

SPRED



Newsletter

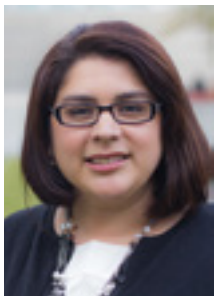
AUTUMN-WINTER 2022 • ISSUE 1, VOL. IX

www.spredoakdiocese.org



SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

SPRED Coordinator's Report



In 2022 SPRED has celebrated new and recurring events and trainings, such as our Praise & Worship at St. Isidore, the annual SPRED Diocesan Mass at St. Perpetua, the annual SPRED Catechist appreciation luncheon, and four SPRED Basic (Helper Catechist) trainings. This year more than three-quarters of our SPRED centers are up and running as compared to last year's two-thirds. Some SPRED Centers added new groups to their parishes, while others may have changed age groups and welcomed new Friends and Catechists to the ministry.

Looking ahead in 2023, the SPRED ministry will hold three advanced trainings for current catechists in January and February. The triennial SPRED Confirmation Mass in March which will be presided by Bishop Barber. 11 of our Friends are seeking to be confirmed in the Church.

I recognize that at this time it may be difficult to donate, but every dollar helps in supporting our Friends and Catechists form small communities of faith to pray, share, and enjoy the little things that life has to offer. It is with your continued prayers and financial support that we can create and continue to support the SPRED Centers throughout the Oakland diocese.

Blessings, **Michelle Martinez-Kilty**, SPRED Coordinator

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Advisory Board Corner

By: Carmen Romo, SPRED Catechist & Advisory Board member



This year I have had the opportunity to assist with many initial visits and phone calls with families seeking placement for their child in SPRED. I see that parents are very interested in SPRED and concerned about their special needs child receiving the sacraments. It is a privilege to connect with

families and explain that SPRED is a one-to-one catechist relationship with a person with intellectual and development disabilities and not a student-teacher relationship. Families on the SPRED wait list also are very grateful to the ministry because they see that we are continuing to keep in touch with them about their place in line and future placement.

Once new volunteers become SPRED catechists, I have noticed the bond that is created with the Catechist and Friend.

Sometimes the bond between Friend and Catechist is so strong that the families of our Friends will ask the SPRED catechist to be the sponsor/God parent when they make their sacraments. This bond is created over time, during SPRED sessions and with every phone call that is made every other week. The catechist becomes in sync with the Friend, to help them connect to the symbol. This helps the Friend build a deeper connection of the spiritual relationship to God the Father and to Jesus.

I would ask that you consider volunteering to become a SPRED catechist to help with placing new Friends from our wait list into SPRED Centers. If you are unable to give your time, please consider donating to SPRED directly on our website <https://www.oakdiocese.org/support-spred> or mail a check to the SPRED office with the attached envelope. Thank you for your support to the SPRED ministry!

Catechists Luncheon

By: SPRED Staff

On May 21, 2022, current SPRED Catechists gathered outside St. Paschal Babylon for a volunteer appreciation luncheon. Catechists from various SPRED Centers were happy seeing other catechists from different SPRED centers, many whom have not seen each other in over two years due to the pandemic.



Praise & Worship at St. Isidore in Danville

By: SPRED Staff

Over the Labor Day weekend on Saturday afternoon at St. Isidore in Danville, the SPRED ministry gathered for a Praise & Worship event. SPRED Friends, Catechists and families joined with professional musicians, to listen, sing songs together, have ice cream and socialize! SPRED was very thankful to the St. Isidore Parish community, parish staff and Fr. Mathew Murray for allowing the SPRED ministry to use the event center.



