

### Fr. Hai's Corner

Welcome to the home of St. Thomas More School! We are excited to celebrate our 50th Anniversary (1965-2015) this Saturday, February 28, 2015. The Anniversary Mass will be a celebration of Faith, Life, History and Love of God, Catholic education and STM School. Who could have imagined 50 years ago how abundantly STM School would flourish? The blessings of strong, visionary leadership, great lay and religious educators, priests, a rich mix of cultures, and deeply supportive and loyal families and alumnae have made STM School a Blue Ribbon winner (twice) and a treasure in the Meyerland area.

The Anniversary Festivities begin with the Holy Mass, presided over by Cardinal DiNardo. Then, the Gala follows with 430+ former STM students and supporters. In addition to everything wonderful and nostalgic about the evening, let us always remember our STM motto: *reaching minds, touching hearts, shaping souls*.

As we celebrate 50 years of educating minds and hearts to leadership, let us enjoy our Golden Jubilee year. Let us work together to grow our Catholic education at STM for the next 50 years. Let us ask for God's blessing on each member of the STM school and church community, with gratitude and joy.

May God bless us & our STM School. With love, gratitude and prayer, Fr. Hai Dang

*PS. Do you know that we have our STM alma mater school song? Call STM school and have Ms. Pat Flippen sing it for you.*

### Eucharistic Adoration:

Tues., 1-2 p.m.

Wed., 12-1 p.m. & 4-5 p.m.

Friday, 11-12 midnight



Our chapel remains open 24 hours a day because of the commitment made by those who take a weekly Holy Hour. **Please commit!!**

On another note, if you are making New Year resolutions, consider making a weekly Holy Hour. The rewards are immeasurable! Call Suzie Hamilton for info, 713-557-3036 or 713-729-0221.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TEACH ESL CLASSES** (REGULAR AND SUBSTITUTE )

Our parish provides ESL (**English as a Second Language**) classes to the community on Tuesday & Thursday evenings, 7 - 9 pm, beginning January 27, 2015.

If you can Volunteer at least one evening a week with this worthwhile endeavor, or be a Substitute, please contact Norman Palms at 713-726-0513 or [normpalms@aol.com](mailto:normpalms@aol.com).

You do not need to speak Spanish! A training session will be provided for new teachers at no cost.

**Parish Lenten Mission**, given by Fr. Blaise Czaja, C.P. will begin on Sunday, March 1, 2015. Fr. Blaise will preach at all the Masses on Sunday and then the mission will be held on March 2, 3 & 4. There will be evening sessions beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the church and there will be daytime sessions, starting with Mass at 11:30 a.m.

**FR. HAI HAS ASKED THAT ALL ORGANIZATIONS / MINISTRIES CANCEL ACTIVITIES DURING THE MISSION...THIS MEANS NO MEETINGS ON THE EVENINGS OF MARCH 2, 3, 4.**

At the close of the mission (Wednesday, March 4) there will be a reception in Servant Hall with light refreshments. Everyone is invited to attend!

### **INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?**

This process known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Begins with informal question and answer sessions. Inquiry sessions are held on Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9:30 p.m. For more information, just come on Wednesday evening, or talk to Deacon John Krugh on Sunday or call the church office, 713-729-0221.

**Spread the Good News! St Thomas More Event Photo is free and open to all STM ministries. Ministry Heads may call Chris Moras at 713.305.4099 to schedule photography for their next parish event.**

It is my great fortune to be in the STM family. All my family joins me in expressing our sincere thanks for all the support and prayers that sustained us recent illness and death. Deacon Dave's visit with Bob not only ministered to Bob, but to the rest of us as well. I am so very grateful to all at STM.

