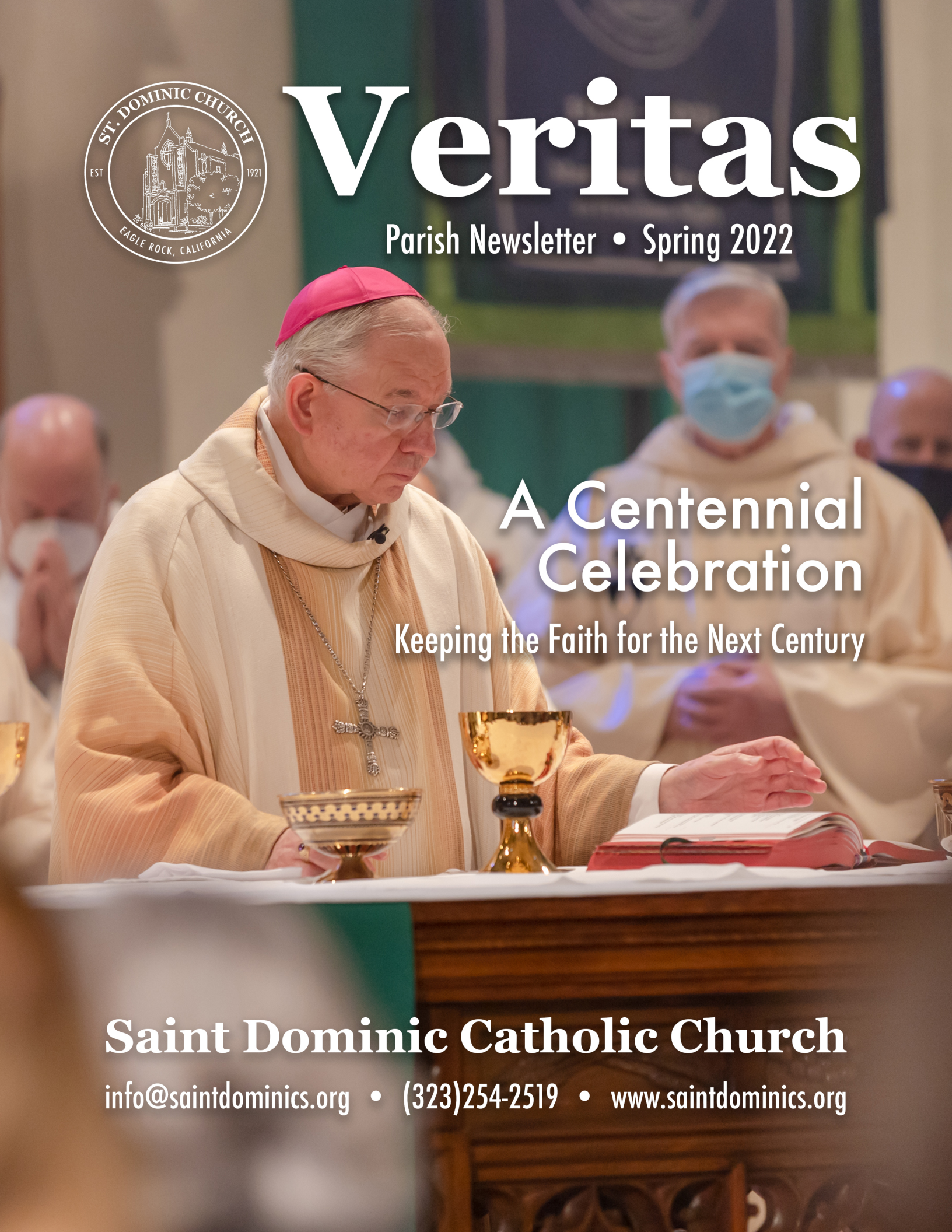
Veritas

Parish Newsletter • Spring 2022



A Centennial Celebration

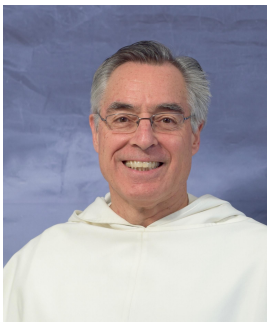
Keeping the Faith for the Next Century

Saint Dominic Catholic Church

info@saintdominics.org • (323)254-2519 • www.saintdominics.org

What's in Your Heart?

