

**St. Thomas More Society**  
**of San Francisco**  
[www.stthomasmore-sf.org](http://www.stthomasmore-sf.org)

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Karen Kimmey,  
Immediate Past President

*Regis Servus Dei Prius*  
September 6, 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!

**2018 RED MASS**

As you all know, the Red Mass is the Society's biggest event of the year. The traditional Red Mass dates back to medieval Europe when judges; lawyers; and, others in the legal profession would gather and ask God's blessing and guidance at the start of each court year.

The 2018 Red Mass will take place on **Thursday, September 27 at 5:30 p.m.** at Sts. Peter & Paul Church in North Beach. **Archbishop Cordileone** will preside and we will be honoring our friend and colleague, **Thomas Brandi** with this year's St. Thomas More Award. Mass will be followed by dinner at the Italian Athletic Club across the street.

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

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

We hope you can all join us to celebrate Tom; to enjoy a wonderful meal with friends; and, to honor the legal profession and its role in the Catholic community!

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**OCTOBER LUNCHEON**

Our monthly lunch schedule will resume on October 18 when we will be delighted to welcome as our guest speaker the **Hon. Teri Jackson**, Presiding Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court.

Please mark your calendars and watch this space for venue details...

**PRO BONO HOUSING NEGOTIATION PROJECT**

Many thanks to all those who attended our August 24 CLE class at the Bar Association which trained us to represent low-income tenants facing eviction.

The event was a great success and the next step will be coordinating our members' participation at the weekly settlement conferences to actually assist those in need of legal services.

We will continue to work with BASF to make future training classes available to our members. There is also an online version - so those who missed the class are not out-of-luck! Please contact me if you would like to sign up for the training and then join your fellow members at the courthouse to put into practice what you learn!

**VOLUNTEER AT ST. ANTHONY'S DINING ROOM**

Our next volunteer opportunity 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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**MEDITATION & PRAYER 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 on October 4, 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.

**SEMINAR ON CARE FOR THE SICK AND DYING - REQUEST FOR HELP**

Deacon R. Christoph Sandoval is hosting two seminars at Mission San Rafael on October 13 at 10 a.m. and October 20 at 1 p.m. to examine ethical issues around healthcare and end-of-life issues. He would like to add an attorney to the speaker roster to present on the topic of "Ethical And Religious Directives For Catholic Healthcare Services".

Please contact me or Father Gustafson if you have experience in this area and an interest in speaking. All others are welcome to attend.

**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:

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<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.

**R.I.P. BOB BIANCO**

As many of you already know, the Society's Past President Bob Bianco passed away on August 16 from cancer. A memorial service will take place at St. Ignatius Church on Friday, September 28 at 10:00 a.m.

When I originally reported this sad news via email, I received a number of eloquent and moving replies from our members that I thought well worth sharing (with their authors' permission):

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So sorry to hear this news. Bob was a gentleman, a scholar and a man of great integrity! I took his discovery class at USF law school. And while he taught us the black letter law—he taught his students more about how to be an ethical and compassionate attorney and he modeled integrity for his students to insure we knew what it looked like in real time. Robert Bianca represented what's best about a USF law education!!

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To my mind, Bob Bianco was the best example of all that the law school could and should be. A truly great lawyer who was arguably even a better teacher. His classes at the law school were the stuff of legend for decades. It didn't matter what he taught – trial practice, ethics, you name it – he was beloved by his students because he was smart, engaged, knowledgeable, a great practitioner who brought the real world to the classroom, and, God forbid, fun. I have never seen a teacher connect to his students the way Bob did, some of whom would later practice with him.

In addition, Bob worked tirelessly for the law school, helping to create and leading the Board of Counselors at a time when it was desperately needed. He guided the law school through many a crisis and could be a tough critic when it was warranted, a critique offered to insure that the law school truly live up to its mission of excellence laced with an ethic of service. In a sense, Bob was the law school because he defined so clearly what we always should aspire to be.

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And this final memory. It's this – Bob pulling up to the law school in his Jaguar XKE and emerging elegantly dressed, hair slicked back in one of his many beautiful suits from the Tailored Man on Sutter Street (if memory serves) and wearing his camel hair overcoat. The only thing that matched his spirit, intelligence, dedication and commitment to all of us was his incredible elegance.

Bob Bianco will be missed dearly. We all have a lot to live up to.

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Very well said. Please keep Prof. Bianco and his family in your prayers.

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