

# 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 18, 2020

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6  
Psalm 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b  
Matthew 22:15-21

**“Give the Lord glory  
and honor.”**



**St. Dominic's is a Catholic  
Parish Inspired by  
Dominican Spirituality  
Igniting the Faith for the  
Salvation of Souls**

## Mass Intentions

Sun	10/18	7:00 am	(D) Arsenia Dacapias
		9:00 am	(T) Priestly Intention
		11:00 am	(B) Andre Escala
		1:00 pm	(T) Priestly Intention
		5:00 pm	(T) People of the Parish
Mon	10/19	6:45 am	(B) Joe Kroner
		8:15 am	(D) Emmanuel G. Musico
Tues	10/20	6:45 am	(D) Andre Velarde, Sr.
		8:15 am	(D) Joan Witek
Wed	10/21	6:45 am	(T) Rev. Br. Chrysostom Mijinke, OP
		8:15 am	(D) Remy & John Pitts
Thurs	10/22	6:45 am	(T) Rev. Br. Martin Maria Nguyen, OP
		8:15 am	(D) All Souls in Purgatory
Fri	10/23	6:45 am	(B) Kaitlin Vanderkolk
		8:15 am	(B) Mario & Marco Pradil
Sat	10/24	8:15 am	(D) Emmanuel G. Musico
		5:00 pm	(D) Antonio Valdellon
Sun	10/25	7:00 am	(D) Joseph Lobo
		9:00 am	(D) Siu Ming Lau
		11:00 am	(A) Joe & JoAnn Talken
		1:00 pm	(T) People of the Parish
		5:00 pm	(H) Margaret Lobo

Legend: (D) Deceased (H) Health

(A) Anniversary (B) Birthday (T) Thanksgiving

**Mass & Flower Intentions available**

Contact Alisa aaquino@stdombenicia.org

**Altar Flowers for  
Our Lady of the Rosary**



## Open Public Masses

### Sunday

7:00 am (church)  
9:00 am (small lot\*)  
11:00 am (small lot\*)  
1:00 pm (English/Spanish-church)

### Monday-Saturday

8:15 am (church)

\*Weather permitting, otherwise inside church

## Live-Stream Masses

WatchStDom.com

### Sunday

7:00 am, 1:00 pm & 5:00 pm

### Monday - Saturday

8:15 am

### Saturday

5:00 pm



475 East I Street, Benicia, CA, 94510  
(707) 747-7220 www.stdombenicia.org  
@stdombenicia #stdominicsbenicia



## Pastor's Corner

### Radical forgiveness

First, the principle: forgiveness, like love, is not a feeling, but rather a decision. We can choose to forgive, like we choose to love, whether we feel like it or not. Parents continue to love their children regardless of how unlovable they might be at a particular moment or over time. The letter to the Romans reminds us that God loved humanity even when we were supremely unlovely (cf. Rom. 5:6-10). One of Jesus' last words as he was dying on the Cross was, "Father, forgive them." (Lk. 23:24) But can you see yourself forgiving the person who murdered your spouse?

Katy Hutchison's book, *Walking After Midnight*, simply but powerfully describes her journey to forgive the young man who murdered her husband and how that radical act has transformed her life, the life of her children, the life of the young man and countless people with whom she has shared the story. I found it both absolutely gut wrenching and brimming over with grace. I started reading it after dinner one night shortly after it was published and did not put it down until I finished it about 2:00 in the morning. I suspect my attraction was much like King Herod's listening to John the Baptist: I knew what was before me was profoundly true and beautiful, yet was convicted - as our Protestant friends would say - for not living that truth.

It reminded me of a part of Stephen Covey's classic, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. Katy's act of forgiveness, and her refusal to give into societal expectations of vengeance, hatred and helplessness at every point since that night, seems to me to be a perfect example of Covey's admonition to be proactive: that our freedom lies in the "space" between what happens to us and how we respond, between stimulus and response. If there is no room within us between stimulus and response, we have no interior freedom; the more room there is, the freer we are.

It made me think of two elderly friars that were at St. Albert's when I was a student brother. They both had very hard lives, yet one was always cheerful and happy, while the other was bitter and miserable. As a young brother, I marveled at the contrast between these two men who were otherwise so similar. Could it be one was freer than the other, and was so because of the choices he made about what happened to him?

