

St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco

www.stthomasmore-sf.org

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Regis Servus Dei Prius

August 6, 2015

Dear Members and Friends of the Society:

We sometimes forget that our great Patron – author, social philosopher, Undersheriff of the City of London, Master of Requests, Under-Treasurer of the Exchequer, High Steward of Oxford and Cambridge, Speaker of the House of Commons, Lord High Chancellor of the Realm, and confidante of the King, to say nothing of Saint – was also a loving family man with a wide circle of friends and a penchant for wit and mirth. He had, in other words, a rich personal life to complement (and sometimes to relieve him from) his professional one – hopefully just like we do.

In these months when younger children are off at summer camp and older ones are preparing to return to college, I thought I would share with you a letter that St. Thomas More wrote in the 1520s to his daughter Margaret, who had timidly written to him requesting money, which he sent along with this reply:

You ask, my dear Margaret, for money with too much bashfulness and timidity, since you are asking from a father who is eager to give, and since you have written to me a letter such that I would not only repay each line of it with a golden philippine, as Alexander did the verses of Cherilos, but, if my means were as great as my desire, I would reward each syllable with two gold ounces. As it is, I send only what you have asked, but would have added more, only that as I am eager to give, so am I desirous to be asked and coaxed by my daughter, especially by you, whom virtue and learning have made so dear to my soul. So the sooner you spend this money well, as you are wont to do, and the sooner you ask for more, the more you will be sure of pleasing your father.

Sound like an email you may have written recently?

September Lunch Preview

Mark your calendars now for a very special lunch on September 17. Our speaker will be Deputy California Attorney General Louis Karlin, a noted scholar, speaker, and author of numerous works about Thomas More, including *Liberated by Conscience: An Extended Review of The One Thomas More by Travis Curtright*, *A Guide to Thomas More's Trial for Modern Lawyers*, *Translation as Conversion: Thomas More's Life of John Picus*, *Thomas More's Dialogue Concerning Heresies and The Idea of The Church*, and *Law & Tyranny in More's History Of King Richard III: An Examination of The Sanctuary Debate*. Mr. Karlin, who will be traveling from Los Angeles just to speak with us, will pose the question, "Was Thomas More a Man for All Seasons?" For years, St. Thomas More has lived in the popular mind as the witty, gentle man of integrity and conscience as portrayed by Paul Scofield in Robert Bolt's award-winning play and screenplay. Now, there is a competing model: Hilary Mantel's depiction in *Wolf Hall*, where we discover a mean-spirited religious bigot who found pleasure in torturing those who dissented from the Catholic faith. Mr. Karlin will compare both fictional versions with the historical record in an attempt to find the real More and inquire whether he deserves to be our Patron. You won't want to miss this one. RSVP forms will be included in next month's newsletter.

Law Student News

School will be starting up this month, which means a new crop of 1Ls. If you know of any new (or returning) law students, please introduce them to the Society. They can learn more about us by checking out our website (www.stthomasmore-sf.org/) or, better yet, joining us for a free lunch as a prospective member. Law student membership is free.

Mass at San Quentin

Members and friends of the Society are invited to join the congregation at San Quentin State Penitentiary for 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays. The prison allows up to 10 visitors each Sunday, and advance clearance is required. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rev. George Williams, S.J., the prison's Catholic Chaplain, at least two weeks in advance. You will need to provide him with the full name, date of birth, social security number, and driver's license number for each visitor. You can reach Fr. Williams at george.williams.cdcr@ca.gov.

"For I was in prison, and you visited me." Mt. 25:35-46

Mentor Program

Our Mentor Program matches law students and younger lawyers with more experienced attorneys who share practice and other interests. If you would like to participate as a mentor or mentee, please indicate your interest on the Membership Application or contact Laura Vartain Horn at lvartain@gmail.com.

The Red Mass

The Red Mass will be held Thursday evening, October 22, 2015, at Ss. Peter & Paul Church. The St. Thomas More Award, which the Society presents each year to a community member who exemplifies the Society's goal of practicing the ideals of service and sacrifice in the pursuit of justice as reflected in the life and death of St. Thomas More, is bestowed at the Red Mass, which will be followed by our celebratory dinner at the Italian Athletic Club. Keep your eyes on this space for the announcement of the St. Thomas Award winner.

Oakland Diocese Pro Bono Legal Clinic

The Diocese of Oakland has started a pro bono legal clinic to serve the poor and needy in Oakland. If you are interested in getting involved in this worthy cause, please contact Nico Herrera at 917-774-3511 or at nico@herreralegal.com.

