



Newsletter

SPRING / SUMMER 2019 - Issue 1 Vol. V

www.spredoakdiocese.org



SPRED COORDINATOR'S REPORT



SPRED in the Diocese of Oakland has hit the road--2019 has proven to be a fruitful year!

SPRED is expanding into the northeast area of our Diocese to the city of Pinole! With prayers, good fortune, and an invitation from the Pastor, SPRED is opening a new SPRED center at St. Joseph-Pinole, serving Friends in the 6-10 age range.

This year, SPRED will modify its Annual Labor Day Retreat to make it more accessible to a wider group. Many of our Friends (AND Catechists) have health issues which prevent them from attending an overnight retreat; so we hope a 1-day event will better serve them and our Alumni Friends on the margins and in group homes who may not have any religious experience otherwise. While we hope to include many of the key ingredients which have made this it so popular in the past, we will be seeking input from our SPRED Center catechists on essentials in our upcoming training.

"SPRED the Word" this May was a success, bringing in over \$7,000, about 10% of our annual fundraising goal for the year. The SPRED Advisory and Fundraising Board is looking to host a NEW Fall Fundraiser to help meet the financial needs of the ministry. Please consider attending this new event. More information to come soon.

As we look to serve more Friends (participants) in our Diocese, we also need more Catechists (adult volunteers) to help us in our SPRED centers. Please consider becoming a volunteer or asking those around you to consider joining our ministry.

As always, a big THANK YOU to all SPRED Friends and their families, Catechists, Volunteers, and advocates of our ministry for all your support!

Blessings,

Michelle Martinez-Kilty

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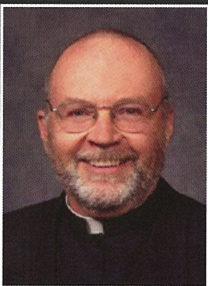
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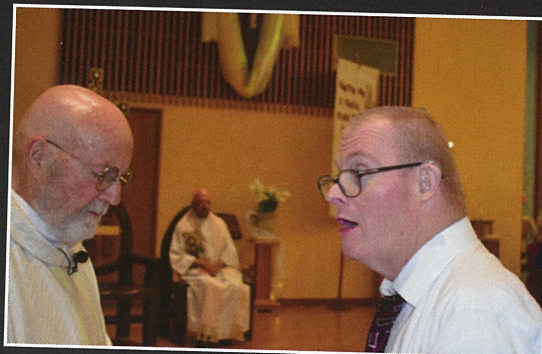
By: Fr. Paul Ross Vassar, SPRED Advisory Board member

When Michelle asked me to share the reasons I am involved with SPRED, my immediate memory took me back to Sr. Aurora's insistence that I get to know the Friends and volunteers in the SPRED ministry. I am forever grateful. Wonderful experiences of sacramental celebrations and retreats and dancing!!!!

A couple of weeks ago, the people of SPRED gathered at the Church of the Transfiguration in Castro Valley for the annual "SPRED the Word" celebration. There was so much joy among all present, both at the Mass and the wonderful dinner (catered by the K of C from St. Raymond Parish). The Mass was filled with emotional moments and wonderful joy on the faces of the Friends. The dinner was a feast of friendship and delights. The joy of the Friends, the dedication of the Catechists, the sense of wonder among the guests, the energy of the adult cooks and student servers all made for a Spirit-filled evening.

Why am I involved with SPRED? Because this is the Catholic Church at its best! Plain and simple! This is the Church I was ordained to serve doing what Jesus sent it to do – SPRED the Word!

Fr. Paul Ross Vassar
Retired Priest of the Diocese of Oakland
Proud SPRED Board Member



BENEFITS OF CATECHIST TRAINING

By: Mary Huston, Catechist & Retired Associate Director
of SPRED Oakland

Trainings days nurture and provide our dedicated Catechists with the tools, knowledge and understanding of the SPRED method of catechesis which in turn they take back to their SPRED centers. In the Fall of 2018, ten catechists attended the Helper Catechist training in English and eight attended in Spanish.

Twenty-four Catechists--who are Parish Chairpersons, Leader Catechists or Activity Catechists in a SPRED center-- attended training on January 12 to develop and enhance skills in their respective roles. February 2nd and

9th training dates provided in-depth understanding of the philosophy and unique method used in sharing the Faith with persons who have special needs. On February 2nd eleven catechists attended and, on February 9th, nine were in attendance.

These trainings days provide time for the Catechists to network and share both the joys and challenges that occur in their respective centers. They experience a sense of connectedness and appreciation for the blessings coming from sharing the faith with our Friends whom Jesus reached out to most often.

CHICAGO TRAINING

By: Sandy Pimperton, SPRED Catechist



SPRED Oakland is committed to providing excellent training - which should bring both comfort and pride to SPRED volunteers, friends, and families.

