



# Campus Ministry Notes

*“Building the Dominican Spirit”*

*Dominican University of California, San Rafael, CA 94901*

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*August, 2008*

## APPLICATION

“Grace works through our human nature.” This theology of grace developed by Dominican theologians through the centuries, flows from the very foundation of the Dominican Order. Dominic began his preaching mission addressing the dualistic heresy of the Cathars in southern France over 800 years ago. Dominic, from his own study of scripture and theology, preached that all creation is good and reflective of the divine. In particular, the human person makes visible the presence and action of the God’s goodness and grace.

The preaching mission of the Dominican Order continues today in many forms and through the rich diversity of individuals who embrace Dominican spirituality. Here at Dominican University, the four Dominican ideals of *study, prayer & reflection, community, and service* are becoming the very lens with which campus life and academic departments embrace the Dominican identity. As a new academic year begins, these Dominican ideals are being presented at new staff, faculty, and student orientations, at planning meetings for student leaders in campus ministry and student government, and as the foundation for the School of Business in-service meeting.

Look closely at the faces in this newsletter. Each reflects the marvelous presence of the Divine alive on campus.



Martha Stoddard holds a large Valentine’s Day card made for the retired Sisters of Lourdes Convent. Students participated in the party held for the Sisters.



Students enjoying the monthly “Community Dinner” where students cooked a complete meal on Sunday evenings prior to the Sunday evening Mass.



During the Spring “La Bamba” trip to Tijuana, students adopted Lupita as their “Penguin Grandmother.” Lupita’s two-room house was completely repainted on the inside by the Dominican group.



Chilly, the school mascot, helps during the annual Easter Egg Hunt for children from Homeward Bound. The event has become a cherished highlight for both students and the children.



Baccalaureate Mass, held at St. Raphael’s Church in San Rafael, began this year’s Commencement Ceremonies. Seniors joined with their classmates, families, and friends to begin the weekend of celebration with the traditional Mass.



Dominican students once again participated in the “Dominican Preaching Conference,” held at Barry University in Miami. The Conference brings together representatives from the 17 Dominican colleges and universities in the U.S. for a week of learning and study about the Dominican charisms and how students can put them into effect in their lives.

## *KIRA MAFFETT: A MINISTRY OF MUSIC*



*Kira Maffett*

*Do you ever wonder what a nursing student does in his/her spare time? For Kira Maffett, it is taken up by many activities, including directing and coordinating the Liturgical Music program for Dominican's Campus Ministry program. Below are Kira's reflections on Music Ministry.*

In December, 2001, I became the music director for St. Birgitta's Church in Portland, Oregon. It was a very small parish and church. I was assigned the Latin Mass and subbed for the English Mass from

***"The one who sings once,  
prays twice"***

time to time. Being able to play the organ, I eventually played at a number of churches in the Portland area, including a Dominican parish.

Once I arrived at Dominican Uni-

versity, I joined the choir. I soon began to play the piano; and thanks to the strong relationship Dominican has with St. Raphael's Parish, I also started to substitute there when needed.

I have always viewed music in the liturgy as a means to encourage the faithful in their prayer. The saying "the one who sings once, prays twice" became a reality for me. I also found that choir and providing music for the congregation was not only a privilege, but it was also fun. The more a choir enjoys what it is doing, the more effective they are in adding to the liturgical experience. When

selecting music for our liturgies, I keep these ideals in mind. I look for music that is enjoyable, singable, appropriate to the readings and does not detract from the Liturgy.

Working with music ministry on a university campus is very different from that of the parish. It is a joy for me to encourage young men

and women to take "the leap" and try something new that they would not have thought of otherwise. It is a privilege helping cantors become confident leaders of music ministry.

During the Dominican Preaching Conference held at Barry University, Miami, this summer, I realized how much Dominicans see music as part of "preaching" the Good News. I gained a greater insight into what my position is: sharing the Gospel in a way that allows people to use various forms of prayer.

ous forms of prayer.

Personally, I also am very excited about the possibility of the upcoming Chapel in Edgehill Mansion.

Students will finally

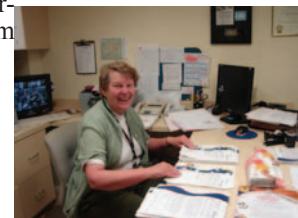
have a "real" place of prayer. It would be great to complement that setting with some real musical instruments, especially an organ. This will enable us to share the Good News in a more profound way. Also, students in the Music Department could use such an organ instead of having to drive to Tiburon for practice!



*Kira leads orchestra and choir at Baccalaureate*

## *DOMINICAN PREACHING CONFERENCE, 2008*

Dominican students at the annual gathering of Dominican colleges and universities in May held at Barry University, Miami Shores, FL. Representatives from the 17 Dominican institutions in the U.S. attended the Conference.



## CAMPUS MINISTRY WELCOMES SR. CHRISTINE WILCOX, OP



Adult Ministry program. More recently, she worked with the Sacred Heart Schools in Atherton, generating programming and opportunities for faith development and expression.

Sr. Christine has a strong background in working with young adults and in finding creative ways to reach out to them. One example: she loves to knit; and developed a “knitting retreat” in which participants practice various types of spirituality while engaged in their knitting.