By Fr. Roberto Corral, O.P.



Some of you may remember a series of television commercials in recent years by a well-known credit card company. The commercials were often creative and funny. The punchline delivered at the very end of each commercial was the question: "What's in your wallet?" What they meant by that question was that their credit card was better, more useful and more capable of buying what we want than whatever other credit card or other source of income we have in our wallets. This message makes sense in our capitalistic and materialistic society where money is the "bottom line," i.e., where money is the essential necessity that can make us happy.

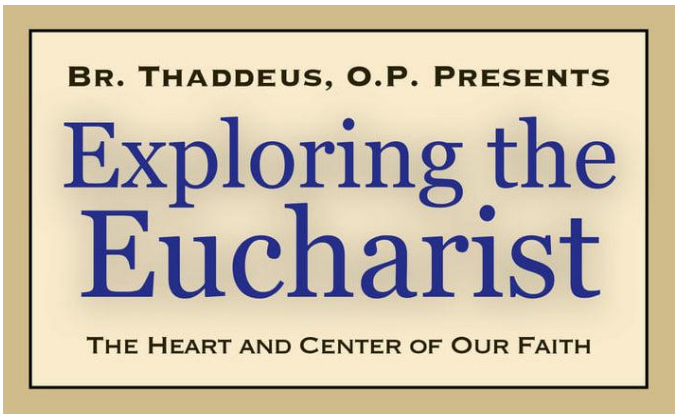
However, God asks us another question that is much more important, penetrating and challenging. And that question is "What's in your heart?" That is a question I am sure God asks us every day; in fact, he probably asks us several times a day because what God wants more than anything is our heart. He cares much more about what is in our heart than what is in our wallet, or in our house or in our garage or in our bank account or in anything else we have because, in the long run, what is in our heart will eventually determine what is in those other things. And, what is in our heart, much more than these other things, will eventually dictate whether we are happy or not.

What is in my heart, in these days that we have celebrated our Centennial Mass and Luncheon, are gratitude, pride and joy at being here with you parishioners at this key moment. How blessed I feel to be your priest and your pastor! I am proud of and grateful for so many of you who have planned, organized and carried out all of our centennial celebrations since last summer. Thank you!

Our Centennial Theme this year is **"Keeping the Faith for the Next Century."** It is a strong statement of acknowledgment and gratitude for the faith and the parish community we have received from those who have gone before us, and a firm resolve to do our part not simply to keep our faith, but to enhance our faith and pass it on to the coming generations. May our hearts and St. Dominic Parish be filled with faith and God's grace to do just that.

Exploring the Eucharist

By Br. Thaddeus, O.P.