It begs the question: how often have I played the victim by surrendering my power to make good and holy decisions based on principles by saying or doing the first thing that came into my head? In other words, how often have I curtailed my own interior freedom? It is a challenging question. It brings into focus the very real and unnerving possibility that I am far more responsible for the unhappiness in my life than I care to admit.

But it also presents a solution. By reclaiming this power we have surrendered (and I am a novice), we more clearly show that we are creatures uniquely made in the image and likeness of God. The power to choose forgiveness and love in the midst of evil and sin is divine! In so doing, we fulfill one of Jesus' most challenging instructions: Be perfected as your heavenly Father is perfect. (cf. Matt. 5:48)

**Fr. Carl Schlichte, O.P.**  
**frcarl@stdombenicia.org 707.335.4668**



RCIA is an ongoing ministry for those seeking the Sacraments in the Catholic church or have questions about the Catholic faith. Please contact Shannon Carter by email [RCIA@stdombenicia.org](mailto:RCIA@stdombenicia.org) for more information. New sessions starting now!

## Grief Support

During COVID our regular group sessions can't meet but our Grief Ministry team is available for one on one grief support via telephone. COVID, fires, and grief; it's a lot. We're here to listen.

Please contact **Patti Erickson** at [consolation@stdombenicia.org](mailto:consolation@stdombenicia.org) or leave a phone message at 707.745.3502.

**"Blessed are those who mourn:  
 they shall be comforted."  
 (MT 5:4)**

### Parish Financial Report 7/1/2020-9/30/2020

	YTD	YTD	+/-
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Sunday Offertory			
Total Operating Income	\$205,691	\$250,000	<b>\$(44,309)</b>
Operating Expense	\$243,210	\$318,193	<b>\$(74,983)</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>\$(43,710)</b>	<b>\$(2,434)</b>	<b>\$(33,707)</b>
Restricted Donations:			
Building Improvement	\$9,888	\$12,500	<b>\$(2,612)</b>
Faith Formation	\$1,915	\$2,750	<b>\$(835)</b>
SDS Tuition Assistance	\$2,129	-	-
St. Vincent de Paul	\$16,504	-	-



## Dominican Saints of the Week



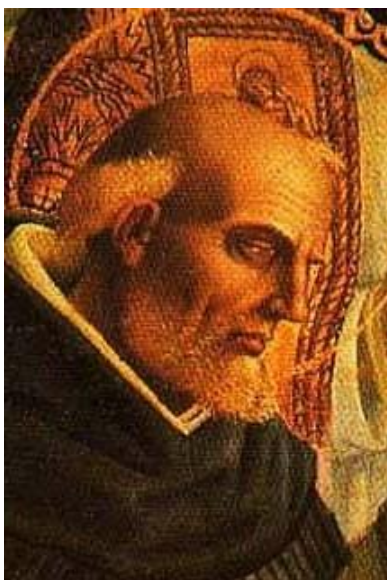
**October 19th -  
Blessed Agnes of  
Jesus Galand, Nun  
and Virgin**

Blessed Agnes was born on November 17th, 1602 in Le Puy-en-Velay, France. When she was five years old, Agnes was entrusted to a religious Institute for her education. Even from that early age she showed a strong sense of spiritual maturity. She consecrated herself to the Virgin

Mary at the age of seven, and she joined the Dominican Monastery of Saint Catherine of Siena at Langeac in 1623, and she took the name Agnes of Jesus. She was elected to lead her community as prioress in 1627. Agnes was noted during her lifetime as a Mystic, and Agnes experienced the most famous of her visions. One day the Blessed Mother appeared to Mother Agnes and put a gold chain around her neck to show how happy she was that Mother Agnes had become the slave of both her son and herself and Saint Cecilia who accompanied our lady said to Agnes "happy are the faithful slaves of the Queen of Heaven for they will enjoy true freedom". Agnes of Jesus died on October 1634 at Langeac, France. She was Beatified on November 20, 1994 by St. Pope John Paul II. Blessed Agnes of Jesus, pray for us.

