Many parishioners know St. Dominic’s houses a shrine to St. Jude along the main nave of the church—but how much do we really know about him and the devotion to him?

The least known of the Apostles, St. Jude Thaddeus was the cousin of Jesus and sadly has often been confused with Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus. St. Jude preached widely throughout the Middle East. He is often shown carrying an image of Jesus close to his chest.

According to tradition, this represents a cloth onto which Jesus pressed his face, leaving an image which St. Jude used to heal King Abgar of Edessa of leprosy. Jude was martyred and is buried at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. St. Jude is renowned worldwide as the patron of difficult and desperate cases.

A devotion is an act of piety, such as the Stations of the Cross, a rosary, pilgrimage, novena, or reverence for a particular saint, which helps us experience God in our everyday lives and strengthen our love and loyalty to God. The roots of the St. Jude devotion go back to the Middle Ages when St. Bridget of Sweden was encouraged by Jesus in a dream to turn to St. Jude with faith and confidence. He told her that, in accordance with Jude’s surname, Thaddeus (which means generous, courageous, and kind), “He will show himself to be the most willing to give you help.”

In her book Jude, Liz Trotta writes about many devotees of St. Jude, including actor Danny Thomas who sought Jude’s help early in his career and, after much success, founded St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital to honor the saint. St. Jude is also the patron of a Brazilian soccer team, and there is even a chapel at San Quentin prison named after him.

In our own parish, many in dire circumstances have had prayers answered by this Saint of Lost Causes. Ann Arrowsmith says she has enlisted his intercession for twenty years, noting, “My requests have always been granted. He is a miracle worker!”

The St. Jude devotion is manifest at St. Dominic’s in many ways, including the Shrine of Saint Jude Thaddeus, the 5:30 pm daily Mass, and October’s annual St. Jude pilgrimage and novena.
St. Dominic’s welcomes new Shrine director, Father James Moore

WRITTEN BY MARJORIE CAMPBELL

“IT IS MY GREAT HONOR TO BEGIN SERVING YOU AS DIRECTOR OF THE ST. JUDE SHRINE IN SAN FRANCISCO,” announced Father James Junipero Moore, O.P. to the devotees of the beautiful and popular shrine at St. Dominic’s. The communities of St. Dominic’s and St. Jude Shrine’s welcome this youthful, enthusiastic—and deeply talented—native back to the area.

From the Western Province, Father James has deep ties to California and to the St. Jude Shrine. Originally from Coalinga, California, he studied at Santa Clara University while also participating in the music ministry at St. Dominic’s. “Many times when I was an undergraduate and discerning a vocation,” Father James reminisces, “I found myself at the feet of St. Jude at our glorious St. Dominic’s church.” Graduating from Santa Clara in 1998, he continued his studies in organ at Notre Dame under Dr. Craig Cramer. In the fall of the 2000 Jubilee year, James Moore entered the Dominican novitiate in Oakland. In 2008, he emerged - Father James Juniper Moore, an ordained Dominican holding a master’s degree in philosophy. His first assignment took him to the University of Arizona in Tucson. There, he served as College Chaplain for two years.

But Father was not done being a student himself.

In 2010, he landed at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., and began a period of intense music focus. While studying for his

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Father James (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

doctorate in Sacred Music, Father James directed the all-male, Dominican Schola Cantorum, overseeing the release of their first and second CDs: “In medio ecclesiae: Music for the New Evangelization” and “Ave Maria: Dominican Chant for the Immaculate Conception,” both highly acclaimed and available online.

Fr. James’ musical interests include study of the Sacred Music of Mexico in the 17th and 18th centuries, study of Anglican Choral Music (especially in the 20th century), and music of the Portuguese Baroque. He also currently serves on the liturgy committee for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Described as a “priest of deep devotion to Our Lady and great zeal for service to the People of God,” Father James was introduced to the Friends of St. Jude by departing director Father Allen Duston, O.P. Father Allen, who has accepted a Provincial assignment after four years of service to the Shrine. Father Allen was pleased to announce that Father James would preach the Lourdes Novena this February 3-11, so everyone will have the opportunity to “meet him ‘up close’ and benefit from his insightful preaching.”

Father James has great hopes for the future of the always candle-lit St. Jude Shrine. “Tens of thousands of pilgrims come to the Shrine each year,” Father James observes. Often they have little hope, shattered lives and the stresses of tragedy. Many “may not even really go to Church on a regular basis,” he notes. “However, their faith in God’s help is ALIVE!!!” Father James says with characteristic enthusiasm.

Father’s hopeful outlook reflects his view that the St. Jude Shrine offers a “means of the new evangelization . . . as a light leading all who seek it to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ.” Having often entrusted his own intentions to the intercession of St. Jude, the new director sees St. Jude attracting pilgrims hungry for the Lord, ready to make Christ the center of their lives.

We welcome Father James and join with him in prayer. Saint Jude – pray for us – and for all who invoke thy name! ❖
Nestled in the heart of San Francisco’s Fillmore District since 1873, St. Dominic’s Church has served as a spiritual home to generations of faithful. The existing church, a stunning neogothic architectural gem built between 1923-28, is the fourth on the property and was dubbed by one admiring Dominican as a “Sermon in Stone.”

Today, clergy and parishioners still gather to pray, commune, inspire, and be inspired alongside our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. While the inner soul of the St. Dominic’s community is flourishing, it is worth noting the formidable effort that has gone into ensuring that St. Dominic’s Church stays strong and beautiful on the outside, too - for generations to come.

Increasingly inclement weather conditions and two major earthquakes have taken a toll on the structural integrity of our beloved church. In response, the Preservation and Restoration Project, more commonly known as “Saving God’s House” born as a labor of love.

Phase 1: 1989-92
1989 - Loma Prieta earthquake destroys the lantern of Saint Dominic’s tower; tower is repaired and decorative work conducted due to ceiling beams that fell
1991 - Parishioners and friends worldwide raise nearly $7 million to erect eight concrete flying buttresses; these rise from concrete piers deep underground to connect at a ring beam that girdles the church at the roof line; walls are reinforced
1992 - Buttress work completed

Phase 2: 1998-Present
Preserving the interior and artistic treasures
• Cleaned and re-leaded the 36 irreplaceable stained glass windows; repaired the window tracery and mullions
• Restored pews and wooden floor
• Repaired or replaced terra cotta (clay) pieces pinned to the concrete walls
• Refurbished choir loft floor
• Cleaned wood carvings and marble statuary

Completing seismic strengthening (roof ring beam)
• Re-pointing and repairing the walls (water pours into the church during the rainy season, making parts off limits)
• Repairing water damage
• Repairing roof drainage system

Notably, parishioners and friends of St. Dominic’s Parish alone raised the funds that have made possible all of the renovations completed to date. This is an astonishing tribute to the love our community feels for St. Dominic’s, but there is still much work ahead to keep St. Dominic’s strong, stable, and stunning. Because of benefactors – past, present, and future - our current church will continue to be a Sermon in Stone for generations to come.

The work to save God’s house continues. To learn more, go to www.stdominics.org/art/restoration.

To make a donation to support ongoing and future maintenance of St. Dominic’s, contact:
Michael Rossi,
Parish Administrator
(415) 674-0435
michael@stdominics.org
or visit www.stdominics.org/parish/donations.

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