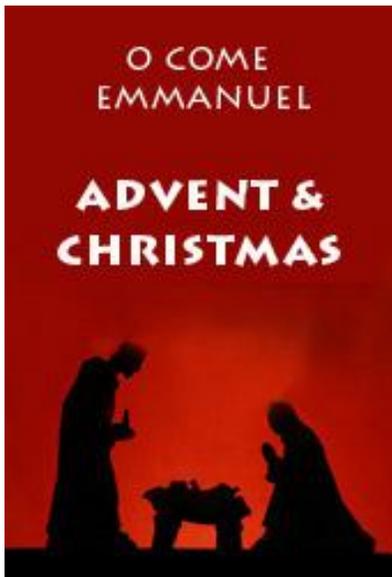




THE METRO

The Newsletter of the Serra Club of Metropolitan Dallas



The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is continuing its tradition of providing online resources for the [Advent](#) and [Christmas](#) seasons with suggestions for daily prayer, reading, reflection and action. Click [here](#) to be linked to the website.

President's Message

by Peter D'Apice

Happy Thanksgiving!

Be sure to attend our Advent Reflection on December 9 at St. Rita.

Siempre Adelante!

Peter

Scott Hahn to Speak at All Saints

Noted Catholic author and speaker, Dr. Scott Hahn will present a series of three talks on Saturday, December 11th at All Saints.

Tickets, which include a box lunch, are \$20 per person. Tickets are available online at www.allsaints.org or call Chris Vaughn at (972) 778-0326.

The program is from 10:00 am to 4:00 p.m. with check-in beginning at 9:30 a.m.



Please visit the **Out & About** section in either the print or web edition of *The Texas Catholic* for a listing of special Christmas events being held at churches and schools throughout the diocese. Here is a partial list:

- **December 4th, Jesuit Christmas Bazaar:** Hosted by the Jesuit Women's Auxiliary from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Jesuit Campus
- **December 5th, St. Monica Christmas Concert,** at 7:30 p.m. featuring carols and Christmas classics led by the church choir and orchestra and school choirs.
- **December 11th and 12th, Bishop Lynch Christmas Bazaar:** Hosted by the Bishop Lynch Brigade from Noon on the 11th and 10 a.m. on the 12th to 5:00 p.m.
- **December 15th, Christmas Concert:** Mary Immaculate Catholic Church will present John Rutter's "Magnificat" at 7:30 p.m. Performance by the church choir and orchestra with appearance by the Texas Girls Choir. Free admission.

CALENDAR

Friday, December 3	First Friday Mass & Breakfast – Saint Monica; Speaker: Adrian Rodriquez, Young Serrans	6:45 a.m.
Thursday, December 9	Advent Reflection Mass and Dinner – St. Rita	5:30 p.m.
Friday, December 17	No Monthly Luncheon Meeting	
Saturday, December 25	CHRISTMAS DAY	
Saturday, January 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY	
Friday, January 7	First Friday Mass & Breakfast – Saint Monica; Speaker: TBD	6:45 a.m.
January 9 - 15	NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK	
January 21	Monthly Luncheon – Park City Club ; Speaker: Father Peter Verhalen, Cistercian Abbey	11:45 a.m.
February 4	First Friday Mass & Breakfast – Saint Monica; Speaker: TBD	6:45 a.m.
February 6	Mass With The Seminarians – Holy Trinity Seminary	9:15 a.m.
February 6	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE	
February 18	Monthly Luncheon – Park City Club ; Speaker: TBD	11:45 a.m.

Chaplain's Message *by Father Sal Guzman*

All the liturgical readings the last three Sundays point to the end of things. The liturgical year is coming to an end; by the time this article is printed, we would have just started our new church year with the season of Advent. Our civic year is a month away from its end.

All things come to an end. Just a reality check that remind us that we are created, finite, limited; for the believer, it only focuses us to our destiny—God. We are transcendental beings!

As we begin this time of Advent, as we wait and prepare for the coming of Emmanuel, let us expectantly prepare our hearts for love to be born. In this time of family and friends, a time of rushing and buying, a time of baking and feasting, here's something to help us take off our shoes and actively prepare for God's coming.

*Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God;
And only those who see take off their shoes;
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.
—Elizabeth B. Browning*



UD President - November Luncheon Speaker

The Serra Club of Metropolitan Dallas was privileged to have Thomas W. Keefe, J.D. as its November luncheon speaker. Keefe became the 8th president of the University of Dallas on March 1, 2010. During his presentation, Keefe shared his vision for the university. Succinctly stated that goal is to see the University of Dallas recognized as *the* distinguished Catholic liberal arts university in the United States. Click [here](#) to read Keefe's inaugural address which was delivered to the University community on September 10, 2010.

COME AND SEE

by Father John Harndon, S.J.

CHAPTER 7 – SUFFERING AND VOCATIONS

When did Christ redeem the world? When He died on Good Friday. How did Christ redeem the world? By His Passion and Death on Calvary. Why do we make the Sign of the Cross? To remind ourselves we have been redeemed by the Cross.

Of course we know that Christ, the First Apostle, was sent by the Father to save mankind by every word and action He performed during His visible stay on earth. But it was especially by His sufferings that we were delivered from sin and mainly by His Cross that we were saved.

