

St. Thomas More Society

of San Francisco

November 24, 2004

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Dear Colleagues:

I must start by thanking you for the wonderful opportunity to serve you as president this year. Candidly, I will admit to having had some trepidation in January about my ability to do so. But through your encouragement and the incredibly hard work of the executive committee, it turned out to be a memorable growth experience for me. More importantly, I hope it worked out for the Society as well.

Our November 18th luncheon featured speakers Drs. Brian Swimme and Pamela Eakins. Dr. Swimme has previously made presentations with Father Brian Joyce, our June speaker, on the cosmos and its relation to our faith. This time he teamed up with Dr. Eakins to explore the relationship between the cosmos and love. The presentation was innovative and thought-provoking. Indeed, it explored non-traditional ideas that required considerable focus to grasp the concepts. Nonetheless, hopefully the experience was rewarding to our members and pastors.

Another highlight of our November lunch was the presentation of a well-deserved special award to Tobin & Tobin for its service to the Church, the community and the St. Thomas More Society from its founding in 1852. The citation notes that nine St. Thomas More Society presidents and executive board members have been associated with Tobin & Tobin since 1937, including three members who have received the annual St. Thomas More Award at the Society's Red Mass.

Our final event of the year is our Christmas luncheon on December 8th at our usual location, the 52nd floor of the Bank of America Building. Lunch at noon will be preceded by Mass at 11:30. An open bar will be only one sign of our holiday cheer. Although we will not have our usual speaker, our essay contest winner will read the winning essay, based on the topic: "Earlier this year, Pope John Paul II proclaimed that world peace is built on the force of law and not on the law of force: 'The law of force destroys, while the force of law builds.' Nearly 500 years ago, St. Thomas More wrote of an ideal community in which everyone lived in peace and harmony. Is peace attainable in your community and throughout the world? If so, how? If not, why not?" We look forward to seeing you there, with expressions of conviviality, collegiality and holiday spirit!

We also have board elections this year. We are happy to announce as new nominees for the board Stephen Murphy of San Francisco, Chinayi Coleman of the U.S. Attorneys' Office, and Thomas Reed of Watson & Lanctot. Now surely there are those of you who view this as simply the required rubber-stamping of the proposed board. However, I should report that Gerry Mannion is running slightly ahead of his Red Member contender, so please turn out to sweep him and his board into the 2005 presidency.

REV. JOSE CHAVARIN, J.C.L., *Chaplain*

We now have a website address that will access the beginnings of our home page, which is still under construction. If you want to check it out, the address is stthomasmore-sf.org (more susceptible for Google searchers. Later we will add a shorter, more convenient address: stms-sf.org for easier access.) We are continuing to send content to our website consultant and a full home page should be evident in the next month or so.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 8 – Mass and Christmas lunch

January 19, 2005 – (Note that this is a **Wednesday** luncheon.) John McGuckin, a member and recent Red Mass honoree, will talk on “The Forgotten Christians, a Lawyer’s View of the Christian Community in the Holy Land”. John will bring to bear his experiences as a member of the Order of Knights Templar.

Sincerely,



Stephen G. Walker
President

Hugh A. Donohoe
Ropers, Majeski, Kohn & Bentley
333 Market Street, Suite 3150
San Francisco 94105

Please reserve _____ places at \$30 per person (\$15 for law students) for the Society luncheon on December 8, 2004. My check, payable to The St. Thomas More Society, for _____ is enclosed.

Member name _____

Phone Number _____ e-mail _____

I'd like to sponsor a law student, today's speaker, or our chaplain.

Enclosed is an additional \$ _____

Please reserve by December 6, 2004