Ann Lee

### Collection Information July 2014-June 2015

Yearly Budgeted Offertory \$1,850,523.00

Weekend Collection (02/15/2015)

	<u>WEEKLY</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Actual Collection	37,135.79	1,178,292.70
Budgeted Amount	<u>37,000.00</u>	<u>1,221,000.00</u>
Over (+)/Under(-)	+\$ 135.79	-\$ 42,707.30

### Additional Collections:

Children (Social Services)	\$ 5.00
Building Fund	\$ 255.00

*Thank you for your continued generosity!*

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### Readings for the week of February 22, 2015

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr</b> Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19; Mt 25:31-46
<b>Tuesday</b>	Is 55:10-11; Ps 34; Mt 6:7-15
<b>Wednesday</b>	Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51; Lk 11:29-32
<b>Thursday</b>	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138; Mt 7:7-12
<b>Friday</b>	Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130; Mt 5:20-26
<b>Saturday</b>	Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119; Mt 5:43-48
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22...

Monday, February 23	
6:30 a.m.	Paige Riley
5:30 p.m.	†Peter Long Bui
Tuesday, February 24	
6:30 a.m.	†John Albert Hayes
5:30 p.m.	†Mae & †Paddy Flynn
Wednesday, February 25	
6:30 a.m.	†Henry Nowak
5:30 p.m.	†Richard Endres
Thursday, February 26	
6:30 a.m.	R. Abaya, Thanksgiving
8:15 a.m.	†Richard Endres
5:30 p.m.	†Genevieve Leverone / Pro-Life Intentions
Friday, February 27	
6:30 a.m.	†Elias Galicia
5:30 p.m.	Marie Smaistrila
Saturday, February 28	
9:00 a.m.	J. Abaya Intentions
5:00 p.m.	†Catherine & †Hank Hajovsky
Sunday, March 1	
7:30 a.m.	Polly & Jack Tolbert
9:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving
11:00 a.m.	†Peter Long Bui
1:00 p.m.	†Frank Richards
5:00 p.m.	For the Parish
7:00 p.m.	†Hilma Bello

### This week around STM....

#### Sunday, February 22

9:00 a.m.	CCE Parents & Students, Prinster & School
9:30 a.m.	RCIA, Adult Ed. Bldg.
10:00 a.m.	Sacrament of the Sick, Church
11:00 a.m.	CCE Parents & Students, Prinster & School
5:30 p.m.	Spanish Choir, AE-St. Mary

#### Monday, February 23

9:00 a.m.	Bible Study, Rectory
5:30 p.m.	Sp. Legion of Mary, Room F
6:00 p.m.	Parishioner Assistance Ministry, Rectory
7:00 p.m.	EPIC Study, Servant Hall Taller y Oracion de la Vida, Prinster Hall Extraordinary Ministers, Church
7:30 p.m.	Apostleship of the Cross (Sp.), AE-St. Paul

#### Tuesday, February 24

9:30 a.m.	Sr. Citizen Bingo, Scout House
7:00 p.m.	ESL, School Building & Grounds Committee, Rectory

#### Wednesday, February 25

10:00 a.m.	EPIC Study, Servant Hall
7:00 p.m.	OMOPH Prayer Group, Chapel RICA (Sp. RCIA), Youth Prayer Room High School Confirmation 1, Youth Center High School Confirmation 2, Servant Hall
7:30 p.m.	RCIA Inquiry, AE-St. Peter Legion of Mary, AE-St. Paul Sp. Choir, Church K of C, Prinster Hall

#### Thursday, February 26

6:45 p.m.	Sp. Choir, AE-St. Mary
7:00 p.m.	ESL, School EPIC Study, Servant Hall
7:30 p.m.	Word of Truth Bible Study, AE-St. Peter Apostleship of the Cross, AE-St. Paul Combined Choir, Church

#### Friday, February 27

9:15 a.m.	Altar Society, Church
5:00 p.m.	K of C Fish Dinner, Prinster Hall
6:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross, Church Legion of Mary Jr. (Sp.), Room F
7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross (Sp.), Church Sp. Choir, AE-St. Mary

#### Saturday, February 28-SCHOOL GALA

3:30 p.m.	Confession, Church
6:15 p.m.	Confession, Church

#### Sunday, March 1

9:00 a.m.	CCE Parents & Students, Prinster & School
9:30 a.m.	RCIA, Adult Ed. Bldg.
10:00 a.m.	Sacrament of the Sick, Church
11:00 a.m.	CCE Parents & Students, Prinster & School
5:30 p.m.	Spanish Choir, AE-St. Mary

