



Veritas

Parish Newsletter • March - May 2021

Happy 100th Birthday!



1921 - A TENT WAS PITCHED TO SERVE AS A CHAPEL FOR MASS

Saint Dominic Catholic Church

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

From Our Pastor's Desk

by Fr. Roberto Corral, O.P.

Lenten Preaching Series: Unbound – Freedom in Christ

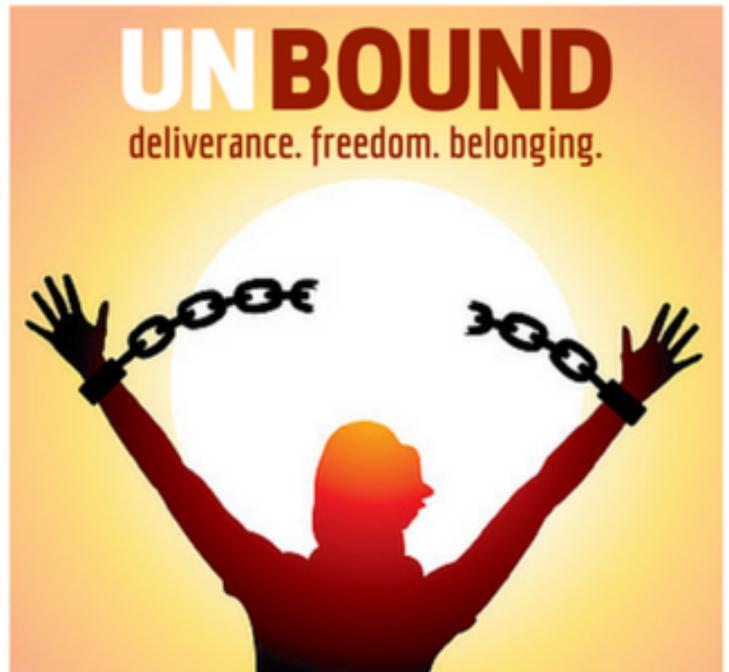


I am offering a preaching series entitled “Unbound – Freedom In Christ” during the first five weekends of Lent. It is based on a worldwide ministry headed by a Catholic couple named Neal and Janet Lozano for over thirty years, and its purpose is to help us Christians attain the freedom God gives us in Jesus: freedom from the lies, darkness and snares the devil wishes to use to keep us bound. Many of us can be burdened and bound by sin, guilt, shame, past abuse or hurts caused by others, addictions, anger, bitterness, lack of forgiveness, etc. This is what traditional Catholic theology calls spiritual bondage. One of the goals of our life of faith, and the focus of the Unbound Model of ministry is to free us from this spiritual bondage.

As Neal Lozano says in one of his books: *“Picture a locked door. Opening that door represents liberation from spiritual bondage. This door has five locks, each requiring a key. As a believer in Christ, you have all the keys you need to be free from the influence of evil spirits. If one key has not been used the bolt remains in place and the door will not move. It may be nice knowing that you have used four keys, but it will not get you through the door to liberation”* (*Unbound: A Practical Guide to Deliverance*, p. 56, Chosen Books, Grand Rapids, MI).

The Unbound ministry, and my preaching series, will focus on what the Lozanos call the Five Keys referred to in the quote above:

1. **Repentance and Faith** – acknowledging our sinfulness and our need for Jesus’ forgiveness and help.
2. **Forgiveness** of ourselves and others.
3. **Renunciation** of any evil influence in our lives.
4. **Authority**—taking the Authority we have in Jesus to overcome evil and break its power in our lives.
5. **The Father’s Blessing** — receiving the love and affirmation God wants to give each one of us as his beloved children.



A number of parishioners from St. Dominic’s have been receiving training in this ministry since October, and it is my hope and intention that we can offer all those who wish an opportunity to experience this freedom through a confidential conversation and time of prayer. You will be hearing more about that in the coming weeks. Here is just one of many, many testimonies of those who have experienced Unbound ministry: **“I am leaving with an absolutely new level of freedom. I had something in my heart for almost thirty years. It made me fearful, uncertain, and jealous. Now I am free.”**

For more information on Unbound Ministry, you may go to the Lozanos’ website: <https://www.heartofthefather.com/>.

