



ST. THOMAS MORE (1478-1535)

St. Thomas More can be justifiably described as one of the true heroes of English history and a leader of the early Renaissance. His literary works included *Utopia*, *The Four Last Things*, and *Dialogue of Comfort Against Tribulation*, while his professional life included, among others, the public offices of Member of Parliament, High Steward of Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and, from 1529-1532, Chancellor of England. To the personal brilliance and industry which enabled St. Thomas More to lead such a productive life were joined the qualities of a loving father and husband. These personal qualities were called upon by Thomas More toward the end of his life when he chose to stand resolutely by his religious convictions as he defied the king.

In *Utopia*, Thomas More raised a question that is as fundamentally important today as it was during the reign of Henry VIII; should the State rule supreme, or are there moral laws we should obey, above any laws which the state might make? More was eventually to answer that question through the example of his own life. For, after a brilliant literary and political career under the patronage of Henry VIII, he brought about his own downfall by refusing to subscribe to the Act of Supremacy which questioned the Pope's authority and made Henry head of the English Church. On the scaffold More's final words provided the key to his personal philosophy when he said that he was 'the King's good servant, but God's first.'

The students of St. Thomas More Collegiate are indeed fortunate to have as a patron a man of such civic, personal and religious qualities. His life exemplified that happy blending of personal commitment to scholarly and civic pursuits and the personal virtues that nourish such efforts, a blend crucial to a Christian gentleman of today.

St. Thomas More, Martyr (Patron of Lawyers) St. Thomas More was born in London in 1478. After a thorough grounding in religion and the classics, he entered Oxford to study law. Upon leaving the university he embarked on a legal career which took him to Parliament. In 1505, he married his beloved Jane Colt who bore him four children, and when she died at a young age, he married a widow, Alice Middleton, to be a mother for his young children. A wit and a reformer, this learned man numbered Bishops and scholars among his friends, and by 1516 wrote his world-famous book "Utopia". He attracted the attention of Henry VIII who appointed him to a succession of high posts and missions, and finally made him Lord Chancellor in 1529. However, he resigned in 1532, at the height of his career and reputation, when Henry persisted in holding his own opinions regarding marriage and the supremacy of the Pope. The rest of his life was spent in writing mostly in defence of the Church. In 1534, with his close friend, St. John Fisher, he refused to render allegiance to the King as the Head of the Church of England and was confined to the Tower. Fifteen months later, and nine days after St. John Fisher's execution, he was tried and convicted of treason. He told the court that he could not go against his conscience and wished his Judges that "we may yet hereafter in heaven merrily all meet together to everlasting salvation." And on the scaffold, he told the crowd of spectators that he was dying as "the King's good servant-but God's first." He was beheaded on July 6, 1535. His feast day is June 22nd.

Saint Thomas More Collegiate Campus Ministry

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Lent 2009

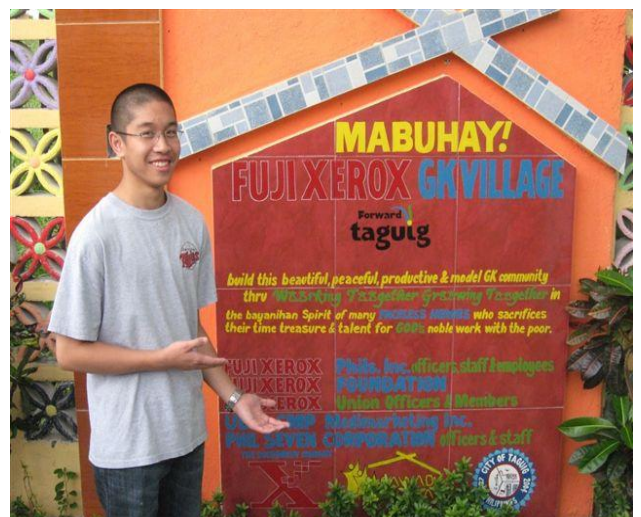
At the beginning of the Lenten season, it is good to put everything in perspective. Lent is not meant as a time for us to suffer, but rather as an opportunity the Lord has given each of us to see where we are on our personal path to him and to make the necessary adjustments. These forty or so days are a special time of grace, a time for us to step back and take an objective look at ourselves. What is God's plan for each of us? In the catechism we learned that *God made us to know him, to love him, to serve him and to be happy with him forever in heaven.*" The prophet Micah summed it up best [at last for me]: "Hear then what Yahweh asks of you: To *live justly*, to **love tenderly**, and to **walk humbly** with your God." These are the criteria we should use to evaluate our progress on the road to the Lord. Do I live justly? Do I love tenderly? Do I walk humbly with my God? The answers to these questions will be the framework of our Lent. But it is also very important to remember that we are NOT finished products yet, but rather are in process. That is a heartening thought. While it is true that God loves me just as I am, I can always do better. The past is gone, the future is ahead of me, the NOW is all the time I have. That's the whole essence of process ... to continually improve. May this Lenten season be for each of us a time of PROGRESS as we PROCESS toward the Lord.



