

# THOMAS MORE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Greater DC Metropolitan Area



**If any good thing shall go forward,  
something must be adventured.**  
— *A Dialogue Concerning  
Heresies (1529)*

December 1, 2014

Dear Thomas More Society of America,

After a hiatus of more than 10 years, we have resurrected the newsletter in an effort to keep members informed, but also in the hope of attracting new members. We are witnessing a growing hunger, now more than ever, in learning about Thomas More's response to core issues increasingly prevalent today – including religious freedom, marriage, and public responsibility.

Our Society has a rich tradition dating back to 1979, and we have conferred regularly with distinguished scholars, public leaders and clerics, including Chief Justice Warren Burger, Judge Robert Bork, Justice Antonin Scalia, Patrick Conroy, SJ, Chaplain of the House of Representatives, The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Leonard Leo, Executive Vice President of the Federalist Society, Jane Belford, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Washington, Pat Fagan, Senior Fellow at the Family Research Council and Director of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute, and Archbishop Thomas Broglio, Archdiocese of Military Services. And, last month the Society welcomed Ed Whelan, President of the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

We have exciting events scheduled in the future and certainly hope you can join us. On Thursday, December 11, 2014 the Society will co-host our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual 'Christmas Poetry Reading' at the Catholic Information Center (CIC) with the CIC Young Professionals (see the flyer on page 3). For 2015, in February, we are planning another luncheon and sometime in March our Chaplain, Father Justin Huber, will host a Lenten reflection. In May (tentatively on May 7) we will host our annual gala and the Honorable Thomas Hogan, the Senior Judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia will be our guest speaker. Judge Hogan has a long and distinguished career spanning back to 1966 where he was the St. Thomas More Fellow at Georgetown Law School. We will conclude our fiscal year on Monday, June 22, by celebrating the Feast Day of St. Thomas More.

We certainly hope you can join us for all events. St. Thomas More, pray for us.

Sincerely,  
Chris Payne  
President  
The Thomas More Society of America

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To Join or For Information See:  
<http://thomasmoresocietyofamerica.org/>

**“You wouldn't abandon ship in a storm just because you couldn't control the winds.”**

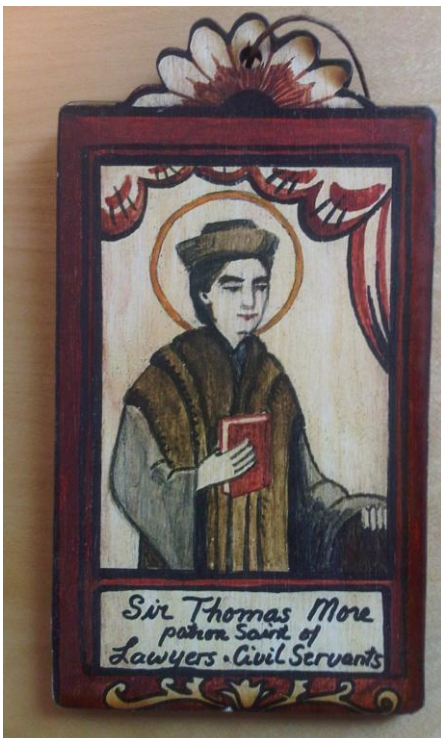
**— Utopia (1516)**

**Annual Membership Meeting.** The Society conducted its annual membership meeting on September 8, 2014. The main order of business included thanking Board Members in the Class of 2014 whose term is expire at the end of this year— Cynthia Desimone-Weiler, Adrienne Johannes, the Honorable Paul Michel, and Gerry Mitchell. We are grateful for their service. We elected new board members in the Class of 2017—Austin Lipari, Joseph Milligan, Maya Noronha, and Mary Powers. Additionally, we made committee assignments, reviewed the Treasurer's Report, and discussed the upcoming program of events for 2014-2015.



**Edward Whelan, Esq., President of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, Spoke to the Thomas More Society, October 21, 2014.** Ed Whelan addressed the Society at a luncheon at the Army Navy Club in DC. He provided an insightful analysis of the effects of the recent Supreme Court decision to let stand appeals court rulings allowing same-sex marriage in five states, and he presented an update regarding the religious liberty cases pending before the Court. Since the Supreme Court's refusal to take the appeal dealt a major blow to the legal defense of traditional marriage, Whelan aptly reminded the Society of the words displayed on our website of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century English writer, G.K. Chesterton, who in 1919 presciently wrote, “Sir Thomas More is more important at any moment since his death (in 1535), but he is not quite so important as he will be in a hundred years' time.”

In reaction to Ed Whelan's remarks, Stu Nolan, Society Member and managing attorney at LegalWorks Apostolate, PLLC, wrote as follows: "Over the years, I have seen Ed at numerous events and heard him speak many times with great clarity and insight regarding all things jurisprudential. And of course I follow closely his prolific written contributions to National Review Online at the website's 'Bench Memos'. But, Ed reserved for the Thomas More Society, and in particular with reference to St. Thomas More himself, the most emotional appeal I have ever witnessed from him. His passionate plea for prayers for the conversion of those who are doing such manifest damage to the legal landscape, indeed such great harm to our culture and to our liberty, was even more compelling than the sound analysis to which all who are acquainted with Ed have grown well accustomed."



**In Memoriam.** Joseph Dougherty Crumlish (Age 92) our dear friend and last remaining co-founder of the Thomas More Society of America, completed his earthly mission on August 28, 2014. He is the beloved father of Rebecca Crumlish and is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Joe was from Philadelphia, an attorney, an author, and cofounded the Society in 1979. He loved Saint Thomas More and was well read on his life. He was wise and witty with an ever present twinkle in his eyes. He had a great sense of humor. He was a lovely man and devoted to the Society. **Requiescat in Pace.**

**I die the King's good servant, but God's first.**

**— Last words on the scaffold, 1535,**

**according to Paris Newsletter, August 4, 1535:**

**"qu'ilmouroit son bon serviteuret de Dieupremierement."**

*(Image courtesy of Past President, Sheila S. Hollis, Esq)*