In March, four SPRED trainers traveled to Chicago for ten hours of Core Team training. This allowed them to sharpen their own skills and to bring back "best practices" training techniques. Arlene Bautista took Activity Chairperson training, Michelle Martinez-Kilty took Parish Chairperson training, and two participated in Leader Catechist training: Maria Ramos (Spanish) and Sandy Pimperton (English).

It is through this specialized training we all deepen our understanding of the *Method Vivre*, meet and learn from peers around the Diocese, and recommit to providing the best possible Catechesis for our friends. Please check the website for upcoming training opportunities - you'd be very welcome!

SPRED PARISH CENTERS IN THE DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

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



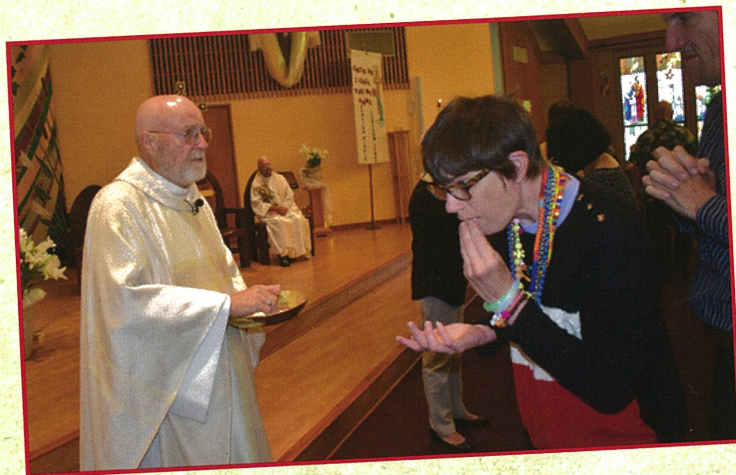
INTERESTED IN OPENING A SPRED CENTER IN YOUR PARISH?

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.



XXVIII ANNUAL “SPRED *the Word*” DINNER-DANCE-FUNDRAISER

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE “SPRED THE WORD” DINNER-DANCE XVIII. THIS YEAR, THE THEME WAS 1950’S, THE MASS WAS BEAUTIFUL, AND THE BASH WAS A BLAST!



ANIMATION AT ST. JOSEPH-PINOLE

By: SPRED Staff Writer

In February, SPRED was asked to help animate and create a new SPRED center at St. Joseph in Pinole serving Friends in the 6-10 age range. Fr. Geoffrey Baraan, Pastor, invited SPRED to speak at all the Masses February 23-24, 2019. On February 26th, an Information Night was held at the parish to educate those interested in becoming Catechists for the new center. This summer, SPRED will again recruit at the parish to engage more volunteers to sign up as Catechists for the Fall. Join us, St. Joseph Parishioners, to #SPREDGood!





IN MEMORIAM: THERESA ELLERBUSCH SPRED CATECHIST & PHOTOGRAPHER

By: Vivian Zelaya, SPRED Catechist

It has been a privilege to know someone as real and authentic as Theresa Ellerbusch! Theresa, a unique and genuine human being, loved life! She loved to garden, fish, knit, crochet, design, embroider, care for others and give of herself totally. She loved music,

photography, her family, her children, her grandchildren, the Holy Mass and most especially SPRED! Theresa loved to be with people and show them the beauties of nature, either directly or through her photography. She was never shy about sharing her insights or herself.

When she was 18, Theresa and her family came to the U.S. as refugees from the Azores after a devastating earthquake in those islands. In 1965, Theresa married her boss, Gene Ellerbusch. Theresa and Gene had three children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. When I first met Theresa in 1984, she was already a dedicated SPRED Catechist. Although Theresa suffered several serious health issues over the years, she never allowed them to dampen her spirits, her love of life, or her dedication to SPRED. Above all, she loved the SPRED retreats! Theresa was a real trooper and role model. All of us, her SPRED friends, sorely miss her!

SPRED is pleased to offer at auction/raffle, a beautifully framed image of Our Lady of Guadalupe donated by an anonymous donor. The frame size is 23 x 34. It is hoped that there will be great interest in this icon to generate a nice gift for SPRED. More information to come.

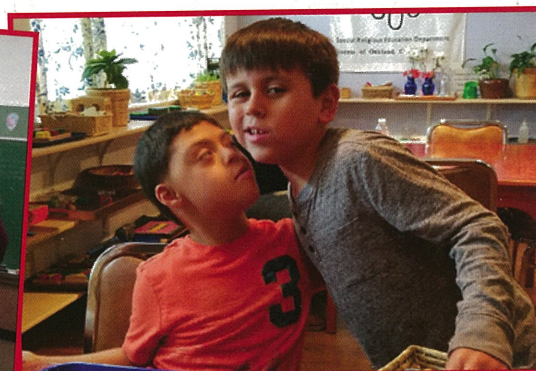


PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. BARNABAS



CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF PLEASANTON



SPRED MODEL CENTER

THE CATECHIST APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

By: SPRED Staff Writer

SPRED would not be possible without the many Catechists who volunteer their time, talent, and treasure to help enrich the spiritual life of our Friends. Every year, we have a luncheon to thank these dedicated people for being so generous. This year we had a lovely Chinese-themed luncheon with fans and candles designed by our talented décor superstar, Carmen Romo.





