

# ad. veritatem

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

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What Is  
Man?  
**GREGORY WEILER**



Magdalene  
**JOHN J. FLYNN III**



Homily to Those  
Discerning Their  
Vocation  
**POPE FRANCIS**



William and  
Martha Sears  
**AUGUST LUNCH  
SPEAKERS**



# WHAT IS MAN?

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE GREGORY N. WEILER

As members of the legal profession, we are blessed to participate in the welfare of our nation at a fundamental level. Members of the St. Thomas More Society are charged with representing our faith in the legal system. I was moved by John Flynn's observation (see his article on page 3) that our Faith contains the "architecture of human happiness." Is that not something to be shared? As Catholic lawyers and judges, we are in the human happiness business, both temporal and eternal.

When it seems like the public square is teeming with chaos, where human dignity is muddled, challenged and distorted on every side, our faith points to reality. One of the inherent truths of the human person is that each of us is created, eternal, and redeemed—and hence due reverence, respect, and dignity.

Many things, persons, and ideas (case law and legislation included) detract from this reality. Animosity toward the concept of God, the uninformed acceptance of moral relativism, ignorance of the transcendent, advocacy of abortion rights, endorsement of the normalcy of homosexual behavior: these things can lead to confusion and discouragement. Some may ask, "Is the Church right or are we bigots? Should I leave my Christianity at home?"

Our Creator is the "architect of human happiness" and we know (without needing clarification from the Catechism) that the unborn are inviolate, that care for the weak and the poor complete us as human beings, and that self-indulgent narcissism is shallow and destructive, regardless of its sexual orientation. As St. Paul noted, these ideas are written on our hearts by our Creator. His Church, headed by Him, is reliably pointing us to the path to happiness and reality, stepping on the toes of liberal and conservative alike.

We are called by our Lord to live these truths in charity and to be tireless advocates for the reverence of the human person in our profession – take courage as we are pilloried, ridiculed and marginalized as we defend this reverence against the forces of dehumanization: "Blessed are you when they persecute you and utter calumnies against you for My sake, for yours..."

As St. John Bosco urges, keep your faith tethered between the columns of the Eucharist and Our Blessed Mother.

St. Thomas More, pray for us. PAX ~ GNW ♦

*Greg Weiler is a partner at Palmieri, Tyler, Wiener, Wilhelm & Waldron LLP in Irvine.*



ad.  
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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



# MAGDALENE

JOHN J. FLYNN III

There is an apparently irresistible impulse at work among artists and other creative thinkers (often including religious) to re-imagine Mary Magdalene, whose feast day is July 22. A new opera by Mark Adamo, *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*, premiered in June at the San Francisco Opera, which again re-imagines her life as a rebuke to the sex-starved morality of Christianity. Mary, as usual, embraces her sexuality, and attempts to deliver Jesus and a billion or so of his followers from their sexual hang-ups.

Will the Church never share in the blessings of the sexual revolution? The blessings are everywhere in evidence: More broken families and broken-hearted children, unstable, fearful relationships, over-sexualized children and, in general, the brutalization of psyches.

**WE ARE CATHOLIC  
NOT FOR FEAR OF  
SEX, BUT TO BUILD A  
KINGDOM OF LOVE.**

When the sexual dimension of human relationships gains too much power, every other aspect is weakened: sacrifice, selflessness, kindness, patience, forgiveness and simple human

dignity. And a war is ignited within, the war we wage with ourselves, struggling to silence the voice of truth, and to

believe the lies we need to justify the pain and the destruction we inflict.

We subject ourselves to self-denial as Christians not to avoid a negative, since sex is a good, so long as we understand and abide by the restraints imposed by love. Indeed, when we deny ourselves the moment for the sake of another's happiness, the love of God itself enters the emptiness of self-denial, as water enters an empty vessel.

The story of Mary Magdalene is one of the most moving and dramatic in all of Scripture. It is nearly impossible not to sense in her story the tortures she had left behind, exorcised of seven demons by Jesus himself. And it is not hard to imagine that lust was one of her old demons. Neither is it difficult to imagine that the struggle remained a thorn in her flesh, though overcome by grace, and Jesus must certainly have known of her labors to remain free. It was not eros that drew Jesus to Mary, but his compassion and his mercy, his wish for her freedom and her happiness.

