



Veritas

PARISH NEWSLETTER • FALL 2022

A Season of Change

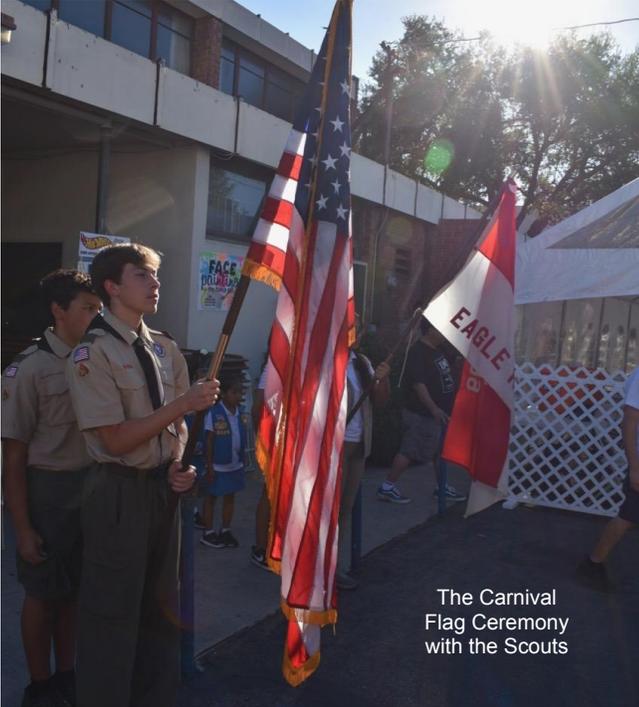


Fr. Roberto Corral
with family and friends
at the Farewell Party.

SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH

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Parish Life in Pictures



The Carnival
Flag Ceremony
with the Scouts



Fr. Roberto with Carnival Organizers
Cecilia Treat and Karen Corletto.



Principal Sawyer and School
Volunteers at the Carnival Booth



The Dominican Laity pictured with
the new stained glass window
at the Community Center.



The 9 o'clock choir resumed
this September after a
summer break.

Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Peter Rogers, O.P.

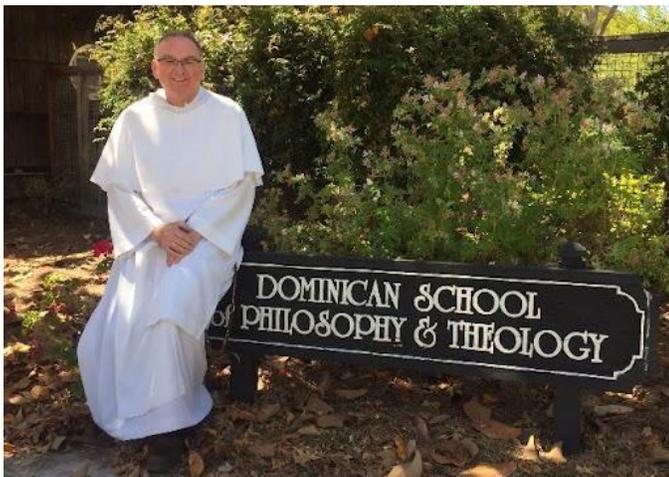
Dear Parishioners at St. Dominic's,



Seven years ago, I sadly left St. Dominic's to answer my calling to serve as President of the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology (DSPT) in Berkeley, CA. The DSPT is the seminary for the Western Dominican Province (western United States) for the preparation of

our Dominican Student Brothers for the priesthood. We also prepare lay women and men who study with us to earn a Master's degree in philosophy or theology. This was a very important ministry for me to provide the academic formation for our Dominicans, like Br. Xavier Marie who is with us now, who will someday serve you here at St. Dominic's, and to prepare our lay students for their future ministry in the Church. But having completed my term as President, I am returning to St. Dominic's with great excitement and joy.

However, I am returning to St. Dominic's not to just do the same ministry as I did when I was pastor here from 2010-2015. This is because I am a different priest, having gained new experiences, knowledge, and skills as President of DSPT. And you, the community and family of St. Dominic's are also different. Some of you have joined our St. Dominic's family during the seven years that I have been away and I want to get to know you. Hopefully, you all have continued to grow in your



faith and are in a different place on your faith journey. The needs of this parish are different from those twelve years ago when I first arrived at St. Dominic's, and I will be assessing those needs in order to work with you all to prepare for the future of St. Dominic's.