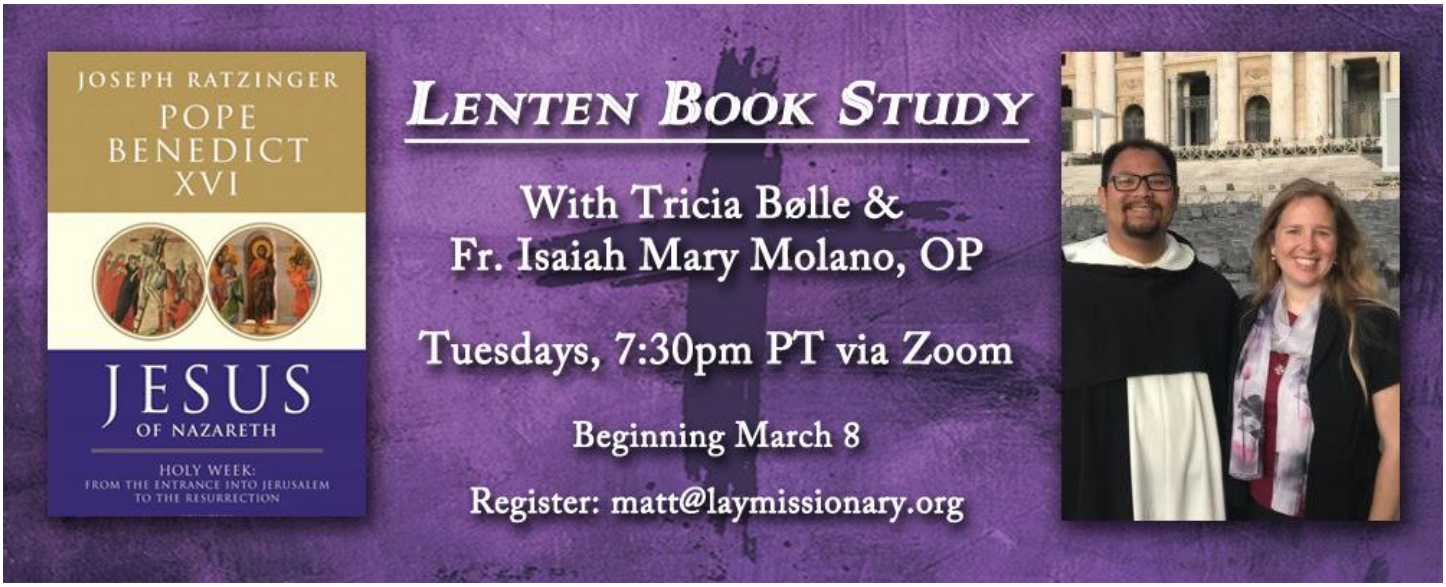
At the end of January, I began a series on the Eucharist geared toward young adults at our parish. This series was scheduled to go through every Thursday in February.

The topic of this series, the Eucharist, is such a monumentally important matter within the faith. It is with much grief that I must say that many of our Catholic brothers and sisters throughout the country, indeed throughout the world, do not believe in the Real Presence of the Eucharist. Rather, it is held by them as a mere symbol. This reality is one which I believe must be confronted with the great conviction of our faith–it is no wonder, indeed, that in so many places Mass attendance is flagging! How can one appreciate Mass if they do not understand the most critical occurrence at the Mass? That the Son of God is given to us in flesh and blood. Without this conviction of true faith, the Mass loses its great splendor, its very heart!

It is with good reason that I am thankful to the Lord, then, because of the success of this series and its outreach beyond those five sessions on Facebook and Youtube. While it is only one step toward bringing to clarity the fullness of the faith back to the people of God, what is a race if not a collection of many steps? I encourage anyone who reads this to seek out good teachings on the Eucharist and to soak in its richness. I also encourage you to speak boldly about the faith you have been given, sharing it with your loved ones and standing up against disparaging comments or nonchalance toward the Holy Mass.

If we promote the goodness and the truth of our faith together, especially in fidelity to the Real Presence, then St. Dominic's parish can stand as a beacon of light in our society to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A Video Playlist of Br. Thaddeus' Series, "Exploring the Eucharist" is available on the parish website and youtube channel at
www.youtube.com/SaintDominicEagleRock



A Centennial Celebration

Keeping the Faith for the Next Century

By Jay Cooney, Communications Coordinator

Early on the morning of Sunday February 20, a thick cloud of fog lay peacefully over sleepy Eagle Rock, California. Gradually the fog lifted and the sun shined brightly as parishioners, priests and special guests gathered at Saint Dominic Church for the Centennial Mass Celebration.

The church had been cleaned and beautifully decorated by the Environment Committee in the days leading up to the event. On that morning, a crew of Hospitality Ushers and Centennial volunteers quickly worked to get the valet and check-in up and running.

Music Director Rudy Acosta and the choir started the celebration with a special prelude concert, and soon the banner procession was ready to begin.

A long line of the Knights of Columbus and Dominican Friars processed, followed by Bishop Alex Aclan, Retired Bishop Gerald Wilkerson, and finally Archbishop Jose Gomez.

Archbishop Gomez celebrated the Mass in honor of our Parish's 100th Anniversary (actually the 101st due to a year-long delay because of the pandemic). During the celebration the Archbishop presented Pastor, Fr. Roberto Corral, OP with a special honorary plaque acknowledging the Parish's Centennial. The Dominican Friars have served the Catholic community here in Eagle Rock since 1921.

