

# ad. veritatem

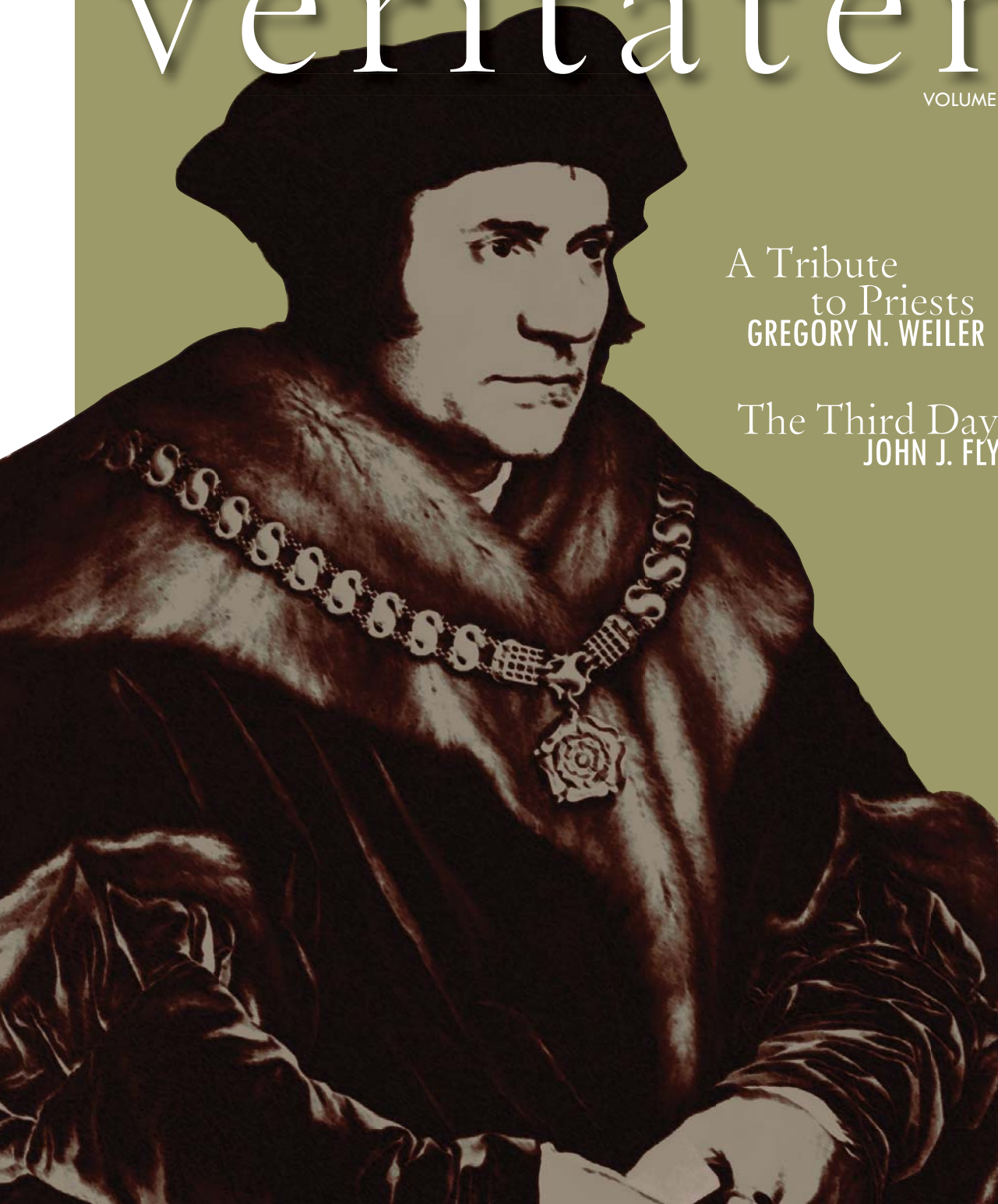
ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

APRIL 2012

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 4

A Tribute  
to Priests  
GREGORY N. WEILER

The Third Day  
JOHN J. FLYNN III



# A TRIBUTE TO PRIESTS

**GREGORY N. WEILER**

When I was growing up, we weren't the kind of family that had priests over to the house. Growing up attending Catholic school, it always seemed that those other "holy" Catholic families had priests over for dinner or to social events other than Sunday Mass. I saw the seemingly omnipotent priests at Mass when I served Mass as an altar boy and when they visited our school. As a kid, I put priests in the same category as police officers and dentists, people you might need, but certainly not people you would voluntarily socialize with.