This future includes our continued faith journey to develop a closer and deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will continue this journey together and support each other on our journey. One way to move forward in our journey is to grow in our faith in the power of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has launched the Eucharist Revival as a theme for ministry in the archdiocese and this is important to all of us so that we can truly be aware of the meaning of receiving Holy Communion at Mass, and the importance of attending Mass, not only on Sundays, which is required by the Church, but as often as we can attend Mass during the week to receive the Body of Christ.

St. Dominic's is a vibrant and active parish and I am so happy to be returning to this wonderful faith-filled parish. My seven years leading the DSPT in Berkeley and providing the academic formation of our Dominican Student Brothers and our lay men and women studying with us was an important ministry for the Western Dominican Province and for the Church, and I am proud to have been able to fulfill that ministry to the best of my ability. However, of equal importance is the spiritual formation of all of us here at St. Dominic's and I will work just as hard to lead this spiritual formation as pastor of St. Dominic's as I did as President of DSPT.

This faith journey is a journey that we will walk together in order to support each other, each of us as a family at St. Dominic, by coming together to worship together at Holy Mass. Together we can do great things and nothing will be impossible if we depend on Jesus to assist us. There is no place I would rather be than here at St. Dominic's to journey together loving and worshipping our Savior, Jesus Christ. May God bless us all.

< Photo: Fr. Peter as President of the DSPT



Photo: Night lights at the Bay of Hong Kong

Passion Project

By Fr. Isaiah Mary Molano, O.P.



One of my passion projects is the Saint Francis Xavier Lay Missionary Society. We train, send, and support lay Catholics to certain parts of Asia in order to perform corporal and spiritual acts of mercy to those in need.

We are a newer Mission, which is likely why you have never heard of us. Yet, I have introduced our mission to our parish through our theological book studies, which began in the beginning of the pandemic. Our next book is called “Models of the Church” by Cardinal Avery Dulles, which covers all of the ways we look at the Church and how we can stay united as the Body of Christ.

In late September, my good friend and lead missionary, Tricia Bolle, will fly out to Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore for four months. Now that the pandemic is finally calming down, her mission is to reconnect with our communities face-to-face, and to assess our ministry possibilities in these stations.

It is beautiful, exciting, and necessary work - work that Jesus has commanded, to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of

the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

What you can do: When the mission team flies out, I manage a prayer team for them. Team members pray, in any method they prefer, once a week for the mission team’s intentions and needs. I, in turn, email the entire mission team once every two weeks with exclusive information and updates. If you would like to be part of the prayer team, please email: Isaiahmary.op@gmail.com



Photo: Fr. Isaiah with Mission Team Members

To support our mission to Asia, please visit <https://www.laymissionary.org/support>, checkout our website, laymissionary.org, and follow us on Facebook, Youtube, and Instagram.

Drawn to the Order

By Br. Xavier Marie



My name is Br. Xavier Marie. I was born and raised in Beijing, China. And there, I grew up not knowing God and who Jesus is. Then at the age of fifteen, I became an exchange student and was sent to Laredo, Texas, where my host father took me to Mass on a Sunday for the first time in my life. I prayed and Sunday after Sunday, I was drawn back. Within two years, I was baptized, received my first Holy Communion, and was confirmed.

Yet, after receiving such a gift, I was still drawn back to my old ways because of my brokenness. So, going to college, I thought I had enough of God. I went to Cal to study engineering and was ready to pursue whatever the world could offer. But God, in his infinite mercy, did not let me. He sent me friends who would stand in his place to love me. Because of them, I began to desire to share the great gift that I had received. It was also during this time when I fell in love with the sacraments. Every time I fell, our Blessed Lord would receive me with love and compassion through the Sacrament of Penance and the Holy Eucharist. Before long, I began to desire to share these gifts with others in the most intimate manner as a priest.

I encountered the Dominicans towards the end of my college years when I started to tag along

with my friends to go to St. Albert for daily Mass. There, I met the brethren. Soon, I was drawn to the order and its charism of preaching the Truth for the salvation of souls. By the time I was graduating from college, all my hopes and dreams of worldly success had begun to pale in comparison to a life in which I could devote my whole being to serving God and His Holy Church. A gentle whisper came over, "If God is calling you to be a Priest, what are you waiting for?" To this question, I knew in my heart that the answer was nothing. Nothing in this world shall stand in the way.

So, I knocked, and the door was opened to me as He first took me in eleven years ago at that little baptismal fount in the city of Laredo. And I am as clueless as I was twelve years ago when I first stepped on this foreign soil. So, I beg for your mercy and your unceasing prayer for the precious gift of perseverance as I embark on my journey this year here in Eagle Rock so that I may be faithful to our Lord and all whom He has entrusted to me.

