



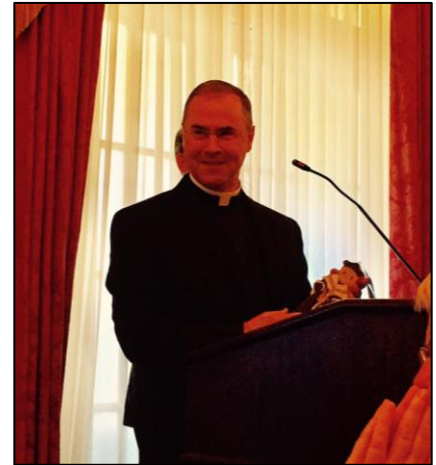
THOMAS MORE SOCIETY *of* AMERICA

SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

Fr. Paul Scalia Addresses Packed Crowd

On Thursday, September 22, 2016, Fr. Paul Scalia, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy in the Archdiocese of Arlington, delivered remarks entitled "In Fairness to the Pharisees: Laws, the Law and Lawlessness." He spoke to a packed crowd gathered for lunch at the Army-Navy Club. He joked that his father, the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin

Scalia spoke about theology, so Fr. Scalia thought it was appropriate he should speak about law that day. As a gift, the Society presented him with an image of Thomas More. He said that present had special meaning for him because St. Thomas More is the patron of the Diocese of Arlington and the cathedral church in Arlington bears his name.



Fr. Paul Scalia

Tour of D.C. Thomas More Exhibit Inspires

The Thomas More Society of America hosted an exclusive tour of the exhibit, "God's Servant First: The Life and Legacy of Thomas More" at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C. on the evening of November 2, 2016.



King Henry VIII sought to divorce. The exhibit offered an opportunity to stand in a re-creation of the cell where More was imprisoned in the Tower of London. Additionally, first-class relics of St. Thomas More were present including a jaw-bone fragment and tooth which guests could venerate.

The title of the exhibit is a reference to the last words of Chancellor More before he was

martyred in 1535; More said, "I die the king's good servant, and God's servant first." Pope St. John Paul II declared More the heavenly Patron of Statesmen and Politicians. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst, the exhibit ran from September 15 to March 31.

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Over sixty historic artifacts were displayed, such as More's personal crucifix as well as two hats and a chasuble embroidered by Katherine of Aragon, the wife

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friends of Sir Thomas More,

Over the last year, the nation's capital has experienced rapid, perhaps unexpected change. Many Society members have found themselves in new positions or experienced other life transitions. In the Thomas More Society of America, we strive to bring to the people of Washington the permanent things, that to which More's life and martyrdom point.



Austin Lipari

More, as a humanist, encourages us to consider truth, beauty, and goodness. As a saint, he teaches us that these qualities are not to seek perfection in this world, but point to the Incarnation—of a God made man, who died to save us from our sins. In times of change, More points us towards Christ who “brings us from His Spirit consolation that will give us the strength to persevere in those deeds that will lift us up to heaven.”

With our Society's activities, we seek to point to these higher things. In our first event of the year, we hosted Fr. Paul Scalia, who explored with us the nature of law as a necessary instrument of God's grace. We went to the St. John Paul II Shrine to venerate More's relics. During Lent, we hosted a reflection with Fr. Richard Mullins, who took us through More's spiritual meditations on the *Sadness of Christ*.

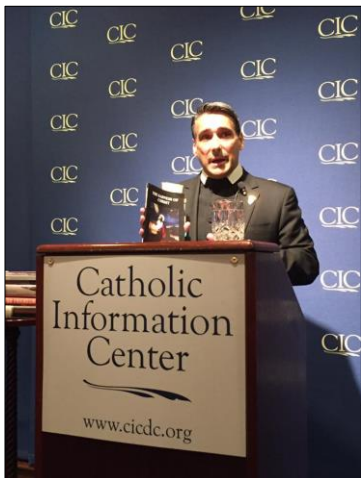
Our Society is growing and looking for new ways to bring the life of Sir Thomas More to others. We hope you will consider joining us and help us “promote interest in the life and works of Sir Thomas More” in the nation's capital.

