

## FEBRUARY MEETING

### GREG N. WEILER, PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY: “LOOKING FOR GOD IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES”

Gregory N. Weiler, current President and Co-Founder of the St. Thomas More Society, will share how an “accidental” trip to the slums of Kingston, Jamaica with the Missionaries of the Poor not only expanded his “bubble” of a comfortable life as a Catholic Lawyer in Orange County, but really blew up his bubble. He will speak about meeting Father Ho Long (a living Saint), founder of the Missionaries of the Poor, their work in Jamaica, Haiti, and the Philippines and God’s providence and sense of humor in taking a stodgy real estate lawyer in the midst of an economic recession from the slums

of Kingston to the barrios of Managua Nicaragua, back to Isaiah House in Santa Ana full circle to his home in San Juan Capistrano. “Where exactly is this God of our’s – how do we find him?”

Gregory is a 20-year partner at the Irvine law firm of Palmieri, Tyler, Wiener, Wilhelm & Waldron, representing many of the largest home builders and developers of real estate in Southern California.

Greg freely admits he spent the first decade after leaving school focusing



**Gregory N. Weiler**

on his career and politics until, at 37, he attended a Cursillo weekend at Marywood. It was on that amazing retreat that he paused and asked the dangerous questions: “Where did I

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### FEBRUARY LUNCH MEETING

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Feb. 16

**TIME:** 12:00 P.M.

**WHERE:** Jilio-Ryan Hunter & Olsen Court Reporters  
14661 Franklin, #150 (entrance at rear of building)  
Tustin, California

**FOR DIRECTIONS:** [www.jilioryan.com](http://www.jilioryan.com)

(714) 424-9902

**LUNCH COST:** \$15

**SPEAKER:** Greg Weiler

## LOOKING FOR GOD IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

come from, why am I here, and where am I going.” He cites his Cursillo weekend as a defining moment in his life, much like a bolt of lightning on the Damascus Road was for Saul of Tarsus. He also cites as an “epiphany” the moment that his wife’s doctor placed a microphone on her belly in 1983 and hearing the “whoosh, whoosh, whoosh” of his daughter’s heartbeat. From that moment he went from being indifferent about abortion, to being a pro-lifer.

His mantra to family and friends is from the parable of the Prodigal Father: “Just turn from the pigsty, and turn and turn ... as many times as you fall, and your Heavenly Father will run to you, slap a ring on your finger, dress you in his finest robe and kill the fatted calf – its all about the turning because Abba is there anxiously waiting.”

Greg is very active in the Equestrian Order and the Knights of Columbus, being a past Grand Knight; is a past President and Board Member of Birthright (Birth Choice Health Clinics) and is one of the founding members and serves as President of the St. Thomas More Society of Orange County.

The St. Thomas More Society is acknowledged as the most successful Catholic lawyers organization in the country.

He has been married to his wife Mary Lou for 30 years

and is a father of four, happily noting the end of a combined 64 years of Catholic School tuition! Greg cites his family as his greatest joy. His greatest professional achievement was litigation preventing Planned Parenthood from opening an abortion clinic in the City of Monrovia and shutting down a clinic in thousand Oaks. Most importantly Greg is a daily communicant at the beautiful Serra Chapel at the Mission San Juan.

He is a frequent contributing author to the St. Thomas More Society publication *Ad Veritatem* including the following articles: To Be Catholic is To Be Pro-life; St. Thomas More and Daily Mass; a Tribute to Priests; a Father’s Catechism; The Choice; My Life In Christ, Law Practice and the Christian Ideal, The Eucharist, I Claim this Office for Christ; Religion on My Terms; Sheep or Shepard; and Happiness or Holiness.

Greg is an avid outdoorsman and experienced back-packer, hiking from the North Rim to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, tackling Mt. Kilimanjaro and numerous trans-Sierra hiking adventures, summiting Mt Whitney three times. He is also an avid bird hunter and fly fisherman, traveling from Patagonia in Argentina and Chile to Alberta in North America. Lastly, Greg has been active in the Boy Scouts of America for over 10 years and served for many years as the Scoutmaster for 60 boys in Troop 724 of the City of San Juan Capistrano. He states his epitaph can read “Here lies the Father of THREE Eagle Scouts.”

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# EVERYWHERE THAT MARY WENT...

**JOHN J. FLYNN III**



February 11 is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. Marian apparitions add still another irony to the many on which the Church is rested: Rightly revered for her humility, Mary could do no more to generate controversy if she took up smoking or stole a car. The irony, however, has been assured from the start, as predicted in the Magnificat.

It is an irony reinforced at Lourdes, no place for the faint of heart. I have been there twice, and know its power too well. On our first visit, my wife, Susanne, spent three days in tears, or near tears. Why? The maternal aspect of God’s love lies like a mantle over the entire landscape: Grotto and mountains, churches and hospitals, religious, doctors and caregivers, innumerable gurneys and wheelchairs, even the seamiest of gift shops. Nothing is untouched. The soul has less hope of resisting her there than a feather has against a hurricane.

