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of San Francisco

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

March 1, 2006

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the executive committee, we wish you a very peaceful and grace-filled season of Lent.

Last month's luncheon presentation by Ned Dolejsi was excellent. He gave us very valuable insight into how the California Catholic Conference (CCC) operates and the challenge it faces in advocating the Catholic Church's public and social policies to the legislative, administrative and judicial branches of the state government. One topic that left a big impression was Ned's discussion of how the CCC frames certain employment and education issues as issues of religious liberty and his explanation of the evisceration of the concept of "conscience clauses" in certain legislation. The presentation was extremely informative and very enjoyable.

Our next luncheon is on **Thursday, March 16, 2006**, with Mr. Jeffrey Lena, who will speak to us on institutional Catholicism and foreign law. Mr. Lena is an attorney that has represented both The Holy See and the Holy Father in actions in the United States. He is also an expert in foreign law and the law of The Holy See. Mr. Lena will discuss the legal and political relations between The Holy See and American Dioceses, with an overlap on some foreign law. We are very fortunate that he is able to join us in March. So mark your calendars for Thursday, March 16, 2006. The luncheon begins at noon and is in our regular location at the Carnelian Room, 555 California Street, San Francisco.

As you know, we are always interested in enhancing our membership base and collegial spirit. And the University of San Francisco School of Law (USF) has a wonderfully active St. Thomas More Society chapter. Therefore, we have invited a number of laws students from USF to join us as our guests at our March luncheon. If you are interested in sponsoring a law student, please send in your sponsorship with your luncheon payment.

In April we will have as our speaker Mr. Andrew Galvan— San Francisco historian and curator of Mission San Francisco de Asis, or more commonly known as Mission Dolores. Mr. Galvan has over 20 years of experience in cultural resources management, specializing in handling Native American Indian concerns regarding archaeology. He will speak to us about the California Missions as well as his involvement in the canonization of Fr. Junipero Serra. Lunch will be on Thursday, April 20, 2006.

At our luncheon last December, we announced that in the spirit of our longstanding support of Catholic High School education and in this particular time of need for the Archdiocese of New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the Society had decided to make a one time donation to Xavier University Preparatory –Max School for the sponsorship of one student scholarship for one year. We recently received a letter of thanks from the school with the news that our gift paid for the tuition for a 9th grade student Twanisha Tillman, who was described as a hard-working student athlete. Twanisha's house was severely damaged by the hurricane and after being evacuated from the New Orleans area, both her parents lost their jobs. She would not have been able to attend high school without our scholarship and she and her family deeply appreciate our Society's donation.

As always, we invite you to check for information about the Society and our upcoming events on our website: www.stthomasmore-sf.org

I very much look forward to seeing you at our March luncheon.

Sincerely,



Stacy K. Stecher
President

Please reserve _____ places at \$35 per person (\$15 for law students) for the Society luncheon on Thursday, March 16, 2006. My check, payable to the St. Thomas More Society, for \$ _____ is enclosed.

I would like to sponsor a USF Law Student, at \$15/student. Enclosed is an additional \$ _____.

Member Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please mail to: Thomas B. Reed, Jr.
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Please reserve for March's Luncheon by Monday, March 13, 2006.