



Campus Ministry Notes

“Building the Dominican Spirit”

Dominican University of California, San Rafael, CA 94901

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INTEGRATION

Living today confronts us with complex challenges. With global warming and environmental degradation, war and violence, threats of disease, and breakdown of economic security, where does a person find *Hope*? Fortunately, we have a long Dominican heritage which offers values and patterns of thinking and living to show us the way.

When beginning the Order of Preachers, St Dominic sent his friars to the newly founded universities for education. Both content and process shaped those first Dominicans. Contemplation lent space for deeper insights. Engagement with others with differing viewpoints offered a setting for finding common threads. They were encouraged to study not only theology but also math, science, history, art, and philosophy. St Thomas Aquinas eventually used the pagan philosophy of Aristotle as a framework for his great work. Integration allows new truths to be born.

Campus Ministry programs and projects provide venues for today's student to integrate academic learning with spiritual values, the rational with the creative, the international with the local, the experiential service with the formal class setting. Hope is born in the possibilities that emerge from the integration of knowledge and wisdom. Hope grows when individuals use their faith, knowledge and skills in service of others.



Campus Ministry and Bon Appetit provided the opening BBQ for students the Sunday evening before classes started in August.



Paul Raccanello, Assoc. Dean of Students, joins Campus Ministry team leaders in providing a First Year Student Retreat the first week of classes. The day was held at San Domenico School in San Anselmo.



Mass of the Holy Spirit and Shield Day were combined ceremonies this year. During the Mass, the new class was presented with its shield. Class Representatives include: Jennifer Jackson, Takarah Barnes, Victoria Rivera and Vanessa Vasquez.



Campus Ministry sponsored Fr. Roy Bougeous, founder of the “School of the Americas Watch” on campus. Fr. Roy spoke in classes and to the campus community during a luncheon in the Patricia Bannen Cruden Creekside Room.



The annual Fall Retreat, held at the Dominican Sisters house in Bolinas, found students engaged in several group projects as well as having time for personal reflection.



The annual “Trick-or-Treat for the Marin Food Bank” brought out students who canvassed the Dominican neighborhood. Over 600 pounds of food was gathered for the local food bank.

OPENING NEW TRADITIONS: IMMERSION TRIP TO APPALACHIA

Ed. Note: After fall final exams, six Dominican students traveled to Vanceburg, Kentucky to experience an immersion experience provided by Glenmary Missioners. Not only was this a new immersion trip for our students, but it was also the first such trip that was “student led” by junior Elizabeth Campi. Below are Kira Maffett’s reflections on the trip.



Members of Dominican University’s group with Glenmary Volunteers at the Vanceburg Court House.

Six students traveled to Vanceburg, Kentucky and for a week we entered into another world. We lived very simply in order to appreciate the lifestyle of the many impoverished residents. As part of our simple lifestyle, we were not permitted to wear makeup, watches, or use cellphones – in addition to taking one shower for the entire week! Our two farm managers kept us in the dark about our daily activities – we had to trust them to wake us up in time to do service projects that they chose for us.

Our week was a busy one; we spent a day ringing a bell for the Salvation Army in front of a local Wal-Mart; we organized food and clothing in a pantry that gives free food and clothing to people who cannot buy their own; we worked at

a construction site for a company that builds houses for families in need (the company was paid by the government for our volunteer hours; not only were we saving them money, we were making them money as well). Finally, we spent time with the elderly in the community, talking to them and singing Christmas carols.

Each service site taught us something different. One student, while bell ringing in front of Wal-Mart, commented at how close-knit many families were. She saw men and women assisting their elderly parents get in and out of cars and do their shopping and couldn’t help but admire the strong relationships that they have - this made her determined to take time out for her



Students worked on new housing for a family in Vanceburg, Kentucky.

family and friends; she realized the importance of having a close network around you. While working at the construction site, we helped to apply old newspaper to an attic for insulation; one of the students vowed to recycle when she realized what an impact it can make. Finally, the lifestyle we led taught us to trust more. Trust others, trust God, and remember that though it was hard for us to trust for a week, there are people who trust year round as they



Kira Maffett gets “up close and personal with one of the farm’s friendlier animals.

struggle to make ends meet.

Our week in Kentucky was short, but fruitful. It is very easy for

someone to become caught up in the petty worries and disputes that arise throughout the day; helping people who struggled to feed their children and visiting elderly men and women who didn’t have any family to come visit them reminded us to be grateful for the many blessings in our lives. Even though we were there to serve others, the reality is that the people of Vanceburg served us. Thanks to their warm welcome and kindness, we learned what life is like “on the other side of the fence.” Hopefully we can bring these lessons back to our own backyard.



Dominican students with one of the elderly residents of Vanceburg.

ANNUAL ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING DINNER CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Students participate in the Ecumenical Prayer Service prior to the Thanksgiving Dinner

On the Monday before Thanksgiving Day, Dominican held its annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service and Dinner. This year's festivities marked the 25th year for this annual event.

Following the original tradition of having a prayer service prior to the



Students help the Bon Appetite staff in preparing the table settings

meal, faculty and staff joined students gathered in the plaza outside of Caleruega at 4:30 p.m., to remember those things that they were thankful for this year. As they passed a large candle, each person related one thing that they could give thanks for to God.

After the prayer, the doors opened to the Shield Room, where all were treated with a dining room "transformed" by formal table settings and

traditional decorations of pumpkins, fall leaves and candles. The decorations and the prayer service were prepared by students involved with



The Shield Room in Caleruega Dining Hall is transformed to a formal dining area



Sr. Carla Kovack, OP, and Deborah Connor, Bon Appetite, helped students prepare.

the various Campus Ministry organizations. Students agreed that once again, "this is the best meal of the year!" One of the most cherished traditions, the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Dinner continues to provide the Dominican community with links to the past.



Students enjoying Thanksgiving Dinner with all the fixings and delicious food.

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.
- **\$5,000**--Salary for a Master's Degree Student Intern
- **\$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 donor, we now have 20 Bibles).

Any and all gifts are appreciated. Please send gifts to:
Campus Ministry Fund
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EDGEHILL RESTORATION & CAMPUS CHAPEL

On November 1, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved plans to transform the Edgehill Mansion into the Dominican Heritage and Alumni House, which would house the St. Catherine Benecasa Chapel. Included in these extensive plans are the restoration and enlargement of the original chapel area, which will include the St. Catherine Chapel, along with the Veritas Room, a space where other faiths can worship. A reservation chapel for the Eucharist will be placed in the heart of the building, providing a place for the Eucharist, and a quiet, meditative space for University members to reflect and pray.



The new home for Campus Ministry will empower the staff to offer an expansion of student leadership experiences and programs, and will provide space to create diverse communities to explore questions of spirituality, personal and social responsibility, and the intersections of faith and learning.

--Sr. Carla Kovack, OP

Additionally, the second floor of the building will house the Campus Ministry offices and space for student activities. This will allow members of the Campus Ministry staff to be together in one place, near the worship space. Offices, lounges, a small kitchen, and gathering areas will allow for continued Campus Ministry growth and expansion.

Other first-floor spaces will include Heritage and Legacy halls and a dining area, which will showcase University history and Dominican heritage, and provide public space for receptions, lectures and meetings. The third floor of the house will accommodate the Alumni Affairs office and a home for Alumni functions.

The project budget is \$6 million. Funding will come from alumni and University friends' gifts, a matching University contribution, and foundation grants. Renovation will begin as soon as our fund raising efforts are reached.

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