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ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

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President's
Column
GREGORY WEILER



The Light of
the Stable
JOHN J. FLYNN III



HYPOCRITES, SINNERS OR SAINTS?

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
GREGORY N. WEILER



I was complaining to my spiritual advisor (for the uninitiated, that means my “spiritual director”) that I was burdened by the “feelings” of hypocrisy. After all I’m Catholic, and we Catholics set a pretty high bar for virtue and charity. Yet I screw up all the time: Who am I to urge others to a holiness that so often eludes me?

Father Leo smiled and said “Oh Greg, you’re not a hypocrite. A hypocrite thinks he’s OK. You know you’re messed up. You are just a sinner on the road to sainthood.”

Oh, thank you. I feel so much better.

Thus is the joy of Advent, the awareness of the soon-to-be celebrated Salvation event, the reality of the coming of the only means possible of taking us from sinner to saint.

As Father Leo also pointed out, it is grace that makes us want to share the reality of the Redeemer’s coming. Emanuel, or God with us—He is the means to our personal salvation. For the mystery of the Incarnation had to precede the Cross and empty tomb. And because of that, we can revel for a time in the joy of the Babe and unabashedly share the merriness of Christmas.

That’s the job, the *raison d’être*, of our STMS community: to clearly and lovingly share/proclaim to the legal community our great joy and our Great News (that sure sells better than St. John the Baptist merry line, “repent you brood of vipers”).

Merry Christmas to you and your families. PAX ~ GNW

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

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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

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Every mystery of the faith defies the containment of human thought, and the limitations of human experience. Yet they still illuminate, and increase understanding.

The divine mysteries are not mysteries to be solved, even if they could be. We are guided by the inborn intuition (which must be actively suppressed if we are to be free of it) that the perfect goodness and love of God lies at the heart of every mystery, that the truth, in a sense, is too much for us, better than our dearest and deepest hopes. We can walk only so far on the path of intellect (in the narrow sense), and then must leap, trusting as we fall that the life ahead exceeds this one by incomprehensible magnitudes, sin and death and sorrow

all destroyed for eternity by the love of God, revealed by his Son, born of a woman.

Joy is the specific happiness of union, and at Christmas we rejoice in the union of the human and the divine, God with us, the infant king who re-ordered kingship.

We deceive ourselves to think that the joy of Christmas can ever be produced by anything merely human. It is produced only by the action of God, received by the human heart with an immeasurable joy that rightly brings to mind the very energies unleashed at the moment of creation: "Let there be light," the light of the world, the light that destroys the darkness, and, at Christmas, the Light of the Stable. ♦

TUNE IN FOR A TUNE UP

What do you listen to while you commute or while driving around town? Many STMS lawyers and judges have discovered the great Catholic radio programming available in our area.

Immaculate Heart Radio (AM 1000) is available throughout San Diego and most of Orange County. Immaculate Heart Radio broadcasts an incredible

array of programming including, Tim Staples, Marc Shea, the whole array of EWTN resources.

"I look forward to listening to Sister Ann Shields every morning on my iPhone. It's like daily spiritual direction," said current STMS President Greg Weiler.

Check it out.



CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 18, 12 p.m.

Lunch meeting with STMSOC Chaplain Fr. Hugh Barbour, O. Praem., speaking on travels through the Holy Land.

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