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ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

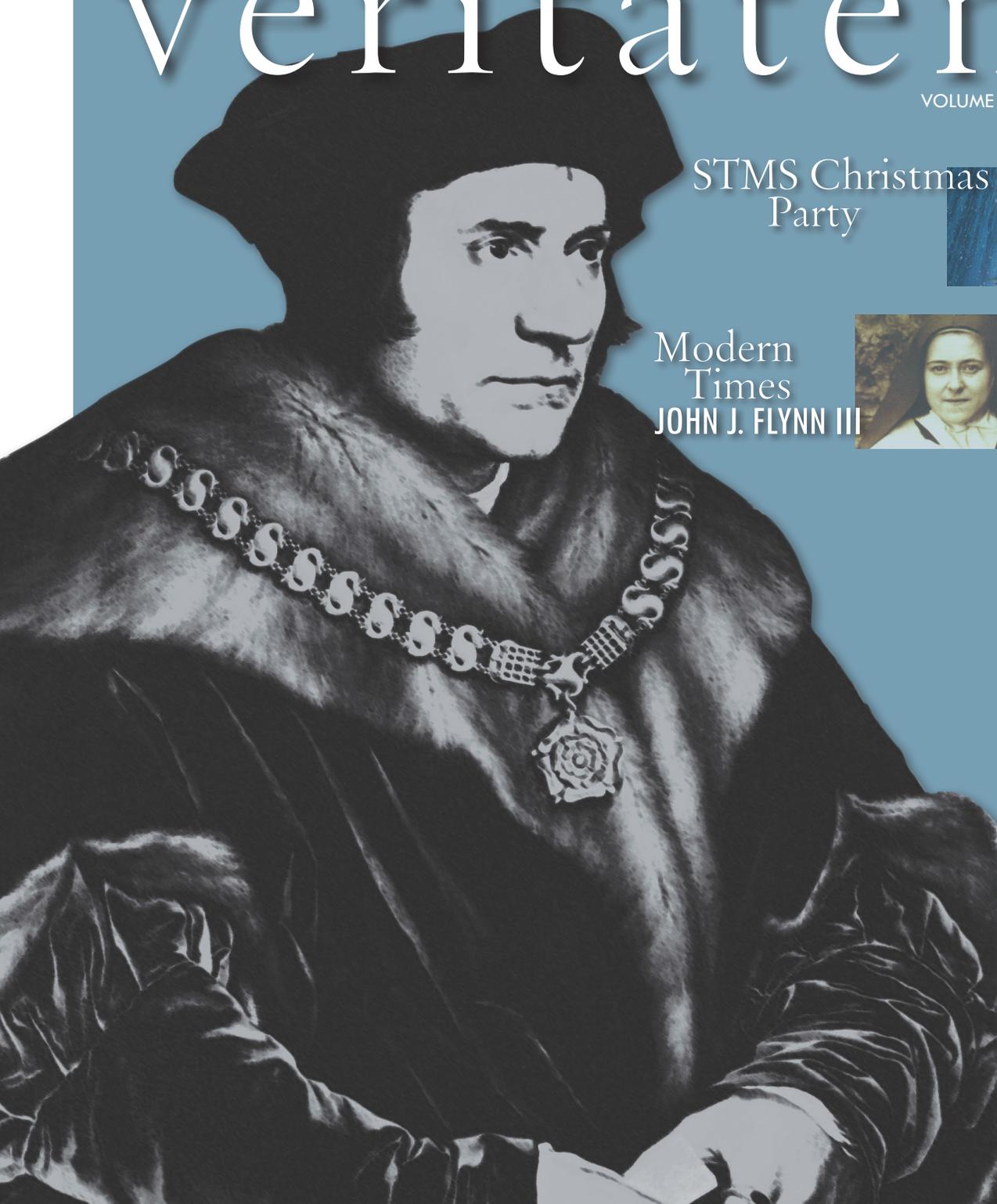
NOVEMBER 2014

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 8

STMS Christmas  
Party



Modern  
Times  
JOHN J. FLYNN III



## CALENDAR

### Friday, December 5, 6 p.m.

You and your guest are cordially invited to our Annual St. Thomas More Society Christmas Celebration with Bishop Kevin Vann at the Cultural Center of Christ Cathedral.

Be sure to mark your calendar, and kindly register for this event in advance so we can ensure a plethora of holiday treats and beverages.

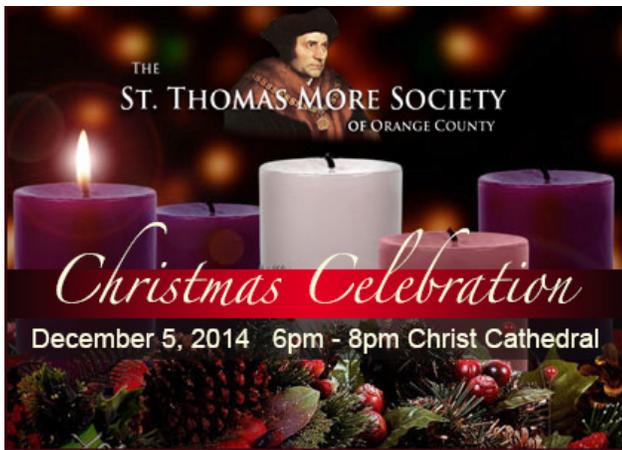
Festive Attire.