It's funny how things change after 30 years. Recently an acquaintance asked me how I developed a passion for our faith. Both of us had very similar backgrounds, nominal Catholic families with more than their share of dysfunction. He is one of those "I was raised Catholic," people you so often run across, and I am one of those religious "whackos" who actually believe that your faith should influence your life. His question intrigued me as I examined my life and looked for critical turning points. When I performed this little examination of my life history, it occurred to me that various individual priests had a profound influence on my life.

While I had never gone out of my way to cultivate relationships with priests, these men seemed to pop up with annoying frequency [ :) ] to shake up my spiritual life. How many other men and women had these men influenced? There is no doubt in my mind that these six or seven special priests ("My Special Priests") had influenced thousands, either directly or indirectly, toward a more intimate relationship with God.

Each of My Special Priests would insist that I acknowledge that they were mere instruments of Christ and deserved no personal credit. So stipulated, but praise be to God for men docile to the Holy Spirit.

Could Father O'Malley, later Monsignor, (now up in Heaven) ever imagine that his one homily on a non-descript Sunday during his 84th year, heard by a young, self-absorbed

**(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)**

## ad. veritatem

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.

### ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>PRESIDENT</b> <b>Gregory Weiler</b> <small>PALMIERI TYLER WEINER WILHELM &amp; WALDRON</small>	<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b> <b>Donald A. Hunsberger</b> <small>THE LAW OFFICES OF DONALD A. HUNSBERGER</small>	<b>Deborah Knefel</b> <small>LAW OFFICES OF DEBORAH PERNICE KNEFEL</small>
<b>SECRETARY</b> <b>Fabio Cabezas</b>	<b>WEBMASTER</b> <b>Steven Cotugno</b> <small>CONSULTING SOFTWARE ENGINEER</small>	<b>David Luke</b> <small>BICKMORE RISK SERVICES</small>
<b>TREASURER</b> <b>Michael Murphy, CPA</b> <small>THE ACCOUNTANCY FIRM OF MURPHY, MURPHY &amp; MURPHY, INC.</small>	<b>Lydia Duynstee</b>	<b>William Malecki</b> <small>STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND</small>
<b>CHAPLAIN</b> <b>Rev. Hugh C. Barbour, O. Praem, Ph.D.</b> <small>ST. MICHAEL'S ABBEY</small>	<b>John J. Flynn III</b> <small>NOSSAMAN LLP</small>	<b>Ron Moore</b> <small>THE LAW OFFICES OF VIRGINIA L. LANDRY, INC.</small>
<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b> <b>Hon. David Belz</b> <small>O.C. SUPERIOR COURT</small>	<b>John L. Flynn III</b> <small>O.C. SUPERIOR COURT</small>	<b>Alma Sanchez</b> <small>HYUNDAI MOTOR AMERICA</small>
	<b>Marv Howard</b> <small>SILVERBERG &amp; COOK, INC.</small>	<b>Jake Vollebregt</b> <small>CAPTAIN, U.S. MARINE CORPS</small>
		<b>David Werner</b> <small>LAW OFFICE OF DAVID WERNER, LLP</small>

### ADVISORY BOARD

Hon. Michael Brenner, Retired • Hon. David T. McEachen • Bishop Cirilo Flores  
Dean John Eastman • Hon. Andrew J. Guilford • Robert J. Spitzer, S.J.

#### 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. Catholic Lawyers pursue the truth in both their spiritual and professional lives. 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.