How do you spend your summer vacation?

STMC Graduate Jan Galves, Class of 2008, spent his last summer vacation in the Philippines building homes for those in need.

We are hearing of many former STMC students who are continuing to be generous to works of charity in the Spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice. If you would like to share your experiences please contact Mr. Mattiazzo.



Liturgy

The celebration of the Eucharist is a key component at St. Thomas More Collegiate. We would like to thank Father Mariano Barreto for celebrating our weekly masses in our new chapel. His presence in our school has helped the spiritual lives of our students. We would also like to thank Father David Hughes, Pastor at Holy Spirit, for celebrating our Ash Wednesday Mass, which was held on March 6.

Upcoming Schedule:

Easter Mass: Thursday April 16th 9:45am
 Celebrant: Father Mariano
Mothers Day Mass: Friday May 8th 10:45am
 Celebrant: Father Gary
Grad Mass: Tuesday May 26th 7:00pm,
 Our Lady of Mercy Church
 Celebrant: Father Mariano/Celebrants

Senior Retreats

Grade 12 April 7th to 9th at Camp Luther in Mission
 Grade 11 April 8th and 9th at Camp Charis in
 More details to follow....



Father Barreto leading Thanksgiving Service at STMC

Outreach continues in Post Secondary life for STMC Graduate of 2008

One of the major aspects that we heavily weighted upon when picking our post-secondary school was social outreach, which Corpus Christi College offers. One of their social outreach elements is a service trip to an orphanage in Patzun, Guatemala. When we started our first semester in September we all received hand outs of what the trip would entail, what would be required, and how much work we would have to do. For months, after officially deciding to participate in the program, we talked as if the day would never come. We fund-raised, visited parishes, hosted coffee nights, and told almost everyone where we were going, never actually having an idea of what the trip would entail. It was not until the day drew near that all the talk began to hit us with a little sense of reality. On February 12th we departed, for ten days, to a place that would change the way we live our lives. Though this may seem like a bold statement to make it is not to be taken lightly. What was experienced in that one week at the orphanage with those kids and all the people that surrounded us is difficult to put into words. In a sense it is incomparable to anything any of us had ever been through. We arrived with the idea that we were going to participate in some steady labour, and of course have fun with the kids. Though labour was steady, like we had presumed, we didn't just have fun with the kids. Those kids became our family for the duration of our stay. Their smiles and laughter were the most genuine thing we have ever felt and seen. We were able to interact with them in their everyday routines, playing with them, running with them, and reading with them. In all honesty, what they did for us in that week alone is more than we could have ever done for them. They left an impression on all our hearts that is unequal to anything else. It is an impression filled with love, care and laughter. It is an impression that will dictate how we make decisions from now on. It is an impression so strong that spewed a field of emotions unlike anything else. It is an impression that has made us both decide to return to that special place sooner than later. By participating in this program it is obvious to us now that we will continue to live with dedication to partake in such outreach programs. By telling our story we hope to inspire others to do the same.

Sincerely,
 Tiffany Hill



Student Service

Light a candle for your Neighbour



On April 25th, 2009 - 7:30-9:00pm STMC students, in partnership with students from Little Flower Academy and Archbishop Carney Secondary, will be hosting a Candle Lit Walk to raise awareness about the ever pressing homeless issue that is fundamentally due to the lack of affordable housing. Also, to gain support through the signing of a petition, to inform local government that youth are passionate about this issue, and are waiting for the change in political aspect. The event will start at the Plaza of Nations where there will be a mingling aspect of the event and then start our walk along a specific route until we reach Robson Square where there will be speakers, and entertainment to conclude the event. For more information, or if you have any questions please contact Mr. Mattiazzo. Submitted by Myriah Purss, Grade 12 student, STMC

“Students have raised over \$13,000 to assist our international and local programs!!!”

