Thy kingdom come: Bringing Christ to the community
WRITTEN BY BRENDA BALAGOT AND MARJORIE CAMPBELL

St. Dominic’s parishioners seek the Kingdom of Christ in those who are in need. The parish has dozens of service opportunities, old and new. One service project prepares to celebrate a milestone, while another seeks to expand its outreach.

The Lima Center celebrates 10 years of service

In August, St. Dominic’s Parish celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Lima Center. Now retired, Sister Anne Ber- tain, O.P. started the center in 2005 and built the staff to over 30 parish volunteers. In January, Sister Colleen McDermott, O.P. took the reins of the project serving meals to scores of guests a day, with over 1000 meals per month. The center operates from Tuesday to Friday in the space below the church, offering showers, laundry service, safe space and companionship, in addition to nutritional meals that meet the dietary needs of the guests.

“The guests and volunteers know each other,” Sister Colleen observed. “They have created a blessed community and transitioned smoothly from Sister Anne’s leadership. It is a grace.” Upon this solid foundation, the center looks forward to several upcoming anniversary celebrations, including a barbecue and potluck lunch on Aug. 15, 2015 at noon. Everyone who has worked with, visited, served and supported the center is invited.

The Lima Center, like the Dominicans, operates as a “mendicant” — it asks for its needs. The center currently requests donations of men’s jeans (sizes 32-38), men’s shoes (sizes 7-13), and men’s underwear and all toiletries. Parishioner and business contributions support the center, as well as proceeds from the Young Adult’s Group “Coffeehouse” on July 31, and Aug. 1, 2015, and the Contemporary Choir Concert on Aug. 26, 2015.

Convalescent centers need Eucharistic ministers

Like travelers on the road to Emmaus, St. Dominic’s volunteers set off from the church parking lot to visit the parish sick in one of the six neighboring convalescent centers — Laurel Heights Community Care, California Convalescent Hospital, Golden Gate Kindred Healthcare Center, Victorian Manor, Victorian Healthcare, and Providence Place. Typically bearing a “pyx” — the small vessel used to transport the consecrated Eucharist — volunteers meet with confined parishioners who have requested a visit, Holy Communion or other interaction with the parish.

Volunteers commit to visit one convalescent hospital per week, though often receive additional requests, especially for the Eucharist, once at the facility. “We recommend volunteers take several extra hosts from the tabernacle,” Sister Colleen explained, “so that they can give Holy Communion to staff members or other patients who might ask.”

Volunteer preparation takes only two hours and includes training as a Eucharistic minister. 

SEE “SERVICE” PAGE 4
PROFILE:
The Rev. Anthony Roseaver, O.P.

WRITTEN BY MERLE FRIEDENBERG

“You can tell him anything.” “He has that trusting vibe.” “He is a truly kind and gentle person.” These are comments parishioners have made about the Rev. Anthony Roseaver. For those who may not know, Father Roseaver has been the novice master at St. Dominic’s Church for the past 12 years. But who is this man, and exactly what does he do?

The Scriptures say, “A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” (Matthew 5:14) And so it was in Butte, Montana, where Fr. Anthony grew up and loved the spectacular countryside doing things like fishing, hunting and playing the clarinet. He says that during his Catholic education, “Vocation simmered in an ignored pot on the back of the stove.” As a junior at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, he spent a year studying in Italy. From there he traveled widely through Turkey, Spain and Lebanon, as well as to Corinth, Greece, where the Apostle Paul preached. In Florence, Italy, the idea of religious life briefly came back to him as he often passed the friars at the Dominican Church of San Marco. He never dreamed that one day he would become one of them, but back at home the idea of a religious vocation strongly persisted, and eventually the simmering pot finally boiled over.

Fr. Anthony entered the novitiate at St. Albert’s Priory — a house of studies of the Western Dominican Province in Oakland, California — where he was attracted to the house’s prayer life, community life, vibrancy and vision. After his ordination in 1978, he preached with a musical group called The Pilgrim Friars and was later assigned to the Saint Thomas Aquinas Cathedral in Reno, Nevada. He recalls that this was “located between the bus station and the casinos,” but from there he enjoyed frequent hikes in the Sierra Nevada mountains. He later returned to St. Albert’s Priory to become the vocation director, and following that, he moved to Oregon to serve as a chaplain at a retreat center, and then served as pastor of Our Lady of the Mountain parish in Ashland, Oregon. Then fate called Fr. Anthony to St. Dominic’s Church, where we’ve been lucky enough to have him first serve as prior and later as novice master. Just recently he was elected to a leadership position on the Provincial Council of the Western Province.

Each year, Fr. Anthony receives between two and 14 novices. His role is to provide them with a realistic view of Dominican life to help them discern whether or not this is their true calling. He says, “They are like my sons.” And as a loving father would, he actively forms them, guides and

SEE “FR. ANTHONY” PAGE 4

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Photo Credit: Father Anthony, by Zanna de Sant’Anna
Seek and ye shall find: Deepen your faith with Intentional Seekers

WRITTEN BY SHAUNA LACOSTE

Perhaps you’ve heard about a parish program called Intentional Seekers. You may also recall a program a year or so ago called Intentional Disciples. But did you know they are part of the same, innovative program that gives adult parishioners practical resources and opportunities to strengthen both their faith and each other?

