The 2019-2020 SPRED Faith Formation year has started off on a positive note. In September, we had over 15 new catechists trained in English and 9 in Spanish. In November, SPRED held an additional Basic Helper Catechist Training to meet the needs of more volunteers wanting to join the ministry.

In July, we bid farewell to SPRED’s Office Manager, Tamara Filener, who moved out of the Bay Area. Although Tamara was a great assistance to the ministry and continues to do well in her new job, we were able to replace Tamara with Christina Tomasetti. Christina is a breath of fresh air, a recent convert to the Catholic Church, and an active parishioner at St. Charles Borromeo in Livermore. At the Labor Day Retreat, she became a quick hit among both the Friends and the Catechists.

At the November 2 Fall Fundraiser, SPRED had a positive turn out and raised over $5,000 for the ministry. The Fundraiser was held at St. Raymond Parish Hall in Dublin. A special “Thank you!” to our SPRED Advisory Board members, volunteers and donors—and especially Fr. Lawrence D’Anjou and St. Raymond Parish—for an amazing fundraising night!

As always, we need more people to help volunteer in the ministry as one-on-one Catechists in small communities of faith. We continuously receive requests to have family members participate in the SPRED program, but they must wait for new Catechists in order to find a place in one of our SPRED Centers. Won’t you consider volunteering as a Catechist at your local SPRED Center or encourage a friend or family member to do so?

Thank you to everyone who donated to continue funding the Special Religious Education Department of the Diocese of Oakland. It is through continued donations that SPRED can reach out to more Friends and Catechists and help them all develop a deeper personal relationship with Jesus.

Blessings,

Michelle Martinez-Kilty
SPRED Coordinator

Advisory Board Corner
By: Carmen Romo, SPRED Advisory Board member

SPRED is near and dear to my heart, as most of you know. We’re still a long way though from meeting the needs of all the potential Friends in our Diocese with the love and spiritual support many of us and our Friends have experienced in our host parishes. Why? Because we need all of you who have seen SPRED miracles in action with your Friends and fellow Catechists to share this “Good News” with potential donors—be they neighbors, co-workers, friends or other family members. New Centers are needed but can’t start without your financial kindness. Won’t you consider a generous contribution to SPRED in your end-of-the-year giving?
St. Leander’s Parish Community welcomed SPRED families and catechists to their 11am Mass on October 6 to share in the annual SPRED liturgy. It was a joyful time of celebration as SPRED Catechists portrayed the Second Reading encouraging love, strength and trust in the Holy Spirit. The Friends and Catechist in the 22+ group led the Responsorial Psalm, in sacred gesture “If today you hear His voice, harden not your heart.” Father Hugo Franca, Pastor, proclaimed the Gospel message, counseling us to have faith the size of a small seed to do great things.

Seeing adults with special needs and families with their children reverently coming forward to receive the Eucharist reminded me of my first experience at a SPRED liturgy. I sensed this was a taste of what heaven is all about – a place where we are all equal and loved just as we are. As always in SPRED, following the Mass, Agape was shared with visiting and eating together in friendship and love in the St. Leander Gym.

INTERESTED IN OPENING A SPRED CENTER IN YOUR PARISH?
GIVE US A CALL AT 510-635-7252 OR EMAIL: INFO@SPREDOAKDIOCESE.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN HELP CREATE A NEW SPRED CENTER FOR YOUR LOCAL FRIENDS.
This was the first year our annual Labor Day Retreat was a single day retreat. Could we shrink a 2-day retreat into 1-day? Would there be enough time to welcome everyone, form teams and not feel rushed when experiencing the sacredness of the Celebration Circle? Would there be time to rekindle long time relationships and make new ones, celebrate song, dance, creation and each other without feeling hurried or exhausted? Would praying, sharing the Word of God and celebrating the Eucharist be as meaningful as on past retreats?

We trusted and followed . . . and what a wonderful experience it was! The Catechists were well prepared. Michelle and her team developed a schedule that ran like clockwork. There was plenty of time to experience everything we feared would be compromised by a shorter retreat.

Our Friends arrived with their usual openness and joy but no suitcases. There was no complaining or even asking why they were not spending the night. We laughed, prayed, and broke bread together.

Father Kevin Schindler-McGraw, OFM Conv., celebrated Mass with us. The intensity and passion with which he gave the "message" touched each of our hearts. His joy to celebrate with our Friends was undeniable. He even came to the back of the chapel to give the Eucharist to one of our Friends who could not walk to the altar. She beamed and kept repeating, "He came to me, he came to me".

Jesus gave us the courage and strength to try something different. We take that courage and strength into our hearts so that we can live the Gospel of Love in our daily life as we lived it at San Domiano.

THANK YOU, FATHER, FOR THE GREAT SURPRISE!

JESUS SAYS TO YOU TODAY: "TRUST ME, FOLLOW ME. MY FATHER HAS GREAT SURPRISES FOR YOU."

How true this was at the 42th Annual SPRED Labor Day Retreat.

