

St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco

www.stthomasmore-sf.org

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Address Correspondence To:

Robert L. Zaletel
Littler Mendelson
650 California Street
20th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108
Telephone: (415) 433-1940
Facsimile: (415) 399-8490
rzaletel@littler.com

Chaplain Msgr. Labib Kobti

April 2, 2012

Dear Members and Friends of the Society:

Thanks to all of you who attended last month's lunch with Katie Short, the founder and Director of the Legal Life Defense Foundation, dedicated to protecting life of any age, particularly the unborn. For those who missed the lunch but want more information about the LLDF, please visit their website at www.lldf.org.

Thursday, April 26, 2012 Lunch

Our guest speaker will be Holy Family Sister Caritas Foster, who will speak on her efforts to combat human trafficking in the Bay Area. Sister Caritas currently serves on the Board of Directors for MISSEY, a local organization which serves sexually exploited youth. Sister Caritas belongs to a coalition of religious communities standing against human trafficking, volunteers at Tri-Cities Homeless Shelter, and is an advocate for affordable housing. Sister Caritas coordinates her community's efforts to address human trafficking (see attached article).

Lunch will be held at noon in the library at **The Family, 545 Powell Street, San Francisco** (corner of Bush and Powell). Parking is conveniently located nearby at the Sutter Stockton Garage or at Union Square.

A **Luncheon Reservation Form** is attached to this letter to make your reservation with our Treasurer. We ask that reservations be made in advance, as this greatly assists your Executive Committee and The Family staff to better serve you. *You do not have to be a member of the Society to attend our events.*

RETREAT APRIL 14TH
CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

Please join us the morning of Saturday, April 14, 2012 for our annual retreat at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Spiritual Director will be Father Frank Filice of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, who will lead us in reflections on the topic of "Lawyers and Family", following a Mass in the Cathedral. Please RSVP by April 9th using the attached form. More information can also be found on the attached form, or by contacting Matt Graham, mgraham@wendel.com, phone (510) 834-6600.

WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION
ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH
MAY 1, 2012

We will be hosting an after work wine and cheese reception, featuring a discussion on the topic of "The Role of Women in the Church, Including the Debate Over the Ordination of Women". Father Donal Godfrey of USF will moderate a fair and balanced discussion of this topic. This wine and cheese event will take place on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 5:30 p.m., at the offices of DLA Piper LLP, 555 Mission Street, 24th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105. This is an inclusive event that both men and women are welcome to attend. Please join us to meet other members of the society informally, enjoy a glass of wine, and take part in discussion of a topic that is sure to generate a lively and thoughtful discussion. There will be no charge. Please RSVP to Isabelle.ord@dlapiper.com.

ANNUAL DUES

The **2012 Membership Form** (also attached to this letter) may be used to pay your 2012 Dues and to update your membership records.

The 2012 Membership Form may also be used by new members to join the Society – feel free to copy it, email it, and pass it around!

DON CARROLL'S LENTEN SERIES

Special thanks to Don Carroll for hosting a Lenten lecture series on the parables of Jesus Christ. Those who attended found the talks inspirational and informative.

Also thanks to Vice President Tom Hockel and Kelly, Hockel & Klein for hosting the lecture series at their offices.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Special thanks also to Father Donal Godfrey S.J. and Board Members Isabelle Ord and Dean Jeff Brand for putting together a very interesting Theology on Tap on the


topic of miracles. The evening event was very thought provoking, and everyone had an enjoyable time.

**RED MASS OCTOBER 18, 2012
SAVE THE DATE**

Please save the date of October 18, 2012 for the Red Mass and Dinner, to be held at St. Peter and Paul Church and the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club on Washington Square.

For the Executive Committee:

Sincerely yours,



Robert L. Zaletel
President

Enclosures:

2012 Membership Form
April 2012 Luncheon Reservation Form
April 14 Retreat Form
Article re Sister Caritas

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY APRIL 26, 2012 LUNCHEON RESERVATION

_____ I plan to attend the St. Thomas More Society Luncheon at **12:00 noon** on **Thursday, April 26**, at The Family Club, 545 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA (Corner of Bush and Powell)

Please reserve ___ places at \$45 per person (over 10 years in practice).