A special thank you to all of the parishioners, priests, volunteers, guests, and staff who worked to make this a beautiful celebration and one for the ages, despite the challenges and obstacles of our time. Just as the Archbishop remarked at the end of the Mass, "Now is your time. You are in charge of the next 100 years!"

PARISHIONER
CHECK-IN
OVERFLOW
SEATING IN
UPPER HALL
Please Have
Your Vaccine
Card Ready

100
AÑOS
100
YEARS

100
AÑOS
1921 - 2021
Mantener la Fe para
el Próximo Siglo
100
YEARS
1921 - 2021
Keeping the Faith
For the Next Century

100
AÑOS
ST. DOMINIC CHURCH
1921 - 2021
Mantener la Fe para
el Próximo Siglo

RESERVED
SEATING

100
AÑOS

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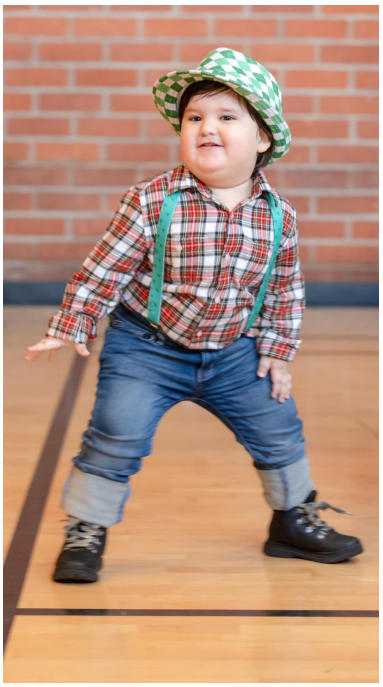
YEARS

TROOP



Health Ministry Corner

By Mary Lynne Knighten, DNP, RN

In keeping with celebrating St. Dominic's milestones, this article will focus on the health ministry's 23-year history, contributions, and future directions. The Health Ministry started in 1999 at the request of Fr. Anthony Patalano when he heard a Faith Community Nurse give a lecture on domestic violence and end-of-life care at a deanery meeting. He learned how a faith community nurse and health ministry could be helpful to parishioners. He came back to St. Dominic's at exactly the same time Mary Lynne Knighten just finished a Faith Community Nurse training course. God's hand was truly on this ministry—as always, God's timing was perfect!

Our mission is to provide whole-person health (mind, body, spirit) within the context of the Catholic faith tradition to promote health and prevent disease. We provide spiritual care, knowing health and physical or mental conditions are often connected to the spirit and a spiritual response can positively influence healing.

Two Parish Health Assessments were conducted in 2001 and 2012, while one Children's Health Assessment for the school was conducted in 2004. Education, screening, and services have been offered based on results ever since.

Our original and sustaining goals are:

- Establish regular blood pressure screenings weekly and flu prevention clinics annually
- Educate individuals, the parish, and the community on health and wellness
- Provide on-site Parish Nurse Health Services
- Be financially self-sufficient as a ministry

Corporate support and resources; including two grants for a health promoter/promotora, influenza clinics, and training for our nurses were provided by Glendale Memorial Hospital from 2000 to 2009. A full-service agreement was negotiated with QueensCare Health and Faith Partnership in 2010, which continues to this day. Our partnership with QueensCare has opened new services for the church and community with having a Registered Nurse and Community Health Worker on site weekly on Thursday mornings. We've also had a Community Health Worker at the school to provide vision and hearing screenings which we hope to resume, now that the school has opened up as pandemic restrictions lessen. QueensCare was our collaborator to offer a third Parish Health Assessment in 2021, with the intent that we may be able to offer more services in the future.