Uncelebrated Moments

by Jay Cooney, Communications Coordinator



Happy 100th Birthday Saint Dominic Parish!

February 19, 2021



we cannot mark the passing of a loved one. The familiar way of gathering at a funeral or meeting relatives at a wake to share a hug was simply not allowed. There were no banquet dinners or reception halls available to express our grief in person and in public. In this centennial year, we find ourselves separated from ourselves. The Church as one body, spread six feet apart, and masked to prevent the spread of illness.

So where does this feeling leave us? The feeling that time has simply ticked by with little for us to do but talk about it, or maybe to drive by and scream out the window, "We love you!" Hiding our tears of joy and sadness behind a mask, or worse yet, feeling a sense of loss that cannot be redone or recovered. Sure, we can postpone and reschedule, we can alter or rethink gatherings with Zoom and live stream, but this puts an incredible burden on the spirit. Lacking connectivity and warmth, these alternatives are a far cry from the joy we could have had if things had been different.

Let us pray and reflect on this misery - this pandemic season of Lent, extended in our lives far longer than we imagined or feared. And let us look forward to those moments when this is over and the consolation of hugs and kisses becomes our reality again, and where all of these moments that God gifts us can be celebrated and appreciated in gratitude as we might never have felt before.

Just as those builders looked forward to a beautiful church from their tent Mass back in 1921, let's imagine our beautiful parish reassembled without fear or uncertainty, sooner than later. Thank you to the countless people who kept the faith and passed the torch down through the annals of time so we could enjoy this parish for the past one hundred years. May God bless Saint Dominic Church and guide us in our second century to a brighter future.

This March Saint Dominic Church has a new digit. No longer a parish of decades, we are now living through our centennial year! Much to the chagrin of the parish staff and pastoral council, our plans for the centennial celebration came to an abrupt halt last year when the pandemic began. Ironically we found ourselves meeting outdoors in a shelter, similar to how the parish began, gathering in a tent for Mass.

This desolation is familiar to everyone who has missed a wedding, a birthday, graduation or many other types of special occasions. No choirs singing songs, no decorations, and definitely no cake. Even a smile is something we cannot share easily without the fear of sharing something far worse and invisible.

Harder still are those times when

RCIA Journey

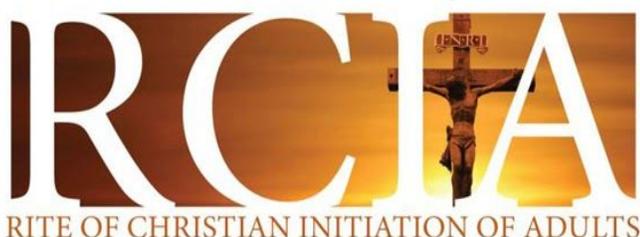
by Persephanie Crosby



To be completely honest, the idea of starting RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) was very intimidating to me. From past experiences, I was left feeling fear and sorrow. Years later when my best friend got married at Saint Dominic's, I felt this beautiful, warm, joyful presence, and I instantly knew that this was the place I needed to be. I did some research and saw that RCIA was open for enrollment! I walked in, and everyone was immediately so kind, welcoming me with open arms and big smiles. Meeting Father Roberto, Sister Joyanne, Yvette, Darlene, Jim and the other RCIA colleagues made me feel instantly at home. The room was filled to the brim with love, mercy, and grace, and those feelings became more profound as my journey continued.

I have learned so many things during RCIA, but there are two lessons that reverberate in my head and heart every day. The first one is something that I think every Catholic needs to be reminded of too! Mass should be an active participation between you and God. It is not something that we do to check off on the list. I know we are all incredibly busy and that there is so much going on in our lives now, especially during a pandemic. But we shouldn't be treating Mass as a to-do task or as a chore. Mass is a gift. By actively participating, we are offering a gift of ourselves to God. That gift of us includes the time we set aside, our prayers, our genuine attempts to do better. Just like any relationship, it means so much to show up and to give what you can. And what's beautiful is that God has a gift for us in Mass, the Eucharist! Mass becomes this wonderful gift exchange, allowing your relationship to grow and flourish! So please, don't just go through the motions. Don't let it be a one-sided relationship.

