

Star of the Sea Religious Education Program Newsletter

4420 Geary Blvd, San Francisco, CA 94118

Volume III Issue X



May 2011



Dear Students and Families:

It is time to say goodbye as we come to the end of the school year. I hope everyone had an enriching and fulfilling time learning more about God and the Church through your classes and teachers.

I would like to thank all the teachers and staff for dedicating their time and energy to sharing their love of God with all of us in the program.

Special thanks to our Sacramental Prep teachers **Angelica Yu** and **Lorna Feria** for preparing the First Communion and Confirmation classes. They both did a wonderful job preparing their students.

I would like to also recognize one of our youth teachers, **Samantha "Sam" Castro**, for her time with the program. She came into the program as a Confirmation student and has stayed for the last 2 years as one of the 6th grade teachers. She has done a great job juggling her responsibilities as a high school student and as a teacher in the program. She will soon be graduating and heading off towards college. She will be missed though I know she has a bright future ahead of her.

The Religious Education Program will be undergoing some format changes next year. What those changes will be I cannot say yet as nothing has been formalized. I will let you know as soon as I have more information.

It would be most helpful if all the families could fill out and return the feedback card mailed out to everyone this week. If you have not received one, please let me know.

Currently the tentative plan is to start the next school year in the middle to late August. A postcard will be sent out in middle of summer informing everyone about the start date and pre-registration.

It has been a great school year and I hope to see all of you again during the next school year.

-Evie Fong, DRE



Congratulations to the following students for receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist for the First Time on May 1st!

Allan Moreno Beltran

Emily Chan

Darwin Chan

Jaline Chan

Aleeza Guevarra

Nolan Hom

Kimberly Huitzil

Ian Orndorff

Jennifer Perez

Rianna Punzalan

Franco Tan-Rodrigo

Arianna Tillman

Albert Torrente

Vanessa Vera

Laisha Vera

Brian Wong

David Yu

Liceny Zapata

We hope that it will be the beginning of a lifetime journey experiencing Communion!



(Picture of: First Communion Students at the altar with Fr. Brian)

May—the Month of Mary

During the Month of May -- a month both named for and dedicated to Mary -- Catholics have long honored her by placing a crown on her image. The tradition in the United States and many other countries has been for school children to have a "May Crowning" ceremony, with a procession, pretty dresses and a wreath of fresh flowers that one child gets to place on the statue. A song for these festivals, "Bring Flowers of the Fairest", with its refrain "O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May..." has been a familiar favorite for generations.

(Excerpt taken from a book by Janusz Rosikon, published in Polish in 1998, in English in 2000 is available from [Ignatius Press](#).)

The queen symbol was attributed to Mary because she was a perfect follower of Christ, who is the absolute "crown" of creation. She is the Mother of the Son of God, who is the messianic King. Mary is the Mother of Christ, the Word Incarnate...

Elizabeth greeted the Blessed Virgin, pregnant with Jesus, as "the mother of my Lord" (Lk 1:41-43).

Mary is the perfect follower of Christ. The maid of Nazareth consented to God's plan; she journeyed on the pilgrimage of faith; she listened to God's Word and kept it in her heart; she remained steadfastly in close union with her Son, all the way to the foot of the Cross; she persevered in prayer with the Church. Thus, in an eminent way she won the "crown of righteousness" (II Tim 4:8), the "crown of life" (Jas 1:12; Rev 2:10), the "crown of glory" (I Pet 5:4) that is promised to those who follow Christ.

(Excerpt taken from -- *Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, NCCB, 1987)

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Year of Renewal in Worship and Prayer: The Gospel Procession

Do you have in your mind a collection of words to live by? Many of us do. Many Christians' little collections will no doubt include quotes from one or more of the Gospels. The Church as a whole and individual Christians revere the Gospels of Jesus Christ. They hold a special place in Church traditions. In the Church's worship, when the Gospel is proclaimed, we hear the voice of Christ. The introduction to the Book of the Gospel tells us, "While the whole corpus of the scriptures is venerated by the Church as the word of God, the Gospels have always been proclaimed as the very voice of her Bridegroom."

It's no surprise, then, that we give special honor to the Book of the Gospels, a liturgical book that contains all of the Gospel texts from the *Lectionary for Masses* for Sundays, feast days and ritual masses. As the deacons or priests takes the Book of the Gospels from the altar, we honor it by accompanying it to the *ambo* with incense, candles and singing the Alleluia or, during Lent, one the seasonal acclamations. The procession and our accompanying song are the way that we embody the reverence for the Gospel that we hold in our minds and hearts.

Remembering the Word of God

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only."

James 1:22

Questions of the Week

How is our community witnessing to the Gospel by actions?

Retrieved from:

The Liturgy of the Word documents from the Archdiocese of San Francisco

St. Dominic's Church

Vacation Bible School

A Day Camp with SPIRIT!
Meet characters from the Bible, create crafts, sing songs, play games with new friends, and experience how faith is fun!

June 13-17, 2011

- For ages 3-10
- Older youth can apply to be assistant leaders.
- Daylong sessions: \$150 total.
- Morning sessions only: \$80 total

Go online at: www.stdominics.org/formation/families

For more information, contact: Michael Smith
(415) 674-0446

St. Dominic's Church dre@stdominics.org
2390 Bush St.
San Francisco, CA 94115



Rob Grant, the new music director at **Star of the Sea**, is starting a Parish Family Choir made up of adults and children for the "Family Mass" scheduled for the first Sunday of every month. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Mr. Grant at (415) 647-5205 or visit his website at: www.MinistryMuse.com

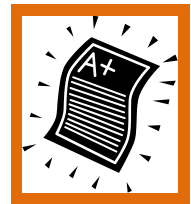


Fr. Robert Barron is an acclaimed author, writer, speaker, and theologian, who founded the **Word on Fire** website, which offers daily blogs, articles, and commentaries, and over 10 years of weekly sermon podcasts. Fr. Barron is the first priest to have a national show on secular television since the 1950s. Visit his website at www.wordonfire.org



Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt! It would not have been nearly as successful without your generosity of time and donations, .



Perfect Attendance Award

Congratulations to the following students for attending every scheduled class of the school year!

Joshua Castro
Emily Chan
Darwin Chan
Sicily Guzman
Vanessa Vera
Brian Wong
David Yu

It's a feat that few achieve!



Acknowledgements

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If anyone would like to contribute a story or picture for future issues, please contact us by email.