



## Saint Barbara Parish *at Old Mission Santa Barbara*

2201 Laguna Street Santa Barbara, CA 93105 • 805.682.4151 • [www.saintbarbaraparish.org](http://www.saintbarbaraparish.org)

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September 2019

Dear Friend,

It was Sunday and the parish was humming. I felt it in the ushers greeting worshippers at the door and in the children scampering down the aisle for Children's Liturgy of the Word. I felt it in the Word of God, proclaimed with power by our lectors. I felt it in the spirit of reverence as we approached the altar, as we bound ourselves to each other through the real presence of Jesus Christ, and as we processed out behind the cross, ready to serve a world in need.

This is the sound and hum and the glow of St. Barbara Parish. And no, it's not just on Sunday. The same vitality took hold in January when more than a hundred of us gathered in the Bonaventure room to explore openly and honestly our sacred and sometimes tragic Franciscan Mission history. I felt it at the Barbareño Chumash family gathering in the same room a few months later. I felt it in the joy of 180 parish volunteers at the appreciation luncheon in June and in the renewal of 100 liturgical ministers as they met their new ministry leaders last month. I felt it two weeks ago when I listened to our pastoral care ministers talk about their visits to the sick, and the next day when we welcomed more than a dozen new parishioners. I felt it the evening our family ministry leadership team gathered for prayer and sacred conversation to prepare the seeds for the next generation of Catholic Christians.

I even feel the hum of the parish picnic, and it's still ten days away as I write!

The energy, commitment, creativity and intelligence unleashed over the past year would have no place to go and nowhere to express itself without the generous support of so many individuals, such as yourself, over the past many years.

At the same time, the dynamism cited above presents a new challenge. In order to fund parish expenses over the last two years, we have drawn down our reserve account by more than \$200,000. While we made progress from the previous year, we still had a net loss of nearly \$84,000. A new course for parish stewardship is imperative. In consultation with parish leadership, I've drawn up these priorities:

- Continue our excellent liturgies and add a monthly Children's liturgy;
- Fortify our faith formation program, with special outreach to families;
- Strengthen our community life, with stronger volunteer recruitment;
- Appeal to you to increase your financial support of the parish.



**BE** with us.

**LEARN** with us.

**GROW** with us.

I name these priorities after carefully reviewing our expenses and instituting significant cutbacks. Our office staff has already been reduced to a part-time administrative position and a part-time bookkeeper/data base manager. Expense cuts instituted in July for this new fiscal year entailed a big sacrifice by our staff of faith formation and liturgical music.

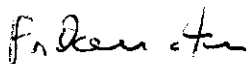
We can't go any deeper without radically restructuring ourselves as a community of faith within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Simply put, our current course is not sustainable. Yes, our parish is alive, even thriving. We are making an impact on lives and contributing to the supply of hope and love in the world. The positive response to the opening of the Father Virgil Cordano Center earlier this year is strong testimony in this regard. Still, we face real financial challenges and need to respond.

We're a small parish and we're "punching above our weight" to use the old boxing metaphor. We number 418 active contributing members. If each represented household increased its contribution by \$250 a year (\$5 a week), we could meet our budget needs. That may be too much to ask of some, but others may be able to give more. Whatever increase you can make will be received gratefully and enable us to continue the vitality of our parish. I am deeply grateful for all you've done...and will continue to do.

As I monitor our parish activity and budget in the months ahead, I pledge to listen closely to the Spirit of God speaking through all of you and in the collective wisdom of our Pastoral and Finance Councils.

God bless you!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. Dan Lackie".

Fr. Dan Lackie, ofm  
Pastor