Our hearts are heavy after hearing the recent news about the Catholic Church. Everyone is praying for healing and reconciliation in the near future. We at SPRED would like to assure our supporters, donors, volunteers, and families that we are doing everything possible for the safety of our Friends. SPRED makes sure that all our catechists are fingerprinted and trained in our catechetical Method Vivre and Safe Environment.

On a positive note, SPRED continues to grow. SPRED is expanding and creating new centers to reach more Friends, families, and volunteers. This past summer, we were able to recruit new volunteers at various parishes and open a new SPRED center serving 6-10 year-olds. We held our Annual Labor Day Retreat which helps serve adults with developmental disabilities, many of whom do not have access to religious formation during the year, experience a spiritual retreat.

Please consider coming to a SPRED observation session, training, or fundraiser to help grow the ministry and welcome future generations of individuals with special needs into the faith and life of the Church. As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Special Religious Education in the Diocese of Oakland.

Autumn blessings,

Michelle Martinez-Kilty

Advisory Board Corner
By: Michele Banks, SPRED Advisory Board member

SPRED is pleased to announce our newest Advisory Board member- Sylvia San Miguel. When asked about her feelings on service, this is what she had to say:

With the recent feast days of the Archangels (September 29) and Guardian Angels (October 2) I got to thinking about these “messengers from God” and wondered if I felt them in my life. People often say, “you are such an angel” as a way of thanking you. One person came to mind as I reflected on this saying, my son Collin. It was during a doctor’s ultrasound examination when I first saw evidence of a tiny angel fluttering his wings inside of me, I nicknamed him “my angel from heaven. When Collin needed extra care and attention, I just knew God was calling me to step up and volunteer to assist in any way I could. Through my little angel from heaven, I was helping others learn their faith, play sports, go to museums, aquariums, and libraries. All these extraordinary experiences were gained by listening to the quiet voice of my guardian angel and saying, “yes”. It was not the path I would have chosen, but on reflection it is filled with joy, service to others, peace and love beyond measure.

Please welcome Sylvia as she volunteers her time on the Advisory Board and remember to support SPRED so that we can be angels to our Friends and follow Catechists.

Blessings from the SPRED community!
ANIMATION

By: Tamara Filener, SPRED Office Manager

In SPRED, there is a term called “animation”, it refers to bringing the good news of SPRED to families and parishes. Like in the Gospel, we ask others to join us and share their gifts. I saw the power of simply asking during the Congreso Familiar this year, I watched as a flicker of understanding and curiosity lit faces when they learned about SPRED. SPRED had other successful animations at St. Anne’s in Union City and Our Lady of Guadalupe to name a few. Those of us that participate in the SPRED community know that it is a beautiful ministry that gives its participants far more than we can give individually. We need to invite others to participate. We need Catechists to keep our ministry alive and healthy, but we won’t get them unless we imitate Christ and ask.

SPRED PARISH CENTERS IN THE DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Center</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Age</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ages 6 - 10 Years Old</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Anthony</td>
<td>Oakley</td>
<td>6-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Anne</td>
<td>Union City</td>
<td>6-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paschal Baylon</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>6-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Paschal Baylon</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>6-10 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe</td>
<td>Fremont</td>
<td>6-10 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 11 - 16 Years Old</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Saints</td>
<td>Hayward</td>
<td>11-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Spirit</td>
<td>Fremont</td>
<td>11-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immaculate Heart of Mary</td>
<td>Brentwood</td>
<td>11-16 B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen of All Saints</td>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>11-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Anne</td>
<td>Union City</td>
<td>11-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Barnabas</td>
<td>Alameda</td>
<td>11-16</td>
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<td>St. Cornelius</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>11-16 B</td>
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<td>St. Paschal Baylon</td>
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<td>St. Paschal Baylon</td>
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<td>St. Raymond</td>
<td>Dublin</td>
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<td>Ages 17 - 21 Years Old</td>
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<td>St. Anne</td>
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<td>St. Paschal Baylon</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>17-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 22 and Older</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Barnabas</td>
<td>Alameda</td>
<td>22+</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Clement</td>
<td>Hayward</td>
<td>22+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Community of Pleasanton (St. Augustine)</td>
<td>Pleasanton</td>
<td>22+</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Cornelius</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>22 B</td>
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<td>St. Edward</td>
<td>Newark</td>
<td>22+</td>
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<td>St. Ignatius</td>
<td>Antioch</td>
<td>22+</td>
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<td>St. John the Baptist</td>
<td>San Lorenzo</td>
<td>22+</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Joseph Basilica</td>
<td>Alameda</td>
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<td>St. Joseph-Mission San Jose</td>
<td>Fremont</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mary Magdalen</td>
<td>Berkeley</td>
<td>22+</td>
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<td>St. Paschal Baylon</td>
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<td>22+</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Paschal Baylon</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
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</table>