Your recommended donation of \$15 per person (\$10 for law students) offsets our costs and enables STMSOC to fulfill our mission of bringing the Light of Christ to the Orange County legal community.

Christ Cathedral - Cultural Center, 3rd Floor

Date: 12/05/2014 6:00 PM PST

Visit [www.stthomasmore.net](http://www.stthomasmore.net) for registration and more information.



### Wednesday, December 17, 12:00 p.m.

Monthly lunch meeting with speaker Fr. Paul Check.

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### Sunday, December 28, 8-11 a.m.

Feed the hungry at Isaiah House.

ISAIAH HOUSE · 316 S. CYPRESS ST.  
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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.

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### 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



# MODERN TIMES

JOHN J. FLYNN III

In 1907, Pope Pius X, only ten years after her death, called Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face the greatest saint of modern times. Pius' declaration, it should be noted, preceded Thérèse's canonization by 18 years.

On October 19, 1997, John Paul II declared Thérèse a Doctor of the Church, one of three women Doctors in the Church's history, along with St. Teresa of Avila and St. Catherine of Siena. None of the three was a theologian; all three were spiritual geniuses, all three blessed with such acute insights into the logic of divine love, that one wonders with St. Thomas Aquinas whether the whole of theology, set alongside the reality of divine love, is any more than a mound of straw. After all, even the devil knows theology. But theological truth draws all of its vitality from the Heart of the Lord, or it is no more than a dead letter, the stillborn thing of which we are warned by St. James. It is love alone that has given birth to divine law, the love that wills our healing, not our pain.

In his apostolic letter, *Divini Amoris Scientia*, John Paul II, no doubt aware of some of the eye-rolling taking place in certain circles over Thérèse's addition to the Church's pantheon, impliedly addressed the objection, and answered:

Even though Thérèse does not have a true and proper doctrinal corpus, nevertheless a particular radiance of doctrine shines forth from her writings which, as if by a charism of the Holy Spirit, grasp

the very heart of the message of Revelation in a fresh and original vision, presenting a teaching of eminent quality.

The core of her message is actually the mystery itself of God-Love, of the Triune God, infinitely perfect in himself. If genuine Christian spiritual experience should conform to the revealed truths in which God communicates himself and the mystery of his will (cf. *Dei Verbum*, N. 2), it must be said that Thérèse experienced divine revelation, going so far as to contemplate the fundamental truths of our faith united in the mystery of the Trinitarian life. At the summit, as the source and goal, is the merciful love of the three Divine Persons, as she expresses it, especially in her Act of Oblation to Merciful Love. At the root, on the subject's part, is the experience of being the Father's adoptive children in Jesus; this is the most authentic meaning of spiritual childhood, that is, the experience of divine filiation, under the movement of the Holy Spirit. At the root again, and standing before us, is our neighbour, others, for whose salvation we must collaborate with and in Jesus, with the same merciful love as his. (Emphasis in original.)

Love, then, is the fulfillment of the law, as St. Paul said.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

## MODERN TIMES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Have the times outrun Therese, and do we still live in modern times, or have we graduated to something new and perhaps unclassifiable? However we label the current age, Therese is a saint for these times; she cannot be outrun. At this precise moment in the Church's history, it may seem to us that we are called (yet again) to choose: truth or charity? Have we not seen this erroneously supposed tension again on display at the recent synod? But God is one, so there is no possibility of opposition between the attributes of God, even if one should appear to eyes dimmed by the limitations of intellect, and by all the burdens of sin, of pride

and hardness of heart, of the bottomless human capacity for self-deception.

Where do we look in the concrete circumstances of human existence for the unity of truth and charity, which can seem to us no more than an abstraction? Not to any idea, formulation, or principle, but only to the crucified Jesus can we look for resolution of this apparent tension of realities. In him, all oppositions are resolved.

Pope Francis has proposed no alteration to the content of Church doctrine, and he will not. Of that we can be confident. But he is engaged in an undertaking of enormous importance, no doubt expressive of the Lord's own will in these "modern times," to reveal that love and truth are but two sides of a coin, that love is indeed the heart of the Church, as Therese declared in a moment of

ecstatic insight.

Every cross laid upon the shoulders of humanity by the law paradoxically reveals the love of God. To borrow again from Henri de Lubac, every "no" uttered by the Church is the other side of an affirmation. Now is the time for laying bare the true nature of the affirmation, which is no mere human idea or principle, but the reality of the Crucified One. Every effort to throw from our shoulders these crosses, as if the Cross of Christ were like any other weight that merely crushes, will only place us at further remove from the very thing we seek with all our hearts: to be healed by love. The weight of the divine law is the weight of the Cross. It is the Cross that will, as it did for the Christ we follow, first crush us, then lift us, then deliver us. ♦

## SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

Are you serious about your faith?

For almost 500 years every Jesuit (Pope Francis, for instance) has experienced The Spiritual Exercises developed by St Ignatius of Loyola. The Exercises are an incredible prayer experience meant for folks who want to change, deepen their relationship with God. In Orange County we are blessed to have the Exercises are offered over a 9-month period facilitated by STMS Board member and Isaiah House super chef David Werner. The Exercises involve praying through scripture in a unique way and

meeting from time to time to share, led by Dave.

About doing the Exercises 10 years ago, STMS President Greg Weiler said: "I wanted to get closer to God. Most of the Catholics who I most admired had done the Exercises so I thought, I'm going for it. It changed my prayer life forever."

If you are interested in doing the Exercises starting next month call Dave Werner at 949 244-1566.

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