

St. Thomas More Society
of San Francisco

www.stthomasmore-sf.org

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Karen P. Kimmey, 1st Vice President
Thomas P. Mazzucco, 2nd Vice President
Catherine M. Dacre, 3rd Vice President
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Ethan P. Niedermeyer
Honorable Sharon M. Reardon
Honorable Peter J. Siggins
Dean John D. Trasvina,
University of San Francisco School of Law

Timothy P. Crudo,
Immediate Past President

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Regis Servus Dei Prius

December 6, 2016

Dear Members and Friends of the Society:

There is no denying that the Christmas season is a special time—different than the rest of the year. The season is often the backdrop to amazing stories of peace and mercy. Many of these stories take place in war – spontaneous armistices and celebrations between troops opposing each other on the battlefield – in the Franco-Prussian War on Christmas Eve in 1871 when a lone French soldier jumped out of his trench and walked into the battlefield to sing “O Holy Night,” leading to a 24 hour cease in fighting; the famous 1914 Truce when all along the Western Front, soldiers from both sides spontaneously ventured into “no-man’s land” to exchange food and sing carols, and even in our own Civil War at Stones Run, Tennessee when Rebs and Yanks simply stopped fighting in order to exchange food, gifts and some conversation. My favorite story though took place in World War II during the Battle of the Bulge. Elisabeth Vincken and her 12 year old son, living in a small house in the Ardennes Forest, had a knock at their door on that stormy Christmas Eve. It was three American GIs, one of them badly wounded, who had become lost in the forest after a battle. She invited them in to share dinner and get warm, but only if they agreed to leave their weapons outside. A little later, there was another knock – four armed German soldiers, also lost and hungry. Knowing that harboring Americans could result in her and her son’s execution, she nonetheless told the Germans that they could come in and share dinner, but there were Americans inside, also lost, cold and hungry. She told the Germans to leave their weapons outside, as, “It is the Holy Night and there will be no shooting here.” The family, the GIs and the German soldiers shared Christmas dinner. Vincken’s son Fritz later recalled that as his mother said grace, he noticed tears in the eyes of all the soldiers. One of the Germans, a medical student, treated the wounded American. The next day when the storm abated, they parted, but only after the Germans gave the GIs a map and a compass, and directions back to the American lines.

The acts of these soldiers and Mrs. Vincken demonstrated how the celebration of Christ's birthday, and the love and peace surrounding it, make the season special.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON/ANNUAL MEETING

Date: December 15, 2016 12: Noon
Place: The Family Club, 545 Powell Street
Cost: \$52, \$42 (less than 10 years practice) \$25 law students and clergy. There is no cost for first time perspective members of the Society.

This is our annual Christmas season celebration. No speaker – just a well-stocked bar, lunch, good cheer and fellowship. We will also be electing the Society's 2017 Executive Committee, distributing our Secret Santa presents, and hearing from the winner of the 8th Grade Essay Contest. This year's topic: What attributes of St. Thomas More would not serve our elected leaders in this election year and why?

Please make plans to join us.

SECRET SANTA PROGRAM

For the third year running, STMS will be partnering with the De Marillac Academy to provide Secret Santa gifts to needy families in the school community. De Marillac Academy is the only free Catholic School in San Francisco and serves principally low income families in the Tenderloin.

Due to the popularity of this event in past years, this year we aim to provide Christmas gifts for twenty-five families. If you would like to participate, please contact Tony Phillips via email at aphillips@archernorris.com. Volunteer-Santas will receive a short bio of their selected family to help with gift selection. The recommended donation is \$50 and gift cards are always a welcome and useful option.

NOVEMBER EVENT RECAP

Just a few days after Veterans Day, members and guests were treated to the thoughts and experiences of Msgr. Michael Padazinski, a Major and Chaplain in the United States Air Force. Msgr. addressed the history and role of Chaplains, and the current shortage of Catholic Chaplains in the military. If you are interested in hearing more about this ministry, check out the website of the Archdiocese for the Military services (www.milarch.org).

At last Tuesday evening's Theology On Tap, thanks to the generosity of Catherine Dacre and Seyfarth Shaw, about 30 members of the Society enjoyed refreshments and heard from Fr. Gary Thomas, exorcist for the diocese of San Jose. Fr. Thomas explained the history and theology of the rite of exorcism, and shared some of his personal experiences.