SPRED PARISH CENTERS IN THE DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

Parish Center	City	Age
Ages 6-10 Years Old		
Model Center	Oakland	6-10*
Model Center	Oakland	6-10
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fremont	6-10*
Ages 11-16 Years Old		
All Saints	Hayward	11-16
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Brentwood	11-16*
Model Center	Oakland	11-16
Model Center	Oakland	11-16*
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fremont	11-16
Queen of All Saints	Concord	11-16
St. Barnabas	Alameda	11-16
St. Cornelius	Richmond	11-16*
Ages 17-21 Years Old		
All Saints	Hayward	17-21
Model Center	Oakland	17-21
St. Edward	Newark	17-21
Ages 22 and Older		
Catholic Communities of Pleasanton	Pleasanton	22+
Model Center	Oakland	22+
St. Anne	Union City	22+
St. Clement	Hayward	22+
St. Cornelius	Richmond	22+*
St. Ignatius	Antioch	22+
St. Isidore	Danville	22+
St. John the Baptist	San Lorenzo	22+
St. Joseph Basilica	Alameda	22+
St. Mary Magdalen	Berkely	22+
*Spanish Speaking or Bilingual		

SPRED



MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION

Making a donation online is easy by going to <https://www.oakdiocese.org/support-spred>! Your donation will go directly to SPRED's restricted funds. Thank you for your support!

Annual SPRED Diocesan Mass at St. Perpetua

By: SPRED Staff

The SPRED Diocesan communities in conjunction with St. Perpetua parish celebrated a special liturgy on October 30, 2022. Catechists, Friends, and their families gathered from across the Diocese to attend this Mass. Fellowship and refreshments followed the Mass, where many people were able to reconnect with each other after so long apart. The SPRED community was grateful to St. Perpetua parish community, parish staff and Fr. Jimmy Macalinao for welcoming the SPRED ministry.



Catechists Trainings

By: SPRED Staff

What makes SPRED different from other faith formation programs is that SPRED adult catechists continue to receive ongoing spiritual formation which helps to create a strong community of adult catechists. This helps SPRED catechists positively minister to our Friends with developmental and intellectual disabilities in a most effective way.

In 2022, SPRED held four Helper Catechist trainings (basic SPRED training) in the months of June, September and November in English and Spanish. Over twenty-five new catechists were educated in the catechetical Method Vivre and joined various SPRED Centers throughout the Oakland Diocese. We are pleased that so many new volunteers heard the call to join and help with our special ministry.



SPRED Centers in the Diocese

By: SPRED Staff

IHM BRENTWOOD SPRED CENTER



OAKLAND MODEL CENTER



ST. CLEMENT GROUP



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FREMONT



ST. JOHN'S SAN LORENZO



SPRED



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.



FRIEND SPOTLIGHT:

Kenny Lane

By: Vicki McCoy, SPRED Catechist

Some people are recognized by a single name like Beyonce or Cher. One of our Friends at St. Ignatius of Antioch SPRED Center is one of those individuals. Most Friends and Catechists recognize the name Kenny. They know him as a dancer, artist, jokester, and friend to all.

Kenny Lane is a charter member of SPRED at St. Ignatius of Antioch. He attended the first SPRED session in 1996 and has been a participant ever since. Kenny looks forward to each session and always lets the other Friends and Catechists know how happy he is to be at SPRED.

He is the first to notice if someone is missing and the first to welcome a new Friend or Catechist into the center.

Kenny has attended many Labor Day Retreats as well as "SPRED the WORD" dinner dance fundraisers. At any dance, look for the rows of people following the guy in the front and that guy will be Kenny.

Kenny is an accomplished artist and attends an art program which has fostered his artistic abilities. His work has been on exhibit at showings in Antioch galleries.

Kenny often hides his spiritual side. However, during Celebration Circle, when we hear the Word of God and offer praise to God through music and song, Kenny is often brought to tears. He has participated as a thespian at many SPRED masses, and although sometimes reluctant to participate, always does a great job.

For over 25 years Kenny has shared his life with his Friends and Catechists at SPRED. We are all better people because Kenny has been part of our lives.