**Tired of writing checks and keeping up with parish envelopes? Please check out our ONLINE GIVING at [www.stmhouston.org](http://www.stmhouston.org). If you don't know your ID#, you will need to call the parish office first to get it.**



*Dignity Memorial* & NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FUNERAL HISTORY *Invite you...* to a free guided tour of the exhibit plus lunch **“Celebrating the Lives and Deaths of the Popes”**

Located at the NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FUNERAL HISTORY, the permanent exhibit, “Celebrating the Lives and Deaths of the Popes” is a product of three years of intense collaboration between the Vatican and the National Museum of Funeral History. The exhibit includes a full-scale replica of Pope John Paul II's crypt, an exact reproduction of the coffin used in the funerals of three previous Popes as well as replicas of other Papal vestments by the tailor shop that has made the vestments of the last seven Popes. **PLEASE CONTACT DEACON ED GOSLINE TO RSVP FOR THE GROUP TOUR (NO CHARGE)**

DATES: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 OR SATURDAY, MARCH 28

WHERE: MEET AT THE CHURCH PARKING LOT AND WE WILL DEPART FROM THERE AT 9:00 AM, RETURN AT 2:00 PM

RSVP: [DEACONED@STMHOUSTON.ORG](mailto:DEACONED@STMHOUSTON.ORG) OR 713-729-0221

**STreaMliners (Adults over 50 only)-Happy New Year!**  
**\$15 dues for the year—Adults over 50 only.**

**Thursday, Feb. 26, Coushatta Casino Day Trip-** \$15pp, hot kolaches, donuts and coffee at 6:30 a.m., bus leaves at 7:00 a.m.  
**Saturday, March 14, monthly meeting-**10:00 a.m. in Prinster Hall. Entertainment to be announced. Remember to bring canned goods for the STM Food Pantry and toiletries for LBJ Hospital.

**Don't forget your donation for the "Fisher House"**  
**Make checks payable to St. Thomas More Church**  
**10330 Hillcroft St., Houston, TX. 77096**

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*All trips leave from the back parking area near Prinster Hall. Please leave at least 5 spaces open around the dumpsters and recycling bins. STreaMliner trips are open to all STM families and friends! For info, call Ed's Tours 713-723-2035.*

[www.houstonvocations.com](http://www.houstonvocations.com)

This is the vocations site for the Archdiocese, if you have been searching, check it out and see if there is a program you can attend.

God's Gospels decide our salvation by how we serve God and His people.

The Parish Vocations Committee

**STM Woman's ACTS Team will be hosting a Garage Sale on Saturday, March 7, 2015 in the Old Gym from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. The proceeds of this Garage Sale will be used to offset expenses occurred for the upcoming 2016 STM Woman's ACT Retreat. The Retreat is scheduled for January 14 - 17, 2016, located at Mother of Perpetual Help Retreat Center, Houston, Texas. We will accept any donations of gently used and saleable items. Items can be delivered to Donovan's Den, Friday, March 6, from 3:00 - 7:00 pm or Saturday, March 7 at 7:00 am. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Contact Lillie Vega at 713 - 271-0750, [Lill53@aol.com](mailto:Lill53@aol.com), or Debbie Luquette at 713 - 728 - 5302, [drimba@hotmail.com](mailto:drimba@hotmail.com).**



Holy Cross Chapel  
and Catholic Resource Center

## 2015 Men's Lenten Study Forum

Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross

### Starting Tuesday, February 24 at 6:30

Holy Cross Chapel and Catholic Resource Center will host a men's breakfast and study forum on "The Last Words of Jesus from the Cross" presented by Fr. Jerry Jung.

