

St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco

www.stthomasmore-sf.org

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Regis Servus Dei Prius

March 8, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of the Society:

I hope that your Lent is off to a prayerful and blessed start. In this sacred season, the Society is pleased to be able to offer excellent opportunities for reflection, growth and service.

We invite you to join us for one of our upcoming lunch meetings and presentations, including a very special presentation by our own Dean Trasviña of University of San Francisco School of Law on immigration issues under the Trump administration. We also would love to see you at one of our weekly Lenten reflections held during the lunch hour on Tuesdays this month. Finally, please mark your calendars for our first service event of 2017 – service as a group at St. Anthony's Dining Room.

Please join us for some or all of these special events, and bring a friend or colleague!

March Lunch

Please join us for a very special lunch on March 16. John Trasviña, Dean of the University of San Francisco School of Law, will discuss immigration issues in the Trump administration, including the concept of Sanctuary Cities and the University of San Francisco's efforts to assist immigrants as a Jesuit institution. Dean Trasviña is a respected expert on immigration issues and brings a unique perspective on both the legal and social justice issues associated with the timely and important subject of immigration.

We expect attendance to be high at this event. Please RSVP either by submitting the attached form, responding by Evite, or simply emailing our treasurer, Andres Orphanopoulos at orphanopoulos@gmail.com. Please also reach out to friends and colleagues who are interested in immigration issues or who you think might be interested in this topic. All are welcome.

Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017; 12:00 noon

Place: The Family Club, 545 Powell Street, San Francisco

Cost: \$52 (lawyers with 10 years or more in practice), \$42 (less than 10 years in practice), \$25 (law students and clergy) There is no cost for first time prospective members of the Society.

Speaker: Dean John Trasviña: Immigration Issues in the Trump Administration

April Lunch

Please also mark your calendars for our April 27 lunch. This will be our annual lunch at the DeMarillac Academy in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. The Society has partnered with DeMarillac for several years, working to support their mission to serve the youth of the Tenderloin with a high quality Catholic education. We will eat lunch at the school with the eighth grade students, hear a little bit about DeMarillac. We will also hear some inspirational thoughts from Bill Cartwright, former professional basketball star and head coach of the Chicago Bulls, and current Director of University Initiatives at USF.

Lenten Series

We are pleased to announce that our former President and Awardee, Don Carroll, will once again lead a series of luncheon studies and reflections during the Lenten season. The theme will be: Lent with John the Evangelist: the Book of Signs. The "signs" in John's Gospel are certain acts of Jesus (some of which we would call miracles) whose purpose was the revelation of who Jesus was and is. On a personal note, I attended today's session and thought it was very informative and inspirational – a great way to stay focused during Lent.

Dates: March 14, 21 and 28

Time: 12:00-1:00

Location: Farella, Braun + Martel: 235 Montgomery Street, 17th Floor

This is a brown-bag (bring your own) lunch, and there is no fee. You do not need to attend all of the sessions. Just come when you are able. Contact me if you wish to attend, or simply show up. All are welcome.

Service Opportunity

A central part of our mission as a Society is to be of service to the community. To that end, we have arranged to bring a group of members to serve at the St. Anthony's Dining Room on April 22. We will gather at 9:15 and help prepare and serve lunch to the St. Anthony's guests. We will be done by about 1:45. We are looking for a group of about ten volunteers.

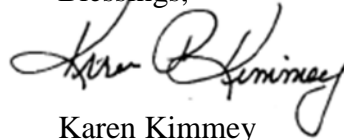
Please contact me if you are able to join us. I can testify that providing this direct service to the needy in our city is a memorable and rewarding experience.

Membership

If you have not yet done so, please submit your membership dues for 2017. You can do so at our website. We rely on dues for all our great programs.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions for the Society.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Kimmey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

Karen Kimmey
President

The Hypocrisy of Lent

On the First Sunday of Lent, we heard in the first reading that God created man and woman and placed them in the garden with various trees which were “good for food.” From the very beginning, therefore, God made humankind with an appetite. We become hungry; we desire; we crave. In the gospel reading, Jesus is tempted by the devil precisely because he, too, as fully human, had an appetite. After forty days and nights of fasting, he became hungry; he desired; he craved.

Hunger is normal. What matters, on the other hand, is *what* we desire and crave. For what do we hunger? Jesus resisted the temptations to demand bread from God rather than the Word of God that truly feeds, to put God to the test rather than trust in God’s will, and to seek power and authority rather than hunger and thirst for justice and righteousness. All three temptations by the devil are exactly what we are not to do as the People of God. Rather than demand bread from God, we are to hunger for the Word of God. Rather than worship something other than God to satisfy our own desires, we are to serve others. Rather than put God to the test, we are to trust in him and be satisfied with what his providence provides.

During Lent, we examine more closely our relationship with God and turn back to him with repentant hearts by fasting, praying, and helping the poor. However, Lent is not something we do alone. Of course, repentance and getting right with God is an intensely personal matter. Jesus instructs his disciples to hide their fasting, to pray alone in their rooms, and to give alms in secret, so that they do not become

hypocrites like the Pharisees, who make a show of their external acts of piety.

On the other hand, we have to do Lent together, because Lent is not just about getting right with God, but also about getting right with each other. During Lent, we seek to love our neighbor more fully, to recommit ourselves to live in peace and harmony with one another, and to work for truth and justice in our world. These are things we have to do together. In our world today, we see so many evident reminders of patent injustice, hurt, and exploitation of people. We see this no more clearly than in the poor and the hungry.

In my parish, we are spending Lent together learning about the problem of global hunger and how we can work for social justice and the betterment of people. More than a billion people live in extreme poverty and are undernourished. Each year, three million children die of starvation. In our own country, 1 in 5 children—or 20 percent—live at risk of hunger. The only meal some children receive during the day is lunch at their school.

It is true that repentance and personal conversion is something we must do alone in the silence of our hearts. Yet, Lent is something we also *need* to do together because our good intentions are directed at other people who need our help, and, even though we are not perfect, we still have good intentions to make this world a better place. During this season, we publicly admit that we are sinners and have fallen far short of the mark. However, we also

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enter Lent with hope for the future that we can turn back to God and begin again by reaching out to others who are the most vulnerable in our world.

In other words, Lent cannot be observed alone, because forgetting about the poor and their plight during Lent, forgetting about those who go hungry and do not have enough food to eat, forgetting about the stranger and the immigrant among us who suffer is the worst hypocrisy of all.

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY JANUARY 2017 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 March 16, 2017, 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:

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