Other services and activities provided over the years include:

- Health Educational offerings (e.g. speakers, poster boards, bulletin and pulpit announcements, social media postings and church website postings)
- Health screenings annually (e.g. diabetes, stroke, cholesterol, osteoporosis, colorectal cancer, mental health, peripheral neuropathy, and other screenings at our multi-service health fairs)
- Influenza vaccine clinics 1-2 times per year, COVID vaccine clinics (along with offering pneumonia and other vaccinations)
- First aid at parish events

• Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in the church and school, located in Sacristy, Parish Hall, and School. Using the AED and performing CPR is known to have saved one person's life at St. Dominic's.

• First aid kits are maintained in the rectory, parish hall, community center, and church

• Colorectal cancer prevention in Filipino-Americans research studies X3 with trained Community Health Workers in the parish supported financially by UCLA

• Partnership with other ministries (e.g. Love Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul, Religious Education, Friends and Families with Disabilities, Hispanos en Ación)

• Free fruit trees in partnership with TreePeople for three years

• Blood Drives annually

• Covered California and insurance information seminars and sign-up events

Because of our goal to be financially self-sustaining, we have been able to use money donated to the Health Ministry and approximately $5,000 raised through investments in the Archdiocese investment pool to provide funds to:

• Support "Whole Family Catechesis" in the Religious Ed Program for three years

• Purchase four AEDs and maintain supplies annually

• Provide $8,000 toward construction of the handicapped restroom in the Community Center

• Allocate $14,000 for COVID and other health-related needs of the church and school during the pandemic

• Purchase an automated BP machine for use at health fairs and other events

• Provide free CPR, AED, First Aid, and Stop The Bleed training to hundreds of parishioners

Our plans for the future are to resume the CPR, AED, and First Aid training, continue the annual health fair and blood drive, offer support through QueensCare for mental health needs and mobile van health services and resume CHW support to the school, purchase an AED for the Community Center, share the results of the 2021 Parish Needs Assessment, and conduct another Children's Health assessment in the near future.

This is all possible because of our wonderful Health Ministry volunteers and our parishioners, who have generously and loyally supported the Health Ministry for nearly a quarter of a century. Thank you!

If there are any services you'd like to see the Health Ministry offer, or if you are interested in joining the Health Ministry, please contact: Mary Lynne Knighten, DNP, RN and leave a message at the Parish Office. To see the Parish Nurse or to get a COVID vaccine, please visit the St. Mark's Room at St. Dominic on Thursdays from 8am to 12pm.

RCIA: The Pandemic and Ministry

Thinking outside the box can teach an old dog a new trick!

By Sr. Joyanne Sullivan

Reflecting on what has been happening in the past two years of living with the Pandemic and trying to keep everything up and going has been a challenge. Forcing me to think outside the box so that I would not turn anyone away. Then, the pandemic shut in-person sessions down.

Adding to the above challenges was how to respond to and be adaptable to the schedules of First Responders, who have no control over their crazy work schedules especially during the pandemic. They could not come every Tuesday or Thursday at 7:00p.m. for our zoom sessions.

I am blessed with a great team of parish members, Joann Pinedo, Jim Guerrero, Darlene Finocchiaro, Yvette Richardson, Shawn McMenomy and of course our wonderful supportive Pastor, Fr. Roberto Corral, Fr. Isaiah Mary Molano, Fr. Michael Carey, and Br. Thaddeus Frost, who help out when they are available. Jim Guerrero who is now retired is free to help me out when we must meet with the first Responders outside the regular time of our sessions.

I have proven the saying "you can't teach an old dog a new trick" wrong. I had to learn to Zoom, learn to record the sessions, play the recording, and how to use powerpoint on Zoom.

The biggest challenge was to design a program that would serve the needs of our wonderful medical personnel, Firemen and Police officers. I knew I had the responsibility to be available when they are available.

Another challenge running these programs this way is keeping the RCIA and Adult Confirmation zoom and facetime meetings times straight. I made a chart to keep track of who it is, what program, and what time we were meeting. Happily, it is working.

I am truly inspired by these young adults; they keep me young and enthused about my own faith. This year we are blessed to have a husband and wife, a father and his teen son, and two engaged couples in the RCIA journey. They have shared that being in the RCIA together not only makes them excited to become Catholic but also it has deepened their relationships with each other. The other six individuals who are seeking full communion with the Church are excited also.