### Schedule

6:30 AM	Continental Breakfast
7:00 AM	Talk Begins
7:30 AM	Small Group Discussions
7:45 AM	Closing Remarks

### Lenten Schedule at Holy Cross Chapel

February 18th, Ash Wednesday Masses: 7 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM, 12 PM, 1 PM, 5 PM

Daily Masses: 11:35 AM, 12:15 PM

Stations of the Cross: Fridays after 12:15 PM Mass

*"If what Christians say about Good Friday is true, then it is, quite simply, the truth about everything"*  
- Fr. John Neuhaus

February 24	Introduction
	First Word - "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"
March 3	Second Word - "Amen I say to thee, this day thou shalt be with Me in paradise"
	Third Word - "Woman, behold thy son ... Behold thy mother"
March 10	Fourth Word - "Eli, Eli, lamma sabacthani?"
	Fifth Word - "I thirst"
March 17	No Talk - Spring Break
March 24	Sixth Word - "It is consummated"
	Seventh Word - "Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit"
March 31 (Holy Week)	Meditation and Reconciliation

Repentance - Conversion - The Call to Follow Christ



## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS:

#### TUITION UPDATE

Thank you to all the families who have paid their tuition for the 2014-2015 CCE year. However, as of this month we still have a fair amount of tuition that is still outstanding. We are dedicated to providing the best possible religious education program at St. Thomas More; however, this can only be done with your support. If at all possible, **please pay your outstanding balance** at your earliest convenience, payment plans are available. Thank you for your co-operation.

Wondering whether or not the content of a movie is suitable for your child or teen? Check [www.screenit.com](http://www.screenit.com) for the information you need.

"There are no joys like innocence."  
-Archbishop Fulton Sheen

## Meet the STM Saintry Staff

Cindy Coltharp Vodehnal, an STM alumni, is a STM kindergarten teacher. Prior to teaching STM kindergarten, Mrs. Vodehnal spent five years teaching in the STM pre-school. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Sam Houston State University, and a Masters of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from Angelo State University. Mrs. Vodehnal is married to Josh and has two children, Conner and Riley, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation STM students. Mrs. Vodehnal loves spending time with her family. Her favorite family time is walking along the beach looking for seashells. She loves teaching at STM "because my true passion is teaching God's Children. It brings me great joy to watch each and every one of my students learn and grow emotionally and academically as they develop into successful learners."



## RAY'S OF ENLIGHTENMENT

Divine Mercy Conference  
Families Rebuilding  
The Temple of the Lord

March 21<sup>st</sup> 9-5pm

#### SPEAKERS

Steve Pokorny- Fr. Roy Oggero  
Don & Sherry Burns, Sally Flowers  
Fr. Christopher Plant

GRACE FILLED DAY- Music/  
Refreshments/Teachings/Power Point Presentations/3:00 Chaplet of Divine  
Mercy Adoration / 5pm Mass

Registration is required - No Charge

Call 281-469-5533 (Seating is limited)

Jack Alexander [jalexander@ctrcc.com](mailto:jalexander@ctrcc.com).



## It's Golden! Gala and Auction St. Thomas More School

Golden Opportunities for Everyone

**J. J. Watt Autographed Football! Chance Drawing \$20 a Chance.** You do not have to be present to "win". One lucky winner will be drawn before dinner at the *It's Golden!* Gala on February 28th. The Football may be picked up by the winner the night of the Gala or the next week in the STM school office. There is no limit to the amount of chances you may purchase, and anyone may participate! "Come on take a "sWatt"! "at Winning the Football Signed by the Defensive Player of the Year!"

#### Adult Sign Up Parties

Pop a cork as a sommelier takes you on a **Wine Tasting** journey perfectly paired with heavy hors d'oeuvres on Saturday, April 11. Limited to 20 Adults; \$75.00 per person.

It's a **Crawfish Boil!** Sign Up Party on Saturday, April 18. Limited to 50 Adults only; \$45.00 per person.

Don't miss your chance to participate **now**, please contact Kathy Prado in the STM School Office at 713-729-3434.

### St. Thomas More Catholic Church Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference Yearly Donor and Parishioner Appreciation Report January to December 2014

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Thomas More wants to extend a heartfelt **THANKS to YOU** for continuing to touch the lives of so many families in our community through your monetary contributions and donation of goods.

