



# Campus Ministry Notes

*“Building the Dominican Spirit”*

*Dominican University of California, San Rafael, CA 94901  
Summer, 2007*

## 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, 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.



Sr. Carla Kovack, OP, Jessica Carter, Elizabeth Campi, and Fr. Bob Haberman attended the annual Dominican Student Preaching Conference held at Barry University, Miami, in May.



Kira Maffett, Angelyn Maritano, Chris Souza, Sr. Carla Kovack, OP, and Fr. Bob Haberman during a work session at the Campus Ministry Leadership Institute held at the University of Notre Dame, IN, in June.



Kyla McNulty and Kevin Hassler paint a house during the “La Bamba” trip to Tijuana over Spring Break.



Megan Amaral, Library staff member, plays with children at Sr. Gene McNally’s *Mission de San Rafael* in Tijuana, Mexico during the “La Bamba” trip.



Students help the Sisters work on a garden at the new Convent next to Bertrand Hall.



Jackson Wong helps children from Home-ward Bound count their eggs during the annual Easter Egg Hunt held on the Meadowlands lawn.

## *MICHELLE VENTER: CAMPUS MINISTRY OUTSTANDING STUDENT*



*Michelle Venter, '07, is an outstanding example of a Dominican graduate.*

Campus Ministry on a university campus offers its own challenges and blessings. Each May as students graduate from Dominican University, these two elements intersect.

One perfect example is Michelle Venter, one of our Campus Ministry student leaders who graduated in May, 2007. She arrived at Dominican as a freshman, eager to begin her "college experience." She brought with her a strong academic background, firm values and faith

nurtured by her parents and a drive to be involved in Campus Ministry.

Michelle began by helping create a more inviting liturgical space. During her first year, the location of Sunday Mass kept moving as the number of students increased. Michelle took charge of setting up the chapel. When Sr. Carla asked her how she got interested in this she replied, "This type of volunteer work is what my mother does in our home parish...and so I am experienced from helping her!" Eventually, she took over the scheduling of liturgical ministers and finally participated in the training of new lectors and Eucharistic ministers.

Service, one of the four Dominican values, was Michelle's special passion. As a member of the Core Leadership Team which began the Campus Ministry program *OUT-REACH-Reaching Out to Others*, Michelle found her real niche. Since beginning her involvement and leadership, Dominican students have served the needs of Homeward

Bound's homeless families. Whether putting together emergency packets for families in case of earthquake, sponsoring Easter egg hunts for the children, or painting the hallway of a transitional housing center, Michelle gathered other Dominican students to serve the needs of these neighbors. Reflecting on these experiences helped all involved understand the complex causes of poverty in our community and grow in compassion and generosity in our loving outreach to them.

Michelle is an outstanding example of a Dominican student who, in the process of the giving of her gifts, was a blessing to our community. The challenge for Campus Ministry each spring is to celebrate those like Michelle who have been a blessing and trust that the next wave of DUC students will have other leaders ready to shape our Campus Ministry programs with their particular gifts.

## *DOMINICAN YOUNG ADULT USA FORMED*

On the weekend of July 20-22nd, twenty young adults gathered at Ohio Dominican University to begin to develop a new national organization of young adults who are influenced by Dominican education, in high schools, colleges, universities, parishes and other Dominican experiences. The group will be another means for young adults to continue their connection with the Dominican Order. The connection includes deepening their relationship with God and the world through the four pillars of study, prayer, community, and ministry. Each group will have as a mentor a friar, sister, associate, laity or nun.

The group will become affiliated with Dominican Young Adult International. The International move-

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*DYUSA Board Members:*

*Standing: Danielle Douglas, NY; Allie Jeffs, IN; Daniel Breitfeller, OH; Kimmi Ferrari, NY; Seated: Jenn Purcell, IL; Elizabeth Campi, DUC, CA*

ment started in Ireland in the early 1990's when young adults were looking for small faith communities and felt the draw of the Dominican charism. The first international

gathering was in Spain in 1996. The next international meeting will be in Portugal in 2009.

Elizabeth Campi, a Dominican University sophomore, represented DUC at the meeting. During the meeting, she was chosen to represent the western United States on the Board of Directors. According to Elizabeth, "We hope to bring the Dominican charism into the younger generation, send representatives to the international meetings, take part in regional service projects. There are a number of Dominican-affiliated high schools, colleges and universities, and parishes around the country. We want to bring everyone together so that they do not feel so isolated and so that they know that there are others who share their ideals and way of life."

