

Saints Alive! + September 2007

All Saints Episcopal Parish, San Leandro, California, 510-569-7020



Rector's Letter

Why We Raise Money

Over the next eight weeks, All Saints will mount two major fundraising efforts: our OktoberAUC**TION**Fest on October 6 and our Annual Pledge Drive (what we have traditionally called “stewardship”), culminating in our celebration of All Saints Day on Sunday, November 7.

If someone were to ask us why we raise all this money, we'd probably say, “Well, to pay our bills—staff salaries, PG&E, maintenance of the building, etc.” That's true—but it's not the whole story.

Of course we have to pay our way. It's a deep value of our parish, and a sign of congregational health, to be self-supporting. At the same time, we'll want to be sure that we go further in understanding what we're doing. We'll do well when we're clear that the resources we gather are always meant to go towards something greater than ourselves—to do our part towards the church's mission in the world. That's why we give, and why we ask others to do so as well.

What, specifically is that mission? It's the same mission that we've had for more than 2000 years, rooted strongly in scripture and the tradition of the church. It's to serve our neighbors in the name of Christ, providing things that are helpful—that are good news to them—and inviting them to join us as companions on the Christian adventure. We meet real human needs, share God's love in Christ, and hold up injustice to the light of the Gospel.

I think most of us would agree that one of the greatest resources we have for our mission is our desire and willingness to look after each other. When we remember that we exist to accomplish a mission, caring for each other takes on a greater purpose, too.

This might surprise you, but we actually look after one another to strengthen us to better serve others outside our church. The moment that we realize that serving our neighbors, “working side by side in God's fields,” is the best way to look after each other, we have taken a major step forward in our faith and understanding.

There is one other practical aspect of fundraising that's focused on mission. I hear occasionally that we “should bring in money from outside the parish.” We really need to ask ourselves honestly why people who are not members here should give to us. It's not enough for us to be nice people. We have to be engaged in something they value. That's pretty strong encouragement to focus on our mission—where our greatest health lies. We can be grateful for it!

Deep down, we all know that very few people outside the parish are likely to give us money unless we are deeply committed to a mission of service to those outside our walls. In the coming years, as we focus our energy on that kind mission, people will want to support our work. They'll want to be part of us—to come along on our Christian journey.

Fr. Rob Droste, robdroste@sbcglobal.net

e-Scrip

If you participated in the e-Scrip program last year, it is time to renew to continue earning Safeway contributions. Visit www.wscrip.com. Click on "YES RENEW!" Have your Safeway Club Card number available. You will need to renew by November 1.

You can join this program by visiting www.escrip.com. Click on "1—Sign Up." Have your Safeway Club Card number available. Present your Club Card every time you shop and All Saints earns money.

If you have any questions:

Contact: Church Office @ 510.569.7020

Entertainment Books

2008 Entertainment Books are now on sale after services on Sundays, or call Nancy Churchill. Discount offers are available immediately. A display copy is located in the narthex. Buy a book for yourself and extras for gifts. Ask your friends and neighbors to support our sale.

Contact: Church Office @ 510.569.7020

Dinner Club

Have you bought an Entertainment Book and never used it (or not bought one at all) because you had no one with whom to share the "Buy one, get one free" meals? At coffee hour on Sunday, a few of us with that problem talked about the possibility of forming a group of congenial people who would like to go out to dinner occasionally, but need a partner. Half of this group would purchase an Entertainment Book, and the other half would donate \$25 to the parish. The dinners could be shared by two or by many—depending on availability and interest in a particular date and restaurant—and by anyone, single or not, without a dinner partner.

If you think you might be interested in such a group, please contact Jeanne Cochran by phone or e-mail. And if you have any additional ideas, please share them.

Contact: Church Office @ 510.569.7020

Neighbor to Neighbor

The National Night Out block party on August 7 was a wonderful evening of meeting neighbors and discussing neighborhood needs. Among the concerns identified were:

- Safety from drug sales
- Getting out and meeting each other more often
- Having a collection point in case of emergency
- Slowing traffic in the neighborhood
- Support for families with small children

The Social Ministries Team will be actively following up on these needs. The most likely next event is hosting an earthquake preparedness meeting during October in conjunction with the second annual National Emergency Preparedness Conference.

Together we are all making our neighborhood a safer, friendlier place to live!

Social Ministries Team Chair: Church Office @ 510.569.7020

P.S. Don't forget to check out the NNO photos at http://saintsalive.net/as_action.shtm.

Now Appearing

Domenique

Domenique Lozano is appearing with the California Shakespeare Theater in *The Triumph of Love* by Pierre Marivaux. The outdoor Orinda performances end on Sunday, September 2. After that, the production moves to San Jose Repertory Theater (performing September 22–October 21).

Ca/Shakes: <http://www.calshakes.org/v4/ourplays/3/triumphoflove.html>

San Jose Rep: <http://www.sjrep.com/>

Joe

Joe Nelson is in the upcoming production of *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* (with music) at Center Repertory Theatre in Walnut Creek. Runs September 6–October 6.

Center Rep: <http://www.centerrepertory.org/>

Mark Your Calendars

Wednesday evenings—OktoberAUCTIONfest planning meetings

When: 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Parish Hall

Wednesday, September 5—Women's Spiritual Direction Group

When: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Fireside Room

Contact: Church Office @ 510.569.7020

Saturday, October 6—Soup Stop

Feeding the homeless in the All Saints parish hall.

When: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Contact: Church Office @ 510.569.7020

Saints Alive! is published monthly via email by All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Boulevard, San Leandro, California 94577.

Submit news items for the October 2007 issue to allsaintsepiscopal911@earthlink.net to Mary Nelson care of the church; deadline is **September 27**.

For changes to the parish database (names, phone numbers, addresses, or e-mail addresses), please e-mail John Trubina at jtrubina@comcast.net or leave a message for him at the church. To get information on All Saints' people and programs, please stop by the church or visit us on the Internet at <http://www.saintsalive.net>.