And speaking of our relationship with God, this brings me to the second lesson I have learned in RCIA. I knew this before, but it is something so simple that we forget about it when we get caught up in the world. God is Love. God is Mercy. God is Grace. God loves us unconditionally. He shows us mercy when we don't even give it to ourselves. God fills us with grace and forgiveness because He knows what we face every day. God is asking us to show others and the world His message: love, mercy, and grace. If we walk forward Christ-like, then others will see and want to as well! That's how we change the world. That's how we reconnect other's perceptions of God if they too have had bad past experiences because that's what happened to me. Father Roberto, Sister Joyanne, Yvette, Darlene, and Jim filled the room with love, mercy, and grace, and that is when it all changed for me. I knew I was where I was supposed to be because God was in the room. I am so excited to be able to be baptized and receive the Eucharist and Confirmation at the upcoming Easter Vigil!



**If you have questions about RCIA,
please contact Sr. Joyanne Sullivan.**

Email: stdominicadulted@gmail.com

Phone: 323-254-2519

Zooming Into Prayer

by Ping Bayani

Looking for silver linings during these pandemic times? How about Zooming into prayer?

With the isolation and social distancing brought about by Covid-19 and its restrictions, many faith community members, particularly seniors and those having difficulty with getting to church physically, are able to pray in a communal setting, thanks to the wonders of ZOOM!

Indeed, rosary crusades, novena prayer groups, and devotees of various saints and causes have found a medium which defies time and space. In the relative peace and comfort of their rooms, people are finding meaningful moments spent in prayer, sometimes with strangers from places nowhere near their homes and beyond the boundaries of St. Dominic's!



After hosting an initial Zoom novena in honor of the Santo Nino (Infant Jesus) last January, it dawned on me that there is a community out there eager and waiting for online spiritual encounters. So now, I find myself hosting a daily ZOOM recitation of the Holy Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Using PowerPoint slides, we share the uplifting prayers, readings, and music. We experience in real-time that 'where there are two or three gathered in My name, I am in the midst of them' (Matthew 18:20) – even if it is a techno-gathering!

As an added bonus, bonds of friendship are strengthened, as the rather brief and perfunctory greetings after Mass attendance are replaced with happy banter after the prayers are done!

Truly, slivers of sunshine and rays of hope abound if you look for them!

Walking as a Community of Faith - A Grateful Memory

by Sor. Lidia Hernandez, O.P. - Hispanic Ministry

"I advise you to do this: Remember!" (Pope Francis)

During these months, it was and still is very common to hear: "And now, how will we carry out our celebrations in the Church?", "For those of us who are in confinement, in what way can we live our faith?", "I don't want to feel that our community forgot about us!"

So, we remember the words of Pope Francis, and, remembering, we ask ourselves: How has my life been until today? Do I have people around me who look out for my well-being? What blessings have I received from God? And it is then that arises from our heart, a Thank You, Lord!, because we realize that God never stops walking by our side, that He sees our concerns, that He listens to our prayers, that He is happy with our achievements, and that even though we sometimes forget about Him or close the doors to Him with our indifference and laziness in our faith, God is always there!

Because Jesus never forgets the day He first met us and our "YES", He invites us to have a grateful memory and put it into action; to experience the joy of carrying the Gospel and "putting ourselves in a mindset of mission". Thus, from the grateful heart of the Hispanic community, new ways of sharing the faith in community emerged!



The Hispanic Ministry in Action (Photo Collage by Sor. Lidia Hernandez)