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.
41ST ANNUAL LABOR DAY RETREAT

By: Sandy Pimperton, SPRED Catechist

The 41st Labor Day Retreat gave us the opportunity to explore the theme “Building the Kingdom”. By reflecting on the gifts and talents God gave us we can acknowledge the critical role each of us plays.

When you think about it, that’s quite a full weekend!

All that...and a dance!
SPRED DIOCESAN MASS

By: Margarite Chaintigny, SPRED Catechist

Friendship was the gospel message Bishop Barber shared at the SPRED Diocesan Liturgy at St. Raymond in Dublin on October 14. Friendship was also the theme of the day as Fr. Larry D'Anjou and the parishioners of St. Raymond's warmly welcomed the SPRED community. SPRED Board member, Fr. Paul Vassar, concelebrated mass. At the luncheon served by the Knights of Columbus following Mass, the hall was packed with SPRED families who greeted old friends and met new friends. We are a vibrant ministry effectively living the Word of God by being present and sharing our gifts through our parishes in the Diocese of Oakland. A big thank you to our gracious hosts at St. Raymond's, The Knights of Columbus and The Catholic Daughters of America. And, to echo the many comments overheard about the beautiful liturgy, "We are grateful for each and every one of us in SPRED."

NEW CENTER AT OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, FREMONT

By: SPRED Staff

This fall, a new SPRED center for ages 6-10 opened at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Fremont. Currently, three Friends and eight catechists are forming a small community of faith to share their lives and pray together, as well as prepare to receive their sacraments. SPRED is thankful to the parish community of Our Lady of Guadalupe for their support, prayers, and blessings!
Two times a month, once in Spanish and once in English, we have an observation at the Model Center. We do these observations for potential catechists, families of Friends, Directors of Religious Education, Church Leaders, Priests, and other Religious, as well as for current catechists. Watching someone else’s session can be very enlightening. It can help catechists come up with ways to improve interactions within their communities and allows them to explore other ideas. It also assists everyone in maintaining best practices. Please look at the list of the observations this year. Please RSVP at least one week before the observation date by email info@spredoakdiocese.org or phone 510-365-7252. We look forward to seeing everyone at observation this year!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH- TUESDAY EVENINGS</th>
<th>SPANISH- FRIDAY EVENINGS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
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<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
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<td>Dec. 4</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
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<td>April 9</td>
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<td>May 14</td>
<td>May 3</td>
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**Please note that arrival time is 6:15pm for a short orientation introduction and rules. Those that arrive later than 6:30pm will not be allowed to watch observation for the evening and will need to reschedule.

**RSVP - 48 hr. notice to attend any observation is required by calling 510-635-7252**

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**FRIEND SPOTLIGHT**

**ALLMON MATARRESE**

By: Tamara Filner, SPRED Office Manager

Allmon has been a lifelong participant in SPRED. He is twenty-five years old and has been participating in SPRED since he was eight. Allmon has received all his sacraments through SPRED. He is a familiar face at SPRED functions including Labor Day retreats, SPRED the Word Dinner Dances, and Diocesan Masses. Allmon loves to attend Mass and inspires his family to join him. Allmon is kind and very thoughtful of others, recently he was in a SPRED session and noticed that one of the catechists was missing because she was sick. Allmon immediately asked the group to make a get-well card for her. When he receives the message during catechesis, he always says, “thank you, Jesus”. SPRED is proud to have been a part of Allmon’s life these past seventeen years.

