

St. Thomas More Society
of San Francisco
www.stthomasmore-sf.org

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Karen Kimmey,
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Regis Servus Dei Prius
April 6, 2018

Dear Members and Friends:

I hope you all had a very Happy Easter - remember the celebration lasts for fifty days (until Pentecost)!

Thanks to everyone who attended the March Luncheon with Father Hurley and to **Catherine Dacre** and her staff at Seyfarth Shaw for hosting us. Special thanks go to all those who participated in the very insightful discussion that followed the talk - I found it remarkable in tying the religious theme of “silence” with the practice of law (and with a little generational politics thrown in!).

Those interested in further reading on the theme might enjoy the following recent article from the New York Times, recommended by our colleague **Bob Wallach**:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/17/us/trappist-monks-mepkin-abbey.html>

LENTEN LUNCHESES

Thanks also to all those who attended this year’s series of Lenten Lunches and most especially to **Don Carroll** for preparing and leading four weeks of scriptural reflection and discussion. Once again, Don provided invaluable food for thought that enriched our Lenten reflections and paved the way for a joyous Easter.

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APRIL LUNCHEON

This month's lunch will take place on **Thursday, April 26** at the De Marillac Academy, **175 Golden Gate Avenue** in the Tenderloin. Tours of the school will be led by the students between 11:30 and 12:00. Lunch will begin at noon and our speaker is the **Hon. David DeAlba**, Chief Judge of the Sacramento County Superior Court. We expect the story of Judge DeAlba's life and career will inspire both students and our members!

De Marillac Academy is the only tuition-free Catholic school in San Francisco and provides a uniquely holistic education for underserved children in the Tenderloin with incredible results. I hope you can all make time for the school tour before lunch to hear about the students' extraordinary accomplishments.

This year also marks our fourth year of partnership with De Marillac and **Phil Kearney** will be coordinating this year's service projects (thanks, Phil!).

The cost for this month's lunch is once again **\$25**. Students and new members eat free and all members are strongly encouraged to bring a guest.

RSVP: <http://www.stthomasmore-sf.org/upcoming-events/payments/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

USF Interfaith Panel and Reception. The USF Student Chapter of the Society has invited us to a networking reception and panel discussion on the subject of how (or if) lawyers can balance their faith and professional lives. The event will take place on **April 9th** at **5:00 p.m.** in the Terrace Room of the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Catholic Charities West Loaves & Fishes Gala. St. Thomas More Society members are also invited to attend the annual Loaves & Fishes Gala hosted by Catholic Charities West on May 24 at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. The Gala will honor Kathleen Cardinal of Children's Hospital Medical Center and CPMC. Live music will be performed by Ethan Bortnick.

Please RSVP by clicking this link by May 2:
<http://catholiccharitiessf.org/loavesandfishes/>

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2018 DUES

The Society depends on membership dues to fund all of its activities. Dues are \$100 for practitioners with over five years' experience and \$75 for those with fewer. Law students are free.

Annual dues can be paid at the Luncheon or online – please do so!

<http://www.stthomasmore-sf.org/how-to-join/>

Feel free to contact me or Treasurer Bryan Saalfeld with questions about dues or whether your membership is current.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions for the Society – I look forward to seeing you all soon.

God bless,

Tony

Anthony D. Phillips
President

Chaplain's Column: Make a Bold Move This Easter

In her book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, Marie Kondo teaches her readers about the Japanese art of decluttering and organizing. She writes that, in her experience, people often make big changes in their lives once they have cleaned and organized their living spaces. For example, they might start a new business, heal a broken relationship, or lose weight. Apparently, it was the overwhelming amount of junk and the chaos or mess in their homes that was holding them back.

The concept of spring-cleaning, or decluttering in the springtime, dates back to the Jewish Passover. The ancient Israelites left Egypt in a hurry and did not have time for the bread to rise and therefore made it without yeast for easier travel. Today, Jews spend weeks before the Passover holiday cleaning their homes to remove every speck of yeast. They will carefully scour the entire house, looking in every crack and crevice, to be sure that even the tiniest fragment is gone. Unleavened bread and clearing out the old yeast in the spring, therefore, have become symbols of being on the move, forging ahead, and making progress in life.

For the last six weeks, we have been working to declutter our souls during Lent. In fact, the word "Lent" comes from an old English word that means "springtime." Lent therefore constitutes a kind of spiritual spring-cleaning. In the second reading at Mass on Easter Sunday, Saint Paul advised his readers to "clear out the old yeast, so that [they]

may become a fresh batch of dough" (1 Cor. 5:7). In other words, the time is ripe this Easter season, after the spiritual spring cleaning of our souls during Lent, to take a big step and make a bold move that will change our lives.

While Jesus lived, his disciples frequently demonstrated cowardice and confusion. After his resurrection, the story changed completely. Showing himself to be alive by many convincing signs, he appeared to the apostles for forty days and spoke with them about the kingdom of God. When they received the Holy Spirit, they became his witnesses in Jerusalem, in the nearby regions of Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.

Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, the apostles made many bold moves. They spoke truth to power and proclaimed Jesus Christ, even when arrested by government officials, attacked by mobs, and threatened with death. They lived in community, sharing everything and providing for the poor, and eventually laid down their lives, fulfilling the final command of their master to "love one another as I love you" (John 15:12). Indeed, the words "bold," "boldly," or "boldness" appear no fewer than ten times in the Acts of the Apostles.

Spiritual growth results from a series of difficult choices to step out boldly rather than retreat to familiar corners and to make bold moves rather than always taking the safe course. Genuine disciples

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of Christ do not allow fear to interfere with their decision to serve in ministry, give to the church and to the poor, grow in their faith, pray, or share their faith. Instead, they boldly embrace the uncertainty of change, the pain of suffering, the risk of sharing, and the inconvenience of real commitment, in order to make bold moves on behalf of the Lord.

Follow the apostles this Easter season as they boldly proclaim Christ to a waiting world and then make some bold moves of your own.

—Father Roger Gustafson, Chaplain