**October 21st -  
Blessed Peter of Citta  
di Castello**

Blessed Peter was born in 1390 in Citta di Castello, Italy. He joined the reform Dominican Priory of Cortona at the age 15, known for his deep life of prayer, penance and contemplation. He was a noted preacher often preaching on the theme of contemplating your own death. Peter often preached with a skull in his hand to remind people of the finality of their own lives. He died on October 21st, 1445 of natural causes. Pope Pius the 7th beatified him. Blessed Peter of Citta di Castello, pray for us.



# COME AND SEE

## Discernment Weekends

October 17-18, 2020 (VIRTUAL)  
November 7-8, 2020 (VIRTUAL)  
March 5-7, 2021

St. Albert the Great Priory | Oakland, CA

TO REGISTER, CONTACT:

Fr. John Marie Bingham, O.P., Director of Vocations  
vocations@opwest.org | (510) 658-8722 | opwest.org/comeandsee



**DOMINICAN FRIARS**  
Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus



Western  
Dominican  
Province  
opwest.org

# ATTEND OUR OPEN HOUSE



## PRE-REGISTER AND JOIN US

October 25, 2020, 12PM – 3PM  
1500 Benicia Road, Vallejo, CA 94591

ST. PATRICK ST. VINCENT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
Pre-registration is required and tour times will be assigned prior to your arrival. Email [admissions@spsv.org](mailto:admissions@spsv.org). Space is limited.



Carondelet High School's 20-21 Admissions Season has officially opened! We have many virtual events and on-campus tours available (space is very limited). To register for events and find out more about our school, please visit [carondelethhs.org/apply](https://carondelethhs.org/apply).

# ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH, BENICIA, CA

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE PARISH

### OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2020

Even during these challenging times, St. Dominic's has been blessed with the resources to continue to offer to the people of the parish most of our usual ministries and services. This is due to your ongoing generosity and the creative effort of dedicated church staff. Our financial operations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 and our budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 are as follows:

	<b>Actual FYE <u>6/30/20</u></b>	<b>Budget FYE <u>6/30/21</u></b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Collections	\$1,021,826	\$1,070,000
Sacraments	69,956	82,160
Community Services & Other Programs	12,093	22,900
Other Income	84,580	102,610
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Operational Income	1,188,455	1,277,670
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Salaries and benefits (clergy and lay staff)	708,690	716,133
Property maintenance & utilities	100,756	110,847
Worship and sacraments	47,933	69,010
General and administrative	161,593	164,319
Diocesan Assessment	193,464	193,500
Other expenses	14,966	19,300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Operational Expenses	1,227,402	1,273,109
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenses in excess of Income	(38,947)	4,561
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Other Income &amp; Expenses:</b>		
Diocesan & special collections	21,400	
Diocesan & special distributions	(20,869)	
Interests	3,999	1,129
Capital contributions	47,915	50,000
Capital outlay	(19,194)	(55,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Overall Income (Loss)	<u>(\$5,696)</u>	<u>\$690</u>

## **Collections/Overall Operations**

Our collections were trending down before the pandemic started. Exacerbated by it, they decreased by 4.9% (\$52,959) over the prior fiscal year (\$1,021,826 vs. \$1,074,785). We are very thankful for all your efforts to get your contributions to us (via mail, drop-off, online, PayPal and other venues). Overall, under this difficult situation, we were short \$38,947 to support our operations this year (19/20). We pray and hope you continue and consider increasing your contributions to help us with our operations.

## **Capital Program**

There are three areas that need immediate attention – replacing the air conditioning units and the windows in the parish hall and re-paving the parking lot. These projects will be scheduled in the very near future based on available funds (we are low on capital funds) taking into consideration, scheduling and when (during the year) we get the most effective project costs.

## **Diocesan Assessment**

This year's annual assessment from the diocese was \$193,464. This amount is taken out from the parish's regular operations.

## **Thoughtful Ways to Contribute to Your Parish**

We are taking this opportunity to ask you to please consider increasing your contributions to meet our operational needs. There are several ways to give. Simply choose what works best for you – weekly envelopes, Paypal, Online Giving (Select Online Giving at [www.stdombenicia.org](http://www.stdombenicia.org)) Sunday Baskets, Securities, IRA distributions, etc. Online giving provides us with a solid base of donations and helps us plan our expenditures throughout the year. See the bulletin or our website for details.