Chaplain's Corner

“What Your Bio Really Says About You”

Every lawyer has a bio. And most contain the same information: practice areas; education and employment history; relevant legal experience; notable jury verdicts or significant corporate transactions; other professional activities and memberships; academic publications; and, of course, distinguished honors and awards. A good bio is virtually indispensable to marketing yourself as a successful and valued member of the legal profession.

The problem with bios, however, is that they can easily occupy the field, so to speak, and essentially preempt any other identity, if we are not careful. We all know workaholic attorneys who define themselves by their work and professional achievements: election to the Order of the Coif at this or that top ten law school; partner at this or that top fifty law firm; Super Lawyer of the Year nominated by this or that organization; chair of this or that bar committee; or president of this or that civic association.

On the last day of my seminary education, I had a final interview with my formation advisor and vocations director. It was the last hurdle before being cleared for ordination to the priesthood. We had a nice conversation, with all of the usual topics and questions. At the end of the meeting, however, just as we were about to disperse and go our separate ways, my vocations director turned to me and said rather casually: “Oh, by the way, I just have one more question. Who is Jesus Christ?” How appropriate that this should be the capstone question of my seminary career. And, yet, I found myself fumbling around for a good answer. The question, obvious as it was, had caught me off guard.

Would you also be caught off guard and could you without much effort answer a similar question about yourself? If someone were to ask you—“By the way, who is [Insert Your Name Here]?”—how would you respond? Would you refer the inquirer to your firm's website for an answer? Would you fumble for the right words? Would you desperately search your memory banks for the canned answers to those predictable job interview questions?

Whenever I meet with families to plan a funeral, I always ask them what was important to the deceased person. What things did he or she value in life? Who was the person really? Often the response is that he or she was a die-hard Giants fan, loved Elvis Presley, or any number of other relatively trivial and uninspiring attributes. Family members often do not know what to say because so many of us never express what is truly important in our lives, in turn, because we have not figured it out ourselves.

In the month of August, the Church celebrates two very important feasts that speak about identity. In the Transfiguration on August 6, a voice from heaven declares Jesus to be God's "beloved Son." In the Assumption of Mary on August 15, Mary's cousin Elizabeth calls her "the mother of my Lord." As Christians, we are to take on both of these identities as primary in our own lives. We are to be sons and daughters of God through our adoption in Jesus Christ and are called to bring Christ into the world as an expectant mother bears a child. It is *how* we carry out both of these missions that makes us who we really are.

Professional identity is important to material success. Our bios should convey our lawyerlike skills and experience. Ultimately, however, they are both superficial and incomplete. You need more than that. Imagine this. If you cannot easily answer the question of who you are in ten words or less, without referring to professional honors or great jury awards, what will your children and grandchildren or other family members be able to say about you to that priest waiting eagerly at the end of the line to learn about who you were and what you meant to the world?

- Father Roger Gustafson, Chaplain

2015 Dues

The 2015 Membership Form is attached to this letter and may be used to pay your dues and to update membership records. Annual dues for 2015 are \$75.00 for attorneys with five years or more of practice and \$25.00 for retired attorneys and those with fewer than five years of practice. Law student membership is free. Your dues are essential to the Society and enable us to fund events, attract quality speakers, and award scholarships, so please get them in. You can make your dues payment through PayPal or Venmo by following the links provided above.

We are continuing our efforts to attract new members, particularly among younger lawyers, and we encourage you to help us recruit new members to join the Society. Feel free to start by forwarding this newsletter to someone you think may be interested in joining. Remember that lunch is free for prospective members, so bring along a colleague, a friend, a parishioner, or even opposing counsel to our September lunch.


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We welcome your input, so if you have any questions, comments, or ideas for the Society, please feel free to contact any member of the Executive Committee.

Your good servant,



Timothy P. Crudo
President

**ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO
2015 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, Court, or School: _____

Area(s) of Practice: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Parish: _____

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

Law Student? _____ **Note: Law students membership is free.**

Would you like to participate in our Mentor Program as a mentor or mentee? _____

Please accompany this application with your dues payment. Annual dues for 2015 are \$75.00 for attorneys with five years or more of practice and \$25.00 for retired attorneys and those with fewer than five years of practice. Law student membership is free. Please make checks payable to St. Thomas More Society.

Return form and check to:
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orphanopoulos@gmail.com