QUOTES FOR GOOD™

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION JUNE 2019

We're excited to be sponsored by our local State Farm® agent as this month's "Quotes for Good" organization. This month, for every household we send their way and who completes an auto, fire, life, or health quote, they'll make a \$10 donation to our organization.

For the quote to qualify, the individual can be a new customer or a current State Farm customer who has policies with this agent. If the individuals currently have policies with the agent, they will need to quote business they do not already have with the agent.

When calling in/stopping by for a quote, be sure to mention "Quotes for Good" and SPRED's name for the quote to qualify. We are excited about the opportunity to generate donations and create awareness about our ministry.

Thank you for supporting us through "Quotes for Good." Together, we can make a difference in our community.

#SPREDGood



Jerry Garcia, State Farm Agent

15200 Hesperian Blvd., Suite 102

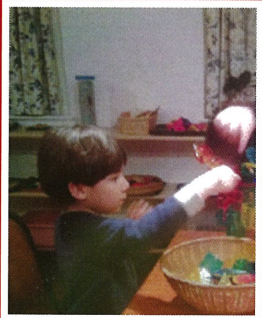
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FRIEND SPOTLIGHT *JUAN MIGUEL A.*



2015



2019

By: SPRED Staff Writer

Juan Miguel was 6 years old when he began attending SPRED at the Oakland Model Center in October 2015. Since then, he has found a sense of community by attending SPRED sessions. This soon to be 10-year-old recently made his 1st Communion in May!

Juan Miguel's father commented: "Juan Miguel has grown [in SPRED] and now desires to receive the Eucharist. By his body language, Juan Miguel now understands what his faith is about."

Carmen Romo, one of his Catechists, remarked: "When Juan Miguel first arrived, he was very shy. Now he is eager to come to SPRED. He is the first to ring the doorbell, run down the hall to the meeting room, give all his Catechists hugs, and wave to his Friends."

CATECHIST SPOTLIGHT: *VICKIE & FRANK SANTOS*

By: Claudia Willis, SPRED Catechist



Dedicated Dynamic Duo

Catechists Vickie and Frank Santos retire this year from long and faithful service as SPRED Catechists for the center serving Friends from the Catholic Community of Pleasanton and St. Charles. Vickie enjoyed a career as a

kindergarten teacher in San Jose and Frank taught junior high school following his engineering career. Together, they raised two children and now delight in their two grandchildren.

For most of her 26 years of service, Vickie served as a Leader Catechist and made the challenging commute from San Jose to Pleasanton in rush hour traffic to arrive at our SPRED meetings early, eager to serve with her joyful, generous spirit. Her energy seemed endless. Vickie designed art experiences as a calming, centering activity for our SPRED gatherings and helped plan liturgies and special celebrations for our total community. Vickie's calm, gentle presence and deep faith generated a sense of ease and comfort in our Friends. Frank joined Vickie as a SPRED Catechist in 2004. Frank has a gift for conversation that easily engages and affirms our Friends. His deep faith is expressed through his gift of spontaneous prayer. Our SPRED community has been blessed with the presence of this "dynamic duo!" We will miss them.

SPRED



OUR MISSION

TO INTEGRATE PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES INTO THE FAITH AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH.



UPCOMING SPRED EVENTS

JUNE

We Recall & Plan (WRAP) Meeting
Saturday, June 1, 2019 10am
St. Paschal Baylon Parish Hall, Oakland

Helper Catechist Training- English
Saturday, June 8, 2019 9am- 3:30pm
St. Paschal Baylon Parish Hall, Oakland

AUGUST

Annual Labor Day Retreat
Sat. August 31
San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville, CA
*By Invitation Only

SEPTEMBER

Helper Catechist Training- English
Saturday, September 14, 2019 9am- 3:30pm
St. Paschal Baylon Parish Hall, Oakland

Helper Catechist Training- Spanish
Saturday, September 21, 2019 9am- 3:30pm
St. Paschal Baylon Parish Hall, Oakland

Manuscripts Handouts/Pick-up
Saturday, September 28, 2019 10am-12pm
St. Paschal Baylon Parish Hall, Oakland



St. Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my
thoughts may all be holy.*

*Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work,
too, may be holy.*

*Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love
but what is holy.*

*Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend
all that is holy.*

*Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I
always may be holy.*

Amen.

Please note all Observations take place at the SPRED Model & Training Center
3705 Dorisa Ave., Oakland, CA 94605

RSVP and Check out the SPRED Calendar online at www.spredoakdiocese.org or call 510-635-7252.

Cover Photo: Catechist Francis S. and Friend Mateo B. at the SPRED Model Center.