Two nurses from the Adult Confirmation who work at the same hospital shared that at lunch break they were discussing one of Bishop Barron's videos on Eucharist. A fellow nurse (who happened to also be Catholic) came in and started listening to them. She said she had never heard of the things that the other two nurses were talking about, so they made a copy of the calendar of topics from our sessions and now she is joining them during the lunch conversations about their faith.

This year I had a message from the Archdiocese Tribunal office that they had a young man who had tried for four years to get into a RCIA program at his parish and at parishes around where he lived, but because of his work schedule, he was not able to attend every weekly session. Sadly they would not let him join their programs. The Tribunal Office sent me his information and I am happy to announce that he will be baptized this Easter along with his teenage son who will also receive First Eucharist and Confirmation.

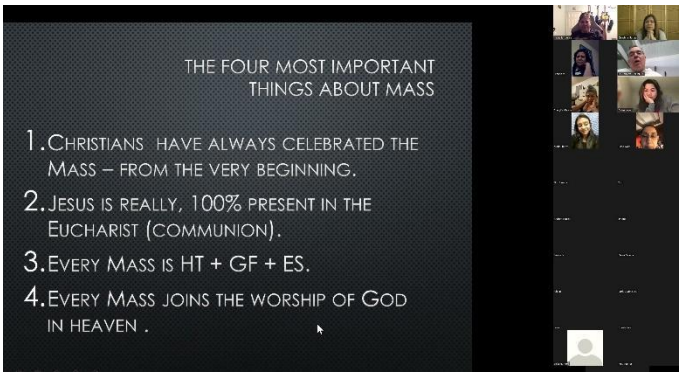
In this new way of running the RCIA and Adult Confirmation we have four from St. Dominic's parish, and the others are from Redondo Beach, Alhambra, Highland Park, Glendale, Pasadena, La Puenta, La Mirada, East L.A. and Baldwin Park. At times you must think outside of the box to see how really good God is!

Children's Faith Formation

Dominicans in action! Father Roberto hosted a Parent Talk for CFF parents on the **Four Most Important Things About Mass**. He presented a different perspective on the importance of what happens during Mass that was an awakening for many of us.

Father Francis hosted a **Teaching Mass** for the children. It was a step-by-step explanation of what happens during Mass, meanings behind items used, and the prayers that Priests recite both aloud and quietly.

Both events were great lessons and reminders on the importance of Mass and our Catholic traditions. Thank you to our Dominican Priests for walking with our families in their faith journey!



Middle School Ministry

Our Middle School Ministry met in February and prepared notes of love and thanks for Parishioners! Please watch for these notes in the Church and feel free to "take what you need".

This group is targeted to build a faith community amongst middle schoolers grades 5-8. Registration is free and open through May 2022.

The 3 remaining meetings this spring are on March 24, April 21, and May 19 on Thursdays 7pm - 8pm.

MSM MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

Contact Christina Garcia or Michelle Perez for more information, or please visit https://saintdominics.org/msm.

Seeing God in Times of Adversity

By Theresa May de Vera

Many times, in my life and yours, there will be times when we question our faith; "Why God, why me?" Or "Why God did you allow this to happen?" Trust me, it's human nature.

There was a time in my life when I had asked this question over and over again. As many of you know, in 1996 I suffered a near death experience. In the eyes of medicine and the doctors, I was "clinically dead" but in God's eyes, my life was just beginning.

Waking up from a 3 month coma was nothing short of a miracle; defying medical knowledge or logic. My family had put their full faith and trust in God that He would pull me through, and He did.

There's a famous saying: "Success is defined two times in your life: the day you were born, and the day you find your purpose in living." This was the reason that I woke up from my coma, it was my "purpose."

For the past 25 years of my life since acquiring my disability, I have been advocating for disability rights. God knew this was my vocation, my calling- to be the voice for the most underrepresented population. I felt more determined to show the world that everything in our life is God's plan.

So, I ask you this- next time you find yourself at a crossroads and facing these same questions as I did, SURRENDER and put your trust in God... it's in His Hands, it's in His plan.

