

ST. DOMINIC'S LEADERSHIP REPORT



At St. Dominic's, we are blessed to have many successful programs, including the Lima Center for the homeless, faith formation for families, active young adults and Second Spring communities, as well as wonderful music for our liturgies and celebrations. In order to grow as a parish, Fr. Xavier and the Pastoral Council met in January to discuss areas of opportunity that could be developed for our parishioners. At that meeting, **they established four major parish initiatives for 2010: welcoming; sharing our stories, broadening adult faith formation, and encouraging contemplative prayer.** Every month the Leadership Commissions meet to discuss their progress. This report highlights the efforts specific to these goals at the April meeting. The next Leadership Night is May 3, 2010.

Welcoming

The Pastoral Council is identifying potential leaders for an over-35 peer group. The first Living Your Strengths series was very successful and a second one is planned.

The Outreach Commission will continue to work with Community Life to expand the Coffee Minute to all Masses. Plans are underway to coordinate a hospitality event for Mothers' Day and newcomers welcome, as kick-off of the expansion. In the near future, all ushers will wear name tags.

The Community Life's St. Patrick's Day dinner and reception after the Easter Vigil were both well attended and quite successful. They discussed dates for the next two Newcomer Orientation sessions (May and July). In future, they are interested in combining this somehow with coffee served after one (or more) Masses.

The Administration Commission continues work towards a final resolution (probably by May meeting) of our new logo and layout for all normal business communication (letterhead, envelopes, etc.). They are moving forward with the Tri-Fold Brochure project, including a style guide.

Sharing our Stories

The Outreach Commission reported that the Speed Mingling party was great success with about 80 people

from across most of the parish groups attending. Per request, another even is being planned.

The Administration Commission is searching and ideas are being studied for a project manager for website redesign and implementation.

Broadening Adult Faith Formation

The Formation Commission reports that at the Easter Vigil, 30 RCIA candidates received the sacraments of the Church for which they had been preparing since September. This is truly an Easter joy! In Family and Children's Faith Formation, 30 people participated in the first Family Lenten Soup Supper, which was followed by the Stations of the Cross led by youth and catechists. Confirmation students went on a 1-day retreat in the Marin Headlands in March. Recent activities with the teen youth group include making posters about Catholic Social Teaching, praying the Stations of the Cross through relevant contemporary pop music and bringing Easter flowers to residents at the Laurel Heights Convalescent Hospital. The Parent Advisory Council and Catechist Team have developed a strong mission and goals for the future.

Thirty-two parish students and 5 Megan Furth Catholic Academy students are preparing for their First Communion, which will be celebrated on May.

The Formation Commission continues its work on developing a formation framework. The three working groups assigned with the task of drafting the mission, vision and stages for the framework, presented and discussed their drafts and progress. The full commission discussed the work and provided suggestions for moving forward. A mission statement was approved by the group. The vision and stages groups will continue. While the parish has many formation programs, the goal is to provide a structure to invite people on an intentional journey through seeker-disciple-apostle stages in developing a mature faith and community fellowship.

The Spiritual & Liturgical Life Commission's booklet on "Rosary in the Dominican form" is being used at the Young Adults Group retreat and will be distributed to the parish on Rosary Sunday.

The Outreach Commission's Social Justice Committee reported that the Lenten Soup & Lecture series was attended by 20-30 people. As the last session, Haiti's history and issues were discussed.

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Encouraging Contemplative Prayer

A small Spiritual Exercises series has been successful and the Pastoral Council may consider expanding it.

The Spiritual & Liturgical Life Commission created a take-home brochure describing the various contemplative practices available at St. Dominic's was distributed on Holy Saturday. Also, newly available are two revised booklets. "The Stations of the Resurrection or Way of Light (*Via Lucis*)" celebrates the joy of Christ's Resurrection and is especially appropriate for this period between Easter and Pentecost. "A Rogation Day Walk--A Meditation on Our Stewardship of the Earth" offers readings and prayers to contemplate creation, acknowledge the wildness of nature and ask God's protection while walking around the city, in the countryside, or sitting quietly in a park or at home. New booklets to enhance devotions are being prepared. They are a Liturgy of the Hours, prayers for Eucharistic Adoration, and a remake of *Tenebrae*.

The Outreach Commission's Deacon Chuck continues to lead the Wednesday night prayer group at the San Francisco City & County Jail.

Other Noteworthy Developments

- The Spiritual Life and Outreach Commissions have been asked to work together on doing something green for Lent next year.
- Each commission will focus on its section of the leadership guide to provide updates and revisions, and a small group will work on the updating of the rest of the booklet.
- Sister Anne Bertain sent an announcement for a Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations on May 5, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon, at St. Mary's Cathedral.
- After meeting with Fr Xavier, it was agreed that going forward, the Administration Commission's Building & Grounds Committee will meet with Michael Rossi and the consultants to review the future of The Green Cities Project, a San Francisco-based ecology group looking at opportunities to enhance the church gardens.
- The Administration Commission is planning for a full parish sign-off of the first phase of the style guide project at the May leadership meeting. The June meeting will be a brainstorming session for planning future projects.