

# ad. veritatem

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

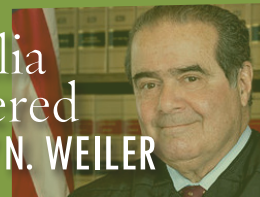
**FEBRUARY 2016**

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In Good Faith  
**CARLOS X. COLORADO**



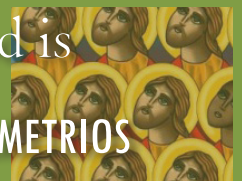
Justic Scalia  
Remembered  
**GREGORY N. WEILER**



STMS Attorneys  
Offer Professional  
Advice to Pre-Law  
Students



"Their God is  
my God"  
**BISHOP DEMETRIOS**



7 Questions  
**DARREN AITKEN**





**“IN GOOD FAITH,** Master Rich, I am sorrier for your perjury than for mine own peril,” St. Thomas More told Richard Rich, the King’s Solicitor, who testified against Saint Thomas during his trial for treason. The solicitor had testified against More, claiming he had made damning statements during a friendly conversation between the two, demonstrating More’s disloyalty to the king. In the exchange, Saint Thomas found himself in the same position many of us find ourselves in—disputing another lawyer’s version of events and mischaracterizations of our own words.

The solicitor is distorting the truth. But Saint Thomas does not start his refutation of the dubious testimony with a frontal assault on the assertions or a character attack on his accuser. Instead, Saint Thomas begins with a lamentation for his accuser’s personal failure to live up to his potential, in stooping to dishonest testimony. When a person commits perjury, that person besmirches their own dignity and damages their integrity. In fact, Saint Thomas professes to be more concerned for Rich than for his own safety—even though he was about to be condemned to death.

Christ himself was accused by false witnesses. Saint Mark tells us that the witnesses could not give consistent testimony as to some of the accusations against Jesus. (Mk 14:56-59.) According to Saint John, when Jesus told Caiaphas to question the witnesses against him, one of the officials struck him for addressing the high priest so bluntly. “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” (Jn 19:19-

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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



# JUSTICE SCALIA

~ remembered ~

**GREGORY N. WEILER**



JUSTICE Antonin Scalia was the only Supreme Court Justice with whom I had a personal conversation. For a number of years I was upset with the Justice after he candidly said that the Declaration of Independence had absolutely no bearing in his Constitutional analysis. What, didn't he appreciate the significance of the Declaration, didn't he believe in the Natural Law? He calls himself a good Catholic and would relegate us to whims of the positive law.

So when I was able to speak to Justice Scalia directly at a Federalist Society function, I was ready: "Justice, Scalia, is it true — that you don't consider the principles of the Declaration in your jurisprudence?" Answer: "No." "What if there was a properly adopted Constitutional amendment, three-quarters of the states and two-thirds of the Congress adopted clear text that all Catholics and Jews were to be imprisoned and executed, you would enforce such a Constitutional provision?" He responded, "I would either enforce a properly adopted amendment, or resign and join the opposition on the ramparts." WOW!

Hmm, enforce the positive law or if sufficiently repugnant to conscience, resign and exercise the God given right to resist evil. In other words, he knew that the raw application of the Natural Law by human judges had the same potential for

abuse and subjective interpretation as the view espoused by proponents of the "living Constitution" that the Constitution should be interpreted in light of ever-changing circumstances.

Justice Scalia was a Catholic jurist who appreciated the limits on human judging and his oath of office, while at the same time reserving the right to resist unjust law in light of individual conscience—things right out of the Catechism and the Declaration.

Like St. Thomas More, Justice Scalia was loathe to lose the protections of the law against the caprice and avarice of mankind, expressed well in the exchange between St. Thomas More and his son-in-law, William Roper in Bolten's play *A Man For All Seasons*:

**Roper:** So now you give the Devil the benefit of the law?

**St. Thomas More:** Yes, what would you do? Cut a great road through the law to get after the Devil?

**Roper:** Yes, I'd cut down every law in England to do that!

**St. Thomas More:** Oh? And when the last law was down and the Devil turned 'round on you, where would you hide?

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## JUSTICE SCALIA REMEMBERED

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

**Roper:** The laws all being flat?

**St. Thomas More:** This country is planted thick with laws, from coast to coast, man's laws, not God's! And if you cut them down, and you're just the man to do it, do you really think that you could stand upright in the winds that

would blow then? Yes, I'd give the Devil benefit of the law, from my own safety's sake!

Hence, Justice Scalia remained on a court which issued holdings repugnant to our Faith, Casey (Roe), Romer, Laurence and Obergefell because I believe he felt that our imperfect system held back a greater evil. As was proven in 1776, and certainly in the great terror in France, revolutions are messy affairs with unpredictable results, whose victims are more often than not innocents.

It is comforting to know that one of the most brilliant men to ever sit on our

Supreme Court could humble himself before the Tabernacle, could humble himself before the teachings of the Church (nine children, steadfast Mass attendance and brilliant exposition of the dignity of every person) and lastly, humble himself to refrain from the intellectual hubris of those who impose their will, untethered by constitutional text or context, by whim, presumed clairvoyance or intellectual arrogance, on us the people.