(Left photo: Kenny, age 23 | Right photo: Kenny, today)

CATECHIST SPOTLIGHT:

Elizabeth "Liz" Cesco

By: Michelle Martinez-Kilty, SPRED Catechist

Thank you, Liz Cesco, for 30 years of service to the SPRED ministry! Liz first volunteered as a SPRED Helper catechist at St. Edward's in Newark in 1996, and soon moved to the role of Parish Chairperson. She began promoting, organizing, recruiting, and coordinating the placement of Friends and Catechists in her parish and deanery with a warm, welcoming, and friendly demeanor. For many years she volunteered at the Adult Labor Day Retreats at San Damiano in Danville. When her SPRED center was on hiatus for a year during the Covid pandemic, Liz continued to volunteer at a different SPRED center but returned to St. Edward's this year recruiting new Friends and Catechists to continue the ministry at her parish. Liz has always freely offered her time to others in the past including volunteering for a program which provided free rides for cancer patients to and from treatments. Now retired, Liz enjoys caring for her grandbabies, spending time with her husband Craig and her children. Thank you, Liz, for the time, effort, and sacrifice you have shown as a SPRED catechist!

(Liz Cesco shown on right)



OUR MISSION: To integrate people with developmental disabilities into the faith and life of the Church.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

For donations made from December 2, 2021, to November 15, 2022

Founder \$1,000+

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In Memoriam of Dennis Ash

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In Memoriam of Susanna Vasquez

Michelle Martinez-Kilty

In Memoriam of Rev. James McCarthy, SPRED Founder

Michelle Martinez-Kilty

In Honor of Michelle Martinez-Kilty

Mary Loura Garcia

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Vicki Kho

SPRED FUNDRAISING

**\$5
EACH!**



Black SPRED Shirt

Black cotton tagless shirt
features SPRED flame on
front pocket and SPRED logo
in back

AVAILABLE SIZES: S, M, L, XL



Red SPRED Shirt

Red cotton tagless shirt
features "KEEP CALM AND
SPRED ON" on front side of
shirt printed in white.

AVAILABLE SIZES: S, M, L, XL



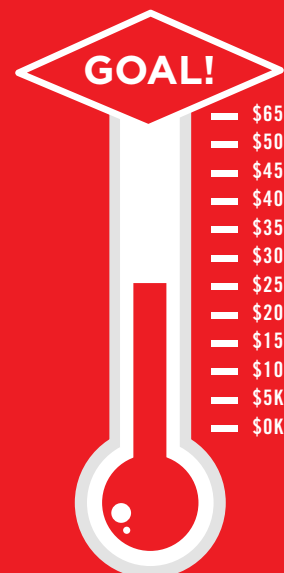
Red SPRED Water Bottle

With white flame logo.

Support SPRED and place your order today!

To order, call 510-273-4979 or email
spred@spredoakdiocese.org.

Goal of 2022: \$65K



Raised as of November 15, 2022: \$26,000

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

SPRED is grateful for your monetary donations. To ensure that your donations are used for the SPRED ministry — please mail in checks payable to "SPRED-Morrie fund."

Special Religious Education Department

Diocese of Oakland
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Upcoming SPRED Events

DECEMBER 2022

SPRED Model Center Christmas Liturgy

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 7pm
St. Paschal Babylon, Oakland, CA

JANUARY 2023

LC, AC, PC Role Training

Saturday, January 21, 2023, at 8 am–3pm
St. Paschal Babylon Parish Hall, Oakland, CA

FEBRUARY 2023

Core Team Training Part A Training

Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 8 am–3pm
St. Paschal Babylon Parish Hall, Oakland, CA

Core Team Training Part B Training

Saturday, February 11, 2023, at 8 am–3pm
St. Paschal Babylon Parish Hall, Oakland, CA

MARCH 2023

SPRED Confirmation Liturgy with Bishop Barber, S.J.

Friday, March 10, 2023, at 7 pm
St. Paschal Babylon, Oakland, CA

Prayer

Holy God,

You are with us from the
spinning planets in our sky

to the tiniest microbe that
lives on the tiniest paw of
the tiniest mouse.

You care for creation and you
care for us.

Whether we are out in the
world or tucked inside at home,

we know that you are as
close as the air we breathe.

Thank you for being our friend
and comforter.

Amen.

Unsubscribe to Newsletter: If you wish to unsubscribe to the SPRED Newsletter — please call 510-635-7252 and leave a message letting us know that you wish to unsubscribe with your name and address. You can also email us at mmartinez-kilty@oakdiocese.org.

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: SPRED Friend Giovanni receives his first Holy Communion from Fr. Jimmy Macalinalao.

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