



ST. DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER

St. Dominic's New Organ: No Longer A Pipe Dream

By Kelly Madden

Ever wondered about the history of the organ? The alluring musical keyboard instrument dates back to Pope Vitalian's reign in the 7th century and is still known to be the most compelling liturgical instrument in Western Catholic culture. The organ's sound can be designed to accommodate every situation, providing suitable music for meditation, procession, celebration, and mourning. At St. Dominic's, the organ is used at five Masses each weekend, as well as special occasions and the Friars' daily office.

The original pipe organ at St. Dominic's was designed and constructed in 1895, specifically for the church's unique structure at the time. This brick edifice replaced the "first church" constructed in 1873, which became too small for the rapidly growing congregation. Following the great 1906 earthquake, parishioners gathered for Mass outdoors until, in October 1906, a wooden church opened on the Pierce Street side of the block. The original organ lived here until 1928, when it was moved to what is the present-day building.

In 2000, the organ failed and was moth-balled, with the hope that it would one day be resurrected or replaced. Plans developed to rebuild the organ but were

quickly put on hold, as the stained glass needed \$7.5 million for restoration and the Steiner Street wall required retrofitting. For 19 years, Music & Liturgy leadership has been encouraging the parish to consider investing in a new organ. In recent months, their prayers received their answer.

St. Dominic's has been offered a state-of-the-art combination pipe and digital organ to replace the temporary instrument in use since the original pipe organ failed in 2000. This donation comes from Dr. William Armstrong, retired Chief of Cardiology at California Pacific Medical Center. Dr. Armstrong is not only an amateur organist and fan of the music and the arts but also treated many St. Dominic's parishioners before retiring. "Dr. Armstrong's gift permits St. Dominic's to continue to enhance its liturgical excellence, which is critical to the overall experience of our parishioners," said Simon Berry, Director of Music & Liturgy. "This new instrument



Here is a picture of our new organ gifted by Dr. Armstrong (Courtesy of St. Dominic's Catholic Church)



will be a great pedagogical tool for our organ students as they develop their skills, and we cannot express enough our gratitude for this magnificent gift."

With such a wonderful gift offered, the church must now raise funds to move and install it, ensuring that it is using the most up-to-date systems. Parishioners can either give via check, noting 'organ fund' or through the St. Dominic's website, where they can access a direct link to donate. Any tax-deductible gifts to the Organ Fund will support the development of this addition to St. Dominic's superb music program. Utilizing a more advanced and reliable instrument will maintain our parish as a pillar of the liturgical arts in the Bay Area and beyond.

Men's Club Pursues Fellowship and Ministry

By Emma Gabriel

Under the steadfast and joyous authority of Jesus Christ, our Domini-

-can clergy, novices, and laity have worked in unison to establish the St. Dominic's Men's Club. The group's ministry, both fortifying and evangelical, has been going strong for six years. Strength issues from their faith and fraternity as they pray for each other, the Dominican order, and welcome other men into St. Dominic's social community. This active encouragement is a charism, duly Catholic, and radiating throughout the parish community and therefore, into our historic City as well. Evangelically, their presence gives testimony to Christ, calling others to follow His teachings more gladly. Members are living out their lay ministry with the pastoral guidance of Fr. Michael Hurley and have become a valuable asset to the parish. Our parishioners share in the good works of this ministry, enjoying the annual parish picnic, spaghetti dinner, and Saint Patrick's Day dinner they put on.

The club is open to Catholic men of all ages and backgrounds. Joe Mangiameli, a co-founder of the group and current member, was inspired to give back to the parish when he heard Fr. Xavier speak about making commitments to the church. Since then, the club has helped its members to strengthen their awareness of God, establish new friends, and have an opportunity to socialize and participate in events. Each meeting kicks off with a prayer, with each member bringing for his intentions for one of the incoming novices each year. These gentlemen pray for our Dominicans' vocations, the Order of Preachers, the parish, and the Church as the sacred body of Christ on earth.

This summer, the picnic set to take off in late August will be a blast. While each member has a separate task, in the ministry to Jesus Christ, they are one. They will be sure to look the part of a unified team, sporting their distinctive blue jackets with the black and white Dominican cross on the front. And Joe puts it perfectly: "I guess you could say we're small but mighty. We all come together and get it done."



Find Your Purpose, Identity, and Destiny Through Unbound

By Megan Kathleen Nobert

In 2014, Lorelei Low had just come back from Neal Lozano's Unbound Conference in Southern California. She had spent the last two days with fellow Christians sharing their deepest, darkest secrets and was on spiritual fire. Created in 2010 by Neal Lozano, "Unbound" helps Christians break free of hurts, fears, and unhealthy habits in a non-confrontational way.

Now, Lorelei and fellow parishioner Marilyn Abraham are leading a team of eleven volunteers that serve in this ministry. To be considered for involvement, each volunteer goes through an interactive training session first in receiving prayer, and then in leading prayer. Ministers must be able to know forgiveness in the heart and feel the freedom that comes with it to be able to teach the method to others. Before attending a session, a basic set of questions are posed to help provide participants direction on understanding what stands in the way of receiving God's love. "People often come and tell you things they haven't told anyone before. There's a need for people to be relieved of the lies they've come to believe about themselves. Confidentiality is critical," says Lorelei.

