

Executive Committee

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Regis Servus Dei Prius

February 26, 2021

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Executive Board, I would like to wish you and your families a happy and holy Lenten season. Please find our upcoming events for your consideration, as well as additional opportunities for our members to observe the three pillars of Lent: **Prayer** (justice towards God), Fasting (justice towards self), and **Almsgiving** (justice towards neighbors).

Old St. Mary's Cathedral- Help Support

Several members have inquired about ways to support and help to preserve historic Old St. Mary's Cathedral, located on 660 California Street in the Financial District. Many members have attended the daily noon masses at Old St. Mary's, in particular during this time of Lent. However, the closure of businesses since the Pandemic has resulted in severe financial difficulties at the Church and a loss of collection money. In light of these challenges, the church faces closure.

The Chronicle has recently drawn attention to these difficulties, which include a seventy (70%) percent reduction in revenue due to the loss of tourists and Catholics working in the downtown as a result of the lockdown. <https://www.sfgate.com/local/editorspicks/article/Historic-San-Francisco-landmark-may-close-forever-15976405.php>

Since the Pandemic, there has been a seventy percent drop in weekly collections, and Old St Mary's owes \$250,000 in insurance premiums. More importantly, the church has been unable to service the poor members of the nearby Chinese community because of internet problems at the church.

Please consider donating to help preserve Old St. Mary's during Lent. We are optimistic that once businesses begin to return downtown that the church can and will get over this current financial challenge. The Church has recently posted a fundraising page on its website, <https://www.oldsaintmarys.org/>. And the donation link can be found below:

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-old-st-marys-cathedral?
utm_source=widget&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet](https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-old-st-marys-cathedral?utm_source=widget&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet)

Please note that the particular fundraising app charges a service fee of 3%. Therefore, we encourage you to either include an extra 3% to cover the charge via credit card, or if you wish to send checks to "Old St. Mary's Cathedral Parish" c/o Bryan L. P. Saalfeld, Murphy Pearson Bradley & Feeney, 580 California St., Suite 1100, San Francisco, CA 94104, and I am happy to collect the checks and deliver them directly on behalf of the Society, as our office is located less than a block away from the church.

Upcoming Acts of Service

Catholic Charities: Pro Bono Immigration Representation

As referenced in our January newsletter, we have been encouraging members to participate in providing pro bono legal services to Catholic Charities Center for Immigration- Legal & Support Services. It is wonderful opportunity to not only serve others, but broaden your legal chops in Federal Court.

A Training Session is expected to be scheduled in late March/ early April 2021 led by Catholic Charities.

Please strongly consider donating your time to assist those in need. Please contact me with any questions at bsaalfeld@mpbf.com.

Upcoming Events

March 2021

Lenten Series- Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future: Mid-March 5:30 pm (tent)

Last year's St Thomas More Award Winner, Father Coleman has graciously agreed to host a few discussions in March to foster discussion over Pope Francis's recent book during the Lenten season. You may order a copy of the book at the link above, or support your local bookstore.

More details will follow, but we anticipate likely 2-3 separate, 1 hour events beginning at 5:30 pm via Zoom. **Details & Flyer to follow shortly.**

38th Annual Silent Retreat for Members of the Legal Profession – Saturday, March 6, 2021

This year's retreat will take place on **Saturday, March 6, 2021**, and is being led by Fr. Felix Just, SJ. It will take place from 9 am to 5:00 pm via Zoom, with an option to attend in person in the afternoon.

The Retreat Center will be opened in the afternoon for those who wish to come to walk the grounds, receive confession, and attend an in person outdoor mass at 4:15 pm in memory of Judge McInerney. The mass may also be viewed via Zoom. Additional details can be found [here](#).

April 2021

Prof. Dr. Massimo Faggioli, is a Church historian, Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University, has agreed to speak remotely via Zoom on **April 22, 2021 at 5:30 pm** on the following topic:

“Four Catholic Candidates to the US presidency: from Al Smith to Joe Biden”

Prof. Faggioli's primary specialization is history of Christianity and Council Vatican II, religion and politics, and the new Catholic movements.

Recommended Sources

Here are a few resources provided for your consideration this month.

Pope Francis February 12, 2021 Lenten Message:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2021/02/12/210212a.html>

Lenten Journey- RC Spirituality- 40 Days of Lenten Prayer- Free Subscription

<https://rcspirituality.org/>

Annual Dues

If you haven't done so already, please consider paying your annual dues. Although our in person luncheon schedule is postponed until further notice until we can once again meet in person, we are in the midst of scheduling some online remote lectures.

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

Finally, 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.

Thank you and best wishes to everyone as February comes to a close.

God bless,

Bryan L. P. Saalfeld

President