

St. Thomas More Society OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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Regis Servus Dei Prius

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Dear Members and Friends:

Happy New Year! It is with great excitement that I write this newsletter, my first as President of the Society.

On behalf of myself and the Board, I'd like to thank Anthony Phillips, our immediate past president, for his service to the Society in 2018. I am honored to follow his lead and hope to carry his dedication to our members, the growth of the Society, and new programs promoting professional and spiritual development into the new year. In addition, we welcome new board members Paolo Braccini, Stacey Miller Azcarete, and Courtney Therien, who will help us in planning our monthly luncheons, Theology on Tap events, community service initiatives, and other programs. There is much in store for our members, and we look forward to expanding our membership and promoting deeper connections amongst our community of Catholic lawyers in the coming year.

In his address to young people at the National Shrine of Maipu, Santiago, Chile, last January, Pope Francis discussed community as an important component of our connection to Christ:

“We are all enthusiasts, faith is renewed, be it through a retreat, a homily, a meeting, a Pope’s visit; faith grows. But after a while on the journey or after an initial spurt, there are moments when, without even realizing it, our “bandwidth” begins to fade, slowly, and that enthusiasm, that desire to stay connected to Jesus begins to also fade, and we start to lose our connection, our power; then we become unhappy and we lose our faith ...

Dear friends, be courageous, go out straightaway to meet your friends, people you don’t know, or those having troubles. Go out with the only promise we have: that wherever you

are — in the desert, on the journey, amid excitement, you will always be “connected”; there will always be a “power source”. We will never be alone. We will always enjoy the company of Jesus, his Mother and a community.”

The demands of the legal profession - billable hours, court deadlines, contentious opposing counsel, and client engagement, among a multitude of others - can certainly test our connection to Christ and the Church. Thus, as a Society, we hope to foster greater connection to the faith and the local Catholic legal community through our luncheons, Theology on Tap events, community service initiatives, and annual Red Mass. We encourage you to attend as many events as possible in the coming year. I look forward to seeing members at our next luncheon and wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2019.

January Luncheon

Our first luncheon of the year will take place on **Wednesday, January 23, 2019** at **12pm** at the offices of **Farella Braun + Martel, 235 Montgomery Street, 17th Floor, San Francisco.**

Our speaker, **Tricia Bolle**, is the founder of the St. Francis Xavier Lay Missionary Society, a Catholic missionary group that has done groundbreaking work in serving the Church in Asia and in the area of mental health in China. The organization has educated and sponsored missionaries since 2012 with a focus on evangelization, faith formation, and promotion of social justice. Ms. Bolle is a graduate of Stanford University where she co-founded the first Catholic fellowship for graduate students and young adults. She is multi-lingual and has served as a Catholic lay missionary in Asia for more than a decade. She'll speak about her calling to missionary work and discerning one's vocation in modern times.

All members are encouraged to attend, and lunch will be provided at a **cost of \$25**. Payment can be made at the luncheon or at our website [here](#). Guests are always welcome. Prospective members can enjoy their first luncheon at no cost.

2019 Dues and Membership

Registration and payment of annual dues ensures you will receive our monthly newsletters and information about all upcoming events. It also helps us in funding events, attracting quality speakers, awarding scholarships, and supporting our community service initiatives. You can pay your dues online [here](#) or by using the attached membership form.

New Member Contest

The 2018 New Member Contest was a great success and brought many new members to the Society. In 2019, we will once again have a New Member Contest and reward the member who brings the most new members throughout the year. Feel free to join the competition by forwarding this newsletter to someone you think may be interested in joining the Society. New members can name their existing member contact on their registration form.

Upcoming Events and Member Survey

Lenten Series - We are pleased to announce that Society member and USF professor, Don Carroll, will once again lead a series of luncheon studies and reflections during the Lenten season. This year's topic will focus on the Passion Narratives in the four Gospels. The meetings will be brown-bag lunches and there will be no cost to attend. Meetings will begin on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 and continue for three Tuesdays thereafter. More details will follow soon.

Annual Retreat for Members of the Legal Profession - This year's three-day retreat will take place in Los Altos from Friday, March 8 through Sunday, March 10. Members of the Society who have attended in the past have spoken highly of the retreat as an opportunity to reflect on their lives, faith, and professional calling. Additional details can be found [here](#).

For more information about Society events, please check our website at <http://www.stthomasmore-sf.org/upcoming-events/>. I look forward to serving the Society this coming year and hope to see you at our January luncheon.

Sincerely yours,

Amelia Lancaster
President