The Task of Serving
Launching the Needs Marketplace to Connect Parishioners with Volunteer Opportunities

BY MARJORIE CAMPBELL

Saint John Paul II once advised, “Wherever people are suffering, wherever they are humiliated by poverty or injustice, and wherever a mockery is made of their rights, make it your task to serve them.”

For St. Dominic’s, the tasks of serving others fall onto a broad range of needs. Volunteer tasks include short and long term service in one or more of the parish ministries. Service at St. Dominic’s can be quick and uncomplicated – like helping take down seasonal altar decorations. Service can also be time-consuming and complex – such as conducting weekly prayer services for prisoners. Service tasks at St. Dominic’s come in multiple languages, both at the parish and out in the community. Volunteers can work with infants, children, teens, young adults and the elderly, sick or healthy. Parish life calls upon all interests and all talents.

With such a vast array of needs and talents, how does the parish connect tasks and services that need volunteers with parishioners who have time and desire to serve? How does a parishioner find out what opportunities are available for service? Who do you contact? A matrix fitting people with needs-at-hand seems nearly impossible for a parish the size, diversity and uniqueness of St. Dominic’s – a parish which has typically relied on Mass announcements, weekly bulletins and word-of-mouth to inform parishioners of service needs.

While no system can replace personal communication within the parish, St. Dominic’s has undertaken a pilot project to “augment and give visibility to the wide range of options and possibilities for people who wish to help,” explained Administration Commission member Jim Considine. This project will appeal to parishioners comfortable using online information sources. This Needs Marketplace, an idea proposed by the parish Administration Commission and other volunteers, was launched on the parish website this week.

Modeled on programs such as “New York Cares” and “SC [South Carolina] Helps,” Considine hopes the parish will create an online location where St. Dominic’s ministries can identify particular, often discrete, tasks and “meet” parish volunteers who express interest in the task.

This platform is meant to augment the current parish community interactions. Considine uses the example of the parish Giving Tree. “This platform could function alongside the Giving Tree, except online.” By posting Christmas giving online, parishioners who use technology could select Christmas items from the Needs Marketplace, while other parishioners select items directly from the Giving Tree in the church.

“The hope is to harness this technology,” Considine added, so that it meets the needs of the parish and expands volunteer coordination. “We are excited to launch the Needs Marketplace this week!”

Two ministries experimented with the Marketplace over the summer, the Lima Center and Family and Youth Ministries, and other ministries have been adding their needs over the past few weeks. One currently posted need offers an example of how the Needs Marketplace will work: Children’s Faith Formation needs administrative help to “keep record of attendance and follow up on absences. This task can be done any day during the week at the volunteer’s convenience.” Posted as a discrete service opportunity, anyone interested can reply directly through Needs Marketplace.

As the Marketplace is being introduced to EMILY CHEN
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How to access the Needs Marketplace

Click the “VOLUNTEER” button.

You are now in St. Dominic’s Needs Marketplace. The instructions are easy:
“Are you looking to volunteer and help serve our community? On this page you’ll find needs and volunteer opportunities currently available at St. Dominic’s, both in and outside the walls of our parish. Simply browse the dates, times, and categories below and if you see something that you want to help with, click the big “Help!” button.”

As you scroll down the page, find a post of interest to you.
You can also filter the postings to display, for example, only needs for Catechists

You can now read through this “need” and, if interested, push the button designated “Help!” You can now fill out a volunteer form. This form will go to the person in charge of organizing that volunteer position, and they will be in touch with you.
2017 Profiles in Faith Awards

Michael Chen
Parish Member for: 22 years
Favorite Mass: 9 p.m. Sunday
Favorite Saint: St. Francis de Sales
What do you like most about St. Dominic’s: The warm, welcoming atmosphere and the commitment of parishioners to serve the community and one another.

Michael is a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and Lima Center volunteer. Mike is a founding leader of the Friends in Christ, a former member of the Spiritual Life Commission and producer of wonderful brochures with the Docent Group to illustrate the beauty of our church. He has also been an incredible organizer, host and cook for parish events from the Men’s Club Spaghetti Dinner, the Tenebrae breakfast to the Advent Party.