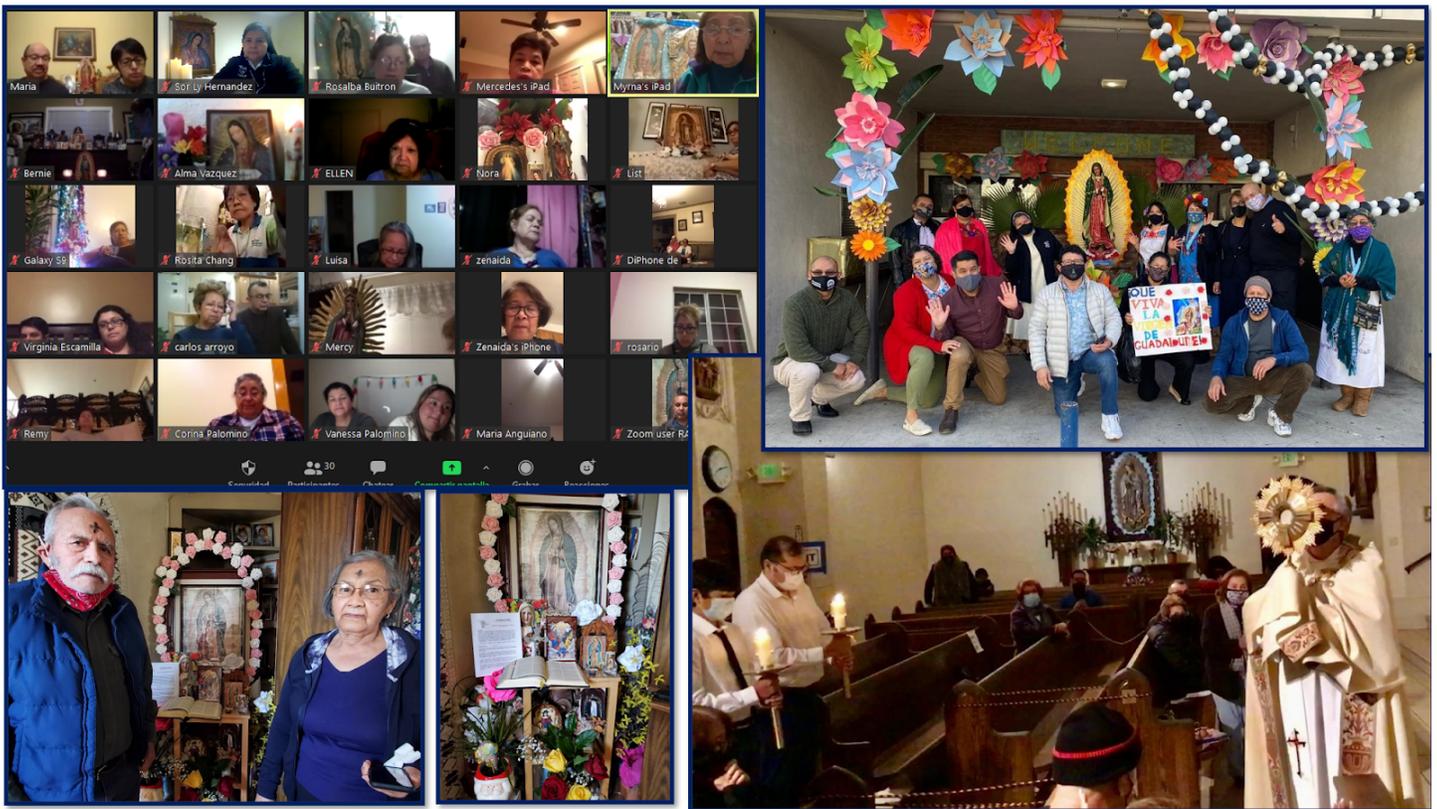
Would you like to serve God in our Hispanic ministry? We hope to see you!

We began in September, with visits to some brothers and sisters who are still in confinement, to bring them our love and blessings; to tell them that we miss them, but that we want them to be safe.

In October, the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe went out to visit the homes again, although this time, it was only she. However, since then, the prayer of the Holy Rosary continues to be prayed via Zoom, every day at 7:00 pm.

In November, we prayed for all the deceased, to gain for them the plenary indulgence granted by the Church. And of course, throughout the year, Our Lady will continue to visit and bless homes.

In December, in a simple but emotional way, we had our celebration of the Morenita del Tepeyac, the Virgin of Guadalupe, and we consecrated our entire community of St. Dominic to her protection.



January was a blessing for us, as we were able to share faith and prayer through the Bilingual Holy Hour. There is so much to pray for, so much to ask of God, as a single community of faith and life!