Fr. Francis Goode, O.P. Invites You to Join

Seasons of Hope

Bereavement Group

Fall Schedule • 2022
Wednesday Nights • 7:30pm - 9:00pm
(Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 26 & Nov. 2, 9)
Meeting at St. Dominic Church
in the St. Mark Room

Prayerful sharing on our journey of healing after the loss of a loved one.

We pray in quiet surroundings, we share our journey, we discuss scripture and reflection questions. We finish with group sharing and a final prayer...and sometimes refreshments.

Please contact Fr. Francis Goode, O.P. at 323-254-2519

Looking Forward

By Bob Hunt, PPC Secretary

Your Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a committee with a focus on assisting our Pastor in fostering a vibrant Catholic community. This work touches upon many aspects of Parish life including worship, evangelization, education, service and building unity among our diverse community. The PPC is not some kind of legislature but instead serves as a communications link between the Parishioners and Pastor.

For the last few years, the PPC was heavily involved in the planning for the various Centennial events. Besides the beautiful Mass celebrated by Archbishop Gomez, some other events included the dedication of the Father Paul Scanlon Community Center, Parish Clean-up Day, Ministry Town Hall, Ministry Fair, Student Art Contest and Color Run. It must be stressed that the success of these and any Parish events depends on the wonderful volunteer efforts of Parishioners and our Ministries. Many of you pitched in to make these events a great experience in community building.

The PPC is currently involved in our Parish Carnival, Student Art Contest and photo directory project. We will be planning another Ministry Fair so that our ministries have the opportunity to discuss their mission and recruit new members. We will also be planning for another Parish Clean-up Day and other events. In order to improve communication, we have created a separate email address so that Parishioners can more easily relay any concerns or suggestions to the PPC (See Below).

The PPC is excited to begin work with Father Peter as our Parish emerges from the deadly pandemic and a host of other crises throughout the world. We will be looking forward to turning our Parish theme of *Be Disciples—Make Disciples* into a living reality. We are hopeful that by all of us working together, the St. Dominic Parish community will be a beacon of faith and inspiration for all.

Parishioners and Ministry members can now communicate with the PPC at their new email address: parishcouncil@saintdominics.org



Photo: Current and former members of the PPC and family held a farewell brunch for Fr. Roberto at San Antonio Winery in downtown LA.

Coming Out of the Shadows

By Vincent Corcoran

Recently, St. Dominic Parish had an opportunity to hear the testimonies of a lesbian woman, a gay man and family members of lesbian, gay and transgender individuals. As Matthew 5 reveals to us, “What you hear in the dark you must speak in the light”. Our sisters and brother came out of the shadows and told their stories with remarkable courage.

This is my personal testimony as a Catholic who happens to be gay. Like many of you, I am a cradle Catholic educated in the parochial school system. I am the youngest of 5 children, all boys. Fortunately, I was blessed with two loving and involved parents, Anna and George Corcoran.

I grew up in the Bronx before any ideas of gay liberation were publicly discussed. A traumatic event happened when I was 12. A boy in the neighborhood revealed that he was gay; one Saturday evening, he was savagely beaten. This event had personal consequences; I became fearful of anything that seemed gay.

Within the next year, I started to question my own sexual identity. The realization that I was different frightened me to the point I had become frozen inside. A closet was the only option. Unfortunately, I internalized guilt and shame. Teenage alcoholism was my coping mechanism in a world that seemed to be vacant of any support. By the time I reached 29, drinking became a major problem. At that age, I started contemplating a return to Catholic Church. With the help of a recovery program and my faith journey, I could surrender my addiction.

The process of alcoholic recovery did not bring about any change in my sexual identity; self-loathing was replaced with a healthy acceptance of who I am. I became a human being like everyone else, simply, a child of God.

For the LGBT person, coming out of the shadows in the Catholic Church does not always seem safe and welcoming. For the last 44 years of my life, I have embraced my Catholicism as a source of healing and spirituality. I have some suggestions for my sisters and brothers who are embarking upon a similar journey. Be brave! Don't hide your light under a bushel basket. Come forward and be counted. My partner, Harry Torres,

who is now deceased, used to say, “If we are not present in the church, the parishioners will never learn to love us”.

While we all live imperfectly on this earth, can we find room in our hearts and in our church for our sisters and brothers who happen to be members of the LGBT Community? Hopefully, we will see a day when all acts of violence against LGBT individuals will cease.