Sarndra & Bobby Elejorde
Sandra:
Parish Member for: More than 20 years
Favorite Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sunday
Favorite Saint: St. Theresa
What do you like most about St. Dominic’s: The community! There is something for everyone. The support and love that I and we have received from priests and parishioners.

Sarndra has spent many years teaching as a catechist, preparing children for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Bobby:
Parish Member for: More than 20 years
Favorite Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sunday
Favorite Saint: St. John
What do you like most about St. Dominic’s: The community, church programs, amazing priests, music, music and beautiful church

Bobby has supported many parish events during this time with his cooking skills and organizational help.

Veronica Jimenez
Parish Member for: More than 20 years
Favorite Mass: 9 p.m. Sunday
Favorite Saint: St. Faustina
What do you like most about St. Dominic’s: The church is open all day, adoration between midnight and 4 a.m., cooking for the Lima Center, confessions all day on Sunday and homilies are posted online.

Veronica is a long-time parishioner and active volunteer at the Lima Center, cooking for the center and coordinating various activities. She also supports other Outreach efforts, including assisting with the coffee minute after Mass, and projects with the Friends in Christ.

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Meet Brother Michael James Rivera
Preaching the Gospel in Cooperative Ways

BY KATHLEEN HOLLIDAY

Meet Brother Michael James Rivera
Preaching the Gospel in Cooperative Ways

BY KATHLEEN HOLLIDAY

Brother Michael James Rivera is a new face around St. Dominic’s this year. He is a Dominican Cooperator Brother, and Webmaster for the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus. And if ‘cooperator’ is a new term to you, Br. Michael James shares the details.

Cooperator Brothers are men who are not ordained for sacramental ministry, but who take the same vows as the Dominican priests. Their ministry is different – preaching not from the pulpit, but in other ways, often with projects outside the physical church. Their work can be at retreats, or teaching classes, making presentation and more. Some are involved in the arts, some do internal ministry, and others are responsible for faith formation. Still others have specialized roles – nursing, training others and serving on committees. All Cooperator Brothers live in a Dominican Community.

A house of formation like St. Dominic’s requires 10 friars in residence when novices are in formation, and Br. Michael James helps us complete this number. He lives at St Dominic’s though much of his work takes him outside of our parish.

As Webmaster for the Province, Br. Michael James produces the content you read.

Fr Michael blesses all the recipients. Congratulations to all those honored.

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Marilen McIntyre & Don Rogers

Don:
Parish Member for: 9 years
Favorite Mass: 11:30 a.m. Sunday
Favorite Saint: St. Paul
What do you like most about St. Dominic’s: The great people - religious, staff, and parishioners - are always inspiring

Marilen has served as a Lector for the past 15 years. She has been a member of the Social Justice Committee and Spiritual Life Commission, and also served on the Pastoral Council.

Marilen:
Parish Member for: 30 years
Favorite Mass: 11:30 a.m.
Favorite Saint: St. Joan of Arc
What do you like most about St. Dominic’s: The parishioners, staff, and music

Don is a Eucharistic Minister, Lector and Mass Coordinator. He has been an active member of the Spiritual Life Commission and served on the Pastoral Council. Don also belongs to the Men’s Club and participates on the church’s Finance Council.

Rose & Doug O’Connor

Rose:
Parish Member for: 20 years
Favorite Mass: 6:30 a.m.
Favorite Saint: St. Scholatica
What do you like most about St. Dominic’s:
The homilies

Rose has been an active supporter of the Lima Center, and Mass Coordinator at the daily 6:30am Mass. They have both helped for many years with the Advent Party, St. Patrick’s Day dinner, Tenebrae breakfast and other parish events.

Douglas:
Parish Member for: 20 years
Favorite Mass: 6:30 a.m.
Favorite Saint: St. Dominic / St. Jude
What do you like most about St. Dominic’s:
Opening the church at 6 a.m. for the morning mass

Doug is a member of the church Men’s Club and has used his musical skills at many parish events, including the Spaghetti Dinner and Annual Picnic, and with the Contemporary Choir.