When Fr. Bob and Sr. Carla heard that Sr. Christine was looking for a position in Campus Ministry, they seized the opportunity to bring her to Dominican. Thanks to a grant from the Dominican Sisters Mission Fund, and sizable donations by alumni to the Campus Ministry program, they were able to provide funding for her salary.

Not only is Sr. Christine very knowledgeable in young adult ministry, she also has a great sense of humor! All of these gifts will make her a tremendous asset to the future growth and expansion of the Campus Ministry program at Dominican.

Campus Ministry’s staff continues to expand with the addition this year of Sr. Christine Wilcox, OP. Sr. Christine, a member of the San Rafael Dominicans, “rejoins” the Dominican University community after prior service on campus. In 1997-98, Sr. Christine worked as a Campus Ministry Intern for Fr. Bob. Since that time, she made her final profession of vows with the order and completed an MA in Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. She previously received an MA in English Linguistics from Arizona State University.

Following her acceptance into the order, Sr. Christine worked for the Archdiocese of San Francisco, helping to establish and direct the Young

### WHAT DID YOU DO THIS SUMMER? SR. CARLA HEADS TO UGANDA

Two summers ago, Dominican student Gurleen Siddhu went to Uganda to work with a primary school in Uganda. Her glowing reports on her return sparked an interest in Sr. Carla, which eventually turned into a dream to do the same. That dream was realized this summer when Sr. Carla spent a month in Kigandi, teaching English to 5th graders at St. Matia’s Catholic School.



Sr. Carla Kovack, OP, distributing soccer balls to Ugandan primary school students.

experience, Sr. Carla noted that the teaching occurs without the usual resources found in a school. A highlight of her month was teaching students to make paper airplanes out of donated colored paper.

Hopefully, this trip will open doors for future Dominican students to have a similar experience of community service as citizens of a global world.

Reflecting on her

## CAMPUS MINISTRY: CAN YOU SUPPORT OUR MISSION?

Like all University programs, Campus Ministry depends on the University’s general fund for our operating expenses. These funds come from students’ tuition, alumni annual fund, and endowment resources. Our general fund budget takes care of our staff salary, expenses, office maintenance and student activities.

However, as with all programs, we have to use our limited funding as wisely and prudently as possible. That does not keep us from dreaming of possibilities for Campus Ministry “if we had the necessary funding!”

Thanks to the generosity of many alumni and friends, Campus Ministry can provide these extra services by special gifts “designated” for the Campus Ministry program, directed to the Office of Advancement.

Here are some of our dreams and how your gift could be used:

- **\$10,000**--Items for the new St. Catherine Benecasa Chapel.
- **\$10,000**--Partial salary for a Campus Minister
- **\$2,000**--Scholarship for a student “Peer Minister”
- **\$1,000**--Pay for a year of *Renew* Bible Study program
- **\$750**--Scholarship for student to attend a national conference
- **\$500**--Purchase furniture for the Campus Ministry student areas.
- **\$250**--Purchase Liturgical vestments
- **\$100**--Purchase Bibles, etc. (Thanks to a donor, we now have 20 Bibles).

Any and all gifts are appreciated. Please send gifts to:

*Campus Ministry Fund  
Office of Advancement  
50 Acacia Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901*



Office of Campus Ministry  
50 Acacia Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

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[www.dominican.edu/ministry](http://www.dominican.edu/ministry)

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## EDGEHILL RESTORATION & CAMPUS CHAPEL

### Renovation News:

Following an exhaustive, independent search for the General Contractor to transform the Edgehill mansion into the Dominican Heritage & Alumni House and St. Catherine Benincasa Chapel, the project has been awarded to Plant Construction Company. Founded in 1947, Plant prides itself on providing fine construction services, efficiently performed and delivered on schedule. Their extensive work in the non-profit and education sectors, including UC Berkeley, Marin Academy, and the San Francisco Friends School, and their experience with historic renovations make them a perfect fit for the Edgehill renovation.



The University expects design approval from the City of San Rafael's Planning Commission mid-September. The next step is obtaining the building permit.

Prior to having the building permit, in November Plant will begin removing historical elements that will undergo offsite renovation (e.g. historic windows) and perform a small

amount of demolition work.

### Campaign News:

Jim Deitz, Chair of the Edgehill Campaign Committee, announced that \$5.5 million of the \$6 million goal has been raised. "We are so close to realizing the dream of a Catholic chapel, heritage center and alumni house on the Dominican campus. Another half million in gifts and pledges, puts us in a position to begin re-construction," says Jim.

The campaign enters the general solicitation phase in September. This is the time that all Dominican alumni will be called upon

to join the campaign. Donations of \$250 or above provide you with exciting gift options.

### Edgehill Groundbreaking Ceremony:

The groundbreaking will be scheduled within weeks of the campaign reaching \$6 million. Contact Alumni Relations at 415-485-3242 or [alumni@dominican.edu](mailto:alumni@dominican.edu) with your email address and be one of the first to receive your invitation.

San Rafael, CA 94901  
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**Office of Campus Ministry**

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