Please reserve ___ places at \$38 per person (10 years or less in practice).

Please reserve ___ places at \$20 per person (law students and clergy).

Member Name: _____

Member e-mail: _____

Names of other attendees for whom payment is submitted:

_____ I am bringing the following potential member as a Guest of the Society

_____ I would like to sponsor one or more law students or members of the clergy at \$20 per person and include \$_____ in my check for such purpose.

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

Please make checks payable to the "St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco."

Please RSVP and send checks to Treasurer:

Timothy Crudo
Latham & Watkins
505 Montgomery Street, 20th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
Tel: (415) 395-8084
Fax: (415) 395-8095
Timothy.crudo@lw.com

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO
2012 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.*

Date: _____

Name: _____

Firm, Company or Court: _____

Street Address or P.O. Box: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Home Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Parish: _____

Preferred Address for Society Mailings: Business _____ Home _____

Law Student? _____

Year Admitted to Bar: _____ Retired from Practice? _____

Please accompany this application with current dues. Annual dues 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 \$25 for law students. Please make checks payable to **St. Thomas More Society**. Thank you!

Return application and check to:

Timothy P. Crudo
Latham & Watkins
505 Montgomery Street, 20th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
Tel: (415) 395-8084
Fax: (415) 395-8095
timothy.crudo@lw.com

ST THOMAS MORE ANNUAL/HALF DAY OF REFLECTION

WHEN: Saturday, April 14, 2012; 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR: Fr. Frank Filice

TOPIC: Lawyers and Family

COST: \$25

The morning will start with Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Oakland's beautiful Cathedral of Christ the Light on Lake Merritt, followed by a couple of hours of spiritual reflection on the topic of "Lawyers and Family" by Fr. Frank Filice of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Fr. Filice is uniquely situated to address the issues of profession, work and family being the father of six children. He was a long time professor of biology at USF and was ordained a priest in 1979.

Please plan to spend the morning of Saturday, April 14 with the St. Thomas More Society for Mass and spiritual reflection.

Breakfast will be provided.

Please RSVP by no later than April 9, 2012 to Matthew Graham at mgraham@wendel.com.

The lure of a better life: Human trafficking in the Bay Area

By Liz Dossa

"You are a useless house girl." The sentence echoed daily in Sarah's ears. Her employer, a Kenyan woman, had brought Sarah (not her real name) from Nairobi to the San Francisco Bay Area to take care of the woman's toddler and her house. Sarah, in her 20s, had believed life would be better in the United States. There was no food in her village. She worked cleaning houses in Nairobi to support her small daughter and her parents. When her employer asked her to come with her to the United States, Sarah felt a leap of hope.



Holy Family Sister Caritas Foster

"I was convinced life would be good. When we landed at the San Francisco airport, everything looked so beautiful," she told an audience of Burlingame Mercy sisters in 2005.

The cruel reality was that Sarah had been labor trafficked by the Kenyan employer, brought here to work as a household slave, imprisoned by threats of harm to her family back home if she didn't obey. Her employer took her passport and told her that her pay of \$50 per month would accumulate toward paying her ticket home. She was not to go out alone or to speak to anyone.

Sarah's story is one of a pattern which many believe is the largest international criminal operation after drugs. Because victims like Sarah are so well hidden, statistics of human trafficking are difficult to verify. The U.S. State Department estimates that each year more than 600,000 men, women, and children are forced across international borders for both forced labor and sexual exploitation mainly from Asia, Eastern Europe and

Latin America, and more than 14,000 are trafficked into the United States.

"We in the San Francisco Bay Area are one of the largest receiving areas with our borders and coasts," said Sister of the Holy Family Caritas Foster, who has dedicated her ministry for four years to educating the public on trafficking. "The fallacy is that anyone illegal comes in through our southern borders," she said. "Transnationals come into our state at our airports and docks. The lure of a better life is powerful."

