

**Executive Committee**

Karen Kimmey, President  
Tony Phillips, 1st Vice President  
Catherine Dacre, 2nd Vice President  
Amelia Lancaster, 3rd Vice President  
Andres T. Orphanopoulos, Treasurer  
Ethan Niedermeyer, Secretary  
Dean John D. Trasvina,  
University of San Francisco School of Law  
Honorable Sharon M. Reardon  
Honorable Peter J. Siggins  
Bryan Saalfeld  
Timothy Simon

Matthew F. Graham,  
Immediate Past President

**Address Correspondence To:**

Karen Kimmey  
Farella Braun + Martel LLP  
235 Montgomery Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Phone: (415) 954-4407  
Email: [kkimmey@fbm.com](mailto:kkimmey@fbm.com)

*Regis Servus Dei Prius*

December 12, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of the Society:

Happy Advent! On behalf of the Society, I wish all of you and your families a prayerful Advent and a most joyous Christmas.

One wonderful way to celebrate the Advent season is by joining us for our annual Christmas lunch. It is always a festive event. Please see the details below.

**December Lunch**

Please join us for our annual Christmas lunch to be held at The Family on Thursday, **December 14**. We will be entertained by Christmas carols sung by the DeMarillac Academy choir and will hear from the winner of our annual St. Thomas More essay contest.

Please RSVP either by 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 joining us. All are welcome.

**Date:** Thursday, December 14 at 12:00 noon (11:30 a.m. for cocktails, socializing and music).

**Place:** The Family Club, 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).

### **Secret Santa Program for De Marillac Academy**

This marks the fourth year of our De Marillac Academy Secret Santa program. As many of you know, De Marillac Academy is the only free Catholic school in San Francisco and serves low income families, principally in the Tenderloin.

Due to the popularity and the success our members have made of this event in the past, this year we are aiming to provide gifts for thirty-five DMA families, our most ambitious target yet! The suggested donation is \$50 and the preferred gift is a gift card to a general retail store (enabling the family to purchase necessities as well as gifts for their children). Volunteers will receive a short bio of a selected family.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share the Christmas spirit with a deserving family and the generosity of our members in previous years has been truly inspiring and greatly appreciated. Please contact Tony Phillips at [aphillips@archernorris.com](mailto:aphillips@archernorris.com) if you would like to participate.

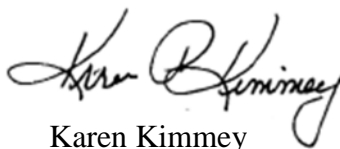
### **2018 Board and Officer Positions**

The Board of Directors of the Society will be presenting to the membership a proposed slate of board members and officers for 2018. Special thanks to Andres Orphanopoulos, who has served as Treasurer, and is taking a break from the Board. The slate for 2018 is:

Tony Phillips – President  
Catherine Dacre – Vice President  
Amelia Lancaster – Secretary  
Bryan Saalfeld – Treasurer  
Ethan Niedermeyer  
Dean John Trasviña  
Hon. Sharon Reardon  
Hon. Peter Siggins  
Timothy Simon  
Sasha Cummings  
Phil Kearney  
Karen Kimmey – Immediate Past President

We will present this slate for approval of the membership at the December lunch. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Blessings,



Karen Kimmey  
President

# God Comforts His People: Let God *Hygge* You

Whenever there is an open question or confusion on some point, my brother always claps his hands and says, “Well, let’s ask the Great Google,” as if the popular search engine were some great wizard pulling levers behind a curtain. Truth be told, Google does seem to know everything, including how to create an inviting and innovative work environment.

Last week, I visited the tech company’s expansive campus, at the invitation of a friend and parishioner who works there. Throughout the tour, I goggled in awe at the visionary quality of the Google campus. Spread over several square miles in picturesque Mountain View, California, employees could call for chauffeured rides from one building to the next. Brightly-colored yellow bikes with baskets and vintage bells on the handlebars were strewn throughout the property, so that workers and guests alike could pedal from one place to another, alighting from the two-wheelers and leaving them wherever they wanted.

The facilities included 35 restaurants with every kind of free food and drink imaginable, coffee bars with free lattes and snacks, hammocks and lazy outdoor furniture, tennis courts, a gym, an infinity pool, and much more. Work spaces were collegial and connective with cheerful décor. Socially acceptable messages about inclusivity and equality were posted throughout the winding corridors. Employees were not expected to work particular hours but could roam the campus at will and seemed to do whatever they wanted.

At first blush, the Google campus appeared to be a kind of utopia. Yet, there was a shadow side, in my opinion. People wandered alone for the most part, not speaking to others. Social graces and etiquette among the inhabitants seemed to be lacking on most occasions. For all its idealism and forward thinking, there was sort of a soulless quality to it all. Indeed, it seems that whenever man tries to build paradise on his own, a dystopia inevitably emerges instead.

In the Advent season, the prophet Isaiah announces the presence and power of God in the world. What Isaiah promises is a miraculous transformation of society on the basis of justice. He understands his mission to be the creation of a perfectly just society. Isaiah believes that God will reestablish a covenantal relationship with the people of Israel, once social conflict, hierarchy, class status, and disparities between the rich and the poor have been eliminated forever.

Yet, Isaiah’s dream was too small. The Christian belief is that God’s Spirit indeed has been poured out, but upon Jesus to accomplish nothing less than the salvation of humankind and the entire world. In Christ, Isaiah’s utopian vision was fulfilled in a way that far exceeded his deepest hopes and expectations. Importantly, it also was the result of God’s work, not our own desire to build a perfect society.

In my parish, we have been talking a lot about a Nordic word *hygge* (pronounced hue-guh). The word is Danish in origin and roughly translates to coziness, comfort, or reassurance. As one description puts it, *hygge* is a sense of “togetherness and inner warmth, a world lit by candles and snuggled under blankets” ([www.qz.com](http://www.qz.com), “Winter Joy”). This Scandinavian “art of creating intimacy” that has led to the highest recorded levels of happiness in the world

involves a certain kind of conscious awareness, a slowness, and the ability to recognize and enjoy the present with others.

Advent is the perfect time to slow down and prepare the way of the Lord by recognizing and acknowledging that God comforts his people with the birth of his Son. May the Great God bring you comfort this holiday season in the reassuring realization that it is through the Lord's grace, and not our own hands, that we have been redeemed.