We are Catholic not for fear of sex, but to build a kingdom of love. And we can build nothing good without method and self-restraint, without sacrifice, sometimes exceedingly painful. Architecture is the difference between a work of art and a great pile of rubble. Our religion is the architecture of human happiness. ♦

*John Flynn is a partner at the Irvine Office of Nossaman LLP.*

SAVE  
THE DATE:

*Red Mass*

**OCTOBER 7, 2013**

The 2013 Red Mass will be held at Holy Family Cathedral in Orange at 6:00 p.m. Watch for more details coming soon in the Ad Veritatem and at [www.stthomasmore.net](http://www.stthomasmore.net)!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTH	DATE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
July	Sun., July 28, 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Help feed the hungry at Isaiah House. We do our work as a gift, and share the gifts we receive directly with the poor. We offer good food, over 3000 meals each week. We offer our home as a place where all can be transformed by serving those in need. We offer an open door to those most at risk on the streets. We offer clothes and other necessities to those facing homelessness. <a href="http://www.occatholicworker.org">www.occatholicworker.org</a>	Isaiah House 316 S. Cypress Avenue Santa Ana, CA 92701 (714) 835-6304
August	Wed., Aug. 21, 12:00 p.m.	Lunch meeting with Dr. William Sears and his wife Martha Sears, R. N. The renowned medical couple will discuss "How to Help Your Body Make It's Own Medicines."	Jilio Ryan 14661 Franklin, #150 Tustin, California <a href="http://jilioryan.com">jilioryan.com</a>
	Sun., Aug. 25, 12:00 p.m.	Isaiah House service. <a href="http://www.occatholicworker.org">www.occatholicworker.org</a>	Isaiah House (see above)
October	Mon., Oct. 7, 6-9:00 p.m.	25th Annual Red Mass at Holy Family Cathedral in Orange. <a href="#">Click here for details.</a>	Holy Family Cathedral 566 South Glassell Street Orange, CA 92866

## AUGUST LUNCHEON MEETING

### DR. BILL AND MARTHA SEARS: HOW TO HELP YOUR BODY MAKE ITS OWN MEDICINES

Wednesday, August 21, 2013

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Offices of Jilio-Ryan Court Reporters, 14661 Franklin Ave,  
Tustin, California

At our upcoming August luncheon Meeting, we will be joined by special guests Dr. Bill & Martha Sears. Dr. Bill and Martha will give a presentation entitled, "How to Help Your Body Make It's Own Medicines." This will be a condensed, science-made-simple talk that Bill and Martha have given all over the world. Attendees will receive a DVD on this topic.

Dr. Bill is a practicing pediatrician, a medical and parenting consultant, and an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of California, Irvine. Martha Sears is a registered nurse, a former childbirth educator, a La Leche League leader, a lactation consultant, and a popular lecturer. Together,



Dr. Bill and Martha are parents of eight children and co-authors of over 25 parenting books.

Dr. Bill received his pediatric training at Harvard Medical School's Children's Hospital in Boston and The Hospital

for Sick Children in Toronto. Dr. Sears is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and a fellow of the Royal College of Pediatricians (RCP). Dr. Bill is also a medical and parenting consultant for BabyTalk and Parenting magazines and the pediatrician on the website Parenting.com.

Martha, a registered nurse, speaks frequently at national parenting conferences and is noted for her advice on how to handle the most common problems facing today's mothers with their changing lifestyles.

*The St. Thomas More Society meets for lunch at 11:45 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the offices of Jilio-Ryan Court Reporters, 14661 Franklin Ave, Tustin, California.*

# HOMILY TO SEMINARIANS AND NOVICES AND THOSE DISCERNING THEIR VOCATIONS

**POPE FRANCIS  
VATICAN BASILICA, JULY 7, 2013**



... **W**here does mission originate? The answer is simple: it originates from a call, the Lord's call, and when he calls people, he does so with a view to sending them out. How is the one sent out meant to live? What are the reference points of Christian mission? The readings we have heard suggest three: the joy of consolation, the Cross and prayer.

1. The first element: the joy of consolation. ... Do not be afraid of the consolations of the Lord. Isaiah's invitation must resound in our hearts: "Comfort, comfort my people" and this must lead to mission. We must find the Lord who consoles us and go to console the people of God. This is the mission. People today certainly need words, but most of all they need us to bear witness to the mercy and tenderness of the Lord, which warms the heart, rekindles hope, and attracts people towards the good. What a joy it is to bring God's consolation to others!