Individuals come prepared with the things that bother them the most: anxieties, divorce pain, unhealthy patterns, or repeated sins. They overcome these troubles through prayer and guidance through Unbound's ministry. "It's kind of like spiritual therapy—it's a spiritual battle. You're freed as deeply as you're willing to be vulnerable. God doesn't impose, he proposes. He won't overstep in our free will, but will gently guide us to show us how we're hurting ourselves," says Lorelei.

For anyone ready to release unforgiveness, renounce sins, break free, and help others as God's vessel, training will commence this upcoming October. "Unbound" by Neal Lozano is available for purchase from the parish or on Amazon, and sign up for



▲ **with Matt & Jenn Lozano (Left to Right):** Lorelei Low, Matt Lozano, Chris Smith, Paula Grover-Louie (former UNB member), Jen Lozano, Laurie Murdock (former UNB member) & Marilyn Abraham



◀ **with Fr. Ray Reyes, Vicar for Clergy, SF Archdiocese) at the Holy Spirit Conference 2018 (Left to Right):** Deborah Wakefield (former UNB member), Lorelei Low, Fr. Ray Reyes, Chris Smith & Marilyn Abraham

Unbound is at www.5keystofreedom.com. Lorelei is available for contact at unbound@5keystofreedom.com for more information on additional resources, conferences, and details about this ministry.

Venmo Revamps Weekly Mass Collection

By Salina Galeai

Most Catholics are familiar with the long-standing call to donate during weekly masses. These contributions support a multitude of purposes, including the general upkeep of the facilities, initiatives the parish supports, and special appeals within the Catholic community. However, throwing cash or checks into the collection baskets each Sunday isn't the only avenue for donations as of late.

Longtime parishioner Matt Safranek had noticed limitations to only offering in-person giving; often times, individuals would forget to bring cash and the donation envelopes lacked a space to fill in a credit card number as an alternative.

Matt dove into consulting work for the parish back in 2017 to tackle these limitations, and discovered statistics that showed many individuals weren't as likely to carry cash or checks on-hand as they were in the past. With this knowledge, he utilized his professional background with online payments through digital channels to brainstorm ways to ramp up giving. Popular mobile payment service Venmo stood out as a great way to widen the possibilities of giving for the parish.

With a quick and easy creation of St. Dominic's own Venmo account, anyone who prefers to give via digital channel can send donations with ease to @stdominics. The account is now managed by Mark Lizama with funds consolidated and easily distinguishable. Individuals have their name, monetary amount, and a brief memo stating the purpose of their donation detailed every time they send money. Venmo allows

track where their money is going in a secure setting, and eliminates the barriers that come with forgetting to bring an offering or not having enough cash-on-hand.



Although Venmo has already elevated the donation experience, Matt sees so much more ahead in terms of elevating how parishioners donate. "Hopefully this is just the first step towards a more robust digital and mobile giving experience."

Saint Dominic's Feast Day by Katie Willem

Before St. Dominic's birth, his mother received a vision of a dog leaping from her womb and setting the earth on fire. He was named Dominic, playing off the Latin interpretation of 'Dog of the Lord', Domnicanus. He is the founder of the Order of Friars Preachers, from which our own parish's beloved Dominicans originate. A mendicant religious order with a universal mission of preaching, it contains a centralized government and puts a great emphasis on scholarship. He died in 1221 in Bologna Italy and was canonized in 1234 by Pope Gregory IX, with special patronage to astronomers. We celebrate his feast day, August 8th.

Saint Monica's Novena by Katie Willem

St. Monica, mother to St. Augustine, is the patron of alcoholics, married women, mothers and most famously, conversion. She prayed fervently for her son's conversion for seventeen years, and him from Tagaste, North Africa to Rome, and even to Milan where St. Augustine taught rhetoric. It was only shortly before her death that St. Augustine was baptized, her prayers fulfilled. The novena to St. Monica begins on August 18th and continues through her feast day on August 27th. Prayers with special intentions are welcome for those who have left the Church, those with the call to return, and those called to enter the Church for the first time.

YAG Annual Coffeehouse: Dancing with the Stars Edition by Salina Galeai

St. Dominic's Young Adult's Group is commemorating 30 years of community, great programs, and service. On August 17th, the group's annual Coffeehouse, a black-tie event, is taking on a Dancing with the Stars twist. Join for some big-time celebration, complete with tons of great food, an auction featuring awesome prizes, performances by some YAG and Dominican duos, and dancing for all. All proceeds go to the Lima Center for Homeless outreach in Western Addition and St. Dominic's YAG.. Tickets are available for purchase through <https://bit.ly/2JIajqz>, or catch YAG selling them after mass.

Annual Parish Picnic by Emma Gabriel

The annual parish picnic, hosted by St. Dominic's Men's Club, is on August 24th at 11 am. This summer, the picnic will be a blast, with the grillmeister (still to be determined) getting to work on barbecuing in the church parking lot. We can all contribute to their mighty force by praying for the continued vitality of this club, and by smiling and saying hello to them! See the Men's Club in action at the picnic this later this month!

Summer Songs to Celebrate Saint Dominic by Kelly Madden

A native San Franciscan might argue that September or October are typically the best months of the year. Karl the Fog takes his annual vacation, and we finally get real summer here in the city. However, for all those who gather in the celestial cathedral on Bush and Steiner, August outshines the rest. Why? It's during this month we celebrate the feast of our very own, St. Dominic. One of the many celebrations taking place this month is the Annual Contemporary Choir Concert on Wednesday, August 28th at 7:30 pm in the main church. With members who travel in from all over the Bay area, the choir has been rehearsing every Tuesday the last few months to prepare and to share their gift of music with the community.