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*Regis Servus Dei Prius*

September 14, 2016

Dear Members and Friends of the Society:

Welcome back from wherever summer vacation took you. I hope you have been physically, mentally and spiritually refreshed for the push to year-end. Speaking of being refreshed, the Society website was reformatted and updated over the summer. Due to its age, the old website was increasingly difficult to update and maintain. Please check out the revamped website (<http://www.stthomasmore-sf.org>). I think you'll be pleased with it.

The Society has several events planned in the coming months, including our most important, the annual Red Mass on Tuesday, October 25.

Please join members of the Society, Judges and others in the seven century old tradition of the celebration of the Mass at the commencement of the "legal year." A reservation form for the dinner and reception to honor this year's St. Thomas More Award recipient, Steve Lanctot, is attached. The award is given annually to a community member who exemplifies the Society's goal of practicing the ideals of service and sacrifice in the pursuit of justice as reflected in the life and death of our patron St. Thomas More. Steve's many and valued services to the community and Church can be viewed on the website.

### **September Lunch**

Date: Thursday, September 22; 2016; 12:00 noon  
Place: The Family Club, 545 Powell Street, San Francisco  
Cost: \$52, \$42 (less than 10 years practice), \$25 (law students and clergy) There is no cost for first time guests.  
Speaker: Fr. Edward A. Reese, S.J., new President of St. Ignatius College Preparatory

Reserve your place by responding via Evite, using the attached reservation form, or simply emailing Andres at [orphanopoulos@gmail.com](mailto:orphanopoulos@gmail.com).

### **Law Student Reception**

Date: Wednesday, September 28; 2016; 5:30 p.m.  
Place: Terrace Room, USF  
Cost: Free

Students at all of the City's law schools have been invited, and so are Society members and friends. This is a great opportunity for you to meet future lawyers in an informal and non-interview setting. These students are our colleagues-to-be and the future of the Society. Please drop by and enjoy a beverage and other refreshments with us.

Please let us know if you are planning on attending by emailing Andres at [orphanopoulos@gmail.com](mailto:orphanopoulos@gmail.com).

### **Red Mass**

Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2016  
Place: St. Peter and Paul Church; 1666 Filbert Street, San Francisco  
Mass Time: 5:30 p.m.

Annual reception and dinner to immediately follow at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club across Washington Square (1630 Stockton Street, between Union and Filbert streets)

Dinner Cost: \$90; \$45 (clergy and students)  
Mass Homilist: Most Rev. Thomas Poprocki, Bishop of Diocese of Springfield, Ill.  
St. Thomas More Recipient: Stephen T. Lanctot, Coblentz, Patch, Duffy & Bass, LLP.  
Reception/Dinner reservation form is attached.

Please join us for any (and hopefully all) of these events.

**Chaplain's Corner:**

## **To Kneel Or Not To Kneel**

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick's refusal to stand for the playing of the national anthem at a pre-season game has ignited yet another storm of debate among the American people. Rather than reverence the flag, Kaepernick took a knee, joined by his teammate Eric Reid. In explaining his gesture, Kaepernick said that he will not "show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color." Surprisingly, the sales of Kaepernick football jerseys have soared since the controversy began and an increasing number of athletes are following his example.

I do not disagree that this country's treatment of minorities has been disgraceful and that racism continues to flourish in many different sectors of American life. Nor do I begrudge Kaepernick his right and duty to follow his conscience and to raise awareness of these issues in an effort to effect change. However, the refusal of fellow citizens and those who support them to reverence the American flag or sing the national anthem is a clear sign of the slow crumbling of western civilization, which the Catholic Church almost single-handedly built and which has formed the basis of our nation and common values.

Over the course of the centuries, the Catholic Church has started hospitals and orphanages to care for children and the sick. We have educated more children than any other institution. We developed the scientific method and founded the college system. We brought the written word to the illiterate. We formulated the very concept of human rights, and the Church's canon law is the groundwork of the entire western legal tradition on which the rule of law in our nation is based.

As the seams of our communal fabric continue to unravel with ever growing divisions in our nation, the Church established by Jesus Christ himself will nevertheless stand as a firm foundation on which to restore our broken culture, because for all ages the Church has stood on the one unbreakable principle of cruciform love.

For two thousand years, believers have followed the example of Jesus and filled the world with Christ-like love. As Pope Francis recently wrote, "[h]ow many hearts have been comforted by volunteers! How many hands they have held; how many tears they have wiped away; how much love has been poured out in hidden, humble and selfless service." For this, they "do not expect any thanks or recompense; rather they renounce all this because they have discovered true love."

That love is rooted in the infinite mercy of God. Indeed, there is hope for our society to the extent we remember and extend God's mercy and love to one another in humble forms of service. The fifteenth anniversary of 9/11 is an opportunity to remember, for example, the

Christian love and heroism exemplified by the many police officers and firefighters who lost their lives in the service of this great county.

As the Holy Father said in his homily for the canonization of Mother Theresa of Calcutta last week, "[m]ay this tireless worker of mercy help us to increasingly understand that our only criterion for action is gratuitous love, free from every ideology and all obligations, offered freely to everyone without distinction of language, culture, race or religion."

The wisdom of Kaepernick's attempt to bring racial equality and harmony to an unequal and divisive society through a gesture of disunity itself remains to be seen. What is indisputable, however, is that, no matter the outcome, the Church built on the rock of Christ will remain, as Cardinal George once wrote, to "pick up the shards of a ruined society and slowly help rebuild civilization, as the church has done so often in human history."