2. The second reference point of mission is the Cross of Christ. Saint Paul, writing to the Galatians, says: "Far be it from me to glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (6:14). And he speaks of the "marks of Jesus", that is, the wounds of the crucified Lord, as a countersign, as the distinctive mark of his life as an Apostle of the Gospel. In his ministry Paul experienced suffering, weakness and defeat, but also joy and consolation. This is the Paschal mystery of Jesus: the mystery of death and resurrection. And it was precisely by letting himself be conformed to the death of Jesus that Saint Paul became a sharer in his resurrection, in his victory. In the hour of darkness, in the hour of trial, the dawn of light and salvation is already present and operative. The Paschal mystery is the beating heart of the Church's mission! And if we remain within this mystery, we are

sheltered both from a worldly and triumphalistic view of mission and from the discouragement that can result from trials and failures. Pastoral fruitfulness, the fruitfulness of the Gospel proclamation is measured neither by success nor by failure according to the criteria of human evaluation, but by becoming conformed to the logic of the Cross of Jesus, which is the logic of stepping outside oneself and spending oneself, the logic of love. It is the Cross – always the Cross that is present with Christ, because at times we are offered the Cross without Christ: this has not purpose! – it is the Cross, and always the Cross with Christ, which guarantees the fruitfulness of our mission. And it is from the Cross, the supreme act of mercy and love, that we are reborn as a "new creation" (Gal 6:15).

3. Finally the third element: prayer. In the Gospel we heard: "Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest, to send out labourers into his harvest" (Lk 10:2). The labourers for the harvest are not chosen through advertising campaigns or appeals of service and generosity, but they are "chosen" and "sent" by God. It is he who chooses, it is he who sends, it is Lord who sends, it is he who gives the mission. For this, prayer is important. The Church, as Benedict XVI has often reiterated, is not ours, but God's; and how many times do we, consecrated men and women, think that the Church is ours! We make of it... something that we invent in our minds. But it is not ours! It is God's. The field to be cultivated is his. The mission is grace. And if the Apostle is born of prayer, he finds in prayer the light and strength of his action. Our mission ceases to bear fruit, indeed, it is extinguished the moment the link with its source, with the Lord, is interrupted.

**(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)**

## HOMILY TO SEMINARIANS AND NOVICES AND THOSE DISCERNING THEIR VOCATIONS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Dear seminarians, dear novices, dear young people discerning your vocations. One of you, one of your formators, said to me the other days, “evangeliser, on le fait à genoux” “evangelization is done on one’s knees.” Listen well: “evangelization is done on one’s knees.” Without a constant relationship with God, the mission becomes a job. But for what do you work? As a tailor, a cook, a priest, is your job being a priest, being a sister? No. It is not a job, but rather something

else. The risk of activism, of relying too much on structures, is an ever-present danger. If we look towards Jesus, we see that prior to any important decision or event he recollected himself in intense and prolonged prayer. Let us cultivate the contemplative dimension, even amid the whirlwind of more urgent and heavy duties. And the more the mission calls you to go out to the margins of existence, let your heart be the more closely united to Christ’s heart, full of mercy and love. Herein lies the secret of pastoral fruitfulness, of the fruitfulness of a disciple of the Lord!

Jesus sends his followers out with no “purse, no bag, no sandals” (Lk 10:4). The spread of the Gospel is not guaranteed either by the number of persons, or by the prestige of the institution, or by the quantity of available resources. What counts is to be permeated by the love of Christ, to let

oneself be led by the Holy Spirit and to graft one’s own life onto the tree of life, which is the Lord’s Cross.

Dear friends, with great confidence I entrust you to the intercession of Mary Most Holy. She is the Mother who helps us to take life decisions freely and without fear. May she help you to bear witness to the joy of God’s consolation, without being afraid of joy, she will help you to conform yourselves to the logic of love of the Cross, to grow in ever deeper union with the Lord in prayer. Then your lives will be rich and fruitful! Amen. ♦

*His Holiness, Pope Francis, is the 266th and current pope of the Catholic Church. Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires and served as Argentina’s Provincial superior for the Society of Jesus and later as Archbishop of Buenos Aires before his election as pontiff on March 13, 2013.*

## QUOTE FROM ST. THOMAS MORE

“You must not abandon the ship in a storm because you cannot control the winds....

What you cannot turn to good, you must at least make as little bad as you can.”

*From Utopia, a novel written by Sir Thomas More in 1516 about a fictional island society in the Atlantic Ocean.*

*Th. More*

## CATHOLIC JOKE OF THE MONTH

### CONSIDER HOW YOU PHRASE THE QUESTION....

Two Jesuit novices both wanted a cigarette while they prayed. They decided to ask their superior for permission. The first asked but was told no. A little while later he spotted his friend smoking and praying. “Why did the superior allow you to smoke and not me?” he asked. His friend replied, “Because you asked if you could smoke while you prayed, and I asked if I could pray while I smoked!”

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