Desire to Reconnect

By Garrett Hallman

I began going to the group 5 years ago. I had a growing desire to reconnect with my faith after 10 years of not practicing, but was anxious to do so after being out for some time and not knowing how to straddle the fraught, and at times lonely, world of being gay and Catholic. I also knew if I tried doing it alone, I would lose heart and leave the faith again like I did before, so I searched for a group that I could attend regularly. I was blessed to find this group because it brought me into a small community of people of varying ages that shared the same struggle as my own. This group allowed us to share our experiences and perspectives, as well as care for and exhort one another. I would not be where I am today without it.



Photo: LGBTQ+ Facilitator, Dr. Taylor

St. Dominic's LGBTQ+ Outreach provides a safe, welcoming and supportive environment for its participants. Meetings are held weekly, free of cost.

For more information about the LGBTQ+ group at St. Dominic Church, please contact facilitator, Dr. Elizabeth Taylor, Ph.D by telephone: 626-792-1103.

Health Ministry Corner

By Mary Lynne Knighten, DNP, RN



Alcohol Awareness

It has been reported that the isolation and stress of the pandemic has resulted in increased alcohol use. The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence encourages increased outreach and education about the dangers of alcoholism and alcohol-related issues. The program began in April 1987 with the intention of targeting college-aged students who might be drinking too much as part of their newly discovered freedom. An important purpose of Alcohol Awareness promotion is to reduce the stigma associated with alcoholism (and substance abuse in general) by recognizing that alcohol use disorder AUD is a health condition that needs treatment, offering education and screening, and providing treatment resources.

According to the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH, 2019), it is estimated that 14.5 million Americans ages 18 and older and an estimated 414,000 adolescents ages 12 to 17 had an alcohol use disorder. AUD exists when a person can no longer control their alcohol use, compulsively abuses it despite negative consequences, and/or experiences emotional distress when not drinking (NIAAA, 2020). Nationally, 26.45% individuals 18 and older reported binge drinking (generally 4 drinks for women and 5 drinks for men, consumed within about 2 hours) while 6.6% admitted to heavy alcohol use (binge drinking on 5 or more days in the past month). A serious emerging trend, “high-intensity drinking” is defined as consuming alcohol at levels that are two or more times the gender-specific binge drinking thresholds. Each year, an estimated 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes annually and in 2015 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities accounted for 31% of overall driving fatalities (10,265 deaths and 29% of all driving fatalities NHTSA, 2016)]. Unfortunately, these deaths could have been avoided, making alcohol the third leading

preventable cause of death in the United States (NSDUH).

Denial exists among those struggling with alcoholism or alcohol abuse. People often underestimate the amount they drink, the duration of their drinking problem, the impact it has on their life, family, and friends or exaggerate their ability to control/reduce/quit drinking.

Denial is also common among friends and family members who are uncomfortable acknowledging the seriousness of the situation, and may unwittingly “enable” the person struggling with alcoholism to “keep the peace”. Monico (2021) provides several resources to help talk with someone who is in need of help. [Alcoholics Anonymous](#) can provide a local meeting or hotline to help those struggling with alcoholism to find help during times of crisis. Usually toll-free, calling these numbers can connect them with licensed treatment facilities or assist them in finding recovery resources and support groups (and Al-Anon groups for family members).

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What's new with RCIA?

By Sr. Joyanne Sullivan, SND



I thought I would share with you that in the coming year, you might see some changes with the RCIA ministry. In the past three years, the Bishops from English-speaking countries have been working on updating and clarifying the Rites within the RCIA and

now, these Bishops have, after gathering information from all ministries in the RCIA process, submitted a document of revision to Pope Francis.

As we wait for the approval of the document, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops are providing webinars for training priests and directors of the RCIA. Right now, I am participating in a twelve-week program of training. 2500 participants from dioceses across the United States are in these sessions which I am finding invaluable and also affirming.

Changing Rites is not a new process for Catholics and since the beginning of the early Church, changes were made as necessities dictated. For example, in the early Church it was mandatory for all Baptisms to be conducted in the river Jordan as Jesus was baptized. As the Church grew, this practice became impractical and baptisms were allowed to be conducted in the local Churches.

Some examples of changes that we are encouraged to initiate now are:

- *In the future, the RCIA will be known as OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). Simply put, Order covers all the*

Rites included within a Sacrament, such as the Order of the Eucharistic celebration.