## **Finance Council**

Fr. Carl Schlichte, O.P. – Pastor

Teresa Stone – Parish Business Manager

Noreen Cillo – St. Dominic School Office Manager

Sharon Capece, Edna Masbad, Mike Monahan, Christine Souza Morrison, Mike Munn

# Sunday Worship Aid

## **Isaiah 45:1, 4-6**

### **A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus, whose right hand I grasp, subduing nations before him, and making kings run in his service, opening doors before him and leaving the gates unbarred: For the sake of Jacob, my servant, of Israel, my chosen one, I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not. I am the LORD and there is no other, there is no God besides me. It is I who arm you, though you know me not, so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun people may know that there is none besides me. I am the LORD, there is no other.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalms 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10**

### **Give the Lord glory and honor.**

Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord all you lands! Sing to the Lord with all your heart, and bless God's name!

Announce salvation day by day, God's glory throughout the earth! Among all the people is every land, God's wondrous deeds!

Give to the Lord, you nations, praise to the Lord of all! Sing glory and praise and sing to the name above all names!

Worship the Lord, and tremble, proclaim the one who reigns! Say to the nations: "The Lord is King;" who rules with justice!

## **1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b**

### **The beginning of the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and

endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God, how you were chosen. For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Matthew 22:15-21**

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Knowing their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax." Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesars." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### **Profession of Faith**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the

right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Prayer for the Sick during the Pandemic**

O God, our refuge in trials, our strength in sickness, our comfort in sorrow, spare your people, we pray, and hear our prayers for all who are sick: Grant them, we implore you, your merciful help, so that, with their health restored, they may give you thanks in the midst of the Church.

Your Only-Begotten Son took on our human nature and bore our infirmities; protect and strengthen also we pray, nurses, doctors, first responders, and all others on the front line of this pandemic, who put themselves in harm's way to serve the needs of others.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Our Lady of Guadalupe	Pray for us!
St. Joseph	Pray for us!
St. Patrick	Pray for us!
Holy Father St. Dominic	Pray for us!



## **Isaías 45:1, 4-6**

### **Lectura del libro del profeta Isaías**

Así habló el Señor a Ciro, su ungido, a quien ha tomado de la mano para someter ante él a las naciones y desbaratar la potencia de los reyes, para abrir ante él los portones y que no quede nada cerrado: "Por amor a Jacob, mi siervo, y a Israel, mi escogido, te llamé por tu nombre y te di un título de honor, aunque tú no me conocieras. Yo soy el Señor y no hay otro; fuera de mí no hay Dios. Te hago poderoso, aunque tú no me conoces, para que todos sepan, de oriente a occidente, que no hay otro Dios fuera de mí. Yo soy el Señor y no hay otro". Palabra de Dios.

**Te alabamos, Señor.**

## **Salmo 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10**

### **Aclamen la gloria y el poder del Señor.**

Canten al Señor un cántico nuevo canten al Señor, toda la tierra. Cuenten a los pueblos su gloria sus maravillas a todas las naciones.

Porque es grande el Señor y muy digno de alabanza, mas temible que todos los dioses. Pues los dioses de los gentiles son apariencia, mientras que el Señor ha hecho el cielo.

Familias de los pueblos aclamen al Señor, aclamen la gloria y el poder del Señor, aclamen la gloria del nombre del Señor, entren en sus atrios trayéndole ofrendas.

Póstranse ante el Señor en el atrio sagrado, tiemble en su presencia la tierra toda. Digan a los pueblos: "el Señor es rey," el gobierna a los pueblos rectamente.

## **1 Tesalonicenses 1:1-5b**

### **Lectura de la primera carta del apóstol san Pablo a los tesalonicenses**

Pablo, Silvano y Timoteo deseamos la gracia y la paz a la comunidad cristiana de los tesalonicenses, congregada por Dios Padre y por Jesucristo, el Señor. En todo momento damos gracias a Dios por ustedes y los tenemos presentes en nuestras oraciones. Ante Dios, nuestro Padre, recordamos sin cesar las obras que manifiestan la fe de

ustedes, los trabajos fatigosos que ha emprendido su amor y la perseverancia que les da su esperanza en Jesucristo, nuestro Señor. Nunca perdemos de vista, hermanos muy amados de Dios, que él es quien los ha elegido. En efecto, nuestra predicación del Evangelio entre ustedes no se llevó a cabo sólo con palabras, sino también con la fuerza del Espíritu Santo, que produjo en ustedes abundantes frutos. Palabra de Dios.