Justice Scalia, Requiescat In Pace. ♦

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## IN GOOD FAITH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

None of us will be sentenced to death based on false testimony. But a lot of us will receive a letter from opposing counsel "memorializing" words they wish to put in our mouths in order to gain advantage and place us in an unfavorable light, or we might be tempted to do that to our opponent. If we find ourselves on the receiving end of a dishonest accusation, we might take counsel from Saint Thomas, who teaches us to feel compassion for the accuser. If we are thinking about putting words in an opponent's mouth,

23.) Like Saint Thomas, Christ challenges the official who strikes him to examine his conscience and testify honestly.

we would be well advised to heed Christ's warning: think before you strike.

The Standards for Professionalism and Civility Among Attorneys adopted by the Orange County Bar Association advise that "Counsel should interact with adversaries in a professional and civil manner by ... Never ascribing a position to opposing counsel for the purpose of creating a false record." See also, B & P § 6068 ("It is the duty of an attorney to ... employ ... those means only as are consistent with truth, and never to seek to mislead the judge or any judicial officer by an artifice or false statement of fact or law"), Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 5-200(B) (bar members "Shall not seek to mislead the judge, judicial officer, or jury by an artifice or false statement of fact or law").

If the pen is mightier than the sword, it is a weapon to be wielded with care. ♦

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## CALENDAR

**Sunday, February 28, 8-11 a.m.**

Feed the hungry at Isaiah House.

ISAIAH HOUSE · 316 S. CYPRESS ST.  
SANTA ANA, CA 91766

## STMS Attorneys Offer Professional Advice to Pre-Legal Students



TWO prominent Southern California attorneys visited Thomas Aquinas College to offer their advice and encouragement to students who are interested in pursuing careers in law. The meeting, which covered topics ranging from the LSAT to law schools to areas of practice, was one of a series of events sponsored by the College's Office of Career Advisement.

"You're at a great school, a great college. You will have a lot of the skills that, frankly — having taught law school — law students are often lacking," said Wallace Wade, a former prosecutor who now manages his own practice, specializing in criminal-defense and family law, in Orange County. "You have a good background for legal reasoning and analytical thinking here at this school. You are going to have a leg up in many ways."

Joining Mr. Wallace was Gregory Weiler, a 30-year partner of Palmieri Tyler in Irvine, whose expertise is in transactional real estate and land-use regulation. "You'll leave Thomas Aquinas with analytical skills, and they are going to fit in with law school," said Mr. Weiler. Moreover, he added, the strong spiritual and moral formation that students receive at the College can also be an asset in the legal profession. "I've found that being a Catholic lawyer, leading an integrated life, has made me a successful lawyer," he said. "People are attracted to that, like they are attracted to holiness. People are attracted to lawyers who have integrity."

Both attorneys, who discussed their personal and professional backgrounds, stressed that the legal profession offers numerous opportunities for students to live out their Catholic faith and serve the common good. "Your ability to

do good things in society are manifold when you're a lawyer. There's rarely a day that you don't get some

opportunity to help somebody," said Mr. Weiler. "If you get into law, you're going to be helping other people," added Mr. Wade. "That's the whole point."

About a dozen students, most of whom are considering law school after graduation, attended the meeting. "The students were genuinely grateful for Mr. Wallace and Mr. Weiler's advice about how to get into law school, how to thrive there, and how to succeed as a Catholic lawyer," said Director of Career Advisement Mark Kretschmer. "But beyond that, I think they were heartened by both attorneys' offer to provide help and advice down the road as they pursue legal careers."

The meeting, one of several that the Office of Career Advisement hosts throughout the year, was made possible by Steve Cotugno, a member of the College's Orange County Board of Regents and the father of Sarah ('13) and Kevin ('16). Mr. Cotugno arranged for the two lawyers to visit campus and even joined them on the 110-mile trip from Orange County. "We are so grateful to Greg and Wally for coming here, and to Steve for putting this event together," said Robert Bagdazian, coordinator of the Thomas Aquinas College Parents' Association. "It is a real blessing for our students that we have so many parents, of students and alumni alike, who are always looking for ways to aid them in their studies and beyond." ♦

*(This article was first published on the TAC web site, [www.thomasaquinas.edu](http://www.thomasaquinas.edu). Reprinted here with permission.)*





### BISHOP DEMETRIOS OF MOKISSOS\*

CHRISTIANS throughout the world mark Feb. 15 as a day to remember the courage and religious fortitude of 21 Coptic Christians who were executed one year ago by Islamic State terrorists in Libya. The Coptic Orthodox Christian Church will be joined by the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church and other Christian denominations in observing the somber anniversary.

These Coptic Christian hostages were executed for no other reason than their faith in Jesus Christ. ISIS released a video of the barbarism with the title “A Message Signed With Blood to the Nations of the Cross.” Bloodshed in the Middle East has become all too common, and many Americans with busy lives may have become inured to the seemingly endless litany of atrocities, unaware of the extent of the genocidal campaign against the Christian minority in the Middle East.