February gave us the opportunity to enjoy the conference via zoom: "Love sets us free!" And on Ash Wednesday, some volunteer servers and missionaries went out again to the houses of the people who are in confinement, leaving some blessed ashes at their doors, and a celebration to do at home.

And as long as God allows us, we will continue to share our faith with our community because our grateful memory reminds us every day that God walks with His people, always! Thank you, Lord!

Contact Sor. Lidia Hernandez for more info. Email: herl68@yahoo.com

Jesus' Most Precious Blood in the Blessed Sacrament

by Manuela Fuentes - The Blessed Sacrament Confraternity



Our Catechism teaches us that Jesus is truly present, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.

I would like to share how I have particularly included the Chaplet of the Most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ whenever I visit and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

A few years ago, when my husband and I joined the pilgrimage to the Shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, a rosary-like strand of red beads attracted my attention in one of the stores nearby. Unlike our usual Rosary beads, there was no crucifix but in its place, a rectangular piece with the image of Jesus' sorrowful face on one side and His crucified body

on the other. Also, unlike our Rosary, there were twelve beads instead of 10 in each of the five mysteries.

I did not know what it was; neither did the other pilgrims whom I asked. Someone mentioned that it might be about "the Precious Blood." Anyway, I bought it. The store attendant said that was the only one left.

Back in LA about a week later, a member of our Blessed Sacrament Confraternity handed me a pamphlet of the Chaplet of the Most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. What a coincidence! Or was it?

This is how I was introduced to this prayer that became so close to my heart. The chaplet's five mysteries represent the five wounds of Jesus from where His Precious Blood flowed out - from the nailing of His hands and feet to the piercing of His side with a lance after his death on the cross.



Preceding this prayer with the Holy Rosary, I find this so fitting as a continuation to meditate more on the 5th Sorrowful Mystery - our Lord's crucifixion and death. Reflecting on the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, Jesus also shed His Precious Blood in each of its 5 mysteries... from His agony in the garden in Gethsemane when He sweat blood; when He was scourged at the pillar; when He was crowned with thorns; when He was made to carry the heavy cross, falling multiple times on His way to Calvary; and finally at His crucifixion and death.

I cannot imagine how excruciating the pain and suffering He went through must have been, while His Precious Blood poured out of His body. Jesus went to His death because He loves me/all of us.

Contemplating on how indescribable the magnanimity of this Love can be, overwhelms me. With praise and thanksgiving at my holy hour adoration of Him in the Blessed Sacrament, I simply say " Jesus, I love You too! Please teach me how to love You more."

May I mention that the BSC member who gave me the pamphlet of the Most Precious Blood Chaplet was Rosie Mangawang, RIP. Rosie was a quiet, humble and kind lady, so generous with her time. She was a daily Mass goer, ever present in adoring the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays, helped with the cleaning of our church more than what we were expected to do. How can I forget her? She gave meaning to those red attractive beads, a big part of my conversation with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Thank you, Rosie! I love you, and hope that one day, together, we can glorify our Lord face to face.



Photos: BSC Ministry members in the church and Parish Hall before the pandemic.

You're Invited!



**ST. DOMINIC
CHURCH & SCHOOL**
2002 MERTON AVE. EAGLE ROCK, CA 90041

Music, Communal Prayer, Quiet Time
and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament

Holy Hour

Saturday March 13, 2021
7:00 - 8:30 pm at the church

Please sign-up on Eventbrite to register
Please follow all safety guidelines at the church

Health Ministry Corner

by Mary Lynne Knighten, DNP, RN - Health Ministry Director

As we have experienced nearly a year in isolation, quarantine, and loss related to the pandemic, we look with hope to receiving COVID vaccines and greater health protection. Most of all we look forward with reflection, sacrifice, and hope to Easter and the resurrection of the Lord.

In the last newsletter we talked about ways to combat social isolation. This time let's focus on self-compassion and caring for self. Compassion is:

- Emotionally perceiving and recognizing suffering in others and desiring to alleviate it
- Understanding the universality of suffering
- Feeling moved by suffering and emotionally connecting with those in distress
- Tolerating uncomfortable feelings, like fear, distress (Di Fabio & Saklofske, 2020)

Compassion and self-compassion are positively linked with psychological health and well-being!