Marilen McIntyre &
Don Rogers

Ros & Doug O’Connor

Fr Michael
blesses all the
recipients.
Congratulations to
all those honored.
Saint Dominic Parish Welcomes Our New Novices

Brother Elias Guadelupe Ford
Brother Anthony Augustine Cherian
Brother Nathaniel Maria Mayne
Brother John Peter Anderson
Brother Matthew Wanner
and watch and learn from, as he and his team create stories in both written and video form. Br. Michael specializes in using media as a tool for evangelization and uses technology to teach. And when called upon, he consults and assists the various ministries in our Province. You can see the Province website at www.opwest.org.

Br. Michael James is also involved with the St. Dominic’s Artists Guild, and hopes to do more with parish folks in the tech field. He grew up in Fremont, and he attended James Logan High School in Union City and St. Mary’s College in Moraga. After college he was a Lasallian Volunteer at DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis, MN, and to this day loves working with high school students. Br. Michael James returned to the Bay Area to work at Holy Rosary Church in Antioch as youth minister. In spending time with the Dominicans he was struck by their sense of community.

Fr. James Moore was also a guide and invited him to a “Come and See Weekend” where he was struck by the Dominican sense of community. He was able to pray with them, hear the office chanted and witness their zeal for preaching as well as their humor. He entered the order in 2007 and professed solemn vows in 2013. Now 2017 is his 10th year in the order.

Where are we likely see Br. Michael James? At masses at St. Dominic’s, perhaps working with the Artists Guild, and at the various concerts and events built around the arts and general parish events.

His goal – to find ways to better reach people through the various Dominican digital outlets with positive messages amid our world of troublesome news. In the end, Br. Michael James will surely help us “radiate the joy of the gospel in the heart of the city.”

Meet Father Dismas Sayre, O.P.
BY DOMINIQUE KIM

A huge welcome to Father Dismas Sayre, O.P., recently approved by the Provincial Council of the Dominican Province of the Holy Name as the new administrator of the St. Jude’s shrine at St. Dominic’s Church. An ordained priest for nine years, Father Dismas arrived to St. Dominic’s on July 1, 2017, and is looking forward to his role and a new world of possibilities!

Father Dismas Sayre originally hails from Pittsburgh, PA. He was in the novitiate at St. Albert’s for one year, later spending another year in studies in Lima, Peru in 2003. For those wondering, a “novitiate” is used in the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Church, as the period of training and preparation that a novice (or prospective) undergoes prior to taking vows in order to discern whether he or she is called to vowed religious life.

In 2004, Father Dismas spent time in Eugene, OR for his residency year at the Newman Center, at the University of Oregon, before being ordained into the Dominican priesthood in 2008.

He served at Antioch, then was then at Eagle Rock and Hollywood, CA, then Portland, OR for three years, heading up the Rosary Center. Now, as Director of the St. Jude’s Shrine at St. Dominic’s, Father Dismas replaces Dr. James Moore, his predecessor in the role. Father Dismas aspires to build up the Shrine, raising awareness about its history, and displaying art associated with this famous saint.

Father Dismas will be meeting with pilgrims to the St. Jude’s shrine and celebrating daily mass at 5:30pm, which is dedicated to St. Jude. Following this mass there is a special blessing with the relic of St. Jude, accompanied by the hymns of St. Jude. The St. Jude Mass each Sunday at 1:30 - said in Spanish - is another way that St. Dominic’s honors our patron saint of hope and impossible causes.

There are four Dominican provinces in the US: Western US (ours), Eastern US, Central US and Southern US. All but the latter have a Shrine dedicated to St. Jude. If you want to learn more, Father Dismas recommends a book by Liz Trotta entitled, Jude: A Pilgrimage to the Saint of Last Resort. Be sure to give a warm welcome to Father Dismas the next time you see him!

St. Jude Thaddeus: Apostle and Preacher

St. Jude (Thaddeus) is the Patron Saint of Hope and impossible causes was one of Jesus’ original twelve Apostles, as was his brother St. James the Less. He preached the Gospel with passion, often under very difficult circumstances.

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, St. Jude traveled throughout Mesopotamia, Libya, and Persia with St. Simon preaching and building up the foundations of the early Church. He died a martyr’s death for his unwavering faith. His body was later brought to Rome and placed in a crypt under St. Peter’s Basilica.

“But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God and wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.” (Jude 20-21)