



## Spirituality

The theme of this semester's newsletter focuses on the Dominican ideal of "Spirituality." Our Dominican tradition urges us to pay attention to the integration of body, mind and spirit. The wisdom of this 800 year tradition offers rich insights and challenges as it is incorporated into our postmodern academic education at Dominican University.

Today's student at Dominican reflects the profile of many in our American culture--busy and stressed with a full academic load of classes, a job or two to pay for tuition, and the importance of staying connected with friends and family using technology that has become part of a collegiate lifestyle. Cell phones, email, text messaging, My Space and chat rooms engage students daily. Though technology supports instant communication, it can also fragment and isolate the human person. The Campus Ministry program at Dominican engages students with programs that allow them to explore the core questions of identity, meaning, life and purpose in the context of faith and values. The programs are diverse to meet the diverse needs of our students.

# Campus Ministry Notes

*"Building the Dominican Spirit"*

Dominican University of California, San Rafael, CA 94901  
January, 2006



Dominican students gather at Caldwell College, Caldwell, NJ, for annual "Dominican Preaching Conference" during the summer.



Campus Ministry sponsors a "Welcome BBQ" at the beginning of the school year.



Mass of the Holy Spirit began the Sept. 11th Convocation celebration for the University at the beginning of fall semester. Mass was held outside at the same spot the community gathered on Sept. 11, 2001.



Rabbi Henry Shreibman, faculty member, blows the shofar during a celebration and explanation of Rosh Hashana for the Dominican community.



Students dressed up for Halloween to canvas the Dominican neighborhood for the Marin Community Food Bank. Over 650 pounds of food was collected by students.



Following an Ecumenical Prayer Service, students enjoyed the annual Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings.



## Campus Ministry Makes a Difference

by Rose Hobbs '08

Change is easy, right? I can almost see some of you shaking your heads.

Any change, no matter how small it may be, is difficult in its own way. Now think of one of the biggest changes a young person can go through. Imagine changing not only schools, but your entire life. Imagine having to make a whole new group of friends, finding out that academics are nothing like they were in high school, and maybe transitioning to a new state or even country, and all in

**One of the most meaningful experiences last year was the service trip we went on to Stockton. Not only were we pushed out of our spheres of comfort and into a deeper sense of understanding the poor, but the experience helped us build community within our small group...**

the same week. If you have recently been through your freshman year of college, you don't have to imagine. A little over a year ago I was one of those freshmen who inhabit the halls of Pennafort. My freshman year, though, turned into an opportunity for me to expand my horizons far beyond anything I thought possible. The first few days I spent on campus were miserable. More than anything, I missed my family. I thought my roommates and I would never speak, and that there was no possible way for me to make friends in such a big school. I was convinced that moving back to Oregon was the only

solution, and that obviously I had been overly ambitious in my aspirations for an out of state education. Then, on a Sunday evening, I casually asked my roommate if she was planning on going to Mass. To my relief, she was. I say relief because she was more or less the only person I knew, and to go anywhere by myself seemed far too daunting a possibility. Our suitemate, one of the many people I did not know on our hallway, turned out to be another attendant, so one of the first things the three of us did together was go to Mass that evening.

This is just one of the many things that happened last year which cause me to think that Campus Ministry has something to do with the fact that I have any friends at all. Once I got settled into classes I decided that the liturgical choir was something I was interested in. Who would have thought that an hour and half once a week would find me several more good friends, as well as introducing me to more of the friendly faces around campus? "Students Promoting Dominican Ideals" sounded like something I would be interested in as well. After all, I was a student at Dominican, and I had ideals, so I decided to give it a try. Between the Trick-or-Treating for canned goods and the community dinners, this turned out to be another wonderful way to open up to the larger campus. One of the most meaningful experiences I had with two of my good friends last year was the service trip we went on to Stockton. Not only

were we pushed out of our spheres of comfort and into a deeper sense of understanding for the poor, but the experience helped us build community within our small group and become close to amazing people that we didn't even know went to Dominican.

I could go on listing the many ways in which Campus Ministry played a role in making me the befriended individual I am today, or I could simply come to the point. If you are a freshman, don't hesitate to become involved with things like choir and SPDI. You can't hide in your room forever, as much as I tried to my first three days on campus. There is such a wide variety of activities that it is nearly impossible not to find something to suit your interest. If you feel that political activism is your cause, become involved with the School of the Americas protest in Georgia, which takes place every November. If you want to become more involved with the mass every Sunday, come to choir and help lead the congregation in song. Or, if time is not something you have in abundance, just stop by SPDI once a week and become involved when and where you are able. For those of you who are not freshman, are you going to let the first-year students have all the fun? It's never too late to make a difference on campus and to meet amazing new people, and Campus Ministry is the perfect avenue for doing so. Besides, there's always food in the Campus Ministry office. Try the Red Vines!

## Confirmation/RCIA Programs

While many college students use their first time away from home to explore spiritual traditions and beliefs different from those in which they were raised, some students at Dominican choose to deepen their own knowledge, practice and commitment to the Catholic faith they were baptized into. Though baptized as a baby, Danielle Zimmerman never had the opportunity to receive any education nor participate in her faith. It was through her religious studies classes at Dominican that her desire to fully live out her faith was rekindled. This past December marked

the joyful celebration of her first communion in her grandparents' parish in Clear Lake.