St. Dominic’s Director of Adult Faith Formation, Scott Moyer, says he conceived the program over two years ago as a way to “focus on discipleship in the parish.” It combines public presentations, small group discussions, and personal exploration on a different area of focus each month. The program was initially called Intentional Disciples, but Moyer (who also runs the parish’s RCIA program) collected feedback near the end of its first year and discovered a significant number of people felt they were still seeking to better understand their faith and did not fully identify as “disciples.” As a result, Moyer tweaked the program theme and content for year two, and appropriately re-named it “Intentional Seekers.”

The core of each year’s program is a monthly booklet produced by Moyer focusing on a specific topic that supports that year’s overarching theme. The booklet is made available after Mass, in the parish office, and online.

The topics appear simple, but the opportunity for closer examination helps provoke spiritual reflection. As participant Tricia Bolle explains, “Intellectually — in the abstract — we’re quite familiar with (these Christian themes), but how do we really live them out? How do we truly understand it in a way that we can live it out in a more intentional way?”

To delve further, members are encouraged to form small groups and schedule their own independent meetings twice a month to reflect on the monthly topic together. Some have chosen to meet in women-only or men-only groups; others have formed open groups. Other parishioners, like Micao Penaflor, enjoy the camaraderie of sharing the experience with others of the same generation, in his case for example, through the parish’s Young Adults group. “It’s nice, community wise, being around people who are my age and interested in things related to the Church,” Penaflor says. “We need more people under the age of 25 here!”

Individuals are welcome to become involved at any time throughout the year, and the explore sessions can serve as a wonderful introduction. Many attendees of the June session, which focused on the concept of mercy, praised the experience for its benefits in their day-to-day lives as well as the good fellowship it creates amongst members. Matt Bernard described the intellectual and social benefits of his participation, saying,

SEE “SEEKERS” PAGE 4
Community Service
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

ristic minister, familiarization with
the procedures for obtaining and
returning the pyx and hosts, and re-
fections on the spiritual aspect of
serving the sick. New volunteers will
find themselves on the job quickly,
accompanying an experienced volun-
teer for at least the first visit.

Sister Colleen hopes to add as many
as 10 new volunteers to increase both
the number of visits and the quali-
ity of follow-up time. In the fall, she
looks forward to bringing together
the whole team for shared reflections,
fellowship and gratitude for the op-
portunity to walk with Jesus and the
sick confined in convalescent centers.

For more information regarding the
Lima Center or volunteering with the
Convalescent Center Ministry, con-
tact Sister Colleen McDermott
at (415) 674-0432 or
colleen@stdominics.org.

Father Anthony
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)
nurtures them in their relationship
with Christ. He says ministering to
the novices is both uplifting and exci-
ting. In addition to his teaching duties,
Fr. Anthony organizes prayer times,
spiritual directors, many events, and
handles an extensive budget. He re-
cently bought two new vans that he
dubbed “frar engines” with resources
from the Dominican Western Prov-
ince and generous donors. These
will be used for several, month-long
tours to familiarize the novices with
the diverse Dominican communities
from Vancouver, British Columbia,
to Mexicali, Mexico.

Some of Fr. Anthony’s most memo-
rable experiences include being salut-
ed by the Swiss Guards before saying
Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome;
skiing in Zermatt, Switzerland; enjoy-
ing a 42-course dinner in Beirut; and
visiting St. Dominic’s birthplace in
Calaruega, Spain. An avid walker, he
also completed the 500-mile pilgrim-
age known as Camino de Santiago in
Spain. He considers this pilgrimage
that culminates at the shrine housing
the remains of the Apostle St. James a
“life changing adventure.” Still on his
bucket list is visiting King Tut’s tomb
in Egypt and doing an archaeological
dig in the Holy Land.

In addition to dabbling in drama and
drawing, and knowing some Italian
and Spanish, Fr. Anthony has earned
bachelor’s degrees in art, speech ther-
apy, education and philosophy. He
also received a Master of Divinity
degree — all of which prompted a
friend to put a sign on his door say-
ing, “Brain surgery is done here.”
Fr. Anthony expresses a deep love for
St. Dominic’s Church with its “tre-
mendous richness, and such good,
supportive parishioners.” He says he
is very happy to be living “this ideal
of contemplation, action, community
and ministry” and asks with a smile,
“What could be better than this?”

Intentional Seekers
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)
“For me, it’s all about how my brain
is wired. Coming here, I feel young;
it keeps my brain the way I want it.
Wherever I am in my journey of faith,
I always feel welcomed here.”

Individuals participating in the pro-
gram represent a broad spectrum of
the spiritual and theological spec-
trum — some are new to the Church
and others are well-studied theolo-
gians, but every person can bene-
fit from the program. According to
Bolle, “Regardless of where you are,
you can learn something new. You
can grow in your understanding of
your faith.”

This fall, the Intentional Seeker’s pro-
gram will kick off a new series for the
year, and their explorations may tie in
with some themes related to the up-
coming Dominican 800th Anniver-
sary Jubilee celebration. “Probably
the focus would take on a Domini-
can flavor,” Scott Moyer ventures, “It
would really highlight different as-
psects of Dominican spirituality and
what it means to be in a Dominican
parish.” And as far as the name next
years program? “Going with the Do-
memonic theme, someone suggested
Intentional Preachers, but I’m still
working on it.”