**Te alabamos, Señor.**

## **Mateo 22:15-21**

### **+ Lectura del santo Evangelio según san Mateo**

En aquel tiempo, se reunieron los fariseos para ver la manera de hacer caer a Jesús, con preguntas insidiosas, en algo de que pudieran acusarlo. Le enviaron, pues, a algunos de sus secuaces, junto con algunos del partido de Herodes, para que le dijeran: "Maestro, sabemos que eres sincero y enseñas con verdad el camino de Dios, y que nada te arredra, porque no buscas el favor de nadie. Dinos, pues, qué piensas: ¿Es lícito o no pagar el tributo al César?" Conociendo Jesús la malicia de sus intenciones, les contestó: "Hipócritas, ¿por qué tratan de sorprenderme? Enséñenme la moneda del tributo". Ellos le presentaron una moneda. Jesús les preguntó: "¿De quién es esta imagen y esta inscripción?" Le respondieron: "Del César". Y Jesús concluyó: "Den, pues, al César lo que es del César, y a Dios lo que es de Dios".

Palabra del Señor.

**Gloria a ti, Señor Jesús.**

## **Profesión de Fe**

Creo en un solo Dios, Padre todopoderoso, Creador del cielo y de la tierra, de todo lo visible y lo invisible.

Creo en un solo Señor, Jesucristo, Hijo único de Dios, nacido del Padre antes de todos los siglos: Dios de Dios, Luz de Luz, Dios verdadero de Dios verdadero, engendrado, no creado, de la misma naturaleza del Padre, por quien todo fue hecho; que por nosotros, los hombres y por nuestra salvación bajó del cielo, y por obra del Espíritu Santo se encarnó de María, la Virgen, y se hizo hombre; y por nuestra causa fue crucificado en tiempos de Poncio

Pilato, padeció y fue sepultado, y resucitó al tercer día, según las Escrituras, y subió al cielo, y está sentado a la derecha del Padre; y de nuevo vendrá con gloria para juzgar a vivos y muertos, y su reino no tendrá fin.

Creo en el Espíritu Santo, Señor y dador de vida, que procede del Padre y del Hijo, que con el Padre y el Hijo recibe una misma adoración y gloria, y que habló por los profetas.

Creo en la Iglesia, que es una, santa, católica y apostólica. Confieso que hay un solo bautismo para el perdón de los pecados. Espero la resurrección de los muertos y la vida del mundo futuro.

**Amén.**

## **Oración para los Enfermos durante la Pandemia**

O Dios, refugio nuestro en dificultades, nuestra fortaleza en la enfermedad, nuestro consuelo en la congoja, protege a tu pueblo, te lo pedimos, y escucha nuestras oraciones por todos los que están enfermos: Concédeles, te imploramos, tu misericordiosa ayuda, para que, con su salud restaurada, ellos puedan darte gracias en tu Iglesia.

Tu Hijo Unigénito tomó nuestra naturaleza humana y cargó con nuestras debilidades; protege y fortalece, también te lo rogamos, a enfermeros, doctores, a aquellos respondiendo en primeros auxilios, y a los que están en la primera línea de esta pandemia, quienes se ponen en peligro al servir a otros en sus necesidades.

Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, quien vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, un Dios, por los siglos de los siglos.

Santa Virgen de Guadalupe  
¡Ruega por nosotros!

San José  
¡Ruega por nosotros!

San Patricio  
¡Ruega por nosotros!

Santo Padre Santo Domingo  
¡Ruega por nosotros!

# The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



## Part I of II: Our Call as Catholic Citizens

This brief document is Part I of a summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.