This particular crime against humanity was a grotesque example of the violence Christians face daily in Libya, Iraq, Syria and anywhere that ISIS prosecutes its murderous campaign against anyone it deems an infidel. Yet as horrible as the episode was, it also offers inspiration and testimony to the power of faith.

The 21 men executed that day were itinerant tradesman working on a construction job. All were native Egyptians but one, a young African man whose identity is uncertain—reports of his name vary, and he was described as coming from Chad or Ghana. But the power of his example is unshakable. The executioners demanded that each hostage identify his religious allegiance. Given the opportunity to deny their faith, under threat of death, the Egyptians declared their faith in Jesus. Steadfast in their belief even in the face of evil, each was beheaded.

Their compatriot was not a Christian when captured, apparently, but when challenged by the terrorists to declare his faith, he reportedly replied: “Their God is my God.” In that moment, before his death, he became a Christian. The ISIS murderers seek to demoralize Christians with acts like the slaughter on a Libyan beach. Instead they stir our wonder at the courage and devotion inspired by God’s love.

While we remember these men’s extraordinary sacrifice, is there not more that we can do to stop this genocide against

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

## “THEIR GOD IS MY GOD”

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Christians in the Middle East?

The faithful of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, which I represent, have adopted a resolution urging America’s elected leaders to officially recognize the genocide of Middle East Christians, and by doing so call into action the United Nations resolution known as the Responsibility to Protect.

In 2005, recognizing the failure to adequately respond to the most heinous crimes against humanity, world leaders at the U.N. made a historic commitment with passage of the Responsibility to Protect, which includes these “pillars”:

“1. The State carries the primary

responsibility for protecting populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing, and their incitement;

“2. The international community has a responsibility to encourage and assist States in fulfilling this responsibility;

“3. The international community has a responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other means to protect populations from these crimes. If a State is manifestly failing to protect its populations, the international community must be prepared to take collective action to protect populations, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.”

Clearly, the genocide against Christians in the Middle East meets these conditions, yet it is lost in the fog of diplomatic inertia and military half-measures as the bloody conflict in Syria drags on, spilling across much of the region. Despite officially supporting

the U.N.’s Responsibility to Protect, America’s elected leaders have yet to officially apply it in the case of crimes against Christians in the Middle East.

It may seem like we in the U.S. have little ability to change conditions in the Middle East and elsewhere. But that outlook has too often led to inaction and great regret after crimes against humanity have been allowed to unfold without intervention. The U.S. and other members of the U.N. made a solemn vow. With genocide occurring before our very eyes, we must properly identify the crimes and honor our international commitment under Responsibility to Protect. ♦

*\* Thanks to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago for authorizing Ad Veritatem to print this article.*



## The Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions for the Month of February 2016

### UNIVERSAL: CARE FOR CREATION

That we may take good care of creation—a gift freely given—cultivating and protecting it for future generations.

### Evangelization: Asia

That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia.

## 1. How did you come to the Legal profession?

The old fashioned way (literally). My father is an attorney and I always admired his zeal in representing his clients who were typically undergoing one of the worst experiences of their lives—whether due to a serious injury or the death of a loved one, or due to the bad faith conduct of their insurance company. I picked up early on that lawyers can make a positive difference in their clients' lives, and the legal arena was one area of society where the strongest or wealthiest party did not necessarily prevail.

## 2. Who had the most profound impact on the development of your Christian faith?

My parents by leading by example, and also by sending me to Catholic schools where I could be educated in my faith. By the time I graduated from Servite, I believe I had a working knowledge of the core principles of the faith and the reasons for them. This basic understanding of the faith has greatly sustained my engagement with the Church throughout my life.

## 3. What is your favorite book?

Based on the number of times read, I would have to say Tolkien's *Lord Of The Rings* trilogy. It is a large story which addresses large issues, and it is infused with a sense of melancholy and loss which runs counter to the standard American world view.

# 7 QUESTIONS

with

**Darren Aitken**



## 4. Who is your favorite saint?

Augustine of Hippo. He converted to Christianity later in life, yet still became one of the Church's primary architects. His statement to "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you" are words to live by.

## 5. Do you have a favorite verse or story from scripture?

I focus on the interplay between the commandments of love found in Matthew 22:36-40 (re loving God with one's whole heart soul and mind, and one's neighbor as one's self) and John 8:7 (re letting the one without sin cast the first stone). These two passages offer guidance how to organize one's life around religious principles without shutting one's heart to those who think and act differently than oneself.

## 6. What do you appreciate most about the faith?

Faith helps provide a context in which to address life's challenges, and the universality of the Church serves as a constant reminder that divisions of race, class, gender and language are ultimately illusions.

## 7. What advice can you give to a young lawyer on living the Catholic faith in the legal profession?

There is nothing inconsistent with what the law requires of the advocate and what the Church requires from the faithful. If such an inconsistency is perceived, it is likely due to a misunderstanding of what the law requires, or what the Church requires, or both.