- *Our Bishops are asking us to also emphasize discipleship with those who are in the OCIA process. This was something our former pastor Fr. Michael Fones, O.P. encouraged and trained the team to incorporate into our sessions. Both Fr. Roberto Corral, O.P. and Fr. Peter Rogers, O.P. support the emphasis on Discipleship so this is not something new for our parish.*
- *To discontinue the "school schedule" for OCIA. The Holy Spirit does not work from September to Easter. Here at St. Dominic's, we have been doing an ongoing OCIA for several years and we also work with our medical and first responders who have changing schedules. I can provide this because I have a wonderful team who assists our Candidates on their Journey.*

Currently, we have 13 wonderful people in the process of the OCIA and I ask that you keep them in your prayers as they journey in developing a deeper relationship with Jesus and experience the beauty of our Faith and liturgies.

Our Mission is to Serve the Poor

By Jean Literte

My name is Jean Literte. I have been a member of St. Vincent de Paul for eight years. Soon after a ministry fair, I was recruited by Lilia Luna. She and her husband Gil Luna were faithful members of St. Vincent de Paul for many years.

Our mission is to serve the poor. During the pandemic and recently, our activities have been limited. We receive referrals from the rectory. The person in need calls and then information is given to one of our members. We talk to the client by phone and/or make a home visit. We have assisted in the following ways: providing gas cards, helping pay rent and utilities, buying a mattress and refrigerator and sending three campers to our Circle V camp.

Since joining St Vincent de Paul, I have grown spiritually and enjoy helping those in need. We have a small committed group and welcome new members.



The Carnival Returns!

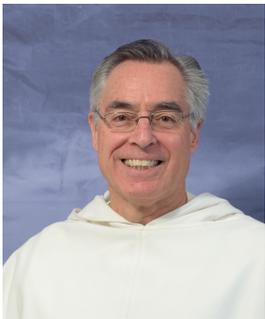
After a three year hiatus, the St. Dominic Neighborhood Carnival returned this September, providing fun for the entire family! Thank you to the organizers, volunteers, and participants for making it a successful gathering of our community in Eagle Rock.





The God Who Is with Us

By Fr. Roberto Corral, O.P.



One of Jesus' great names from the Bible is Emmanuel – God with us. We especially remember and celebrate this name of Jesus during Advent and Christmas. Matthew the Evangelist mentions it in his Gospel: “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said

through the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,’ which means ‘God is with us (Matthew 1:22-23).’ And then, at the end of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus tells his apostles just before he ascends into heaven: “I am with you always, until the end of the age (Matthew 28:30).”

This is one of the most important promises Jesus makes to us, and it is one of the most difficult for us to believe at times, especially when we are struggling, when we are facing an unknown future, when we are tired or afraid. I AM WITH YOU.

This is my last message for our quarterly newsletter entitled “Veritas” (which means “Truth” in Latin), and I want to remind all of us of the truth of this great promise of Jesus as I begin a new ministry in my life, and as you enter into this time of transition between pastors at St. Dominic’s. I encourage us to be grateful for the time we have

had together, and to be hopeful and confident as we face the future. I leave with you a lovely poem written by Helen Mallicoat.

My Name Is I Am

I was regretting the past, and fearing the future. Suddenly my Lord was speaking: "My name is I Am". He paused. I waited. He continued..."When you live in the past, with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I WAS. When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I WILL BE. When you live in this moment it is not hard. I am here. My name is I AM."



Photos: Fr. Roberto's Farewell Party in September, 2022.

St. Dominic is making a NEW PARISH FAMILY DIRECTORY

Sign up for a photography appointment at www.ucdir.com

Photography Dates

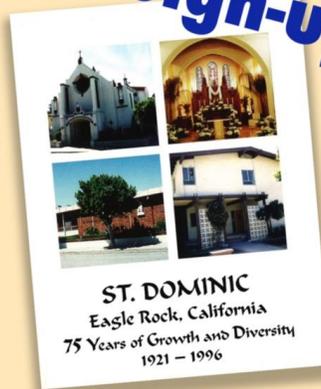
Tues - Fri, October 18 - 21
2:00pm - 7:30pm

Saturday, October 22
10:30am - 4:00pm

Tues - Fri, October 25 - 28
2:00pm - 7:30pm

Saturday, October 29
10:30am - 4:00pm

All participants must schedule an appointment. No walk ins.



Don't Miss Out Sign-up Today!

Our Previous Directory is 25 Years Old!

Participants receive a FREE 8x10 portrait and a FREE copy of the new Directory!

To sign-up, visit: **Church Code: ca106**
www.ucdir.com **Password: photos**



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



Veritas

Parish Newsletter

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