By: Vicki McCoy, SPRED Catechist
Helper Catechist Training is the basic training need for all new SPRED Catechists. Trainings were held in both English (September 14) and Spanish (September 21). A total of 26 people gave up their Saturday to immerse themselves in the Method Vivre. A special thanks to new trainer, Reyna Lupian!

FALL INTO Giving

New Faces, New Friends, New Ways to Give!

A Special Thanks to:
SPRED Advisory Board Members, St. Raymond’s Parish and all of the Volunteers who made this fundraising event possible. We raised over $8,000 for the SPRED Ministry!
If you look up “good and faithful servant” in the dictionary, you’ll probably find a picture of Mark and Marguerite Chatigny! While they’ve been active participants in many ministries, their commitment to SPRED is distinguished.

Mark began as a Helper Catechist in a 6-10 age group, and his then-Friends are his current-Friends in the 22 and older age group. These Friends are now 26 year-olds in the Monday night group at the Model Center! Marguerite worked for SPRED as the office manager for several years and is now in the same group as Mark, serving as both Activity Catechist and Helper Catechist. They attended the Labor Day Retreat for years and are regulars at all the extra SPRED functions; liturgies, fundraisers, and dances. They quietly do more than is asked or expected, and the SPRED ministry is very appreciative of their service.

As a fellow Catechist, I am grateful for the enthusiasm, warmth, humor, and creativity they bring to every session!

Selena and her family are parishioners of St. Jarlath in Oakland. She began attending SPRED as an 11-year-old at the SPRED Oakland Model Center. In the beginning, Selena was very wary of participating in SPRED at all—even of entering the Celebration Room. However, slowly over the next two years, Selena was able to join in every aspect of a SPRED session and, in her own way, to share herself through gesture and limited verbal communication.

When she received the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the first time in her late teens, she hugged the (former) pastor, Fr. Stephen Kappler, and said, “Thank you!” This surprised him, and he was amazed at her faith. She has also received the Sacrament of Confirmation and continues to attend SPRED in the year-round program now that she is 22.

Highlights of Selena’s participating in SPRED include: recognizing various priests, enthusiastically calling out: “Father!” as a greeting and attending her first Labor Day retreat this past summer.
SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS
FOR DONATIONS MADE FROM MAY 16, 2019 - NOVEMBER 7, 2019

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ON SALE $5.00

Black SPRED Shirt
Black cotton tagless shirt features SPRED flame on front pocket and SPRED logo in back
Available in Small, Medium, Large, XL.

Red SPRED Shirt
Red cotton tagless shirt features “KEEP CALM AND SPRED ON” on front side of shirt printed in white.
Available in Small, Medium, Large, XL.

Red SPRED Water Bottle
$5 Limited Supply
Support SPRED and place your order today call 510-635-7252.

SPRED is always looking for generous donations to help us SPRED the word. SPRED is a nonprofit 501(c)(3).

Want to Help?
If you would like to make a donation today to help support the mission of SPRED please send back the enclosed envelope.
UPCOMING SPRED EVENTS

DECEMBER
SPRED Christmas Liturgy
Tuesday, December 17, 2019- 7 pm
St. Paschal Baylon, Oakland, CA
All Are Welcome!

JANUARY
Core Team Training for the LC, AC, PC- (3-1)
Saturday, January 11, 2020- 9 am- 4 pm
St. Paschal Baylon, Oakland, CA

FEBRUARY
Intro. to Sp. Religious Ed. Training (Part A) (2-1)
Saturday, February 1, 2020- 9 am- 4 pm
St. Paschal Baylon, Oakland, CA

MARCH
SPRED Confirmation Liturgy with Bishop Michael Barber, SJ
Thursday, March 19, 2020- 7 pm
St. Paschal Baylon, Oakland, CA
All are Welcome!

APRIL
SPRED Catechist Appreciation Luncheon
Saturday, April 18, 2020 12pm -2pm
St. Paschal Baylon Hall, Oakland, CA
Invitation Only

MAY
SPRED Closing Liturgy
Tuesday, May 26, 2020- 7pm
St. Paschal Baylon, Oakland, CA
All Are Welcome!

JUNE
We Recall & Plan Mtg. for Parish Chairpersons’ & Core Team Catechists
Saturday, June 6, 2020 10 am
St. Paschal Baylon, Oakland, CA
Helper Catechist Training
Saturday, June 20, 2020 9 am- 4 pm
SPRED Model Training Center, Oakland, CA

Loving God,
You make each living person in your image
...a gift of Your love to the human family.
Guide our minds to understand the power and wisdom of human vulnerability.
Guide our actions to create parish communities open to the gifts of each individual.
Give us courage to stand up to the forces willing to destroy life because they fear disability or make judgments about its “quality.”
Give us understanding that your body is incomplete if people are left behind.
Give us an appreciation of the role we must play in spreading your good news to all we meet.
We praise You, Lord, for all Your good gifts.
We give thanks for loving parents who welcome and nurture their children.
We appreciate all those living with disabilities who contribute their time and talents even in the face of obstacles or rejection.
Guide us always, Lord, in Your way.
Amen