Sister Caritas is tireless in telling the powerful story of people often hidden in plain sight, working in restaurants, nursing homes and even private homes. She has spoken to Rotary clubs, Soroptimist groups and parishes, describing the power that traffickers hold over the workers they have brought to the area. They take away the workers' documents and threaten them with deportation. Isolated by their lack of English and often prohibited from ever leaving their work site, many victims have no idea where they are.

In 2000 the U.S. government first recognized trafficking as a crime with the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. The law funds identification and support of victims through coalitions of law enforcement, the courts and nonprofit organizations. The act is up for reauthorization, and Congress has not yet acted on it.

In 2007 the U.S. Bishops Committee on Migration called trafficking "a horrific crime against the basic dignity and rights of the human person."

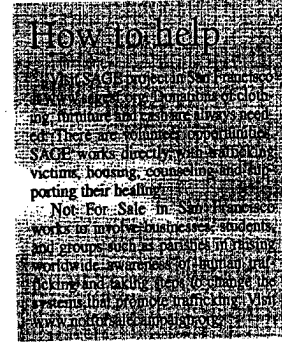
Women religious in the Bay Area have been working quietly for years on trafficking. Some have housed victims as they made slow steps toward gaining the protection of a visa designating them as trafficked immigrants. The sisters asked that neither they nor the location of the housing be identified: Traffickers are ruthless in trying to regain control of their victims and could harm their protectors as well.

A note of hope is that the Holy Family Sisters Caritas and Elaine Marie Sanchez are part of a new Cross Bay Collaborative, funded six months ago by the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the federal Department of Health and Human Services. The organization Standing Against Global Exploitation in San Francisco applied for a grant partnering Alameda district attorneys, Newcomers Health Program SF, Bay area Women Against Rape and the sisters. The groups work together to train providers of services, educate people about trafficking and ultimately identify more victims.

Many skills are needed to help trafficking victims. "We need to be patient, continue to work together and partner," said Caritas. "We must realize (the solution) is going to take a long time."

Sarah's case contained a surprising twist. She begged her employer to allow her to go to church, where she pleaded with a priest for help. He called on Sister of Mercy Marilyn Lacey, then Catholic Charities' director of immigration and refugee services in San Jose. With their encouragement, Sarah ran away from her employer.

Sister Marilyn found a shelter for Sarah and connected her with social services and legal counsel, then referring her case to the justice department for an application for a



visa giving her protected status and support as a trafficking victim. With the generous support of a local volunteer who paid for her professional training, Sarah eventually became a medical technician, and her daughter is with her, doing well in school.

An ironic twist is Marilyn's discovery that Sarah's abusive employer was on a fellowshipship at a local university - in the field of human rights.

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YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE

Who are we?
Since 1883, the Young Men's Institute (YMI) has operated as a fraternal Catholic order supporting its motto of "Pro Deo, Pro Patria" (For God, For Country). Today, over 2500 members (called brothers) honor this motto by working together on worthwhile programs & activities for our Catholic faith & for our communities.

Besides doing good deeds, YMI brothers and their families enjoy a variety of fun social events (e.g., dinners, tournaments, picnics, etc), as well as membership benefits (e.g., scholarships, death benefits).

Can I Join?
Yes, we are looking for new members to join us. If you are a Catholic adult male, simply email us at ymius@aol.com or call us at 1-650-588-7762 or 1-800-964-9646. You can also visit our website for more info at www.ymiusa.org. We will provide you a brief YMI application form to complete and the location of the nearest YMI council. Membership fees are very affordable (about \$4 or \$5 per month)

The YMI Join the Brotherhood!

Archbishop Riordan High School is pleased to honor St. James High School alumnus

ADM James V. Grealish, USN (ret.) '38

with the 2012 Blessed William Joseph Chaminade Award for his service to our country and support of the Marianist Order. Rear Admiral Grealish served in World War II and the Korean War, and received a Legion of Merit award. He has also devoted himself to the charisms of the Marianist Order through his organization and direction of the St. James Scholarship at Archbishop Riordan.

All St. James and Archbishop Riordan alumni are invited to a mass and reception to celebrate Jim's achievements: Friday, January 20 at 11:00 a.m., Archbishop Riordan campus. Please RSVP by Jan. 17 to sudovich@riordanhs.org.