



## OLR Site Committee Report

(submitted to PSC on 3/10/2010)

**Mission:** *Assure that the OLR church, hall and grounds and the liturgies and parish events celebrated here at OLR are inspiring, attractive and welcoming for all parishioners.*

**Members:** Jim Abler, Arnolando Alcazar, Shiny Antony, Laura Chiu (PSC rep), Eileen Freyre, Ruth Gilroy, Mary Ann Ho, Laisz Lam, Chris Lundin, Jim McLaughlin, Micky Martin (Co-chair), Bill & Ann Morrison, Rita Palomo, Katia Reeves (NEW Co-Chair), Beryl Taqui, Laurie and Paul Vavuris.

November Food Drive – Parent Eileen Freyre again chaired this project for our Youth group, and Chris Miller, our Director of Youth Ministry, reported this as very successful. Baskets are placed around the church for year-round food collection but parishioners need to be reminded from the pulpit from time to time that the needs are year-round.

Christmas Giving Tree – collected only about half as much as last year, could be a result of the economic down turn. Fortunately, donations from other communities were plentiful; so St. Vincent de Paul of East Palo Alto was able to deliver gifts to all families which requested them.

Christmas poinsettias were delivered too early and some plants had dried out before they were used for the decoration. Mary Ann Ho will co-ordinate better with Nora so future delivery (e.g. Lilies for Easter) will be no more than 2-3 days before they are needed.

Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day – hosted by the Hispanic community and was very successful. The re-scheduling of the 9am Mass to noon again this year, after the English 10:30 Mass, gave them ample time to celebrate and made the transition to lunch very smooth.

The earlier 4pm Christmas Eve Mass also worked out well. We may adopt this new earlier schedule for future. Over 100 chairs were added all around to accommodate the extra people attending.

Whenever the Mass is running late, the driver that takes our parishioners back to Palo Alto Commons would pick them up BEFORE they have a chance to receive communion. He is unwilling to wait because he has other residents to pick up from other locations. Perhaps, we can arrange a minister to give communion to them FIRST, instead of last, as we are currently doing.

Arnolando reported that collections from the Hispanic Mass have gone down because some families have moved out of the area.

Micky is comprising a “Notebook of details for Each Ministry”. She is working on getting the weekly and Sunday Sacristan’s duties listed and printed out. Jim McLaughlin, our Head Usher, has submitted a detailed list of duties to be performed before, during and after the Mass.

We have recruited 2 new environment volunteers to replace 2 volunteers who have moved away.

We also have a new family hosting after-Mass hospitality for the first Sunday of each month. But we are still trying to recruit additional families as another family has indicated they would like to move on to other ministries.

The 10:30 monthly family Mass on the 4th Sunday of each month has 12 regularly scheduled youth who are greeters, trained Lectors, and Eucharistic Ministers. There are also youth who participate each week in the Music ministry, both instrumental and the choir. There have also been some new altar servers, added to those regularly scheduled for the weekly Sunday 10:30 Mass. As our senior youths graduate, new volunteer youth are trained - this an ongoing process as is the altar servers training..

The Liturgy/site committees are working on special environment needs for liturgical celebrations for this year's Palm Sunday, and Holy week, culminating in the Easter Sunday Celebrations.

In fulfillment of a generous OLR parishioner's donation bequest in November, we are in process of acquiring a new Tabernacle in his memory.

Micky expressed concerns about the term “Undie Sunday”, as being inappropriate for the Valentine's Day clothing collection advertisement. Suggests considering another Sunday for a clothing drive, which includes request for undergarments and other new or like-new needed items of clothing. (In past years there was an annual clothing drive).