Sincerely,

Austin Lipari

Follow More Deeply into Lent with Fr. Mullins

Fr. Richard A. Mullins led the Society in a Lenten Reflection entitled “God’s Servant First: A Little Lenten Advice from Saint Thomas More” on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at the Catholic Information Center. Fr. Mullins is a member of the Oratorian Community of St. Philip Neri and pastor of St. Thomas Apostle Parish in Woodley Park.



Fr. Richard A. Mullins

Centering on the life and last days of St. Thomas More, Fr. Mullins began by reviewing More’s study at Oxford, family life, prayer and ascetic practices, and his meteoric ascent as a lawyer and statesman. More’s chief Lenten lesson for us, however, came during his final days, when he was imprisoned and executed for his refusal to

sign the Act of Succession. During this time, More penned a manuscript, *The Sadness of Christ*, which drew parallels between his experience and the temptation, penance, and sacrifice of Jesus Christ in His last days. More’s time in the Tower of London serves as an example for all of us in Lent, as we seek to prepare ourselves for Easter.

Fr. Mullins’ reflection was very well received. Nearly 60 members and guests attended the Lenten Reflection, which was followed by a reception with wine and cheese.

IN MEMORIAM: Brother Hilary Mettes, S.T.

Member and loyal supporter, Brother Hilary Mettes, S.T., died on March 4, 2017. He was 93. Brother Hilary was a pillar of our Society, serving on the board, and coordinating our feast day Mass for many years. Many of us recall his uncanny knack for finding the cheapest parking garage in downtown DC—years before BestParking.Com!

From the homily at the Mass of Christian Burial: “Brother Hilary lived his life fully, nobly, well, with dignity. He knew and loved the God whom he served

uncomplainingly with his whole heart, strength, mind and body. He used his gifts—whenever and however they could best be used—to build up the precious body of Christ. He served faithfully, joyfully, ungrudgingly in whatever capacity God’s people and His congregation needed him to serve.”

The Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity established an endowment fund in his name to support their current and future missionary works. Our Board donated \$500 to the Brother Hilary Mettes, S. T. Mission



Brother Hilary Mettes, S.T.

Burse in honor of his long-time service to the Thomas More Society of America.

Requiescat in pace, Brother Hilary!

More on the Our Father by Sr. Anne

Sister Anne M. O'Donnell, SNDcN, Catholic University of America Professor Emerita of English and a longtime Thomas More Society of America Life Member, recently completed work at the Arizona State University Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies on a project that is literally "related" to Thomas More. In fact, she has been involved in researching and writing an essay that unites More, his daughter Margaret Roper, and his friend Erasmus; "Erasmus, Margaret Roper, and Thomas More on the Pater Noster (Our Father)," will soon be published as part of the collection, *Margaret Roper in the Republic of Letters*. Tempe, AZ: Medieval & Renaissance Texts & Studies.

Sr. Anne explores the sources of Erasmus' *Precatio dominica* (which Roper translated from Latin into English as *A Devout Treatise Upon*



Sr. Anne and Past-President Chris Payne

the Pater Noster). Then, she examines how Roper used the English language in her translation. Finally, she surveys More's references to the Pater Noster in his writings. The Thomas More Society of America contributed to this work in a

roundabout manner. Dr. Clare M. Murphy, gave a luncheon talk on "Thomas Stapleton's 1588 Biography of Thomas More" to the Thomas More Society of America. on March 27, 2012. At Dr. Murphy's request the Society gave her honorarium to the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies to subsidize publication of a collection of essays on Thomas More's daughter Margaret Roper. Before Dr. Murphy's death on June 22, 2013 (the feast day of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More), she invited Sr. Anne and a few other friends to contribute essays (including William F. Gentrup and Elizabeth N. McCutcheon who edited the collection in her memory).

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

On September 16, 2016, Thomas More Society of America treasurer Elsa Thompson was interviewed on EWTN News Nightly which reported on the Thomas More Exhibit at the Saint John Paul II Shrine. Thompson told the reporter, "In this day and age, we are going to be tested. And I think we should all be praying to St. Thomas More for courage... courage under adversity."



Elsa Thompson
Thomas More Society of America
EWTN News Nightly