

St. Thomas More Society OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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Regis Servus Dei Patri

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Dear Members and Friends:

Happy New Year! It is with great excitement that I write this newsletter, my first as President of the Society.

On behalf of myself and the Board, I'd like to thank Anthony Phillips, our immediate past president, for his service to the Society in 2018. I am honored to follow his lead and hope to carry his dedication to our members, the growth of the Society, and new programs promoting professional and spiritual development into the new year. In addition, we welcome new board members Paula Braccio, Stacy Miller Awarick, and Catherine Thelen, who will help us in planning our monthly luncheons, Theology on Tap events, community service initiatives, and other programs. There is much to share for our members, and we look forward to expanding our membership and promoting deeper connections amongst our community of Catholic lawyers in the coming year.

In his address to young people at the National Shrine of Mary, Starings, Child, last January, Pope Francis discussed community as an important component of our connection to Christ:

"We are all embarking, faith is renewed, be it through a retreat, a homily, a meeting, a Pope's visit; faith grows. But after a while on the journey or after an initial spark, there are moments when, without even realizing it, our "handcuffs" begins to talk, slowly, and that embarking, that desire to stay connected to Jesus begins to also talk, and we start to lose our connection, our power, then we become unhappy and we lose our faith ..."

Dear friends, be courageous, go out straightforward to meet your friends, people you don't know, or those having troubles. Go out with the only promise we have: that wherever you