## “LA BAMBA” TIJUANA: 33 TRIPS AND COUNTING

by Fr. Bob Haberman

When I took over the Campus Ministry Director’s position in 1989, there was one program that I quickly learned was part and parcel of Campus Ministry--the annual trip to Tijuana, Mexico. With the assistance and guidance of Sr. Susannah



Fr. Bob Haberman and his god-daughter, Alma, in Tijuana.

Malarkey, OP, students would spend their spring vacation working at the *Casa de los Pobres*, and in a nearby colonia where Sr. Susannah had developed some close relationships with various families.

Our first few trips were always an adventure! We would take off for Mexico with a variety of tools, paint and “beach toys” stuffed in an old Dominican van. (One trip the door of the van fell off--and we had a quick Tijuana repair before coming home!) When we arrived in Tijuana, Sr. Susannah would take some of the students over to the colonia to “scope out” a project. It usually involved replacing a roof, adding a room onto a house, or painting a building inside and out.

But the important part of those original trips, which has become the primary feature of the program, was the interaction between the students and the residents of the colonia. Through the years, relationships were built with the families and they became our “amigos” in Tijuana.

As the college grew and became a university, the increase in enrollment, along with the changing de-

mographics of our student body, pushed us to expand our programs, including service opportunities such as “La Bamba.” We began taking two to three trips a year to Tijuana in order to give more students an experience of the third-world situation. We also developed an academic component for the trip, so now students can receive service learning units for additional reading and reflections.

One of the greatest contributions to the growth of the program has been the additional involvement of the Dominican Sisters. Sr. Carla Kovack, Associate Director of Campus Ministry, and Sr. Pat Farrell, the Vocation Director for the San Rafael Dominicans, are regular participants in the trips. They help the students reflect on the Dominican ideals and values before, during and after the trip.

We are further aided by Sr. Gene McNally. She has been working in Tijuana in Colonia Esperanza, founding the *Mission San Rafael*, which includes a small church, a medical clinic, and a computer classroom to help children become computer literate. Sr. Gene has also worked in the colonia to create small businesses, whereby the people can develop a business of their own to support their family.

Sr. Gene, always a teacher, gives our students information on world and Mexican economics, introduces us to people in the colonia, and tells their stories. She always has a needed project on hand, and helps us organize a carnival for the children on the Mission’s property.

I am grateful to the Franciscan and Dominican Sisters who offer their time, service and talent to the people of Tijuana. Because of their dedication, our students gain a deeper awareness of the global interconnectedness of church and the world community.

## 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--Enhancements to our Liturgical space
- \$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 “Veritas Room”
- \$250--Purchase Liturgical vestments
- \$100--Purchase Bibles, etc.

Any and all gifts are appreciated. Please send gifts to:  
*Campus Ministry Fund*  
*Office of Advancement*  
50 Acacia Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

## BACCALAUREATE MASS: NEW LOCATION



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

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415-485-3207  
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.dominican.edu/about/current/campusministryinfo.html>

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*Fr. Paul Rossi and Fr. Bob Haberman celebrate the Baccalaureate Mass at St. Raphael's Church. Photo by Stuart Lirette*

Each year, graduating seniors from many faith backgrounds come together to plan the annual Baccalaureate Mass which is the official beginning of the Commencement weekend activities. With the assistance of Fr. Bob Haberman, students implement the celebration, providing class members for lectors, eucharistic ministers, musicians, liturgical dancers, and coordinators.

With Dominican's continued increased enrollment, Commencement classes have grown in record numbers. This year, the University had two Commencement ceremonies, one for graduate students and one for undergraduate students. The Baccalaureate Mass has also been impacted by the increasing numbers

of students and their families who want to celebrate the achievements of their students. A place to hold the larger number of participants for the Baccalaureate Mass was becoming more difficult as time went on.

Thanks to the generous invitation of Fr. Paul Rossi, pastor of St. Raphael's Parish in downtown San Rafael, Baccalaureate Mass has found a new home which will accommodate all who wish to celebrate this long standing Commencement weekend activity. This is the second year that we have filled St. Raphael's Church. We look forward to continuing in our relationship with St. Raphael's as the University's parish in San Rafael.



*St. Raphael's Church is filled by graduates, families and friends for the 2007 Baccalaureate Mass. Photo by Stuart Lirette*

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DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY  
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