

# The Thomist

*...without a doubt*

**St. Thomas Traditional Anglican Church**

*Established December 12, 1992—in Sargentville, Maine.*

373 Bangor Road, P.O. Box 365, Ellsworth, ME 04605-0365

**Eastertide 2012**



## **Letter from Deacon Dunn**

Dear St. Thomas Parish Family and Friends,

I hope that this Easter Season has been one of joy and blessing, filled with the wonderment of the resurrection of our Lord.

First I want to thank Bill Landmesser for all his hard work on The Thomist over the past couple of years. He brought us the “Parish People,” a segment I truly enjoyed and was blessed to get to know you all a little bit better. We yet again will go through a reorganization of the newsletter. I have thought long and hard about it and it seems that a small letter from myself might be profitable for the spiritual encouragement of our little Christian community. So, we will be adding that segment from here on out. If anyone wishes to take on the “Parish People” segment, I would be overjoyed to see that happen, but this must be something you want to do and you must be self-motivated to do it. Please let Pat Taniashvili or me know if this is something that interests you.

While we have worshipped together for the past five years, I do want to get to know everyone better, so I’m trying to set time aside to get to know everyone outside of the church, but I haven’t gotten very far with this. It is my hope is to visit or meet with everyone who desires to do so, so please tell me if you want to get coffee or anything else.

As a general reminder: please call me (cell 272-7287) or Fr. Gray (244-9683) if there’s an emergency or you are going into the hospital, we want to be there for you both in prayer and in visitation.

Lastly – it is my hope and prayer that my ordination to the priesthood is looming. I have heard rumors of dates but I have nothing confirmed in writing. It looks like it will be in the late spring early summer time frame (end of June beginning of July). I hope that all of you will be able to attend, our very dear brother Deacon Kalish will be ordained with me, so this will be a truly joyous event.

With the housekeeping issues done, I want to say a bit about the worship of the church. The worship of the church is to be an act of catechesis (“Catechesis is nothing other than the process of transmitting the Gospel, as the Christian community has received it, understands it, celebrates it, lives it and communicates it in many ways.” --from the General Directory for Catechesis #105). We might be inclined to assume catechesis is something that we did for several weeks or years as teenagers, however it is something that all of us as Christians are to be doing throughout our lives. In one of my favorite prayers we ask God to help us to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (p. 588). So it is that our worship is to be an act of catechism – an act of getting to know our Lord and Savior. It is with this in mind that the entire liturgy is constructed. It is first to draw us out of ourselves into the worship of the one true Lord. That is to say, it calls us to die to ourselves that we might be made whole by God. The secondary point of worship is to continually teach us more and more who Christ our Lord is.

In this segment of The Thomist, a chapter from Thomas Merton’s book “Thoughts in Solitude” is included, on the ringing of the tower bell. Pat thought it would be nice to talk a little bit about bell ringing and I agree, for this is the very beginning of our corporate worship together. The ringing of the bells calls us together, and tells us to come in from the cold and to

join into the worship of our risen Lord, to be rejuvenated from the hard work of the long week.

It is my prayer that in my time with all of you we will be able to join together in growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Faithfully, *Rev. Mr. Ian Emile Dunn*

## \*Tower Interior Nears Completion

Over the last few months, the interior of the first floor of the St. Thomas tower has been transformed from a bare-bones unfinished room to our new Sacristy.

The area has been insulated and sheet rocked (both materials and labor were donated), trim has been put up, and the painting is finished.



Cabinets and counters from Fr. Henthorne's home in Brooksville have been installed, as well as an altar.



The former sacristy area in the back of the church itself has been turned into a cloak room.

The work on the second floor of the tower is getting started. The electrical work (also donated) has been done by Jim Geary. An air conditioner has been installed, and the future church library and office has been insulated, with thanks to Dave Simmons

Still to come on the second floor are the sheet rocking, flooring, painting, and cabinets.



## Our Tower Bell

The antique bell in our tower was donated to St. Thomas several years ago by Elizabeth S. Edgell. Her daughter, Ellen Simmons, recalls that it rang out in her childhood to call the children home. And today it does essentially the same thing—pealing out the call to invite us home to worship.

Here is a “Meditation on Bells” from Thoughts in Solitude by Thomas Merton, shared by Deacon Dunn.

♪ Bells are meant to remind us that God alone is good, that we belong to Him, that we are not living for this world. They break in upon our cares in order to remind us that all things pass away and that our preoccupations are not important.

♪ They speak to us of our freedom, which responsibilities and transient cares make us forget.

♪ They are the voice of our alliances with the God of heaven. They tell us that we are His true temple. They call us to peace with him within ourselves.

♪ The Gospel of Mary and Martha is read at the end of the Blessing of the Church Bell in order to remind us of all these things.

♪ The bells say: business does not matter. Rest in God and rejoice, for this world is only the figure and the promise of the world to come, and only those who are detached from transient things can possess the substance of an eternal promise.

♪ The bells say: we have spoken for centuries from the towers of great Churches. We have spoken to the saints your fathers, in their land. We called them, as we call you, to sanctity. What is the word with which we called them?

♪We did not merely say, "Be good, come to Church." We did not merely say "Keep the commandments" but above all, "Christ is risen, Christ is risen!" And we said: "Come with us, God is good, salvation is not hard, His love has made it easy!"

♪And this, our message, has always been for everyone, for those who came and for those who did not come, for our song perfect as the Father in heaven is perfect and we pour our charity out upon all.

### Ready for Planting



Thanks to the Landscaping Committee (Valerie McCadden and David Simmons) for placing stones and soil around our new sign next to Rt. 1A. Once the flowers go in, it will be a lovely sight!



### Upcoming Events

- June 23- Annual Meeting
- July 6 – Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacons Ed Kalish and Ian Dunn
- August 11th- A Visit from Bishop Marsh

### Vestry Notes

The Vestry met on Sunday, May 5 to discuss the progress on the second story room of the tower, as well as landscaping around the church.

It was decided to continue advertising in the Ellsworth American and the Islander, but to discontinue the weekly ad in the Bangor paper. We'll continue membership in the Chamber of Commerce and have new brochures printed.

Fund-raising and outreach to the Ellsworth area community were considered, and further information will be gathered for discussion at the next meeting.

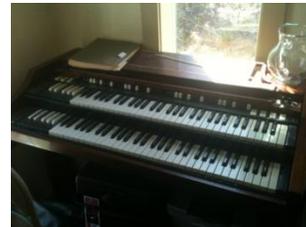
### But wait! Here's more....

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**Kneelers** - The needlepointers working on the new kneelers for our communion rail area are progressing in their work. Contributions for fabric and other supplies for the kneelers may be made in memory of Fr. Henthorne

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The **Hammond organ** that we used to have in the church is still for sale, and can be seen on the first floor of the tower.



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- If you wish to receive The Thomist via e-mail, please send your address to Pat Taniashvili at patania@roadrunner.com

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