*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* is the teaching document of the Catholic Bishops of the United States on the political responsibility of Catholics. It provides guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens. As Catholics, we bring the richness of our faith to the public square. We draw from both faith and reason as we seek to affirm the dignity of the human person and the common good of all.

Everyone living in this country is called to participate in public life and contribute to the common good.<sup>1</sup> In *Rejoice and Be Glad* [*Gaudete et exsultate*], Pope Francis writes:

Your identification with Christ and his will involves a commitment to build with him that kingdom of love, justice and universal peace. . . . You cannot grow in holiness without committing yourself, body and soul, to giving your best to this endeavor.<sup>2</sup>

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world.

## Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34).

The US Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to proclaim and live out their faith without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning its moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

## Who In the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to any political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity. This should not discourage us. On the contrary, it makes our obligation to act all the more urgent. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and

become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good. Faithful citizenship is an ongoing responsibility, not just an election year duty.

## How Can Catholic Social Teaching Help Guide Our Participation?

In the words of Pope Francis, "progress in building a people in peace, justice and fraternity depends on four principles related to constant tensions present in every social reality. These derive from the pillars of the Church's social doctrine, which serve as 'primary and fundamental parameters of reference for interpreting and evaluating social phenomena.'"<sup>3</sup> The four principles include the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity. Taken together, these principles provide a moral framework for Catholic engagement in advancing what we have called a "consistent ethic of life" (*Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 22).

Rightly understood, this ethic does not treat all issues as morally equivalent; nor does it reduce Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33). The following summary of the four principles highlights several themes of Catholic social teaching for special consideration: these include human rights and responsibilities, respect for work and the rights of workers, care for God's creation, and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.<sup>4</sup>

## The Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred because every person is created in the image and likeness of God. There is a rich and multifaceted Catholic teaching on human dignity summarized in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. Every human being "must always be understood in his irrepeatable and inviolable uniqueness. . . . This entails above all the requirement not only of simple respect on the part of others, especially political and social institutions and their leaders with regard to every man and woman on the earth, but even more, this means that the primary commitment of each person towards others, and particularly of these same institutions, must be for the promotion and integral development of the person" (no. 131). The *Compendium* continues, "It is necessary to 'consider every neighbor without exception as another self, taking into account first of all his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity' (*Gaudium et Spes*, no. 27).



Every political, economic, social, scientific and cultural program must be inspired by the awareness of the primacy of each human being over society.”<sup>5</sup>

## Subsidiarity

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the family, groups, associations, and local realities—in short, for those economic, social, cultural, recreational, professional, and political communities to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve effective social growth.<sup>6</sup> The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics, in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

The principle of subsidiarity reminds us that larger institutions in society should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local institutions; yet larger institutions have essential responsibilities when the more local institutions cannot adequately protect human dignity, meet human needs, and advance the common good.<sup>7</sup>

## The Common Good

The common good is comprised of “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily.”<sup>8</sup>

Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if **human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met**. Every human being has a right to life, a right to religious freedom, and a right to have access to those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to ourselves, to our families, and to the larger society.

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. An economic system must serve the dignity of the human person and the common good by **respecting the dignity of work and protecting the rights of workers**. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, a broad and fair legalization program with a path to citizenship for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity. Workers also have responsibilities—to provide a fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay, to treat employers and coworkers with respect, and to carry out their work in ways that contribute to the common good. Workers, employers, and unions should not only advance their own interests but also work together to advance economic justice and the well-being of all.

We have a duty to **care for God’s creation**, which Pope Francis refers to in *Laudato Si’* as “our common home.”<sup>9</sup> We all are called to be careful stewards of God’s creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future. Pope Francis, consistent with St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI (World Day of Peace Message, 1990 and 2010), has lifted up pollution, climate change, lack of access to clean water, and the loss of biodiversity as particular challenges. Pope Francis speaks of an “ecological debt” (no. 51) owed by wealthier nations to developing nations. And he calls all of us to an “ecological conversion” (no. 219), by which “the effects of [our] encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in [our] relationship with the world around [us].”<sup>10</sup> Indeed, this concern with “natural ecology” is an indispensable part of the broader “human ecology,” which encompasses not only material but moral and social dimensions as well.