Controversy follows Mary even into the heart of the Church, where she is viewed in some circles as nearly a goddess, and in others as the Church’s crazy aunt. But if Marian excesses have occurred, they cannot be justly invoked as an excuse for understating the centrality of her role, acutely summarized by Henri de Lubac:

*Catholic faith regarding Our Lady sums up symbolically, in its special case, the doctrine of human cooperation in the Redemption, and thus provides the synthesis, or matrix concept, as it were, of the dogma of the Church. Thus it has been said that both these doctrines should*

*be maintained or allowed to crumble away together. . . . The links between Our Lady and the Church are not only numerous and close; they are essential, and woven from within. These two mysteries of the faith are not just solidary; we might say that they are ‘one single and unique mystery.’ At any rate they stand in such a relation one to the other that each is enriched when elucidated by its fellow; more contemplation of the one is indispensable if the other is to be understood.*

The Church by its very nature is Marian, daily and perpetually giving birth to Christ. Our Lady is more than model or metaphor: She is the embodiment of the Church’s maternity, everywhere in evidence at Lourdes.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTH	DATE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
February	Wed, Feb 16	Gregory N. Weiler on “Looking for God in All the Right Places”	Jilio-Ryan Hunter & Olsen 14661 Franklin, #150 (entrance at rear of building) Tustin, California
March	Wed, March 16	Fr. Robert J. Araujo, S.J. on the Conscience of the Catholic Lawyer and St. Thomas More	Jilio-Ryan Hunter & Olsen (same as above)
April	Wed, April 20	Andrew Zepeda on “He Became a Curse for Me: Understanding the Temptation of Christ”	Jilio-Ryan Hunter & Olsen (same as above)

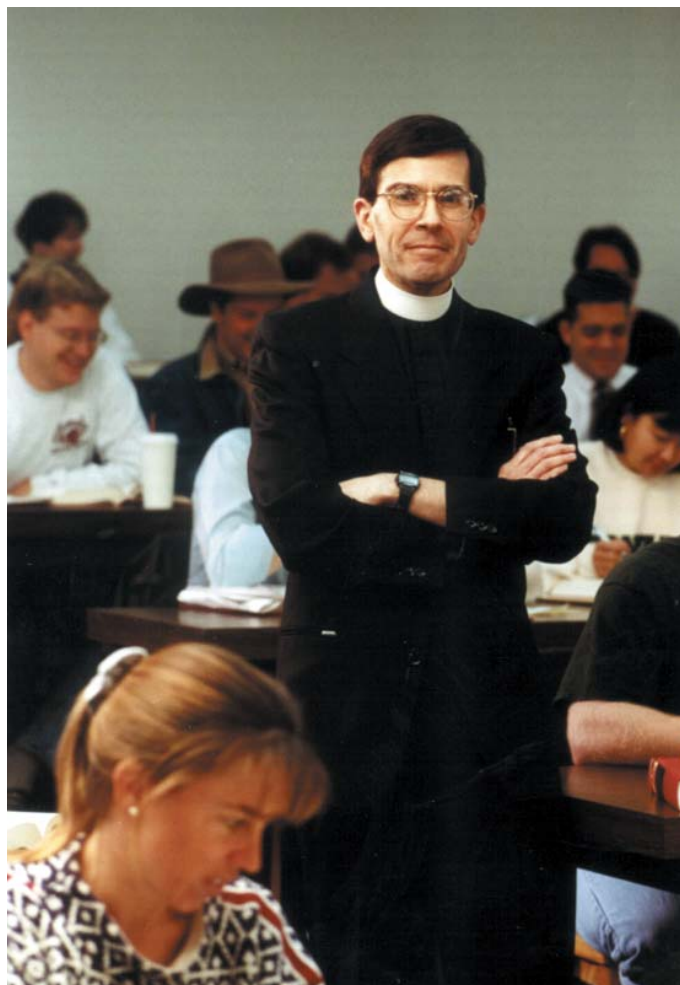
## MARCH MEETING: FR. ROBERT ARAUJO, S.J.

On March 16, Fr. Robert J. Araujo, S.J., will join us at our Wednesday lunch meeting to give remarks on conscience and the martyrdom of St. Thomas More.

Fr. Araujo is a Jesuit priest and serves as the John Courtney Murray, S.J. University Professor at Loyola University Chicago. His course offerings have included Law and Catholic Social Thought, Natural Law and Natural Rights, Statutory Interpretation, and International Law. Upon completing military service as an officer in the United States Army, Fr. Araujo served as a trial attorney and attorney advisor in the Solicitor's Office of the United States Department of the Interior (1974-1979). In 1979 he joined the Law Department of The Standard Oil Company (Ohio) and served in a variety of capacities until 1985. After corporate service, he joined the general corporate department of a New England law firm and remained there until entering the Society of Jesus in 1986.

As a professor, he was a member of the law faculty at Gonzaga University from 1994-2005 and became the Robert Bellarmine, S.J. University Professor in American and Public International law. He served as Ordinary Professor, the Pontifical Gregorian University, 2005-2008. He has been a visiting Professor at Georgetown University Law Center; St. Louis University School of Law; and Boston College School of Law. He was the Stein Fellow at Fordham University Law School, and during his graduate legal studies in New York, he was the Chamberlain Fellow at Columbia University School of Law. Since 1997, he has served as an advisor to the Holy See providing counsel on issues dealing with public international law.

Fr. Araujo has authored numerous law review articles on topics that include jurisprudence, public international



law, Constitutional law, and Catholic legal theory. He has coauthored a series of books on papal diplomacy and international organizations with the late Fr. John A. Lucal, S.J. In addition, he has contributed chapters to a number of volumes addressing topics in jurisprudence and public international law. He makes frequent appearances on the Mirror of Justice, a web log dedicated to the development of Catholic Legal Theory, <http://www.mirrorofjustice.org>.