



# ST. DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Every month the Leadership Commissions meet to discuss their progress on **four major parish initiatives for 2012: welcoming, sharing our stories, broadening adult faith formation, and encouraging contemplative prayer.** This report highlights the efforts specific to these goals at the most recent meeting. The next Leadership Night is February 6, 2012.

## WELCOMING

From the Outreach Commission: **Community Services** gave away 230 bags of turkey and food for Thanksgiving. The recipients were so grateful. For Christmas, the parish donated more than **1,000 toys**, which were given to 250 families along with groceries and a gift card. During Lent, Fr. Xavier is encouraging parishioners to **make a sacrifice in Lent** with the money saved to be donated to Lima Center. (For example, if someone gave up buying coffee, the money saved on the coffee could be donated.)

From the Administration Commission: A new **banner** is being prepared to welcome passersby to St. Dominic's. Preparations to the school building facade facing Steiner Street is in process for installation of this banner. The new **parish website** has gotten off the ground and is making progress, and the Administration Commission continues to develop a **quarterly newsletter**.

From the Community Life Commission: The next **Newcomer's Orientation** will be held this weekend, January 14 & 15, after most Masses. Members of the Community Life Commission will be on-hand to sign up new Parishioners or Associate Members. December 15 was the **Parish Advent Party** with more than 100 fellow parishioners and the opportunity to support St. Dominic's gift collection for the needy. We want to send a special "thank you" to Santa for taking the time out of his busy schedule to attend our party!

The Formation Commission's four-part series, **We Celebrate: Abundant Love** begins on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m. The series will explore our response to God's love through the lives of the saints. The Commission discussed preparing welcome gift bags to distribute at Easter Masses this year as a personal way of greeting visitors to the parish and welcoming individuals and families who may attend Mass only at Christmas and Easter. Michael Smith, Director of Religious Education, will meet with parents to plan the St. Patrick's Day Parish Festival. The Formation Commission will host an information booth and provide welcome bags. The event is open to all.

## BROADENING ADULT FAITH FORMATION

From the Outreach Commission: On Jan. 25, Deacon Mike will conduct a seminar, **"Living Solidarity"** on the topic of

the Catholic perspective of the federal Budget. The seminar will meet for 8 weeks.

## SHARING OUR STORIES

From the Outreach Commission: The Social Justice Council will host a program on **human trafficking** here on Feb. 24. The commission is looking for a volunteer to help lead the planning of our **speed mingling** events.

The Formation Commission discussed how our group and other formation ministries might benefit from a training session on **conflict resolution**. We agreed that people in charge of facilitating small groups could learn skills to help them feel more confident and better manage conflicts or uncomfortable situations when they arise.

## ENCOURAGING CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

From the Outreach Commission: On Jan 8, more than 12 ministers for the **Jail Ministry** were commissioned.

From the Spiritual Life Commission: The **Mind, Body, Spirit Retreat** will be held on February 11. Besides the retreat master there will also be available a personal trainer, a massage therapist, and a yoga instructor. Work is proceeding on a brochure covering **"End of Life Issues."** It will cover practical matters, spiritual matters, and community matters. **St. Dominic's Annual Retreat** may be held in early May. A proposal is being finalized for **awards** to those parishioners who have provided extraordinary services to the St. Dominic's Community over an extended period of time. St. Dominic's depends heavily on the good work of a number of unsung heroes.

## OTHER NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENTS:

- In December, the **Youth Ministry** made lunches for the San Francisco Women's Shelter and celebrated their own Advent/Christmas Party. The Youth Ministry is preparing for its collection for the hungry after Masses on Super Bowl Sunday. Last year, the students collected more than \$4,000.
- Children's Liturgy of the Word and volunteers presented a **living Nativity** during the Gospel at the 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Masses, both of which had very full congregations that included many families with children.