## Solidarity

Solidarity is “a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to . . . the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.” It is found in “a commitment to the good of one’s neighbor with the readiness, in the Gospel sense, to ‘lose oneself’ for the sake of the other instead of exploiting him, and to ‘serve him’ instead of oppressing him for one’s own advantage.”<sup>11</sup>

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

In a special way, our solidarity must find expression in the **preferential option for the poor and vulnerable**. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor, and the marginalized.

## Conclusion

In light of Catholic teaching, the bishops vigorously repeat their call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the promotion of human life and dignity, and the pursuit of the common good. Political participation in this spirit reflects not only the social teaching of our Church but the best traditions of our nation.

## Notes

- 1 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 1913-15.
- 2 *Gaudete et Exsultate*, no. 25.
- 3 *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 221.
- 4 These principles are drawn from a rich tradition more fully described in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005), no. 160. For more information on these principles, see *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2016, nos. 40ff.
- 5 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 132. This summary represents only a few highlights from the fuller treatment of the human person in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. For the fuller treatment, see especially nos. 124-159 where many other important aspects of human dignity are treated.
- 6 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 185.
- 7 *Centesimus Annus*, no. 48; *Dignitatis Humanae*, nos. 4-6.
- 8 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 164.
- 9 *Laudato Si’*, no. 77.
- 10 *Laudato Si’*, no. 217.
- 11 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 193. (See Mt 10:40-42, 20:25; Mk 10:42-45; Lk 22:25-27)

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## ST. DOMINIC'S TEEN MINISTRIES

FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, & FUN

### YR I Confirmation

There will be a YR I Confirmation (teen) small group gathering on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 pm via zoom. We look forward to seeing all the YR I teens!

### YR II Confirmation

There will be a YR II Confirmation (teen) small group meeting today Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 pm via zoom. Parents: It was wonderful to see you at the parent orientation meetings – we can't wait to see your teen today!

**Looking ahead:** There will be a YR II Confirmation (parent & teen) gathering next Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30 pm via zoom.

### Youth Ministry Rosary Walk & Knots 4 Love (Pre-registration required)

There will be a youth rosary walk in downtown Benicia on **Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-6:30 pm**. Grab your beads and your mask and join us as we pray the rosary at sunset.

The Knots 4 Love service project is back! There will be a gathering on **Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00 pm**. Join us as we make blankets for the newly baptized babies of the parish and for those in need.

*St. Dominic's Youth Ministry program follows the guidelines outlined in the diocesan document, Guidelines for Returning to Ministry. Current guidelines require pre-registration for all youth ministry activities. Gatherings will take place outside with all participants masked and physically distanced (6ft or more).*

Please contact Lisa for more information at [ltoomey@stdombenicia.org](mailto:ltoomey@stdombenicia.org)

## Rosary for the Sick

Wednesday  
at 7:30 pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
WITH DEACON SHAWN



## Religious Education 2020-2021 A Distance Learning Year



Late Registration Accepted



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& PAYMENT BY PAYPAL

### Important Dates



September 23<sup>rd</sup>:  
Classes Began

### Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

- ◆ Blest Are We
- ◆ Faith in Action Take-Home Textbook
- ◆ Login Credentials to RCL Benziger Flourish Website
- ◆ Formed.org Digital Media Platform

### Grades 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>\*

- ◆ Blessed Series: First Holy Communion/ Reconciliation
- ◆ Take-Home Textbook from Dynamic Catholic
- ◆ Blessed Series: First Holy Communion/ Reconciliation Email Program for Parents from Dynamic Catholic
- ◆ Sacrament Animation Series from Formed.org

## Contact Information

### 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grades Program

Deacon Errol Kissinger, DRE  
[ekissinger@stdombenicia.org](mailto:ekissinger@stdombenicia.org)


### First Sacraments

Debi Thurin  
[dthurin@stdombenicia.org](mailto:dthurin@stdombenicia.org)



*Fall is  
Flu Shot  
Season*

Flu Shot Clinic  
Sunday  
October 25, 2020  
After Mass  
9:00 & 11:00 am  
Parish Hall



