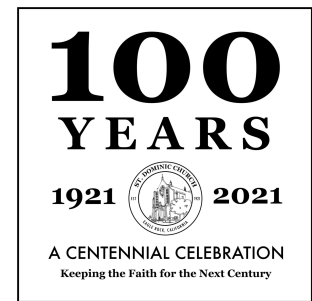




ST. DOMINIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

2002 MERTON AVENUE, EAGLE ROCK, CA 90041



Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Dominic's,

I hope you are doing well in spite of the hot weather during these summer months. As I am sure all of you will agree, this has been one of the strangest years for us and for the entire world. At the same time, it has been such a blessing for me to be here at St. Dominic's during this difficult time because I have felt supported and inspired by so many of you faithful parishioners, by the parish staff and by my Dominican brothers. Some of you have been absolutely heroic in maintaining your faith in spite of all the difficulties brought on, not just by the pandemic, but by so many other difficulties in our society.

Thanks to so many of you for joining us in person for our Masses in the months that we had to celebrate them outdoors and now that we are back in the church, and thanks to all of you who have been watching our Masses on our livestream. I am especially grateful and impressed by so many of you dedicated parishioners who have stepped up to help with all the extra work that has been required to continue to celebrate our Masses and other gatherings. Because of your amazing generosity and hard work, St. Dominic's never had to stop celebrating Masses or providing spiritual and emotional support to those who needed it. Your resiliency and determination have been proof to me of what St. Paul said in his Second Letter to the Corinthians: **"We are hard pressed on all sides, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."** (2 Corinthians 4: 8-9).

In the spite of the continuing struggles we are having with the recent surge in the COVID-19 pandemic and the anxiety and suffering that is causing for many people, I am hoping that we, as a community of faith, can continue to put our trust in God and focus on the blessings we have as Catholics and as parishioners of St. Dominic's. In that regard, this coming September we will begin celebrating a very special moment for our parish – our hundredth anniversary! Actually, it will be our 101st anniversary since, because of the pandemic, we had to postpone the celebrations we had planned for this year. In any event, as you can see on the enclosed flyer and calendar of events, we have lots of activities planned for the coming year. I think it will be important for us as we launch a new year of ministry in September, to remember and pray for the loved ones we have lost, to acknowledge our sense of pain, loss and disorientation, but also to support each other and move forward together.

Looking back at our one hundred years as a parish, we should be inspired by the many faithful parishioners who helped St. Dominic's keep going through the Great Depression, World War II, and all the challenges they faced during the last century. Their steadfastness and sacrifices to keep this parish going and pass on their Catholic faith will hopefully encourage us to live out our Centennial Motto: **"Keeping the Faith for the Next Century."**

Ultimately, our parish's history and centennial are your history and centennial whether you have been here for years or are a relative newcomer. This centennial year is a celebration, not just of buildings and legal entities, but, most importantly, a celebration of our God who **"makes all things possible"** (Matthew 19:26) through the goodness of people like you who are the heart and soul of this parish. So, please come join us as we celebrate all those faithful parishioners who have gone before us and the great gift St. Dominic's has been to us and to the community of Eagle Rock!

In Jesus and St. Dominic,

Fr. Roberto, O.P.