2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **President:** Karen Kimmey. Karen is a partner at Farella Braun + Martel, where she handles a variety of commercial disputes with particular emphasis on complex contract, fraud, unfair competition and negligence claims as well as class actions, intellectual property, and products liability matters. A graduate of Hastings College of the Law, Karen currently serves as the Society's 1st Vice-President.
- **1st Vice President:** Tony Phillips. Raised in Scotland, England, and the Bay Area, Tony is a graduate of the University of York in the United Kingdom and the University of San Francisco School of Law. He is an associate in the San Francisco office of Archer Norris, where he focuses on complex and commercial litigation, including antitrust, consumer protection, corporate governance and securities cases. Before law school, Tony was the Director of Product Management for a Bay Area software company, providing transportation and shipping solutions to Fortune 500 manufacturers. For the past two years he has been the Society's liaison with our Service Project Partner De Marillac Academy. Tony currently serves as the Society's secretary
- **2nd Vice President:** Catherine Dacre. Currently a member of our Executive Committee, Catherine leads the Wage & Hour Litigation Practice Group in Seyfarth Shaw's San Francisco office, where her practice includes class action litigation of California Labor Code and FLSA claims in state and federal court. She is also the co-chair of Labor & Employment department in San Francisco. Catherine is a graduate of UCLA and UC Hastings College of the Law.
- **3rd Vice President:** Amelia Lancaster. Amelia is a 2013 graduate of UC Hastings College of the Law and is currently an associate at The Mitzel Group, where she practices immigration and labor and employment law. In addition to her involvement with the St. Thomas More Society, Amelia has been an Academic Decathlon Coach and violin instructor at De Marillac Academy.
- **Treasurer:** Andres Orphanopoulos. A new father (again), Andres is counsel for North Coast Land Holdings, a real estate development company based in Marin County. Before moving in-house, he was a Deputy District Attorney in San Francisco and an associate at Reed Smith. A graduate of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law, Andres is currently the Treasurer of the Society. Andres has served as Treasurer for the past two years.
- **Secretary:** Ethan Niedermeyer. A graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Law, Ethan was the captain of the University of Portland varsity basketball team and played professionally in Germany, He is an associate with The Dolan Law Firm, where he focuses on personal injury litigation.

- **At-Large Member: Justice Peter Siggins.** Justice Siggins is a member of the 1st District Court of Appeal. He previously served as the Governor's Legal Affairs Secretary and Interim Chief of Staff as well as with the Attorney General's Office of the California Department of Justice. A graduate of Hastings College of the Law, Justice Siggins currently serves on a number of boards, including the board of the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley. He is the recipient of the 2014 St. Thomas More Award.
- **At-Large Member: Judge Sharon Reardon.** Judge Reardon was appointed to the bench of the San Francisco County Superior Court in 2015. Prior to her appointment, she served for many years as an Assistant District Attorney in San Francisco. She earned her law degree from San Francisco Law School.
- **At-Large Member: Dean John D. Trasviña.** John is the 18th dean of the USF School of Law. He was previously appointed by President Obama to serve as the assistant secretary for fair housing and equal opportunity in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and before that he was president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. A current member of our Executive Committee, John is a graduate of Stanford Law School.
- **At-Large Member: Timothy Simon.** Timothy was born and raised in San Francisco and attended Saint Michael's Grammar School, Saint Ignatius College Preparatory (where he served as a Regent and is currently a Trustee) and the University of San Francisco. He received his JD from University of California Hastings College of the Law, where he also served as an Adjunct Professor of Securities Regulations and taught at Golden Gate University School of Law for 17 years. Tim served as Appointments Secretary to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and was Commissioner of California Public Utilities Commission where he served through 2012. He has served on the Board of Catholic Charities, and is currently on the Board of Trustees of Mission Dolores Academy.
- **At-Large Member: Bryan Saalfeld:** Bryan is a director at Murphy, Pearson, Bradley and Feeney, and member of the California and New York Bars, as well as an English Solicitor (non-practicing). He practices in a variety of areas, both litigation and transactional.

A very special thank you to departing Executive Committee member Thomas "Tip" Mazzucco for his hard work and dedication to the Society. Tip will be missed, but we look forward to his continued involvement in a less official capacity.

LAW STUDENT NEWS

The Society is again sponsoring a scholarship for law students at Golden Gate, Hastings, San Francisco Law School, and USF. The \$2,000 award is intended to recognize scholarship,

community service, and service to God as exemplified by our Patron. The scholarship is not limited to law student members of the Society, but remember that law student membership is free, so there is no reason not to join. An application is available on our website (www.stthomasmore-sf.org) for any student interested.

2017 Dues

The 2017 Membership Form is attached to this letter and may be used to pay your dues and to update membership records. Annual dues for 2017 are \$75.00 for attorneys with five years or more 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.

Also, if you haven't paid your 2016 dues, consider paying them at the same time. The revamp of the Society website was expensive (if you haven't been on it lately, check it out) and funds are needed to cover this expense.