Remember, Jesus felt this same abandonment, too as He hung on the cross, full man and full divinity... "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And what was the beautiful outcome of that? The Resurrection!

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Seasons of Hope

By Fr. Francis Goode, O.P.

If I flew to the point of sunrise,
Or westward across the sea,
Your hand would still be guiding me,
Your right hand holding me.

-Psalm 139: verses 9-10

When we lose someone we still love, we grieve. We ache. The pieces of our heart are slow to reconnect. Other people around me see me, but they cannot see the empty sadness where my heart is still broken, and yearns to be whole.

"To understand grief, it is wise to reflect on how you handle what happens in your life. Initially, losing a loved one can make the events around you blur together. You may feel like you're in a fog, detached from reality...Write...Tell the Lord about the pain grieving brings. Let him know. If you are doing well, give him thanks in writing." (from Seasons of Hope, Participant Journal two, page 22 : Journal Entry. author: M. Donna MacLeod, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Indiana, 2007)

The Seasons of Hope small group meetings:

- We gather for six sessions, Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm until 9:00pm.
- A new "Season" of six weeks begins two or three times a year.
- We read words from the Bible together.
- We say the name of our beloved, and we listen as others say the name of theirs.
- We take turns describing what the past week has revealed to us.
- We listen and are listened to in smaller groups of three or four.
- We pray together.
- We heal.

Join us. All are welcome!

St. Vincent de Paul Testimony

by Eva Lagman

I joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul upon my retirement. I wanted to belong to a church organization not just to strengthen my faith but also to put my faith into action. I discovered this is accomplished through the society's works of mercy by ministering to others and rendering assistance.

Initially, with my participation in the Lunch Bunch program, I helped in preparing bags of wholesome lunch to hand out to the needy. I felt gratified knowing that I was able to alleviate one's hunger in the present moment. We also have the Hope Dinner where volunteers take turns in preparing dinner and serving the deprived in a dine-in restaurant setting. We feed the unhoused, conduct food and clothing drives and render one on one service through home visits. We also send poor kids to summer camp without cost.

In this era of social justice reform, the Vincentian vocation of call of personal service to those in need regardless of difference of religion, nationality, race or political opinion appealed to me. When one is in need, I believe that none of these matter at all. Though a Catholic voluntary organization of lay people, it serves the poor, regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, with any type of needed support. The people we help are not judged and we seek to understand their situation. The ministry tries to follow Christ through service to those in need in the form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity.

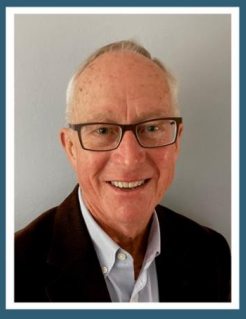
As members of the Society, we seek to bring personally, in selfless spirit, some moral and material assistance. With our compassionate, confidential and silent work of love, we aim to promote hope, advocate the dignity of the human person and alleviate some distress to those we serve. We do this whether we get acknowledged or not. It, of course, gives me some self-gratification. I wish we can do more because it gives me personal enjoyment as well.

The Vincentian ministry gave me religious vitality. I feel that it helps me in living the gospel of serving those who are poor in an attempt to put on the attitude of Jesus, who did not come to be served but to serve. (Mk 10:45). As Vincentians, we try not only to alleviate physical distress but also to promote the moral and spiritual betterment of individuals. Thus I consider the works of the Society as a means for bringing Christ's love to those who are suffering.

At the meeting, we invoke the spirit of the founders of the Society which is loyalty to the Christian faith and to the discipline of Catholic life. In addition to our regular prayers, we reflect and meditate on the gospel and enter into a meaningful discussion. Thus, I consider the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul as a true blessing to me.

Parish Lenten Retreat

Saturday April 2, 2022
10am - 3pm • Community Center



PRESENTER • RON RYAN, D. MIN.

A teacher, retreat facilitator and spiritual director, Ron Ryan, D. Min. has served in Catholic Church ministry for 45 years.

To register, please contact the parish office. Retreat Price $10

Do you have news to share in **Veritas**?
Contact us: communications@saintdominics.org

Veritas
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