We need to recall these truths in our day, when activism is being honored far beyond what it deserves. Some people feel "useless" because they are no longer as "active" in the service of others as they formerly were or as they would like to be.

They may suffer in a variety of ways: with some draining disease or crippling disability; with a natural, but no less painful, weakening of their bodily powers as they advance in years; with the awful sense of being no longer needed after decades of active service in the priesthood, consecrated life, single state or in rearing a family. Or the Lord may touch them early and they are disabled or confined or gravely handicapped in the prime of life.

No matter. The number of such persons in our society is large, and larger than most people would ever suppose. What they need to be told is that they can actually do more for others now than they ever could before.

Why should this be so? Because we serve others best when we do most for their souls. And we do most for their souls when we obtain graces from God for their numerous spiritual needs. If this means prayer, and it does, there is no more effective prayer than one that is joined with sacrifice, which in practice means prayer that is animated by the cheerful acceptance of the Cross.

The apostolate of suffering is not some exotic enterprise for only mystics or what we sometimes call "victim souls." It is open to everyone who has faith, and love, and zeal for souls. Faith assures us that suffering must be noble, seeing that God became man in order to suffer and thereby save the world. Love enables us to make of every pain a willing sacrifice, seeing that it costs us so much. And zeal for souls urges us actually to rejoice as we are privileged to suffer something for the myriad souls redeemed by the blood of Christ.

He did His part to reconcile this sinful world with the Father. But the mercy that He merited by His Cross will remain sterile unless sinners cooperate with the graces He won for mankind. We must unite our cross with the Savior's to help sinners respond to God's mercy.

With St. Paul we can say to others what he told the Christians of his day: "It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my own body to do what I can to make up all that is still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of His Body, the Church" (Col 1:24). Christ is still redeeming the world, with our cooperation.

"Of course we know that Christ, the First Apostle, was sent by the Father to save mankind by every word and action He performed during His visible stay on earth. But it was especially by His sufferings that we were delivered from sin and mainly by His Cross that we were saved."

Fr. John Harndon, S.J. wrote extensively on vocations including [Come and See - Theological Reflections on the Promotion of Vocations](#), a short treatise that gets to the heart of vocations. Divided into 12 short chapters, a chapter will be included in this and future issues of *The Metro*. For your own copy, order through the [publisher](#). To read on our website, click on the title above.

Saint of the Month, January 28: Saint Thomas Aquinas

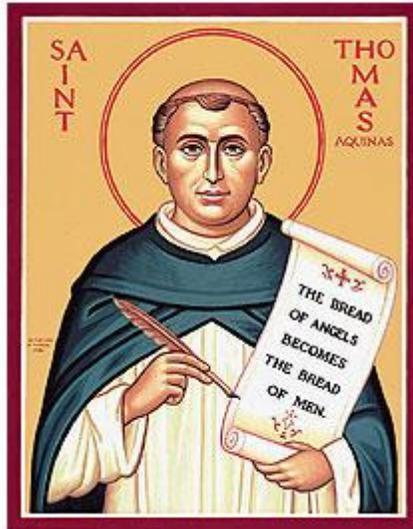
By universal consent, Thomas Aquinas is the preeminent spokesman of the Catholic tradition of reason and of divine revelation. He is one of the great teachers of the medieval Catholic Church, honored with the titles Doctor of the Church and Angelic Doctor.

At five he was given to the Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino in his parents' hopes that he would choose that way of life and eventually became abbot. In 1239 he was sent to Naples to complete his studies. It was here that he was first attracted to Aristotle's philosophy.

By 1243, Thomas abandoned his family's plans for him and joined the Dominicans, much to his mother's dismay. On her order, Thomas was captured by his brother and kept at home for over a year.

Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great. He held two professorships at Paris, lived at the court of Pope Urban IV, directed the Dominican schools at Rome and Viterbo, combated adversaries of the mendicants, as well as the Averroists, and argued with some Franciscans about Aristotelianism.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, pervades his writings. One might expect Thomas, as a man of the gospel, to be an ardent defender of revealed truth. But he was broad enough, deep enough, to see the whole natural order as coming from God the Creator, and to see reason as a divine gift to be highly cherished.



The *Summa Theologiae*, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology. He stopped work on it after celebrating Mass on December 6, 1273. When asked why he stopped writing, he replied, "I cannot go on.... All that I have written seems to me like so much straw compared to what I have seen and what has been revealed to me." He died

March 7, 1274.

We can look to Thomas Aquinas as a towering example of Catholicism in the sense of broadness, universality and inclusiveness. We should be determined anew to exercise the divine gift of reason in us, our power to know, learn and understand. At the same time we should thank God for the gift of his revelation, especially in Jesus Christ.

Source: www.americancatholic.org. To receive "Saint of the Day" as an email from St. Anthony Messenger Press click [here](#).

UCCSB Elects New President and Vice President

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) elected Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York as their new president and Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky vice president at their annual Fall General Assembly. Both will serve three serve three-year terms.

Future Masses with Seminarians
9:15 a.m., Holy Trinity Seminary

February 6th
April 3rd

Roster Updates

If you have any changes for the roster or would like an updated copy, please email your request to John Hughes. You may also call him at 214.454.7458. The updated roster is also available at the [Members Only](#) page of the website. Email John Hughes for the password.