Buy Fair—Live Fair

Come join us for a “Fair Trade” dinner and fashion show The event is being held at Archbishop Carney Secondary School on May 29th, 2009 from 6:00-10:30pm . The evening is organized by students from St. Thomas More Collegiate, Archbishop Carney Secondary School , and Little Flower Academy, and aims to provide information on how to be an ethical consumer. The event will consist of a fair trade three course sit-down dinner, a guest speaker, and a fashion show. Tickets will be \$15 for students and \$20 for adults. For more information, or if you have any questions please contact Mr. Mattiazzo.

Submitted by Myriah Purss, Grade 12 student, STMC



STMC's GREEN TEAM

Green Team is a collaboration of students founded last year in an effort to encourage sustainable initiatives at Saint Thomas More, while hoping that this inspiration would filter out into the greater community. Green Team consists of Students from Grades 8 to 12 and together we have these successes to share.

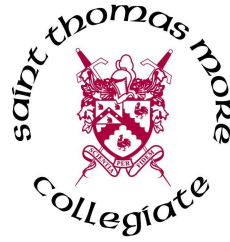
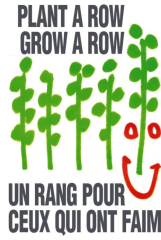
Last year we were able to:

- Make informational posters that were posted around the school made from reused materials
- Establish an ink cartridge/battery recycling depot in the front office
- Sell freshly made smoothies to those who brought their own re-usable containers at a dollar a metric cup and gave the proceeds towards the Peru mission trip
- Conducted an energy audit of the school and even handed out a few compact fluorescent light bulbs to some administration offices,
- Celebrated Earth Day, April 22nd by conducting a school wide recycling contest,
- Maintained an organic, student garden in collaboration with Environmental Youth Alliance
- Participated in Conspiracy, a project in which us and “BERT” did one kind act for ourselves, one for the environment, and one for others.

This year, Green Team has taken on more long term projects. We have started up our electronic recycling depot again, welcome to any student, staff member, alumni, or parent who wishes to dispose of e-waste properly, we have celebrated Hug a Vegetarian day by selling healthy salads and pita bread in the café, we have started a staff composting program, and with the warm weather, we will have ambitious plans with our garden. Also, in a collaboration with Arch Bishop Carney and Little Flower Academy to organize a fair trade fashion show to promote ethical consumer, especially in India, scheduled for May 1st and have a few more plans floating around. Anyone who is interested in Green Team is welcome to give their two cents.

Submitted by Gabi Dao, Grade 12 Student, STMC





STMC Community Joins
“Plant a Row Grow a Row”
Program

Beginning this spring, STMC will be involved in a **Plant a Row - Grow a Row** program to assist the needy in our community (www.growarow.org).

Please join us for a Gardeners Party on Thursday March 26th to jumpstart this event.

Plant a Row - Grow a Row builds on a long-standing tradition of people sharing their harvest with their neighbours. It's a simple but effective idea.

Gardeners plant an extra row or two and donate the produce to the Food Bank.

In troubled economic times like these, it is more important than ever that the Food Bank is able to supplement their supply of non-perishable food with fresh fruit and vegetables.

St. Thomas More Collegiate would collect food items on a Sunday and deliver them to the food bank the following day.

Gardeners' Party

The Gardeners' Party will be held Thursday, March 26th, from 6 to 9 PM in the gymnasium of Saint Thomas More Collegiate, at 7450 12th in Burnaby.

- Brian Minter, co-coordinator of the national PAR-GAR program. Brian is always an inspiring speaker, will kick things off at 6.

Claude LeDoux, the local Co-coordinator, will introduce an exciting line-up of speakers who will discuss different aspects of vegetable gardening.

There will be coffee and treats as well.

Plan to join us; because it's not often you have the opportunity to hear so many garden experts in one place, The price of admission is right --- a donation of non-perishable food for the food bank!

Speakers for the Gardeners' Party:

Brian Minter – Co-coordinator of the national Plant a Row Grow a Row
Conway Lum – Gardenworks Mandeville
Jeanette McCall- Westcoast Seeds
Heather Havens – Gaia Green
Daniel Mosquin – UBC Botanical Gardens
June Hewko – Lee Valley Tools

For more information or if you would be interested in assisting with this program please contact David Mattiazzo, Campus Ministry for St. Thomas More Collegiate

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