#### THE OBJECTIVES OF STMS

- encouraging its members to live a Christian life and apply the principles and ideals exemplified by St. Thomas More in their lives and encourage same in the legal profession.
- promoting and foster high ethical principals in the legal profession generally and, in particular, in the community of Catholic lawyers.
- assisting in the spiritual growth of its members.
- encouraging interfaith understanding and brotherhood.
- sponsoring the annual Red Mass for

elected and appointed officials and members of the legal profession.

#### MEMBERSHIP IN STMS

Each member of the Society is committed to:

- strive to live an exemplary Christian life and apply the principles and ideals exemplified by St. Thomas More in their daily lives and encourage same in the legal profession.
- attend monthly meeting of the Society and provide personal support to the St. Thomas More Society.
- attend and support the Red Mass.

#### 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

**EDITOR@STTHOMASMORE.NET**

# THE THIRD DAY

JOHN J. FLYNN III

It is difficult to escape the intuition that the Resurrection is the answer of God to every injustice and outrage, every loss and sorrow, every crime and treason, even the many appalling events accounted in Scripture. The fruit of evil is death; on the third day, the power of death was broken.

The answer to the whole confounding history of human suffering is the suffering of God, the unveiling of the truth that lay hidden in the Old Testament, like a seed buried in the ground, like Christ lying in the tomb. With the Crucifixion, the solidarity of God with humanity is perfected; with the Resurrection the phenomenon of suffering, of evil, is overcome. Love has broken its power. The Crucifixion, however, is more than a riddle to which the Resurrection provides the answer. The Crucifixion is the very path to the Resurrection, and the first steps on the path were taken, in a sense, east of Eden, with the banishment of Adam and Eve, each generation bearing the burden of sin, until finally the burden is laid upon the shoulders of Christ.

The violence depicted frequently in the Old Testament can be stupefying, and one wonders how it all could have led to the message of the Gospels. Humanity was then immersed in warfare, slaughter, even human sacrifice. The stories of the Old Testament produce a kind of shock that can only have

been intended, to force us into reflection on the mystery of life and death: origins, meaning, destiny. It is impossible to avert one's gaze.

The shock is meant to awaken, to produce a new awareness, but of what? The eternal things, the meaning of history, the culmination of the first age, which began with the disobedience of Adam in a garden, and ends with the obedience of the New Adam, again in a garden.

The violence of the Old Testament is a kind of language. A missionary succeeds only by speaking the native language. So God begins by speaking the native tongue, engaging the Israelites initially in their own vocabulary, which begins a long period of instruction and enlightenment, culminating in the overt lessons of the Gospels, the revelation of the Cross, and the victory of life.

"On the third day . . ." Now we know that love is stronger even than death, and that the last word, as here, belongs to life. ♦



## MAY MEETING

FR. TIM PETERS, M. Div, M.A.

Fr. Tim grew up in Fountain Valley and attended Holy Spirit Church from his childhood. He attended Saint John's Seminary in Camarillo where he received an M. Div and M.A. with an emphasis in Biblical theology. He was ordained by Bishop Tod D. Brown in June 2003 and served four years at Saint Anne's Parish in Santa Ana and then two years at Saint Anthony Claret in Anaheim.

In 2009, Fr. Tim journeyed to Rome for further studies in Biblical theology. In 2011, he finished his Licentiate at the Gregorian University. He has been at the Mission San Juan Capistrano since July of 2011 where he offers continual courses for the laity in Biblical theology.



*The Law Offices of  
Deborah Pernice Knefel*

- Labor and Employment Law
- Municipal and Admin. Law
- Tort/Business Litigation

333 City Blvd. West,  
17th Floor  
Orange, Calif. 92868  
(714) 937-2035  
dpknefelesq@gmail.com



**WEALTH  
MANAGEMENT**  
*Silverberg &  
Cook, Inc.*

Marven  
Howard, JD

(714) 939-1113 office  
(714) 401-8996 cell

Securities and Investment Advisory  
services offered through Girard  
Securities, Inc. - Member FINRA, SIPC

**MAMMOTH  
REAL ESTATE**  
COLDWELL BANKER

*Fly fishing, golf, skiing,  
back packing, property sales*

**MIKE S. MARTIN**  
949.292.3447

Advertise in  
**ad.  
veritatem**

- Affordable  
advertising at \$150  
per year -



[editor@stthomasmore.net](mailto:editor@stthomasmore.net)

# A TRIBUTE TO PRIESTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

law student, stating that you don't go to Mass to "get anything out of Mass," but rather to "thank and worship the God who created you and meet, see and commune with the incarnate Jesus," would change the young man's life? Hmm. "Creator" or "creation"—where do I fit in this picture?