### *Father Roger Gustafson*

The "gratuitous love" of St. Mother Theresa is also exemplified by this month's lawyer-saint, Blessed Frederic Ozanam. Blessed Frederic studied law in Paris and received his degree from the Sorbonne in 1836. Although literature was his passion, (he would later obtain his doctorate and professorship in this area), he continued to practice law in order to support his mother, and in 1839 became a professor of law at the University of Lyon. Although his death in 1853 came when he was only 40 years old, Ozanam achieved much during this relatively short lifespan.

The France into which Blessed Frederic was born in 1815 was a difficult time for Catholics, and a desperate time for the poor. The effect of the French Revolution, Reign of Terror and the disorder of the Napoleonic Eras, combined with a general apathy for religion following the Enlightenment, had greatly weakened the Church in France. A shortage of clergy required the French laity to directly shoulder much of the load of the Church's mission.

As a law student at the Sorbonne, Frederic was confronted daily by the misery of the poor in Paris. It was at this time in his life Frederic was challenged to bring his faith to service. He not only devoted himself to service to the poor but, as a charismatic leader, he organized others to do the same. Frederic invited his friends to join his cause saying to them, "If we are too young to intervene in the social struggle, are we then to remain passive in the middle of a world which is suffering and groaning? No, a preparatory path is open to us. Before doing public good, we can try to do good to a few. Before regenerating France, we can give relief to a few of her poor."

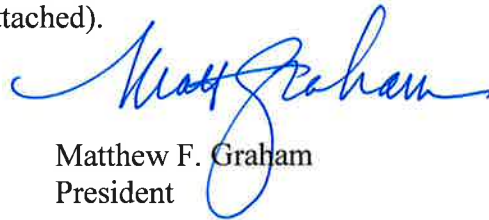
In early 1833 Frederic met Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity, who served the needy and stood at the barricades with the poor. Sister Rosalie inspired Frederic and his companions and through their association with her they learned first-hand the needs of persons oppressed by poverty.

Committed to do more than talk about faith, Frederic, at age 20 with a small group of friends, formed the first "Conference of Charity," (renamed the Society of St. Vincent de Paul one year later) which met weekly to contribute to a secret collection and then visit the poor in their homes. This active witness was not only derived from Ozanam's faith vision but also from his "Vincentian Preference" for what he called self-forgetful charity over ostentatious philanthropy. (The Saint Vincent de Paul Society now numbers 800,000 members serving the poor in 140 countries worldwide.)

The remainder of Frederic's short life was dedicated to his work with the Society, teaching, and writing and lecturing as part of the French New Catholic movement. He was an earnest and conscientious advocate of Catholic democracy. Drawing on his extensive knowledge of literature and history, he argued the contrary thesis to Edward Gibbon that in fact, the Church had been the most potent factor in civilizing the barbarian culture and organizing the life of the Middle Ages. Blessed Frederick was beatified in 1997 by Pope John Paul II.

Please make it part of your plan to attend the Red Mass on October 25, and the following Reception and Dinner as well. I hope to see you at the September 22 luncheon and September 28 Law Student Reception.

Finally, the website revamp was expensive—if you haven't paid your 2016 dues, please send your check to Andres (membership form attached).



Matthew F. Graham  
President

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY SEPTEMBER 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 September 22, 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  
North Coast Land Holdings, LLC  
2350 Kerner Blvd, Suite 360  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
Telephone: (415) 461-2922  
Facsimile: (415) 461-5946  
E-Mail: orphanopoulos@gmail.com

# St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco

[www.stthomasmore-sf.org](http://www.stthomasmore-sf.org)

## Executive Committee

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Oakland, CA 94607  
Telephone: (510) 622-7520  
[mgraham@wendel.com](mailto:mgraham@wendel.com)

*Regis Servus Dei Prius*

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

## THE 2016 RED MASS

Saints Peter & Paul Church  
666 Filbert Street  
San Francisco  
Tuesday, October 25, 2016  
5:30 p.m.

Sponsored by

THE ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO

**Honoring 2016 St. Thomas More Award Recipient**

**STEPHEN T. LANCTOT**

Reception and Dinner to follow  
The San Francisco Italian Athletic Club  
1630 Stockton Street  
San Francisco  
7:00 p.m.  
Reservation Form Enclosed

A response is requested by Wednesday, October 19, 2016

St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco

**2016 RED MASS  
RECEPTION AND DINNER**

RESERVATION FORM

**HONORING STEPHEN T. LANCTOT  
RECIPIENT OF THE 2016 ST. THOMAS MORE AWARD**

Tuesday, October 25, 2016  
The San Francisco Italian Athletic Club  
1630 Stockton Street, San Francisco

Please reserve \_\_\_ Banquet places at \$90 per person  
Please reserve \_\_\_ Banquet places at \$45 per person (clergy and students)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Eggplant \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of others in your party for whom payment is submitted (use additional sheets if necessary):

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Eggplant \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Eggplant \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form and a check payable to the St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco to:

Andres Orphanopoulos  
Treasurer, St. Thomas More Society  
North Coast Land Holdings LLC  
2350 Kerner Boulevard, Suite 360  
San Rafael, California 94901  
Phone 650-224-1129 | Fax 415-461-5946  
orphanopoulos@gmail.com

Payment may also be made via Paypal to stthomasmoresf@yahoo.com.

**PLEASE RESPOND BY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016**



**ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
2016 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:*

**Andres Orphanopoulos**  
**Treasurer, St. Thomas More Society**  
**North Coast Land Holdings LLC**  
**2350 Kerner Boulevard, Suite 360**  
**San Rafael, California 94901**  
**Phone 650-224-1129 | Fax 415-461-5946**  
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