

And that is the point of the Shrine – and the point of the Incarnation, of Christmas: the Light coming into the world. God left His high heavens and became lower than the angels to take on our frail flesh out of His deep love for us. He took that flesh to the Cross to open for us the gates of heaven. This Good News of salvation has gone forth like fire through the centuries.

At the Shrine, the light and love of Christ continue to radiate in the midst of the often grey and overcast city. Your prayers and support strengthen the Shrine's ministry of prayer and evangelization – a ministry of hope to those despairing when the task seems hopeless.

Please continue to pray especially for peace in our families, peace in our country, and peace in our troubled world. Pray that all may come to know the Prince of Peace, and to experience the joy of the Light of Truth.

May St. Jude continue to pray for us, and may He who, by His Incarnation, united things earthly and heavenly bless you and your loved ones during this Christmas season and in the New Year of Grace.

Sincerely in Christ and St. Jude,

Very Rev. James Junípero Moore, O.P.

Vicar Provincial for Advancement,
Western Dominican Province, and
Director of the Shrine of St. Jude

Christmas 2016



Dear Friends of St. Jude,

It is a custom at Christmas and the New Year for families to write a letter where the events of the past year are reviewed and shared with others. This has been an incredible Year of Grace for us at the Shrine of St. Jude.

Our preached novenas began with the Our Lady of Lourdes Novena, which I was privileged to preach. Many people attended seeking healing for themselves or their loved ones. The second novena was St. Peregrine, in June, preached by Fr. Dismas Sayre, O.P., which attracted many who were especially concerned with the sickness of cancer.

In October, our St. Jude Novena was one of the most successful novenas in recent memory. The preaching by Fr. Robert Christian, O.P., was superb throughout. He addressed many situations in which the Church might seem “hopeless” or at least “out of step” with prevailing thought, offering in each instance a reason for hope. These homilies were masterfully delivered. Attendance reflected this excellence as hundreds gathered each day to listen to the preaching. In addition, many people participated in the Novena from home. Finally, there were many new faces from the Young Adult Community here at St. Dominic’s Church who were making the St. Jude Novena for the first time.

On the Saturday before the Feast of St. Jude, thousands attended a pilgrimage procession from the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi to St. Dominic’s Church for a Solemn Mass with Bishop William Justice of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. This annual pilgrimage continues to be one of the largest annual events at St. Dominic’s and one of the more prominent religious processions in San Francisco.

On the feast of St. Jude itself, four public Masses were offered for the faithful. The 1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass and 5:30 p.m. Solemn Mass were especially full. The Solemn Mass was celebrated by His Excellency, Salvatore Cordileone, Archbishop of San Francisco. The parish choir sang a polyphonic Mass setting, and provided chant and other motets. It was indeed a festive and well patronized celebration.

As important as all of these highlights are, some of the most profound spiritual work happens in the day-to-day work of the Shrine. Each night we conclude our 5:30 p.m. Mass by blessing the faithful with the relics of St. Jude, and this Mass continues to be the largest daily Mass at St. Dominic’s.



Every day St. Dominic’s Church, home of the Shrine, is open from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. and it is rare that someone is not found in front of St. Jude. The candles burning in the church are so numerous that we rarely turn on the heat, even in foggy San Francisco! The church is literally heated with the prayers of the faithful.

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