Could he know that giving this young law student a dusty 1920's vintage biography of St. Thomas More might, some 20 years later, provide him with a model for his legal practice?

Could Father Ray Skoneski on a Cursillo retreat really anticipate that the story of a young sailor in Japan rejecting the port of call and instead deciding to return to the States to pursue God in a Trapist Monastery, would influence a 37 year-old lawyer to reject his "port of call" and instead pursue the authentic ideal?

What about Father David Carvallo, a Benedictine monk from Bombay, India, teaching the "little way" of St. Therese of Lisieux? Imagine a 5-foot-tall Indian monk at Prince of Peace Abbey teaching a middle-aged lawyer that our Heavenly Father has the world's problems well in hand without him, that he could not read his way to holiness, and, well, to believe in our Father's love (too much love to describe in a little article). "Father, I realize that everything that I've got and that everything good that I do comes from God, but, but, but..." "Greg, Greg, Greg let's start over. It's not about you." Father David is now in Heaven too.

What about the priest whose name I have now forgotten who, during his homily in a little town called Medjugore, Bosnia, first articulated to me that the story of the Prodigal

Son was really about a "Prodigal Father." A Father who loves us so much that He gives us our inheritance up front, no questions asked, and even after we waste it away (in fact knowing in advance we would), will run to us, slam a ring on our finger, clothe us in His finest robe and kill the fatted calf if only we will turn from the pigsty—and turn, and turn, and turn.

All of this little vignettes stand out in my life, but are certainly inconsequential when compared to the supernatural impact that these and all priests have on countless souls when they consecrate the Eucharist and distribute Christ at every Mass. To estimate such effect is to try to quantify the illumination from the sun, or the Son, measure the immeasurable, fathom the unfathomable. It can't be done. We must rather embrace the daily incarnation with the sweetest appreciation. Catherine Doherty, foundress of The Madonna House Ministry, wrote that in Russia, prior to the revolution, it was common to greet a priest by kissing his hands in recognition that moments before, such hands had held Jesus, just like the Blessed Virgin once held the Babe.

I say: Kiss the hands of your priests. I offer a special thank you to my Special Priests<sup>1</sup>, and all those other men in our lives standing in persona Christi.

<sup>1</sup>Monsignor Earnest Gualderon, St. Anthony's, Long Beach, California, Monsignor Thomas O'Malley, St. Rita's, Sierra Madre, Monsignor Paul Martin, Mission San Juan Capistrano, Monsignor John (Padre Juanoté), San Felipe de Jesus, Capistrano Beach, Father Leo Cellano and all the other Norbertines, Father Raymond Skoneski, Father David Cavallo, Father Gabriel Hannon ("Preacher Jim"), Trinitarian Fathers, Father Ho Lung Missionaries of the Poor, Father Luke Mata O.D. (and many more).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTH	DATE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
May	Wed., May 16, 12:00 p.m.	Lunch meeting. Fr. Tim Peters will speak on "The Beauty and Importance of the Psalter."	Jilio-Ryan Hunter & Olsen 14661 Franklin, #150 Tustin, California <a href="http://jilioryan.com">jilioryan.com</a>
	Sun., May 27, 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Come to help cook and serve breakfast to the homeless of the community at Isaiah House. <a href="http://www.occatholicworker.org">www.occatholicworker.org</a>	Isaiah House 316 S. Cypress Avenue Santa Ana, CA 92701 (714) 835-6304
June	Wed., June 20, 12:00 p.m.	Lunch meeting. Greg Weiler will speak on the spirituality of Abraham Lincoln.	Jilio-Ryan Hunter & Olsen (same as above)
October	Mon., Oct 1	St. Thomas More Society Orange County Annual Red Mass.	Holy Family Cathedral