



# ST. DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Every month the Leadership Commissions meet to discuss their progress on **four major parish initiatives for 2010: welcoming, sharing our stories, broadening adult faith formation, and encouraging contemplative prayer.** This report highlights the efforts specific to these goals at the February meeting. The next Leadership Night is May 2, 2011.

## WELCOMING

Jimmy Salcido of the Outreach Commission discussed the importance of the **Hospitality Ministry** and the need to recruit additional **ushers and greeters**. Several suggestions were made including having a dinner or barbeque to encourage more involvement, having parents and their children greet parishioners at the various Masses and coordinating the schedule for the ushers and greeters through the St. Dominic's website.

Community Life Commission invites parishioners to attend the **Hospitality in the Siena Room after 11:30 a.m. Mass today.** This is a great opportunity to have coffee and goodies compliments of other parishioners. Everyone is welcome to participate and donate. We want to thank the many volunteers that participated and supported this community building activity. The Seder Meal will be held Monday, April 11, in the Parish Hall. Tickets are available for sale in the parish office. All are welcome to participate. On April 23, we will host a reception after the **Easter Vigil** service to welcome all new RCIA participants. The next **Newcomer's Orientation** will be held, May 21-22 after most Masses. Members of the Community Life Commission will be on hand to welcome new parishioners, assist with the registration process and answer questions. The **StrengthsFinder** series of workshops have concluded and had more than 40 participants in the 4-week series. The next session is planned for July 2011 and is open to all parishioners.

## BROADENING ADULT FAITH FORMATION

This month the Formation Commission discussed how to make our formation programs more accessible to the parish population. Holding programs earlier in the evening or on Saturdays and Sundays were options mentioned. We also considered a **self-study format** geared toward those who cannot attend but want to follow along. Father Xavier provided insight into the make-up of the parish population to help us. The Commission also discussed the **Our Journey of Faith schema**, which was initiated in August 2010. Last month Commission members toured the church to look for new possibilities for **displaying formation materials**. We also visited other parishes for ideas on how to best utilize space, display cases, banners and other materials that assist in spreading the word about faith

formation. Commission members will continue this research.

## ENCOURAGING CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Spiritual & Liturgical Life Commission reports the **silent retreat** for St. Dominic's parishioners will be held from June 3-5 at Vallombrosa Retreat Center, nestled in a quiet corner of Menlo Park and is readily accessible both by car and by public transportation. The retreat master will be Fr. Michael Fones who is a well known and respected retreat master. Registration materials are now being prepared. If there is an overwhelming response, precedence will be given to registered St. Dominic's parishioners. This offsite weekend retreat will create the time and space a person needs to "get away" for awhile, to rest, reflect, and renew in the presence of a prayerful community.

## SHARING OUR STORIES

Outreach Commission reports that the **Social Justice Lenten Speaker Series** were successful fundraisers and were well attended. The next event on **Bridging Opposing Views** will be held on Friday, April 15 at 6:15 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Polarization in government, blue states/red states, health care, race, immigration, religion, gender:-Are these topics of deadlock because we don't know how to disagree constructively and remain friends? Michael Smith and the Social Justice Council will introduce techniques to better understand our friends and neighbors, how to welcome discussion, and to engage respectfully with others. This event will conclude in time to attend the Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.

## OTHER NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENTS

- Please visit the parish homepage ([www.stdominics.org](http://www.stdominics.org)) and take the **website survey**. This is your chance to have an impact on the future look and feel of the planned revamp of the website. Your input, along with feedback to date will be reviewed by the Administration Commission and developed into a scope of work presentation delivered to the Pastoral Council. The Administration Commission, in partnership with the Communications Committee, is also developing a regular newsletter aimed at improving parish and community communications.



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- The Outreach Commission reported Jimmy Salcido that with the additional space at the Megan Furth Academy, there will be more room at the church in the event of a natural disaster. The Outreach Commission is in the very early stages of working with other churches and neighborhood organizations to prepare a plan for **disaster preparedness**.
- Sister Anne reported that 45-55 people are coming to the **Lima Center** each day and that there has been an exceptional number of volunteers who are helping out. Sister Anne has had two luncheon gatherings to thank the volunteers who help out with Community Service and specifically with the Lima Center.
- Outreach Commission reported **Deacon Mike and Deacon Chuck** continue to serve as Eucharistic Ministers for those patients who are at Mount Zion, UCSF, California Pacific Medical Center and six nursing homes. In addition, Deacon Chuck is in charge of the Jail Ministry and Grief Ministry.
- The Formation Commission reports that 85 people attended the **Lenten Soup Supper** on March 25.
- The Formation Commission reports that each week more than 50 people have been attending the ***We Live: As Blessing series***, which continues on Tuesday, April 12. Participants have enjoyed and benefited from the homework assignments included in the program materials.