Thanks to **YOU**, during 2014 we accomplished the following goals:

Helped feed **2,672 families** through our pantry,  
with a monetary value of **\$80,170.00**

Made **169 home visits**, helping **520 family members** and distributing **\$26,097.00** in rental assistance and **\$6,632.00** in utility payments

**Thank YOU, St. Thomas More Family for YOUR continuous support!**

**Your selfless giving helps us  
continue to do God's work  
serving our community.**

Flocknote is a way for the parish to communicate with you! If you don't have time to read the bulletin but want to know what's going on, sign up for this service. There are 2 easy ways to register for Flocknote (pick one):

Visit our network at

**1** [flocknote.com/stmhouston](http://flocknote.com/stmhouston)  
or

**2** Text "Hillcroft" to 84576



## Del Padre Hai

¡Bienvenido al hogar de la escuela de St. Thomas More! Estamos muy contentos de celebrar nuestro 50a Aniversario (1965-2015) este sábado 28 de Febrero, 2015. La Misa de Aniversario será una celebración de Fe, Vida, Historia y El Amor de Dios, Educación Católica y de la Escuela de STM. ¿Quién hubiera imaginado hace 50 años como prosperaría abundantemente la escuela de STM? Las bendiciones de un liderazgo fuerte y visionario, grandes educadores laicos y religiosos, sacerdotes, una rica mezcla de culturas, y familias profundamente solidarias y leales y un gran alumnado que ha hecho de STM una escuela ganadora del Listón Azul (dos veces) y un tesoro en el área de Meyerland.

Las festividades del Aniversario comenzaran con una Santa Misa, presidida por el Cardenal DiNardo. Seguida por una cena de Gala con mas de 430+ ex-alumnos de STM, padres de Familia de nuestros recientes alumnos y personas que apoyan a la escuela de STM. Además de todo lo nostálgico y romántico e la noche recordemos siempre nuestro lema de STM: alcanzando mentes, *tocando corazones, formando almas*.

Al celebrar 50 años educando mentes y corazones a un liderazgo, disfrutemos de nuestro año de jubileo de oro. Trabajemos juntos para hacer crecer nuestra educación Católica en STM por los próximos 50a años. Pidámosle a Dios que bendiga a cada miembro de la escuela de STM y a la comunidad de la Iglesia, con gratitud y jubilo.

Que Dios nos bendiga y a la escuela de STM. Con amor, gratitud y oración, Padre Hai Dang

*PS. ¿Sabias que tenemos una canción para nuestra Alma Mater STM? Llama a la escuela de STM y pídele a Ms. Pat Flippen que te la cante.*

### Adoración Eucarística:

**Miércoles., 12-1 a.m., 12-1 p.m. & 4-5 p.m.**  
**Viernes, 5-6 a.m. & 11-12 a la medianoche**

**Nuestra capilla permanece abierta las 24 horas del día gracias al compromiso hecho por aquellas personas que toman una Hora Santa semanal.. Por favor haga un compromiso!!**

**Llama a la oficina de la Iglesia para mas información 713-729-0221.**



### Educación Religiosa:

**Actualización de Matricula-** ¡Gracias a todas las familias que han pagado su cuota para el año de doctrina 2014-2015. Sin embargo, a partir de este mes todavía tenemos una buena cantidad de la matrícula que todavía está pendiente. Estamos dedicados a proveer el programa de educación religiosa lo mejor posible en Santo Tomas More, sin embargo, esto sólo se puede hacer con su apoyo. Si es posible, **por favor pague el saldo pendiente lo antes posible**, hay planes de pago disponibles. Gracias por su cooperación.

El Evangelio de Dios decide nuestra salvación  
en como servimos a Dios y a Su gente.

**El comité de Vocaciones de la Parroquia**

## Conoce al personal Santo de STM

Cindy Coltharp Vodehnal, una exalumna de STM, es ahora la maestra de Kinder en STM. Antes de ser la maestra de Kinder en STM, la Sra. Vodehnal paso 5 años enseñando en el pre-escolar de STM. Ella tiene una licenciatura en artes de la Universidad estatal Sam Houston, y una maestría en Artes en Currículo e instrucción de la Universidad Estatal de Angelo. La Sra. Vodehnal esta casada con Josh y tiene dos hijos, Conner y Riley, 3<sup>ra</sup> generación de estudiantes en STM. A la Sra. Vodehnal le encanta pasar tiempo con su familia. El pasatiempo favorito de su familia es caminar a lo largo de la playa buscando conchitas. A ella le gusta mucho enseñar en STM "porque mi verdadera pasión es enseñar a los niños de Dios. Me da mucho gusto mirar a todos y cada uno de mis estudiantes aprender y crecer emocionalmente y académicamente al desarrollarse en estudiantes exitosos."