Self-compassion is a regulation strategy, which means worry or fear are not to be ignored or avoided. Instead feelings are acknowledged openly with sensitivity; recognizing our own suffering. We are being compassionate and caring for self when we demonstrate feelings of love and kindness to ourselves, display understanding, and do not judge our own inadequacies and failures. Self-compassion is associated with feelings of compassion and concern for others; which means we are not focused only on our personal needs. This helps us in our ministry to others in the church and community.

There is a need for us to protect and develop psychological resources (hope, efficacy, resilience, and optimism, an acronym that = **HERO**) (Dimino et al., 2020) in light of the suffering that has occurred during this trying time. We can:

- **Foster Hope:** set clear and achievable personal goals; encourage others to do the same (Action: set a goal each day, even if it is to shower, exercise, or pray—and acknowledge when you achieved it.)
- **Develop self-Efficacy:** focus on past successes and reframe negative experiences & psychological responses (Action: practice gratitude for experiences that bring blessings to you. Acknowledge the learning from any mistakes and let them slide away, but do not dwell on them.)
- **Practice Resilience:** be realistic, creative, and search for meaning (Action: start a journal, participate in a Lenten retreat, or register for spiritual series such as FORMED).
- **Create Optimism:** focus on making positive attribution about succeeding now and in the future (Action: Identify “Three Good Things” at the end of the day before going to sleep; or intentionally notice three beautiful things while you are out driving or walking—and thank God for them).

Finally, here is an easy self-care exercise that can literally be practiced anywhere, anytime: **4 point breathing**. It is combined with some of the **HERO** strategies for guided meditation and relaxation.

- Take time to focus on your breathing, taking in a deep breath and blowing that breath out. Again, breathe in and breathe out slowly, not forcing your breathing.
- Think about something for which you are grateful...things that are good and beautiful, and acknowledge God in those things.
- Now ***breathe in*** acknowledging the presence of God ***for a count of four***: one, two, three, four. ***Hold that breath for a count of four***: one, two, three, four (while reflecting on good and beautiful things), and finally ***blow out the breath slowly*** with gratitude ***to a count of one, two, three, four***.
- Try this again counting to yourself silently, **IN**, two, three, four; **HOLD**, two, three, four; **OUT**, two, three, four.

Closing Reflection: “Watching over the breath” consists of letting the breath come and go as it wants without forcing it or clutching at it. In due course its rhythm automatically slows down and it flows in and out so smoothly. This is both a symbol of and a positive aid to letting one’s whole life come and go without grasping. (Alan Watts, from Nature, Man, and Woman)



For help with mental health concerns, if you are experiencing a crisis, or if someone is feeling suicidal: call **1-800-854-7771** (option/extension ‘1’) The **ACCESS Center**, as part of LACDMH’s Helpline, operates 24 hours/day, 7 days/week as the entry point for mental health services in Los Angeles County. Additional resources are located at <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/get-help-now/>

Open Enrollment for Covered California has been extended.

Contact the bilingual coordinators at **St. Louise Resource Services (StLRS)** to get resources, information, and support! Email Info@stlrs.org or call (844) 245-1900. Their website is www.stlrs.org



FR. JUDE ELI, O.P.
ZOOM PREACHING SERIES 2021

JOIN ON ZOOM



FOR MEETING LINKS, VISIT:
www.saintdominics.org/fr.jude

NELA COMMUNITY * ST DOMINIC'S PARISH * CD14 COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

MARCH 19, 2021 from 1:30pm – 3:30pm

St Dominic's Church 2002 Merton Ave LA, CA 90041
(enter on Merton Ave, from Caspar Ave)

**** MASKS & SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED ****

More Info: <https://www.facebook.com/NELAccommunity>

REGISTER: <https://nelacommunityfood.eventbrite.com>



*** NELA COMMUNITY CLOTHING DRIVE ***



We are collecting clean and unwanted soft-goods;
free from stains and rips/tears.

