. Gifts offered by our Aspirants to support The Society and its programs are gratefully accepted and used to assist in our mission. With the help of our donors, we are able to provide the support and resources needed to assist our Aspirants in their journey. Thank you for your generous support and contribution to our mission. We are grateful for your support and contribution to our mission.*



*The Labouré Society Has Assisted Hundreds of Individuals  
Into Priestly and Religious Formation Since 2003.*

*We Invite You to Partner with Us in Prayer and Financial Support!*

I am Making this Gift in Honor of the Aspirant or Individual who Contacted Me about The Labouré Society:

Name: Tara Comens City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Contacted By: Letter  E-mail  Phone  Visit  Other  \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer is Intrinsic to Our Mission. The Labouré Society is an Association of Individuals Dedicated to Praying for Vocations, with Vocations, and for the Needs of All Members. Please Send us Your Prayer Requests. They will be Remembered at the Society's Holy Masses and by Our Aspirants and Their Communities.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

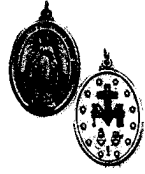
Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

*My Gift Amount: \$* \_\_\_\_\_

- My check is enclosed and payable to the Labouré Society
- I am paying by credit card, via secure website: [www.labouresociety.org](http://www.labouresociety.org)
- I prefer not to use the website. Please charge my card:  
Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_
- Signature: \_\_\_\_\_
- I may be eligible for a matching gift from my employer
- I have included The Labouré Society in my estate plans
- I would like info about including the Labouré Society in my estate plans

*Thank You For Your Generosity!*

Thank  
For  
Sta



*The Labouré Society*

1365 Corporate Center Curve, Suite 104  
Eagan, Minnesota 55121

[www.LaboureSociety.org](http://www.LaboureSociety.org)