

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

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Regis Servus Dei Prius
August 9, 2018

Dear Members and Friends:

I hope you have all enjoyed your Summers and some well-deserved time off. It has certainly flown by quickly!

Thanks to all those who joined us for our last luncheon, in June at Wendell Rosen Black & Dean in Oakland. Our first foray out to the East Bay was a great success and many thanks to Matt Graham and his colleagues for hosting us and for the wonderful lunch spread.

2018 RED MASS AND ST. THOMAS MORE AWARD WINNER

This year's Red Mass will take place on **Thursday, September 27 at 5:30 p.m.** at Sts. Peter & Paul Church in North Beach. Mass will be followed by dinner at the Italian Athletic Club across the street.

I am honored to announce that the recipient of this year's St. Thomas More Award is **Thomas Brandi**. Many of you know Tom well from his practice representing seriously injured plaintiffs and their families and that he has been a tireless advocate and benefactor for many Catholic causes in San Francisco over the years, including supporting scholarships to St. Ignatius and USF Law School and representing local parishes.

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I hope you will join me and the Board in congratulating Tom on his well-earned recognition and will join us in celebrating his remarkable career at the Red Mass.

Please RSVP to the Red Mass at the following link, dinner tickets are \$105 each:

<http://www.stthomasmore-sf.org/the-red-mass/>

PRO BONO PROGRAM WITH BASF

One of the Society's objectives this year was to tap into our membership's formidable arsenal of legal skill and experience and put in at the service of those most in need of representation.

To that end, we have partnered with the Bar Association of San Francisco and its Housing Negotiation Project to arrange an exclusive CLE class for our members. Attendees will learn how to represent disadvantaged tenants facing eviction at mandatory settlement conferences in San Francisco Superior Court. For these tenants, the settlement conference is often their last chance to avoid eviction and homelessness. Most of those represented by a lawyer succeed in doing so. Those without, sadly, do not.

The class will take place on **Friday, August 24 from noon until 2:00 p.m.** at the BASF Conference Center at 301 Battery Street. After completing the class, BASF will coordinate assigning participants to particular cases.

Please RSVP to me - space is limited. And special thanks to last year's St. Thomas More Award winner, **Judge Suzanne Bolanos** for her inspiration and assistance in making this opportunity available to us.

VOLUNTEER AT ST. ANTHONY'S DINING ROOM

Another excellent opportunity to put your talents to work will take place on **Saturday, September 15 from 9:15 a.m. until 1:45 p.m.** It is our third annual group volunteer day at St. Anthony's Dining Room at 121 Golden Gate Avenue in San Francisco.

Volunteers will assist in the preparation and service of food to St. Anthony's guests, many of whom rely on the Dining Room for a decent meal. We will also have the opportunity to eat with the guests ourselves. In past years, our members have found this to be an extraordinarily rewarding and thought-provoking experience.

Again, space is limited. Please RSVP to me or by following the link, below:

[St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco Group Member Sign-up Form: 9-15-2018 @ 9:15 AM](#)

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PRAYER & MEDITATION GROUP

Another of our 2018 goals is to create opportunities for our members to develop and deepen their prayer lives. In our stressful society, much has been made of meditation and mindfulness in recent years. Yet, as Catholics, we belong to a much older and richer tradition of reflection and connection.

Beginning this October, the Society will host a four-week prayer group meeting each Thursday evening at Old St. Mary's downtown. Each week, we will explore a different aspect of Catholic prayer and meditation in discussion and practice led by different guest priests. The tentative curriculum will cover:

- The Contemporary Experience of Contemplative Prayer;
- Gratitude As A Way Of Prayer;
- Praying At Home - The Liturgy Of The Hours; and,
- Praying With The Saints.

Space will be limited to ten members. Please RSVP to me for further details. And special thanks to the Society's chaplain, **Father Roger Gustafson**, for developing and organizing the program.

DUES

The Society depends on membership dues to fund all of its activities. Dues are \$100 for practitioners with over five years' experience and \$75 for those with fewer. Law students are free.

*As we approach the end of the year, the Society must cover an added number of costs in connection with the Red Mass and our Christmas program. **It is essential that those who have not yet paid their 2018 dues do so as soon as possible.***

Annual dues can be paid online, here:

<http://www.stthomasmore-sf.org/how-to-join/>

Alternatively, checks for membership dues can be sent to our Treasurer, Bryan Saalfeld at Murphy Pearson Bradley & Feeney; 88 Kearny Street #10, San Francisco CA 94108

Feel free to contact me or Bryan with questions about dues or whether your membership is current.

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CLOSING THOUGHTS

I was glad to receive positive feedback about the prayers included in the last couple of newsletters. In looking for one this month, I came across something slightly different that I thought well worth sharing:

May 1, 1517 in London became known as “Evil May Day” due to a series of riots that erupted there in a backlash against French immigrants. As undersheriff of London at the time, Sir Thomas More was sent to quell the mob, which he did (temporarily, at least) by delivering a speech from horseback.

That speech was later reimagined and immortalized by none other than William Shakespeare, in his contribution to the play “Sir Thomas More”. The play itself was banned by Elizabethan censors, but a manuscript survives and contains the only known example of Shakespeare’s handwriting in existence today.

You can find more on the story at the link below and I highly recommend watching Sir Ian McKellen’s performance of the speech itself:

[Shakespeare's Sir Thomas More Speech](#)

It remains remarkably timely today.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions for the Society – I look forward to seeing you all soon.

God bless,

Tony

Anthony D. Phillips
President