*** CLOTHES: Men's, Women's, Kids ***

**** LINENS, TOWELS & PAIRED SHOES ****

Please store in tall kitchen trash bags and place
in your trunk for our volunteers to collect on 3/19

SPREAD THE WORD TO FAMILY & FRIENDS

FFPD Ministry (Family and Friends of People with Disabilities)

by Ray and Annette Manning - FFPD



Shortly after our daughter was born 21 years ago, we found out she was severely disabled. That changed our lives in many ways. We learned to live with the disability and all that comes with it: hospitals, ER visits, doctors, nurses, agencies, stares, questions, and more.

When Dominique was a baby, my Dad posted a sign on our fence that read: “ If you are sick, please come back when you are well”! We were thinking of putting it back up! Ray never liked it when people would come up to kiss Dominique - and now I see why!

This pandemic has been a tragic event for all and has continued to test who we are as Catholics and caregivers. We are cautious, as we have always been, to keep our daughter Dominique away from anyone who is sick. The suggested protocols to clean and sanitize were things we already had in place for Dominique, so it was a continuation of our usual efforts.

Photo of Dominique Manning

However, the 2020 pandemic brought on a whole other type of isolation to the world for our daughter, Dominique. She does not attend mass in person so she misses the interaction of our fellow parishioners who would come up and greet her. She misses the blessings the priests would give her. She misses the beautiful music from the afternoon mass. She misses the teachers that come into our home. Most importantly, she misses relatives that would stop over frequently.

Our faith continues as a family but we cannot go to church as a family. We have to take turns going alone, without Dominique. Yet, we look forward to the reopening of the church and we are happy that we have our faith to get us through these difficult times. We know that we cannot control what life brings us, but we also know that with our faith in Jesus, there will always be a bright future.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Vincenian Tweet of the Month

“The question which is agitating the world today is a social one. It is a struggle between those who have nothing and those who have too much. It is a violent clash of opulence and poverty which is shaking the ground under our feet. Our duty as Christians is to throw ourselves between these two camps in order to accomplish by love what justice alone cannot do.” - Frederic Ozanam (1813-1853, Founder of St. Vincent de Paul Society)

Do you want to learn more about Frederic Ozanam and his unique response to Christianity?

Contact us at ozanamfrederic2@gmail.com

Sacristan Ministry

by Merlie Mae Sotto - Sacristan

Hello! My name is Merlie Mae Sotto, and I have been a sacristan volunteer for over 10 years. After retirement as a Registered Nurse, a Certified Case Manager and a Manager of a Medical Review Unit, I needed something to devote my time and energy to. I also needed to grow closer to God. Even though I have been a St. Dominic parishioner since 1980, my family and work schedule did not leave much time to be active at church activities. I promised myself that, after I retired, I would channel more time for my spiritual growth. When Fr. Paul Scanlon approached me to serve as head sacristan, I did not hesitate and gave a resounding 'YES' even though I had been serving as a sacristan for only a year.



Merlie Mae Sotto and her husband, Pablo



Christy Alabanza - Another dedicated sacristan

The Sacristan Ministry is a vibrant, worthwhile, grace-filled volunteer opportunity which draws us closer to God and our fellow parishioners.

The term Sacristan comes from the Latin word, sacer, which means sacred. Sacristans are often behind-the-scenes prayerful volunteers who bring to mind the words of Jesus when He said we should not do good works to gain accolades (Matthew 6:1). They are charged with the care of the sacristy, especially in the preparation of the sacred vessels before and after mass. Sacristans are crucial to ensuring that such items as cruets, corporals, lavabo and towels are prepared for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, enhancing the quality of our community's daily liturgical celebrations. Other duties include cleaning purificators, corporals and towels. The chores of the sacristan should be done in a prayerful manner, keeping the sacristy a neat, quiet and meditative space.

I highly encourage everyone, especially our younger generation, to consider this faith-enhancing and fulfilling volunteer work. May God bless you as you serve Him and His people. Please call our parish office if you are interested.

