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of San Francisco

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

May 1, 2006

Dear Colleagues,

Last month we were extremely fortunate to have Mr. Andrew Galvan—San Francisco historian and curator of Mission San Francisco de Asis, or more commonly known as Mission Dolores, speak to us about the California Missions, Native Americans in the Bay Area and the canonization process of Father Junipero Serra. It was an exceptionally articulate address from which we gained very valuable insight into the cultural and historical importance of the California Missions and Fr. Serra's role with the Missions and Native Americans. Mr. Galvan's presentation was captivating, extremely interesting and very enjoyable. He really did enhance our perspective and understanding of the California Missions. For anyone who missed the luncheon I would highly recommend taking Mr. Galvan's tour of Mission Dolores; and then to everyone, I recommend reading *A Time of Little Choice* by Randall Milliken which describes the independent Native American nations that lived in the San Francisco Bay Area between 1769-1810, their reaction to Spanish influence, and their choices when confronted with the mission system.

As you know, Catholic education and the witness of faith in daily practice were two extremely important tenets of our patron St. Thomas More. As a Society we also want to promote these tenets as well as the importance of community service. Therefore, at our May luncheon we will have a presentation to us by Next Step Learning Center, an innovative adult and family literacy program that serves residents of Oakland. Next Step Learning Center is a California nonprofit corporation founded in 1994 by the Sisters of the Holy Names. The first Holy Names Sisters came to the Bay Area in 1868 to establish schools in California in response to a request from Archbishop Alemany of San Francisco. Their organization is a fantastic community based program that addresses the critical problem of illiteracy in our community and teaches basic literacy, pre-GED and GED preparation as tools of reading, writing, and computation needed for urban life in the 21st Century. One of the Center's two Co-Directors, Sr. Cynthia Canning SNJM, and a recent graduate of the program who is now attending community college, will speak to us about the Next Step Learning Center organization.

So mark your calendars for our luncheon on **Thursday, May 18**. The luncheon begins at noon and is in our regular location at the Carnelian Room, 52nd Floor, 555 California Street, San Francisco.

Hummm—Baby...!! We have selected a game for our Giants baseball group outing--> **Friday night, September 29, 2006**, when the Giants take on division rivals- the dreaded Dodgers. We currently have 25 tickets in View Reserve Section 323, Rows 7-9, which is in the upper deck, between home plate and third base. We can order more tickets if the interest is there. The cost is \$25 per person. We will also be arranging a location to meet for hosted drinks and appetizers before the game. Please contact me if you are interested in going to the game or if I can provide any more details (Stacy Stecher, sstecher@tobinlaw.com, or (415) 772-9642). This promises to be a really fun event! Look for more details in the future newsletters, *but you can contact me starting now to reserve your tickets for the game.*

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 May luncheon.

Sincerely,



Stacy K. Stecher
President

Please reserve _____ places at \$35 per person (\$15 for law students) for the Society luncheon on Thursday, May 18, 2006. My check, payable to the St. Thomas More Society, for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Member Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please mail to: Thomas B. Reed, Jr.
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(415) 362-0900

I would like to sponsor a law student, today's speaker or our chaplain. Enclosed is an additional \$ _____.

Please reserve for May's Luncheon by Monday, May 15, 2006.