

❖ Ad Veritatem ❖

Volume 1 Issue 1

Official Publication of the St. Thomas More Society

January, 1996

WHAT IS THE SOCIETY?

The St. Thomas More Society has been formed by a few Catholic lawyers seeking to find new Catholic friends to come together once a month to discuss common challenges to our Faith experienced in the practice of law and to further our need to continually educate ourselves about our Catholic faith. We all face many challenges to our Faith in our daily practices and with the help of others in the same position, we can support each other in our quest for spiritual growth. We have prepared a formal statement of our purposes and goals which is set forth on page 3. This is our ideal to which we will strive, it is not a statement of self-grandisement. We hope to provide opportunities to Catholic lawyers to strengthen their Faith through discussion of common problems as well as speakers who will help us deepen our understanding of the laws of God. (No, this does not qualify for MCLE credit - at least not the type required by the State Bar of California!)

Monthly meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month. (Please see special apologetics class discussed in the following article.) The meetings are held at Rutan & Tucker's offices (12th floor) at 611 Anton Blvd in Costa Mesa (at the 405 freeway and Bristol). A light lunch is provided. We try to hold the meetings to a little over 1 hour. Please come and invite a friend! If you plan to attend, please let us know so we can order lunch! Call Dave Belz at 347-0447 or Anne Lanphar at 641-5100.

Editor's Note:

"Ad veritatem" is Latin for "toward the truth".



St. Thomas More first suffered the loss of his position as Chancellor of England and his wealth, long before he was imprisoned and martyred for his Faith.

TIM STAPLES, CATHOLIC APOLOGIST, TO GIVE SPECIAL SEMINAR!

"Apologetics" simply means giving a reasoned explanation for the Faith. A Catholic apologist explains and defends Catholic doctrine in a clear and charitable way, using Scripture, history and common sense.

Six classes in biblical apologetics will be conducted by Tim Staples, a former Baptist, Assembly of God youth pastor, door-to-door evangelizer and convert to Catholicism. Tim will explore the Scriptural basis for commonly misunderstood Catholic beliefs including: the Primacy of Peter, Authority of the Church, the Priesthood, Mary, Apostolic Succession, Sola Scriptura, Justification and the Eucharist.

Tim is a dynamic, logical speaker who will help even cradle Catholics to learn the basis for Catholic beliefs. (Yes, even the Jesuit trained among you will learn something.) Tim's lecture series is dynamic, intellectually challenging and in great demand throughout Southern California.

Tim Staples has agreed to present his basic course to the Society on the following dates: May 9, May 16, June 6, June 13, July 11.

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JANUARY DISCUSSION TOPIC: *The Sin of Pride*

*Pride is the
disordered
love of self or
one's own
success to the
exclusion of
others or God.*

Pride is defined in the Encyclopedia of Catholicism as "the disordered love of self or one's own success to the exclusion of others or God. Pride is a capital sin because it is often the source of other sins." Pride is one of the 7 deadly sins (or capital sins) and was the lowest level of purgatory in Dante's *Inferno*. The sin of pride was the underlying cause of the downfall of mankind in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit seeking to be like God as well as the fall of Satan and his followers who would not bow to Christ as a man.

Pride is a 2 sided coin: pride in one's own accomplishments and assets (internal) and pride in what others think of us (external). As lawyers we must take care to seek God's help in all that we do and to acknowledge that what we do accomplish is a result of His blessings and help.

St. Thomas More was a martyr for his Faith but it should be remembered that his **first sacrifice** was the loss of his powerful position as Chancellor of England together with the loss of his wealth, followed by the loss of his personal freedom and death. We often think we are ready to die for our Faith but are we willing to suffer the agony of a reduced draw or salary? Do we trust God to direct our life or do we maintain control at all times?

Suggested scriptural readings:

Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 6:24-34

Recommended book: *A Simple Path* by Mother Teresa.

The following is a prayer by Mother Teresa said daily by her order, the Missionaries of Charity:

*Deliver me, O Jesus,
From the desire of being loved,
From the desire of being extolled,
From the desire of being honored,
From the desire of being praised,
From the desire of being preferred,
From the desire of being consulted,
From the desire of being approved,*

*From the desire of being popular,
From the fear of being humiliated,
From the fear of being despised,
From the fear of suffering rebukes,
From the fear of being calumniated,
From the fear of being forgotten,
From the fear of being wronged,
From the fear of being ridiculed,
From the fear of being suspected.*

FEBRUARY DISCUSSION TOPIC: *Law Practice and the Christian Ideal*

Greg Weiler of Palmieri, Tyler, Wiener, Wilhelm & Waldron, will be the speaker at our February meeting. Greg will focus on the Practice of Law and the Christian Ideal: Big Dollars, Big Hours, Big Reputation, Big House, Hot Car - What's wrong with this picture? Please join us for an open discussion on the what should be the driving focus of our practice and our lives.

SCRIPTURAL CORNER:

"No one can be a slave of two masters; he will hate one and love the other; he will be loyal to one and despise the other. You can not serve both God and money. This is why I tell you: do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn't life worth more than food? And isn't the body worth more than clothes? Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds?"

Mt 6:24-26

(Continued from page 1) STAPLES

and July 18. The sessions will be held at Rutan & Tucker on the 12th Floor. A light lunch will be provided. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend all of these classes: it will be the best investment you can make for yourself. If you plan to attend, please contact Dave Belz at 347-0447, Greg Weiler at 851-7238 or Anne Lanphar at 641-5100

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY

The St. Thomas More Society of Orange County is an independent organization sponsored by lawyers and judges who are practicing members of the Roman Catholic Church.

IDEALS OF ST. THOMAS MORE:

The legal profession is a high calling with corresponding responsibilities to society.

The principal objective of every lawyer is to promote and seek justice for all.

Catholic lawyer must pursue truth even if the truth is contrary to contemporary society.

The duty of a Catholic lawyer is to remain faithful to Jesus Christ, His Church and its teachings at all times despite the personal consequences.

PURPOSE: *The purpose and objective of the Society is:*

To encourage its members to live a Christian life and apply the principals and ideals exemplified by St. Thomas More in their daily lives and encourage same in the legal profession.

To promote and foster high ethical principles in the legal profession generally and, in particular, in the community of Catholic lawyers.

To assist in the spiritual growth of its members.

To encourage interfaith understanding and brotherhood.

To sponsor the annual Red Mass for elected and appointed officials and members of the legal profession

MEMBER COMMITMENTS: *Each member of the Society will commit:*

To strive to live an exemplary Christian life and apply the principals and ideals exemplified by St. Thomas More in their daily lives and encourage same in the legal profession.

To participate in the monthly Mass and/or prayer meeting of the Society.

To attend and support the Red Mass.

To recruit new members to the Society.

LAWYER'S PRAYER:

GIVE ME THE GRACE, GOOD LORD, TO SET THE WORLD AT NAUGHT; TO SET MY MIND FAST UPON THEE AND NOT TO HANG UPON THE BLAST OF MEN'S MOUTHS; TO BE CONTENT TO BE SOLITARY; NOT TO LONG FOR WORLDLY COMPANY BUT UTTERLY TO CAST OFF THE WORLD AND RID MY MIND OF THE BUSINESS THEREOF.

St. Thomas More

1996 SOCIETY MEETING CALENDAR

Normal monthly meetings are on the 3rd Thursday. The meetings in May, June and July are the dates for the special Biblical Apologetics course. Please see article on page 1 regarding Tim Staples.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

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ST THOMAS MORE SOCIETY

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