The Usher Team

by Pablo Sotto, Usher 7:30 a.m. mass and a parent of a St. Dominic School alumni

"We act to welcome warmly the people of God to each liturgical celebration, as well as to perform various duties as required of us and as requested by the Pastor." (GUIDELINES FOR THE MINISTRY OF USHER)

I am Pablo A. Sotto. After completing my VIRTUS (Safe Environment for children and vulnerable adults) training in 2014, Pat Soto, the Lead Usher at the 7:30 AM mass, handed me the key to the parish office because he was retiring. I learned so many things from him - the ins and outs of being an usher. I am still learning. I love greeting our parishioners and anyone who comes to our St. Dominic's Church for masses, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, baptism, Quinceañeras, funerals, etc.

As with other ministries, our main problem is our age. We are getting advanced in years, and, let us face it, we cannot stop the clock from ticking. We need to recruit YOUNG parishioners to be trained and ultimately to take over our responsibilities. We need young men and women to help us. We hope to encourage them to volunteer their time because the hospitality ministry is a very rewarding ministry to be involved in.

Volunteer Testimonial

by Monica Warnock - Usher at weddings and 7:30 am mass, Parent of a St. Dominic School alumni

I became a volunteer for Sunday masses after I saw the appeal in the parish bulletin. Even though I attended mass online, I missed being physically present at church; I missed the Eucharist and being around people. So the opportunity to help make outdoor church possible came at just the right time! Serving at mass gives me the chance to help others fulfill their need to gather for mass while keeping safe. And since I sit at the check-in desk, I'm able to put a name to familiar faces! I definitely view volunteering at mass as one of the blessings coming out of this crazy year!

Hospitality Ministry

by Dennis Martin - Usher



Hi there! I am Dennis and I hope that you find yourselves safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. Despite our day-to-day hardships, I pray that your faith in God gives you strength and hope for better times. My daughters and I were able to find comfort and support at St. Dominic Parish and School during a time of adversity. Simple acts of kindness, the offer of a helping hand, a kind word - these are glowing examples of service that mark the strength of our faith community and parish ministries.

I encourage all, but especially the parents of our parish families, to find a balance of service to our faith, family and community. For me, the Ministry of Hospitality and Ushers has been that balance of service.

About 5 to 6 years ago, parents at St. Dominic School were encouraged to become active members in the parish by joining a St. Dominic Parish ministry. I found inspiration through my very own children. They were already serving the church community as choir members and altar servers. I, like most parents, struggle to find time to even take a breath, with all my daily responsibilities. To strike that balance, I was called to the Ministry of Hospitality and Ushers. Since we were already attending mass, I asked myself: why not serve as a family? By serving together, we hoped to provide a simple act of kindness, a helping hand, and a kind word to others.

As an usher or greeter, we are entrusted with promoting a sense of welcome and belonging to all who come to St. Dominic Parish. Within this ministry, I find a committed community of men and women striving to serve. The ministry has strong leadership from the pastors, ministry leaders, and head ushers. They guided me when I first joined and always put me in a position where I was comfortable and able to succeed. As with life, unexpected things do arise, and when one is unable to serve as scheduled, the open communication and support within the ministry provides a path to attend to personal issues without guilt or pressure. We also occasionally meet to discuss how to nurture and improve this safe and welcoming place where we celebrate and share our faith - with the blessing of a plate of pancit, chicken, coffee, water, pan de sal and such!

Thank you for considering the Ministry of Hospitality, especially parents within our parish. We are the first teachers and examples to our children, showing who we are as Catholics by serving those around us. If you happen to make it to the Sunday 4 pm mass, please say "Hi" to the ushers there (Jan, Phil, Franz, Joshua, Dennis, Dean, Rocky, and Jemellee, with special mention to Dr. Banta)!

Peace and with God's Blessings,
Dennis

Interested in Volunteering at Saint Dominic?

Please contact our parish office at (323)254-2519, or email info@saintdominics.org

Ministry Information: <https://saintdominics.org/Ministries>



St. Dominic School

2005 Merton Ave | Los Angeles, CA 90041

(323) 255-5803 www.stdominicla.us

Enrollment Information and Virtual Tours are available: 323-255-5803.



- ACTIVE LEARNERS
- CONFIDENT STUDENTS
- MODELS OF FAITH AND COMMUNITY

Does your ministry have news to share in **Veritas**?
Contact us: communications@saintdominics.org



Veritas Parish Newsletter

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