Danielle, along with four other students, Eileen Burns, Hilary Blacikburn, Rizza Alcaria and Kelly Kalk meet weekly as part of the confirmation program at Dominican University. In addition, Mikako Tey who is the keyboard accompanist for our student choir at Sunday liturgy has joined this group to discern whether she is being called to baptism. These students explore a deeper understanding of their Christian faith through reading and reflect on scripture and other writings explaining

the doctrines of the Catholic Church, follow the example of Jesus in reaching out in service to others, develop a daily prayer life that fits in with a young adults busy schedule and participate in weekly Sunday liturgy.

## SOA Watch in Georgia



Members from Dominican participated in the annual SOA demonstration at Ft. Benning, GA

# Campus Ministry Retreat Programs Growing

## Weekend Beach Retreats

Beach time may be the enticing factor for students to sign up for a weekend retreat at one of the Dominican Sister vacation houses, but it is usually not the fondest memory that is brought back to school. Rather, it is the experience of transformation: a group of students becomes a close-knit community of seekers; individuals discover God's love within and around them.

Prior to the scheduled weekend, a student team gathers with Sister Carla to pray with the gospel reading of that Sunday. A theme emerges



from this shared time of reflection and soon prayer experiences, discussion questions, student leaders' prepared reflections, music and videos are put together. The theme for the Fall, 2005, retreat was "Listening." What is the distinction between hearing and listening? How does the heart listen? To whom do I listen, and what blocks my capacity to listen? How is God's voice heard?

Student leaders for this retreat, Carly Hoffman and Jeremy Roderick, offered reflections on how their life experiences of the listening/responding dynamic deepened their relationship and trust of God in their own lives. Others soon broke open their life stories trusting that the support and confidentiality built among the group would sustain these new bonds of friendship and understanding. God's grace and blessing make these weekend retreat experiences times when the goal of integration of body mind and spirit becomes incarnated in the lives of our students.



## Busy Persons Retreat

Often we go away to find God's presence in our lives through attending a retreat at some location of beauty dedicated to that goal. Then we return home with memories of a great experience and promises to oneself to maintain that wonderful spiritual high spot. After a week or two, the memory of what happened in the relaxing away spot vanishes! Sound familiar? Participants in a Busy Person's Retreat are too busy to get away, yet have a desire to reorient their lives through seeking God in the ordinary of their hectic schedules. Retreatants are given a prayer booklet with readings and focus questions for journaling each day for four days. They spend a half hour of their choosing praying, reflecting on the readings, and questions in the context of their particular situation. Then each person meets with a Dominican Sister each day who becomes a prayer companion, mentor, and mirror in that person's retreat. The final retreat exercise is a pot luck lunch in which all the retreatants and Sister prayer companions meet to share reflections and experiences of the retreat. These opportunities are open to faculty, staff as well as students.



## "The Ripple Effect"

This past summer, a team of students joined Father Bob and Sister Carla for a weeklong Campus Ministry Leadership Institute at the University of Notre Dame, IN. The fruit of that experience was the vision of a new program: RIPLE EFFECT. Using the college "Campus Renew" faith sharing program, similar to that used in Catholic parishes, our core student leaders invited students to join them and facilitate weekly faith sharing groups in the dorms this past fall. This first semester was so successful that the core team plans to double the number of small group offerings from 5 weekly meetings to ten! New leaders will be invited and trained effecting a ripple of small communities of students gathering to use scripture as a lens for integrating God into their daily lives.



Dominican staff and students celebrated Mass at Notre Dame, IN, with bishops who had gathered before their conference meeting this summer in Chicago. Front row: Kristen Freiberger, Anya Villatoro, Sr. Carla Kovack, OP; Back row: Francisco Ortiz, Kevin Hasler, former San Francisco Archbishop William Levada, Fr. Bob Haberman and Bishop John Wester.

CAMPUS  
MINISTRY



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

Staff:  
Fr. Bob Haberman  
415-485-3207  
Sr. Carla Kovack, OP  
415-257-0142  
Francisco Ortiz '06  
415-257-0142  
Julia van der Ryn '04  
415-257-1385  
Dr. Craig Singleton  
415-485-3225  
Fax:  
415-257-1390

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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



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

## SPDI

### *(Students Promoting Dominican Ideals)*



SPDI is a student led group whose mission is to promote the embodiment of our Dominican spirituality by all on campus. Through study and engagement of others in the four Dominican ideals of study, reflection, service in the context of community, these students both learn and pass on the integration of these ideals to friends, classmates and dorm mates. The Dominican motto "to contemplate and to give to others the fruits of one's contemplation" is their theme! Weekly meetings become the forum for both planning events and for sharing time, building community and strengthening bonds through prayer.

## BASIC

### *(Brothers and Sisters in Christ)*

Through BASIC, a student-led campus club, participants commit to deepen their life in Christ through Bible Study and community building. Mentored by a local Baptist minister, Pastor Glenn, student leaders are supported in leading weekly bible study groups as well as sessions of prayer and worship. Hikes up the hill to praise God at sunrise, or trips to the beach gather students who seek to place Christ at the center of their lives in times of fun and in moments of awesome beauty.

Last summer, several members of BASIC journeyed to Northern Ireland to work with other students to bring healing and reconciliation to that area. Plans are currently underway to take a larger group of students to Northern Ireland this coming summer.

### *New Chapel Update*



As you can see from the activities listed in this newsletter, our need for a building to house the Campus Ministry activities continues to grow. Dominican has welcomed Stuart Jones, new VP for Advancement, who is working with Chapel Chair Joanne Murphy, and Fundraising Chairs, Sisi Damner and Mark Jordan, in raising the remaining funds for the chapel. As of this fall, we were over "half-way" to our goal of \$6 million. With your continued support, we will reach our goal and begin construction on St. Catherine Benecasa Chapel and Campus Ministry Center.

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
San Rafael, CA  
Permit No. 14