¿Te gustaría mejorar y enriquecer tu vida matrimonial? ¡Te lo Mereces! Celebra este mes del amor y la amistad viviendo un fin de semana del Encuentro Matrimonial los días 27, 28 Febrero y 1 de Marzo. Para más información comunícate con: Jesús y Marisela mirón 713-261-0677 y 832-860-0712 o Antonio y Raquel Morales 281-467-5378 y 713-826-7466 Visita nuestra página, para más detalles e inscripciones en línea:

**CONVALIDACIÓN DE MATRIMONIOS.** Las parejas que deseen convalidar su matrimonio, es decir que están casadas civilmente, o en unión libre, y quieren casarse por la Iglesia, por favor llamen a Ana Luisa al 713-729-3435. Las Clases darán comienzo el martes 17 de marzo a las 7:00pm en el Prinster Hall.



### Confirmación Para Adultos

(mayores de 18 años)

**Comenzando con un retiro el sábado, 21 de Febrero del 2015 de 9:00am a 4pm**

Para inscribirse para la preparación llame a Ana Luisa al 713-729-3435

[analuisa@stmhouston.org](mailto:analuisa@stmhouston.org)

**INICIO DE LAS CLASES MIERCOLES 4 DE MARZO DEL 2015**  
**HORARIO: 7:00PM a 9:00PM**

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK / ORACION POR LOS ENFERMOS

John Amato, Pedro Apigo, Bobby Baker, Elisa Baker, Cristine Banks, Lontondra Banks, Lisa Bivins, Kim Brown, Julia Brown, James Caffrey, Mary Jane Coke, Bernice Condon, Ellen Cooper, Heather Deeton, Alice Fahy, Bonifacio Figueroa, Frank Garcia, Gonzales Family, John Gorman, Barbara Graham, David Graham, Leticia Griewe, Ofelia Herrera, Ken Jarzombek, Maurice Korkmas, David Lafferty, Diane Lewis, Bob Little, Mary & Sabin Marshall, Margaret Martin, John R. Martin, Joyce Mercurio, Carol Montello, Mary Jane Morgan, Margaret Morris, Marcy Lowry Moses, Catherine Mourey, Emma Newhouse, Fr. Bill Oliver, Freddie Perez, Cherry Ronan, June Shumake, Al Suhor, Theresa Steen, Brian Steiner, Jan Tennert, Bertha Theriot, Beverly Thomas, Patricia Trejo, John Upton, Rich Vachris, Bertie Vargas, Alan Wedin, Clair Wise

### PRAY FOR ALL SERVING IN THE MILITARY, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN OUR PARISH FAMILY

SFC Paul Bergman, Col. David Eskelund, Megan Godsey, Traci Godsey, SPC Bryant Gradney, Sgt. Billy Janca, SSgt Bradley Louis, Mike McIntosh, Ebenezer E. Ohaegbulem, Charles U. Oparnozie, LCDR Russell Thiem, PFC Cristina Teresa Villegas

*Austin Bennett Tice is a home schooled, Eagle Scout, National Merit Finalist, graduate of Georgetown University, former Captain in the United States Marine Corps and recipient of the 2012 George Polk Award for War Reporting. He is the eldest of seven children, and was born and raised in Texas.*

*In May of 2012, the summer before his final year at Georgetown Law School, he chose to go to Syria as a Freelance Journalist to report on the conflict there. Two days after his 31st birthday, on August 13, 2012, his editors, family and friends lost contact with Austin, as he was preparing to travel from Daraya, near Damascus, to Beirut, Lebanon.*

*Please continue to pray for the safe return of Austin to his family.*

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