

# St. Thomas More Society

*of San Francisco*  
September 30, 2004

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Dear Colleagues:

It is hard to believe that we are already entering the final quarter of the year, with the Red Mass and two luncheons left on tap, as well as a renewal of our holy day Mass at a downtown location. The Red Mass, though, is the highlight of the Society's year, a rich tradition including the celebration of the Mass by Archbishop Levada at Sts. Peter & Paul Church in North Beach and offered for members of the legal profession. In addition, we are so fortunate to have Justice Carol Corrigan as our St. Thomas More Award recipient, joining a long line of deserving awardees. We hope to see you there and at the dinner afterward. You can mail in your reply card included with your invitation or use the form below.

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

We were treated at our September luncheon to an erudite talk by Bishop Allen Vigneron of the Oakland Diocese, who took St. Thomas More's final words "The King's good servant, but God's First" and discussed the quote in a modern context using the conjunctive "and" instead. In other words, the bishop reminded us that there is no inconsistency in being a good citizen as well as a good Catholic, notwithstanding the challenging issues facing the Church today. (As a reminder, there is no luncheon in October because of the Red Mass.)

Last Thursday we had a happy hour, but, unfortunately, unlike our spring event, it was sparsely attended. As we want to be responsive to what the members want, we will take another look at whether we should continue these events.

We had a larger turnout at the Sacred Spaces Tour, although still not overwhelming. Those that attended were treated to an expert tour of the labyrinth and beautiful icons at Grace Cathedral and the Russian Orthodox Cathedral.

Undaunted, however, we request those who are interested in a renewal of the Bible study class to contact me at [sgwalker@bechtel.com](mailto:sgwalker@bechtel.com). In the past there had been such a group that met weekly in the early in the morning at a downtown location for an hour. A leader for each session, not necessarily steeped in biblical training, prepared an outline of the discussion and distributed written materials as appropriate. The frequency and format of the class could be adapted to suit the needs of those who are interesting in reforming the group.

As mentioned above, we will reinstitute our holy day Masses downtown, commencing on November 1<sup>st</sup> at the offices of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe in the Orrick Building, 405 Howard Street. Fr. José Chavarin will celebrate the Mass.

Although more fully discussed next month, our November luncheon speaker is Dr. Brian Swimme, a cosmologist who will discuss the connection between our faith and the universe. The November newsletter will contain more information about Dr. Swimme's presentation. The lunch will also honor the pastors who have worked so hard for us; indeed, we will have an open bar to lighten up the occasion!

We've retained a web consultant and sent her a list of desired features for our website. We will next send her text and documents for the various sections, including a brief history of the Society, a biography of St. Thomas More, membership application, Red Mass information and a list of prior awardees, past newsletters, and contact information. We hope to have the website in place by the end of the year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 21** – Red Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul Church, followed by dinner at the SFIAC.

**November 1** – Holy day Mass at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. See above for details.

**November 18** – Pastors' lunch; Dr. Brian Swimme, cosmologist, will speak.

**December 8** – Mass and Christmas lunch

Sincerely,



Stephen G. Walker  
President

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

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$75 per person (\$30 for clergy and religious) for the Society's Red Mass on October 21, 2004. My check, payable to The St. Thomas More Society, for \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Member name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please reserve by October 14, 2004**