**Peaceful, prayerful, effective 40 Days for Life campaign to build on successes in Vallejo/Benicia/American Canyon CA**

Vallejo/Benicia/American Canyon CA – Beginning September 23<sup>rd</sup> thru November 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 we will be conducting our 40 Days For Life prayer vigil. Due to the COVID concerns and smoke problems from the CA fires we are proposing three ways you can participate in focused prayer for an end to abortion, for conversion of hearts, for mothers and fathers who feel they have no other choice, and for the unborn child who's very life is at risk. 1.) Focused visible prayer on the sidewalk of PP in Vallejo. Masks must be worn and people must be 6' apart, or you can park and pray in your car. 2.) We are offering a virtual-Zoom prayer hour each day at 3:00 pm during the vigil. Login info will be sent to those who wish to pray in this format. 3.) Please consider to commit to one hour in front of the Tabernacle at St. Dominic's, offering your prayers for this most important cause for life. There is no specific day when you must commit to praying, but please commit to prayer and fasting and let me know if you want to participate in the virtual-Zoom option so I can gather email addresses and send the login information. Please contact Tony Hensley at [tonyh@ctpub.com](mailto:tonyh@ctpub.com) to sign up for one hour per week.

40 Days for Life is a peaceful, highly focused, non-denominational initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and grassroots educational outreach. The 40-day time frame is drawn from examples throughout Biblical history. The prayer vigil will take place in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood at 303 Sacramento St. Vallejo CA. All prayer vigil participants are requested to pray for peace, pledging to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner at all times.

For information about 40 Days for Life in Vallejo/Benicia/American Canyon, visit:  
[www.40daysforlife.com/Vallejo/Benicia/Am.Cyn](http://www.40daysforlife.com/Vallejo/Benicia/Am.Cyn).

***Please pray for the recovery of the sick listed in our Book of Intentions and the following:***



Lucita Rios	Maria Kielien
Emilio Ermio	Mary Barnhart
Lisa Santini	Stan Gabel
Daniel Foley	Joanne Flanagan
Sheila Garvey	Margaret McClune
Al & Anne Caruso	Alma Johnson
Donna W.	Gladys Haddad
Ardath Kroner	Bessie Sharp
Peggy Burton	Jane Gasper

***Please remember*** the following recently deceased (and their families) in your prayers:  
Lucille Vitalie, Daniel C. Leary,  
Michael Francone, Veronica Arkin,  
Antonio Valdellon, Bill Mahoney, Mark Parish,  
Jim Mahern, Kristin Tobias,  
Ruth Marks, Sara Smith, Lydia Leveriza,  
Benjamin Alvendia, Ora Weber, Maria Cardoso,  
Maria De Lourdes Cardoso  
*Sick or remembrances will be listed for a period of 3 months*

## Parish Office

Temporarily Closed ~Please Email Us

### Parish Staff

<b>Fr. Carl Schlichte, O.P.</b> <a href="mailto:frcarl@stdombenicia.org">frcarl@stdombenicia.org</a>	<b>Pastor</b>
<b>Errol Kissinger</b> <a href="mailto:ekissinger@stdombenicia.org">ekissinger@stdombenicia.org</a>	<b>Deacon &amp; Dir Rel Ed</b>
<b>Shawn Carter</b> <a href="mailto:scarter@stdombenicia.org">scarter@stdombenicia.org</a>	<b>Deacon</b>
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<b>Debi Thurin</b> <a href="mailto:dthurin@stdombenicia.org">dthurin@stdombenicia.org</a>	<b>Children's Sacraments</b>
<b>Fr. David Farrugia, O.P.</b>	<b>In Residence / Retired</b>
<b>Fr. Vincent Serpa, O.P.</b>	<b>In Residence / Retired</b>
<b>Deacon John Flanagan</b>	<b>Retired</b>

### St. Dominic School

<a href="http://www.sdbenicia.org">www.sdbenicia.org</a>	(707) 745-1266
<b>Katie Perata (K-8th grade)</b>	<a href="mailto:kperata@sdbenicia.org">kperata@sdbenicia.org</a>
<b>Tanya Sanchez (Pre-K/TK)</b>	<a href="mailto:tsanchez@sdbenicia.org">tsanchez@sdbenicia.org</a>



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	<b>Olson Realty, Inc.</b> Kathleen McInerney Olson/Broker (707) 745-3602	

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