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**CATECHIST SPOTLIGHT:**

**JOHN DIXON**

By: Michelle Martinez-Kilty, Coordinator for SPRED

John Dixon has been the rock at St. Anthony, Oakley, SPRED Center for the past seven years. John approached Sr. Aurora Pérez, SHF, the former director of SPRED, and asked Sr. Aurora to collaborate with him and St. Anthony’s parish to open a SPRED Center. After two years of steadfast training in the SPRED Methodology and catechetical Method Vivre, St. Anthony’s SPRED Center was opened in 2013. Today, John is still the Parish Chairperson. With his calm demeanor and grandfatherly affection, John continues to advocate for our Friends with special needs and their families as they pursue faith formation and inclusion in the Church.
SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS
FOR DONATIONS MADE FROM MAY 16, 2018 - OCTOBER 5, 2018

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$1,000+
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SKS Diecasting and Machining
Sisters of the Holy Family
Knights of Columbus #1615
Knights of Columbus Council #3518

Method Vivre
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Fr. Fernando Cortez
St. Charles Borromeo, Livermore
John and Virginia Kitty

Agape
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Celebration Circle
$100 to $249
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Janet Fortuna
Maria Garcia
Maria Ramos
Theresa Ellerbusch
Our Lady of Grace, Castro Valley
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Gloria Leigh
Jose Regalado

Mario Cesar Gutierrez
San Damiano Retreat Center
St. Raymond Parish
Juan Jose Suarez
Mary Huston
Martha Santiago
Hilda Martinez
Maria Garcia
Sandy Pimperton
Jean Hu
Marianna Carillo
Belem Reza
Jose Regaldo
St. Raymond's Knights of Columbus Council
Arlene Bautista
Sandy Pimperton
Matt Troiano
Denise Young
St. Lawrence O'Toole- St. Paschal
Rev. Lawrence D'Anjou
Rev. Alexander Castillo
Theresa Ellerbusch
Sr. Rosaline Lieu Nguyen, LHC
Catherine Romero
David Andes
Jonel Sangalang
Isabella Cooreman
St. Anthony- Mary Help of Christians, Oakland
Our Lady Of The Rosary, Union City
Our Lady Of The Guadalupe, Fremont
Betty Gutierrez
Tamara Filener
Sr. Aurora Perez, SHF
Fr. Terence O'Malley, SCJ
Fr. Mario Borges
Church of the Transfiguration,
Castro Valley
Bishop Michael Barber, SJ

SPRED T-SHIRTS 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.

SPRED Reusable Shopping Bag
$5 Get yours today.
Support SPRED and place your order today call 510-635-7252.

GOAL!
Our Programmatic goal is $65,000 for the SPRED year.
Raised as of October 5, 2018
$40,000!

YANKAN CANDLE
Who doesn’t love a good candle? Good news, you can support SPRED and get a Yankee Candle simply by downloading the Yankee Candle App on your phone or ordering online at https://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com/store.htm and inputting the group number: 999978481.

If you do this, a portion of the proceeds support SPRED, plus you get a great candle! You can literally help light the way for our ministry.

In Kind Gifts
Mary Garcia
Jerry Garcia Insurance Agency
Carmen Romeo

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

NOVEMBER 2018

Observation-English
Tue. Nov. 13, 2018 6:15 pm

Observation-Spanish
Friday, November 16, 2018 6:15 pm

DECEMBER

Observation-English
Tuesday, December 4, 2018 6:15 pm

SPRED Model Center Christmas Liturgy
Tuesday, December 18, 2018 7pm
St. Paschal Babylon, Oakland, CA

JANUARY

Core Team Training for Leader, Activity, & Parish Chairperson Roles (3-1)
Saturday, January 12, 2019 9 am-4:00pm
St. Paschal Babylon Parish Hall, Oakland, CA

Observation-Spanish
Friday, January 4, 2019 6:15 pm

Observation-English
Tuesday, January 29, 2019 6:15 pm

FEBRUARY

Introduction into Sp. Religious Edu. - History & Methodology (Part A) (2-1)
Saturday, February 2, 2019 9 am-4:00pm
St. Paschal Babylon Parish Hall, Oakland, CA

The Fragrance of Christ

Help me to spread your fragrance everywhere I go –

let me preach you without preaching, not by words, but by my example - by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to you.

- Blessed John Henry Newman

Please note all Observations take place at the SPRED Model & Training Center
3705 Dorisa Ave., Oakland, CA 94605
RSVP and Check the SPRED Calendar online at www.spredoakdiocese.org or call 510-635-7252.
Cover Photo: Expressions Photography 101