

St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco

www.stthomasmore-sf.org

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Regis Servus Dei Prius

November 6, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of the Society:

Many thanks to all of you who were able to join us at our annual Red Mass. It was a beautiful liturgy and a great celebration. I know I was deeply touched by the homily and by the inspiring words of our 2017 St. Thomas More Award recipient, Judge Suzanne R. Bolanos. Thank you to all who made the event so special.

We still have a couple more great events left in 2017. We hope you can join us!

November Luncheon with CalFire

Many of our members have been impacted by the terrible fires that tore through the North Bay recently, and we have all been touched by the images of loss, courage and unity that came out of that tragic event. We are honored that Chief Mike Bradley, the Assistant Chief of the CalFire Northern Region has agreed to speak to us at our November lunch. He will address the recent fires and the challenges and logistics involved in fighting those fires and the mutual aid network.

Please note the location and the lower cost for this event. In response to feedback from the surveys, we're trying some new approaches, as well as offering some lower cost events. Let us know what you think!.

Please RSVP either by submitting the attached form, responding by Evite, or simply emailing our treasurer, Andres Orphanopoulos at orphanopoulos@gmail.com. Please also reach out to friends and colleagues who you think might be interested in this topic. All are welcome.

Date: Thursday, November 16; 12:00 noon
Place: Farella, Braun + Martel, 235 Montgomery Street, 17th Floor,
San Francisco (cross-street Bush)
Cost: \$25
Speaker: Mike Bradley, Assistant Chief for CalFire Northern Region

December Lunch And Secret Santa Program

Please mark your calendar now for our annual Christmas lunch to be held at The Family on Thursday, **December 14**. We will be entertained by the DeMarillac Academy choir and will hear from the winner of our annual St. Thomas More essay contest. This is always a festive event.

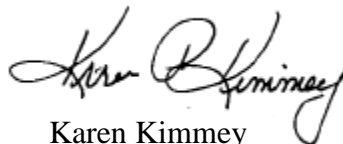
We also anticipate offering our members the opportunity again this year to purchase Christmas gifts for a family at the DeMarillac Academy. Please watch your emails for further details on how to participate.

Membership

It is still not too late! If you have not yet done so, please submit your membership dues for 2017. You can do so at our website or by completing the attached membership form. We rely on dues for all our great programs. Please contact Andres Orphanopoulos if you are not sure whether or not you have paid for 2017. We are dependent upon membership dues for all of the events we offer, as well as our law school scholarships.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions for the Society.

Blessings,



Karen Kimmey
President

The Last Things

In the first episode of the fourth season of the popular television series, *Vikings*, legendary ruler and warrior, Ragnar Lothbrok, sees a vision of Valhalla. According to Norse mythology, half of all warriors who fall in battle are taken by spirits of war, called the *valkyries*, to this “hall of the slain” belonging to the pagan god Odin. The hall is depicted as a splendid palace with an unending banquet of food and drink. Norsemen saw it as the highest honor to live there in the afterlife.

In the opening scene, Ragnar runs towards the immense gold doors of Valhalla, which are quickly closing. He can see the beautiful light inside and hear sounds of feasting and singing. Visions of his violent life flash before his eyes. As the doors shut before he can get inside, Ragnar falls prostrate on the front steps in despair.

At my church, we have prepared an eight-week message series leading up to Advent, called *More Than Lip Service: Living Out An Uncomfortable Religion*. We have been looking at some of the uncomfortable statements made by Jesus in the gospels. In reading through the latter part of the gospel of Matthew, Jesus has spoken of neglected vineyards, deserted banquets, the demands of Christian discipleship, and the danger of hypocrisy.

He then turns his attention to the events connected with the end of the age, setting before us scenes of judgment and distress, a temple in ruins, and a period of “great tribulation” before the coming of the Son of Man at an unknown day and hour (Matthew 24:1-44). This “eschatological discourse” continues with a series of three parables followed by a dramatic judgment scene that we will hear about two weeks from now in the

gospel reading for the Solemnity of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

All three of the parables stress the need for watchfulness and preparedness in the time leading up to the coming of the Son of Man at the end of the age. However, one parable, the one about the ten virgins, puts the point rather starkly: The doors to the unending wedding banquet will be locked to those of us who do not have sufficient oil for our lamps to find our way inside the great hall.

The oil for those lamps corresponds to good works that we perform while living on earth. Indeed, Jesus earlier compared good deeds to the light of a lamp that must “shine before others” (Matthew 5:16). To those of us who come with unlit lamps, the bridegroom will say, “I do not know you,” and will refuse to open the doors to the banquet hall. It is the same response those of us who merely pay lip service to the Lord but do not do “the will of the Father” will hear (Matthew 7:25).

As days grow shorter, the temperature outside begins to fall, and wintry weather settles into place, our thoughts naturally turn toward the last things. Indeed, we pray for the dead throughout the month of November. As Saint Ambrose wrote in the fourth century, “[w]e should have a daily familiarity with death, a daily desire for death. . . . The soul has to turn away from the aimless paths of this life . . . and reach out to those assemblies in heaven . . . to sing the praises of God,” who destroyed death forever. “Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY NOVEMBER 2017 LUNCHEON RESERVATION

FARELLA BRAUN + MARTEL LLP

235 Montgomery Street, 17th Floor, San Francisco

Please use this Form to reserve your spot at the luncheon and to make payment.

I plan to attend the St. Thomas More Society Luncheon at 12:00 noon on November 16, 2017, at Farella Braun + Martel LLP, 235 Montgomery Street, 17th Floor, San Francisco.

Please reserve _____ place(s) \$25 per person.

Please reserve _____ place(s) \$25 per person (fewer than 10 years in practice).

Please reserve _____ place(s) \$25 per person (law students and clergy).

There is no charge for first-time prospective members of the Society.

Member Name: _____

Member e-mail: _____

Names of other attendees for whom payment is submitted:

I am bringing the following potential members as a Guest of the Society (no charge):

The total amount of my enclosed check is \$_____.

Please make checks payable to the "St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco." If you RSVP and cannot attend, please let us know in advance. Cancellations on less than 48 hours cannot be reimbursed.

Please return this form and your check to our Treasurer:

Andres Orphanopoulos
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**ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO
2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

*Use this form to pay your annual Dues and update your Membership Record.
New members may use this form to join the Society.*

Name: _____

Firm, Company or Court: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Parish: _____

Law Student? _____ **(No dues for law students in 2017)**

Year Admitted to Bar: _____ **Retired from Practice?** _____

Please accompany this application with your current dues payment. Annual dues for 2017 are: \$100 for attorneys over five (5) years in practice; \$50 for attorneys retired from practice and attorneys with five (5) years or less in practice; and \$0 for law students. Please make checks payable to **St. Thomas More Society**.

Return this form and check to:

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