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 January lunch.

This is my final newsletter, and the last lawyer-saint I have to share with you is St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen:

Born Mark Roy in 1578 in the town of Sigmaringen in Germany, Fidelis earned a doctorate in both civil and canon law from the Swiss University of Freiburg. Fidelis concentrated his civil legal practice on assisting the poor. Often, he did not charge for his services, leading him to become known as the lawyer for the poor. After a short time conducting a successful private practice, he became disillusioned with the corruption of the local government, and the hostility of his colleagues. He left legal practice, was ordained a priest, and entered the Capuchin Order in 1612, where he was known as "Brother Fidelis of Sigmaringen". By taking that name, he was invoking the Book of Revelation: "Remain faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Rev. 2:10) Using the skills he learned as a lawyer, Fidelis became known as a powerful preacher, and composed a book of spiritual exercises that was widely translated. At the urging of the newly formed Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, he went through southern Germany and Switzerland preaching to the members of various Protestant sects, urging their conversion to Catholicism. Preaching that there is only "one Lord, one faith, one baptism," his efforts met with great success, to the consternation of Protestant leaders. Ultimately, in 1622, he traveled to Switzerland on a mission to convince the followers of Ulrich Zwingli to return to the Catholic faith. There he met violent martyrdom at the hands of Calvinist opponents, becoming the first martyr of the Capuchin Order. Fidelis is said to have requested that his

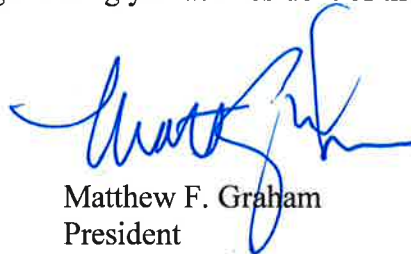
enemies be pardoned as he was being beaten with spiked clubs, before finally being dispatched by being run through with a sword. Fidelis was canonized in 1746, and his feast day is April 24, the day on which he was martyred in 1622. At his canonization, Pope Benedict XIV aptly observed that Fidelis “was faithful in truth as well as in name. His zeal for defending the Catholic faith was unsurpassed and he preached it tirelessly.”

Like our patron St. Thomas More, St. Fidelis, and each of the lawyer-saints, we are called to bring Christ into our daily practice. The Second Vatican Council (*Gaudium et Spes*) summed it up pretty well:

“One of the gravest errors of our time is the dichotomy between the faith which many profess and the practice of their daily lives. The Christian who shirks his temporal duties shirks his duties towards his neighbor, neglects God himself, and endangers his eternal salvation. Let Christians follow the example of Christ who worked as a craftsman; let them be proud of the opportunity to carry out their earthly activity in such a way as to integrate human, domestic, professional, scientific and technical enterprises with religious values, under whose supreme direction all things are ordered to the glory of God.”

It has been an honor and privilege serving you as President of the Society this past year.

Merry Christmas!



Matthew F. Graham
President

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY DECEMBER 2016 LUNCHEON RESERVATION

THE FAMILY CLUB

545 Powell Street, San Francisco

Please use this Form to reserve your spot at the luncheon and to make payment.

_____ I plan to attend the St. Thomas More Society Luncheon at 12:00 noon on
December 15, 2016, at The Family Club, 545 Powell Street, San Francisco

Please reserve _____ place(s) \$52 per person.

Please reserve _____ place(s) \$42 per person (fewer than 10 years in practice).

Please reserve _____ place(s) \$25 per person (law students and clergy).

There is no charge for first-time prospective members of the Society.

Member Name: _____

Member e-mail: _____

Names of other attendees for whom payment is submitted:

I am bringing the following potential members as a Guest of the Society (no charge):

The total amount of my enclosed check is \$_____.

Please make checks payable to the "St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco." If you RSVP and cannot attend, please let us know in advance. Cancellations on less than 48 hours cannot be reimbursed.

Please return this form and your check to our Treasurer:

Andres Orphanopoulos
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2350 Kerner Blvd, Suite 360
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Telephone: (415) 461-2922
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**ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO
2017 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.*

Date: _____

Name: _____

Firm, Company or Court: _____

Street Address or P.O. Box: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Home Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Preferred Address for Society Mailings: Business _____ Home _____

Law Student? _____

Year Admitted to Bar: _____ Retired from Practice? _____

Please accompany this application with current dues. Annual dues are \$100 for attorneys over five (5) years in practice; \$50 for attorneys retired from practice and attorneys with five (5) years or less in practice; and \$25 for law students. Please make checks payable to **St. Thomas More Society**. Thank you!

Return application and check to:

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